

Memorial Book



In Loving Memory of

Edgar J DaSilva

(August 21, 1941 - November 26, 2007)



*And now, the end is near; And so I face the
final curtain. I've lived a life that's full. I've
traveled each and every highway; And more,
much more than this, I did it my way.
My Way by Frank Sinatra (Edgar's favourite
song)*

This memorial website was created to remember our dearest **Edgar J DaSilva** who was born in **India** on **August 21, 1941** and passed away on **October 28, 2007**. You will live forever in our memories and hearts.

Edgar J. DaSilva, 66, was an Indian microbiologist whose passion for the practical application of his subject drove him to champion biotechnology in developing countries around the world.

DaSilva joined the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1974; and rose to be head of its Life Sciences section, as his foresight and perception of science in the global context allowed him to be proactive in identifying scientific priorities and developing new and appropriate thrusts for UNESCO's program actions.²

LEADERSHIP ROLE IN CULTURE COLLECTIONS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

He was instrumental in the planning and implementation of several UNESCO regional and international programmes in applied microbiology and biotechnology as well in the development of global networks dealing with the management and use of microbial resources and training opportunities in the fields of marine and plant biotechnology. He was a co-founder of the Microbiological Resource Centres (MIRCEN) all around the world and played a major role in the establishment

of the Biotechnology Action Council (BAC).² Through these two programmes he made a considerable contribution to the development of biotechnology research and training worldwide.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

DaSilva's knack for developing strong links with international programs for co-ordinated action on topics of common interest led to his strong support for the International Organization of Biotechnology and Bioengineering (IOBB), built strong links with the World Federation for Culture collections (WFCC), played an important role in the conferences on the Global Impact of Applied Microbiology (GIAM) among many others. In addition, he mobilized several extra-budgetary programs in close cooperation with UNEP and UNDP and donor member states for activities in national development in biotechnology and regional cooperation in microbiology.

BIOTECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

During his time with UNESCO, DaSilva honed his passion for teaching and knowledge transfer in his own area of specialization of microbiology and also in biotechnology. He worked tirelessly to develop training initiatives and set up fellowship and professorship programs to stimulate scientific exchange. He was a strong proponent of international scientific collaboration as a means to promote development and aid provide developing countries with the tools to drive their own scientific research.

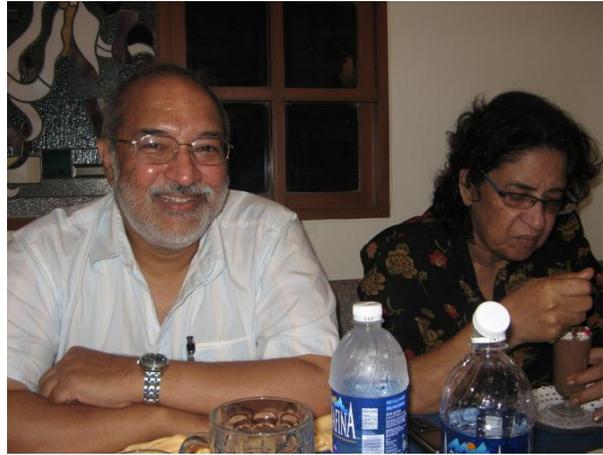
ENCYCLOPEDIA FOR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Most recently, he was co-editor of the "Biotechnology" theme for the UNESCO-sponsored Encyclopedia for Life Support Systems (EOLSS)

The background is a textured, light brown or beige color. In the upper center, there are two roses. The one on the left is smaller and more tightly curled. The one on the right is larger and more fully bloomed. The word "Gallery" is written in a white, elegant cursive font, centered between the two roses.

Gallery

so sweet, so unforgettable...



Cecil, happy meals



Edgar, Una share lighter moments



Edgar and Shilpa, lunch, Una and Tony's residence



All listening to Prof. Edgar, dinner at Chembur



Cecil, Una, Natasha



Edgar and Shilpa, lunch, Una and Tony's residence



Edgar, explaining the complexities of micro-biology



At lunch in Chembur



Clarence and Julian remember Edgar



Edgar, Shilpa, Tony



Edgar, Coral, all smiles



Natasha and Clarence



Vilma, Coral (not seen), Rui, Una, Tony



Edgar, Una, Shilpa, Vilma



Cecil, Vida, Clarence, Una, Natasha



Edgar shares stories about Paris



Edgar, Shilpa, Vilma



Cecil, Clarence, Julian, Una, Natasha



Vilma, Edgar, Una try and include Cecil and Anna in the group



Una and Natasha



Cecil and Una



Vilma, Edgar, Una try and include Lexley in the group



The Bold and the Beautiful - Edgar & Vida



Cecil, Una, Natasha



Una and Natasha, pensive mood



Vilma, Coral, Rui, Tony (not seen), Edgar



Cecil looks at a photo of Rushil on the mobile



Entertaining relatives is thirsty work



The 3 Musketeers - Rui, Edgar, Tony



Left to Right: I.Vasil, Rita Colwell, Edgar J Da Silva

Two roses are positioned in the upper center of the image. The rose on the left is smaller and more tightly curled, while the one on the right is larger and more open, showing its petals. The background is a textured, mottled brownish-gold color.

Memorial Candles

our words, your light...

12/04/2007

Keith Fernandez

*Why should I be out of mind
because I am Out of sight? I
am but waiting for you For
an interval Somewhere very
near Just around the*

12/01/2007

Una Fernandez

*Because I could not stop for
Death, He kindly stopped for
me; The carriage held but
just ourselves And
Immortality.*

11/26/2007

Vida DSouza

*The words of Rabindranath
Tagore, "And because I love
this life, I know I shall love
death as well." aptly describe
Edgar*

11/26/2007

Una Fernandez

*Friends may think the
wound is healed, but they
little know the sorrow, that
lies within our hearts
concealed.*

Two roses are depicted in a soft, sepia-toned style against a textured, parchment-like background. One rose is smaller and more tightly curled, while the other is larger and more fully bloomed. The overall mood is somber and elegant.

Condolences

from the deepest of our hearts...

Dear Mrs. Vida D'Souza,

It is very sad for us in Osaka University to have a news that Dr. Edgar J da Silva passed away October 28. We here express deep condolences to you and his family. The news might arrive at us with a long pass through Paris and Tokyo.

We are now thinking of him, whom we respect and appreciate for his great contribution on the human resources development of developing countries. He had helped us, Osaka University people, a lot to operate many activities with UNESCO. In several recent years, he kindly stayed Osaka University for a month, as a visiting professor.

Unfortunately none of us seem to be unable to attend his ceremony in Mumbai, so please let us know the address for our votive offering. If possible, could you arrange flowers for his ceremony by the name of the International Center for Biotechnology, Osaka University, and by the names of Professors Toshiomi Yoshida, Tatsuji Seki and Takuya Nihira, and Ms Fumiko Sakazumi. Since I would transfer some for them through the bank, please let me know a transfer bank name and account.

Again we are now praying his soul may rest in peace.
Regards,

SEKI, Tatsuji
Professor Emeritus, Osaka University
Director, Osaka University's Bangkok Center for
Education and Research

From: Fernando Acevedo

Sent: Monday, November 05, 2007 5:56 PM

To: Colin Ratledge

Subject: Re: Edgar Da Silva

Dear Collin:

I am really very touched by the death of Edgar. Edgar and I were good friends and I appreciate him ver much, both as a biotechnologist and as a human being.

We met over 35 years ago and he was very helpful with our School of Biochemical Engineering and was always concerned with the development of biotechnology in Chile and latin America. I think that he contributed in many ways to biotechnology, notably through his initiative of the MIRCEN network. He was in Chile several times and on each of them we got together and discuss his ideas for several hours. We also met a few times in Paris and Amsterdam.

I just want to share with you these memories of a fine man.

Sincerely,

Fernando Acevedo

***Professor Colin
Ratledge***

***Dept. of Biological Sciences, Univeristy of
Hull***

December 3, 2007

That is very sad indeed.

Edgar was a splendid person and it was my privilege to have met him on several occasions and to have worked with on several projects. Edgar was irrepressible. His energy was outstanding. His contribution to the development of microbiology throughout the developing world was, I believe, unsurpassed.

Edgar worked tirelessly until his retirement six years ago through the offices of UNESCO to build up an international network of microbiology laboratories that could undertake the training and development of microbiologists in developing countries. He conceived of the idea of there being a number of these laboratories in Africa, South America, Asia and also in Europe, North America and Australia. He was able to carry this through to fruition by virtue of his own beliefs in the worthwhileness of this; he identified key

personnel and through them instigated a series of MIRCEN Centres: Microbial Resources Centres.

Edgar's vision was that these Centres would be responsible for the use and preservation of microorganisms for deployment in environmental management. There was to be particular emphasis on Rhizobium gene pools as these were so important for the growth of various leguminous crops which are so important for the economy of many countries. Altogether, 15 MIRCEN Centres were created during the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Soon after the establishment of these Centres, it became clear to Edgar that publication of microbiological work being carried out in the developing countries needed its own journal that could recognise the difficulties under which such work was being carried out. The work would often be unique in that it would be describing microbial systems and the development of projects that were unknown elsewhere. Often this research would offer new insights and possible solutions to old problems. However the research might not reach the highest standards of other research in Europe or North America because of the problems in doing such work under very difficult conditions. Edgar felt, with some justification, that to deny such research valid publication was unreasonable. He therefore conceived of the MIRCEN Journal of Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology. This was launched in 1985 with Jacques Senez of Marseille and Fred Skinner in the UK being the first joint editors. Edgar was Chairman of the Editorial Advisory Board. The venture was backed by UNESCO and publication was undertaken by Oxford University Press. After two years, E.J. Nyns from Belgium and myself took over the editors' duties. Three years later, in 1990 the Journal after having proved a great success was re-vamped and re-launched with a more encompassing title: World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology. Again Edgar was very much to the forefront in deciding the new title. His input into the Journal was considerable; he instigated several special issues of the Journal that covered a variety of key topics but all of which focussed on some unique aspect of microbiology being carried out in developing countries which was of significance and relevance to the rest of the world. Edgar remained an Editorial Advisor to the end.

Edgar's contribution to world microbiology was massive; no one came close to what he achieved. He tirelessly pursued these goals believing that microbiology and biotechnology could offer so much to developing countries to help them develop their own unique resources and make a lasting impact on microbiology throughout the world.

Microbiology and biotechnology were seen as important activities to give confidence to workers throughout the world that what they were doing, even with highly limited resources, was important and could be a major way of improving hygiene and agriculture as well as providing simple biotechnology products for people. His legacy will live on for many decades to come.

It was a privilege to have known Edgar and to have worked with him. He will be missed by colleagues in tremendous numbers throughout the world.

I will try to contact some of Edgar's old colleagues.
Best wishes
Colin
Professor Colin Ratledge
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Hull

Prof. Nancy Karanja, ***Regional Coordinator Sub Saharan
Africa,*** ***December 3, 2007***

This is very sad to have lost a great scientist and a very close friend. I shall always remember Edgar's commitment to advancing technology in Africa. I am a product of these efforts. For me and the MIRCEN Nairobi team it is that his soul rests in eternal peace.

Best Regards,

Prof. Nancy Karanja,
Regional Coordinator Sub Saharan Africa,
Urban Harvest-CGIAR System-wide Initiative on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture

Jeannie Scriven ***International Training Programme
Mascheroder*** ***December 3, 2007***

From: Scriven
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2007 1:14 PM
To: Hoareau, Lucy
Subject: Edgar da Silva

Dear Lucy
I am very shocked.
Edgar supported our International Training Programme at the GBF (now HZI) for many years. We ran

intensive 6-7 week training programmes for biotechnologists from developing countries from 1987 - 2000. It was exciting to run these and they were described by Paul Greenfield from Australia as the "finishing school for Biotechnologists". For many participants they were a key experience in their career development.

Edgar was on the Board of Advisors and unflinchingly did all he could to help us in our work. Given the scepticism about development aid to developing countries, this can now be seen to be exceptional.

I was in touch with him in September this year since my husband and I were coming to Paris. My husband remembered that Edgar was very keen on a large umbrella and we had not been able to give one to him previously - it was too long to fit into the suitcase.

We intended to present him with a large blue umbrella and to meet in Paris at the end of September 2007 on his return from South Africa. In the event he was not feeling well enough but we had in mind to meet again this month. It seems incredible that he is no longer there. He was such a great institution - such a big heart - a great appetite for work, and was very good at formulating in english. I can remember vividly how this made documentation with him a pleasure. And this combined with his wonderful sense of humour. He was nevertheless a modest man - putting on airs and graces would have been alien to him.

The fact that he co-authored a book in his retirement of such breadth and with such skill shows how very wide awake he was. I shall miss him.

I should be grateful if you could let me have any information about him which might appear.

with best regards

jeannie S

Jeannie Scriven MA (Univ.Dublin) MPhil (Univ.Bath)
International Training Programme Mascheroder Weg 1

Lauri, Anthony

UNESCO - Natural Sciences Sector

December 3, 2007

J'ai rencontré Edgar Dasilva, je pense que personne ne peut rester indifférent à l'exceptionnel personne que c'était, originale et rigoureux dans son travail, altruiste, Et un extraordinaire hédoniste épicurien qui aimait beaucoup la vie avec un grand V

Anthony LAURI
UNESCO - Natural Sciences Sector

Dear Lucy,

Your letter concerning the sudden death of my old friend at UNESCO Edgar DaSilva shocked me. He was a great man, a very nice fellow, a good friend who always wanted to help peoples and help to develop science and technology all over the World. He made special attention to the poor and to the developing countries. His contribution on managing and organizing MIRCEN a BETCEN (this latest along with Professor Indra Vasil) are acknowledged by all of us. His excellent skills in communicating peoples were his one of greatest talents and characters. I still remember for our joint trip to Pretoria for a MIRCEN-BETCEN workshop, and always remembering for for him when I am in Paris regardless of the purpose of my trip there. I already missed him when he retired and, now I know that we will meet later...

His death which happened in Mumbai was an appreciation by the fate that he passed away in his beloved country.

From my part please forward my deepest condolence to his family.

I will keep him in my heart and be remembered for him till my depart.

Yours

Ervin

Dr Ervin Balázs

Department of Applied Genomics
Agricultural Research Institute

John Buswell

Friend and Colleague

December 3, 2007

Thank you for your email.

I was deeply saddened to hear of Edgar's passing. He will be sorely missed in many ways but, his legacy will live on.

With my best regards,

John Buswell

I must say that Electronic Journal of Biotechnology is deeply indebted to Edgar. His support, enthusiasm and commitment were decisive for the achievements of the journal. He deserves all our respects and recognition.
Regards,

Graciela

Professor Graciela Munoz
Editor, Electronic Journal of Biotechnology (EJB)
Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso

Judit Tornai-Lehoczki**Corvinus University of Budapest****December 3, 2007**

All my colleagues and myself, are deeply grieved by tragic news that Edgar died. Please accept our deepest sympathy.
Best regards,
Judit Tornai-Lehoczki

Corvinus University of Budapest,
Faculty of Food Sciences
National Collection of Agricultural and
Industrial Microorganisms

Dr. Nasrin Moazami**Director, Institute of Advanced
Technology****December 3, 2007**

I am so sorry for your loss, Please accept my deepest sympathy for death of your uncle, Dr. Edgar DaSilva
With my warmest regard
Dr. Nasrin Moazami

Director, Institute of Advanced Technology
Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology

David Smith

(Director Biological Resources)

December 3, 2007

This is indeed a shock and very sad. Edgar has been around all my life and it won't be the same without him.
His name and impact will live on

David

David Smith (Director Biological Resources)

Roberto de León

Sad News

December 3, 2007

I am shocked. This comes as a very sad news. I am terrible sorry.
Roberto de León

**Anwar Huq, Ph. D.,
FAAM**

University of Maryland

December 3, 2007

Very sorry to hear about Edgar passing away. He was one of the most hard working people I have had known and a delightful person to work with. He will be remembered by many people and the service he provided for the cause of biotechnology.

Anwar Huq
Anwar Huq, Ph. D., FAAM
Maryland Pathogen Research Institute

**Professor ST Chang,
OBE**

Emeritus Professor of Biology

December 3, 2007

It was with deep sorrow to learn this morning of the death of our friend Edgar Dasilva. I have acquainted with him more than 30 years. I love him very much indeed. He is truly a friend.

Please accept my condolences over so great a loss.

Sincerely yours,

S. T. Chang
Professor ST Chang, OBE
Emeritus Professor of Biology

Dr. M.N.I. Magdoub

Friend and Colleague

December 3, 2007

Dear Lucy,

I am so sorry to such sad news. He was a very good man in all characteristics.

MAY GOD REST HIS SOLE.
Nabil

SUGAWARA Hideaki

Friend and Colleague

December 3, 2007

Dear Lucy,

I have not seen him for a while but always expected that he would show up meetings in our domains. He has kindly and enthusiastically supported MIRCEN and MIRCE-WFCC World Data Centre for Microorganisms.

I would like to offer my condolences to the family and friends.

Sincerely yours,
Hideaki

G. Balakrish Nair

Friend and Colleague

December 3, 2007

Dear Lucy,

I am so sorry to hear about the passing away of Edgar. I had corresponded with him many times and has also met him once. I was sad to hear of his demise. May his soul rest in peace.

Krish

Enilson Luiz Saccol de Sá

MIRCEN

December 3, 2007

Dear Dr. Hoareau,

Really it is a very sad new.

I am very sorry about the passing away of Dr. Dr. Edgar DaSilva. I will tell this sad new to Professor Jardim Freire who worked with Dr. Edgar since the beginning of MIRCEN program. I had few opportunities to meet with Dr. Edgar DaSilva but since the very first time I could sense the enthusiasm and the strong humanitarian beliefs that he always showed, mainly related to the MIRCEN program.

I send my deepest condolences to all friends and colleagues of Dr.

Edgar DaSilva.

Regards,

Enilson Luiz Saccol de Sá

Lily Schuermann

Director, International Affairs

December 3, 2007

Dear Lucy,

I am so sad about these news. I am speechless. Do you have an address of his family? I would like to send my official condolences. Thank you for informing me in a tilmely manner.

Regards, Lily,

***CODY FOSTER'S
SISTER***

WE ARE SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS

November 26, 2007

OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Roberto de León

Sad News

November 26, 2007

I am shocked. This comes as a very sad news. I am terrible sorry.
Roberto de León

Rita Colwell

Sad News

November 26, 2007

Dear Lucy:
Thank you for telling me about Edgar. I am very saddened to learn of his death. Yes, Edgar was a very dear friend and I enjoyed working with him over the years. I know he was in poor health for quite a while but I am still shocked to learn of his passing. I wish I could have seen him once again but that was not to be.
With best wishes,
Rita Colwell

***Lucy Hoareau, Suzanne
Pote***

Edgar's Colleagues

November 26, 2007

Suzanne Pote my immediate colleague and I both worked with Edgar since arriving at UNESCO, she in 1996 and myself in 1997, until his retirement in 2001. We thereafter kept up contact and periodically met for lunch. It had been several months since we last

saw him and he seemed to have lost a lot of weight following a bad bout of flu. He seemed to have picked up since and was in good form and his usual energetic self.

Suzanne and I would like to send a floral tribute for his funeral and will make the necessary arrangements to have it delivered at the residence of your aunt.

With thanks again and our sincere condolences.

Lucy Hoareau and Suzanne Pote

**Walter Erdelen, ADG,
UNESCO**

On behalf of the Natural Sciences Sector

November 26, 2007

Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO, Paris

It is with great sadness that we learnt about the demise of our former colleague Dr Edgar DaSilva. His death is a significant loss to the scientific community, particularly in the inter-governmental context, to which he has contributed immensely for over 4 decades.

Dr DaSilva joined UNESCO in 1974 and was quickly noticed for his diligence and enthusiasm. His foresight and perception of science in the global context allowed him to be proactive in identifying scientific priorities and developing new and appropriate thrusts for UNESCO's programme actions.

He was instrumental in the planning and implementation of several UNESCO regional and international programmes in applied microbiology and biotechnology as well as in the development of the global networks dealing with the management and use of microbial resources and training opportunities in the fields of marine and plant biotechnology. He was a co-founder of the Microbiological Resource Centers (MIRCEN) all around the world and played a major role in the establishment of the Biotechnology Action Council (BAC). Through these two programmes he made a considerable contribution to the development of biotechnology research and training worldwide; this is evident from the recognition of his work at the regional level as well as in the international arena. He had a knack for developing strong links with international programmes for co-ordinated action on topics of common interest. He was a strong supporter of the International Organization of Biotechnology and Bioengineering (IOBB), built strong links with the World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC), played an important role in the conferences on the 'Global Impact of

Applied Microbiology' (GIAM), among many others. In addition he mobilized several extra budgetary programmes in close cooperation with UNEP and UNDP and donor Member States for activities in national development in biotechnology and regional cooperation in microbiology.

During his time with UNESCO, and I dare say before and after as well, he honed his passion for teaching and knowledge transfer in his own area of specialization of microbiology and also in biotechnology. He worked tirelessly to develop training initiatives and set up fellowship and professorship programmes to stimulate scientific exchange. He was a strong proponent of international scientific collaboration as a means to promote development and provide developing countries with the tools to drive their own scientific research.

Many of his colleagues will remember Edgar DaSilva as a diligent professional in the service of UNESCO's Member States, particularly the developing countries. He was hardest on himself, demanding a rigorous and efficient approach to work.

More recently he was co-editor of the theme "Biotechnology" for the UNESCO-sponsored Encyclopedia for Life Support Systems [EOLSS].

He will always be remembered by his colleagues and the scientific community for his competence, dynamism and dedication to capacity building in the life sciences and biology education in developing countries.

Our sincere condolences go to his family and close friends.

In memory of Edgar DaSilva

The image features two roses, one smaller and one larger, positioned in the upper center. They are set against a textured, mottled background of warm, earthy tones like beige and light brown. The roses are rendered in a soft, slightly faded style, blending into the background.

Shared Memoirs

all the gray you turned into colors...

Indra K. Vasil



From: Vasil, Indra K

Sent: Monday, October 29, 2007 9:46 AM

To: 'una fernandez'

Subject: RE: Sad demise of Dr. Edgar J Da Silva

Dear Una:

I am shocked beyond reason to learn of dear Edgar's passing away. My wife Vimla and I had just seen him in Paris at the beginning of September, just before he left for Africa. He was the happiest we had ever seen him. He talked non-stop, like a teenager who was in love for the first time, about Shilpa Mehta and his plans for the future. He

showed us her photographs and their emerging plans. He talked proudly about the accomplishments of his family. He was in great spirits and good health. We had hearty laughs. We saw him several times, went walking together in the Bastille area and as always shared drinks and a great meal. Those happy memories will live me for the rest of my life.

Edgar and I were like brothers, although he insisted on

considering me his older brother. He was of enormous help to me while I was Chairman of UNESCO's Biotechnology Action Council. We saw each other several times a year, and I enjoyed our long walks, leisurely cocktails and wonderful meals. He was the most knowledgeable, competent, loyal and helpful person I knew at UNESCO. During his long tenure at UNESCO he had helped thousands of scientists all over the world, and I can assure you that he will be sorely and sadly missed by all.

Please accept our heartfelt condolences at your loss. We share your grief, but take some consolation in knowing that Edgar lived a full life, helped countless scientists, and was loved and respected by all. It is fortunate that he did not suffer. I was in Paris when he suffered a heart attack several years ago. I know that he took good care of himself. But it never slowed him down. He was more active in retirement than most of his contemporaries were during their active service years. It was a pleasure and a privilege to have known him and to call him a friend. Our visits to Paris will not be the same any more without him. His passing is very personal and devastating for me.

Indra Vasil

Indra K. Vasil

Associate Director, Genetics Institute

Graduate Research Professor Emeritus

University of Florida

Una Fernandez



I loved his sense of humour. And often think back about his life - having grown up with him, as his sister, I know how hard he worked to make his dreams come true.

He was like quicksilver - always on his toes, I dont think I know anyone who walked as fast as he did or who saw so many places as he did. In fact, he never stood still - he was always on the move.

Love,

Una (eldest sister)

Jacques RICHARDSON

From: Jacques RICHARDSON

Sent: Friday, November 02, 2007 1:19 PM

To: Hoareau, Lucy

Cc: Archibald, Gail

Subject: Dr Edgar DaSilva

Dear Lucy,

Thank you, so much, for contacting me. I am nonplussed at the news of Edgar's death, and wish to convey my deep sympathy to you, his family, and all the colleagues who have worked with Edgar over the years.

*

Edgar is responsible not only for having created the Unesco-sponsored centres of microbiology dispersed throughout the world--and following through so that these research centres became fully operational and productive. He was also devoted to the building of valid scientific resources accessible to young scientific investigators throughout the developing regions, meaning the poor world.

Edgar contributed steadily, furthermore, to the literature of scientific research during the decades that he was affiliated with the United Nations system. He wrote for journals such as 'Impact of Science on Society' and reviews specifically concerned with the world of microbiology and the expanding biotechnologies; he continued to publish articles well into his life of "retirement".

Edgar was in every way dedicated to his professional mission and, even after retirement from Unesco, continued to respond to demand for his lectures in Japan, the Republic of South Africa, North America, the Nordic countries, and elsewhere.

I recall the observation made about Edgar by Federico Mayor, a biochemist and former director-general of Unesco who was extremely familiar with Edgar's formidable professional reach: "DaSilva is a real scientist, and we are fortunate to have him on our team".

I knew Edgar well for more than forty years, and Indian to the core, and shall miss his unending jokes and ready smile.

Jacques Richardson

Dr. Kazuo Komagata

From: Kazuo Komagata

Sent: Friday, November 02, 2007 7:23 AM

To: Hoareau, Lucy

Subject: Re. Dr. E. DaSilva

Dear doctor Lucy,

I received your E-mail message with Dr. Edgar DaSilva through Prof. H. Sugawara, WDCM, in Japan. In response to your request, I would like to write a few lines with him. Please feel free to edit my manuscript to fit in with your context.

I express my deepest condolences to passing away of Dr. Edgar DaSilva. I have had a long acquaintance with him since I met him at Brisbane, Australia in 1975, where the meeting/workshop for preservation of genetic pools and establishment of culture collections was held under the sponsorship of UNEP, UNESCO, ICRO, and WFCC. He joined the meeting/workshop and signed the certificate of participants as the representative of UNESCO.

Dr. DaSilva visited developing countries very often as the officer of UNESCO and MIRCENs. He worked for the development of culture collections of microorganisms and biotechnology, and encouraged personnel and students in the countries. He was very open-minded and kind to all persons around him.

Dr. DaSilva was elected the Vice President of the World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC) in 1973 at the 2nd International Congress of Culture Collections (ICCC-2) at San Paulo. He served on the WFCC from 1973 to 1976, and he made effort to strengthen the WFCC (Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol. 25, 90-94 1975).

I personally worked with Dr. DaSilva for the MIRCEN network and the WFCC many times abroad and in Japan as well. He really devoted his life to progress of developing countries and making WFCC and MIRCENs recognized as the international organizations of culture collections and biotechnology.

Dr. Kazuo Komagata

(Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo, the former director of Japan Collection of Microorganisms, and the former director of World Data Center)

Dr. K. Komagata

Hills Motoyawata 104

Minamiyawata 3-14-23

Ichikawa, Chiba 272-0023

JAPAN

Professor ST Chang, OBE

Dear Lucy,

Thank you for your latest message. The followings are some brief comments on Edgar's involvement with my mushroom training and research programs at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. We became acquainted at The Coordinating Board Meeting of the UNESCO Regional Network for Microbiology in Southeast Asia in 1976. In the following year, 1977, we first collaborated to organize the first UNESCO mushroom training course for three week in Hong Kong. After that we really became close friends and collaborators and he supported me organizing several international and regional conferences on applied microbiology particularly in mushroom biotechnology. Over 30 years of our friendship, I can say that "Edgar is a brilliant thinker, a superb writer, an efficient and effective administrator, a kind and decent man, and a royal friend".

Regards,

S. T.

Professor ST Chang, OBE

Emeritus Professor of Biology

Brink, Johan

From: Brink, Johan

Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2007 7:59 PM

To: Hoareau, Lucy

Subject: RE: Sad News

Importance: High

Dear Lucy

Thank you for your e-mail. This is indeed sad news. Please convey my deepest sympathy to the family members of Edgar Da Silva. Please find the following comments regarding my involvement with Edgar (see below):

" I met Edgar DaSilva in 1994 in South Africa during a Biotechnology Training Course that was sponsored by UNESCO. At that time I worked for the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) in South Africa and I was in charge of a Biotechnology Division of one of the Institutes of the ARC. I can recall that I was impressed by the vision that Edgar had at that time to establish Biotechnology Training hubs in developing countries. In 1995, I received a request from Prof. Indra Vasil, Chairman of the Biotechnology Action Council of UNESCO, to establish a Biotechnology Education and Training Center (BETCEN) for Africa, at the ARC-Roodeplaat Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Institute in Pretoria. The ARC was very enthusiastic about the concept and the BETCEN was established and operational during late 1995. Edgar DaSilva was the driving force behind the BETCEN concept and the implementation and administration of the 5 BETCENs. The BETCEN concept was very successful in Africa and the impacts were tremendous - over 200 African scientists trained through a mixture of short term training and medium term fellowships during the period 1995 - 2000. I will therefore always remember Edgar DaSilva as a hard, but fair, taskmaster and a leader with a passion for development and capacity building in the developing world. I have to give all the credit to Edgar for setting me, personally, on the path that I am still on today, i.e. focussed on Development and Capacity Building initiatives in developing countries. Even though I relocated to the United States in 2001 and took up a position at Michigan State University, I am still utilizing the expertise that I gained from my involvement as a BETCEN Director for Africa and the interactions I had with Edgar DaSilva during that time. Except for occasional e-mails, I have not had regular contact with Edgar during the last few years. I was therefore saddened by the news of his passing and I hereby express my deepest sympathy to the remaining family members of Edgar DaSilva. May he rest in peace."

Kind regards

Johan Brink

Dr Johan Brink

Director: Agricultural Biotechnology Support Unit

Institute of International Agriculture

Michigan State University

The image features two roses, one smaller and one larger, positioned in the upper right quadrant. They are set against a textured, mottled background of warm, earthy tones, including shades of beige, tan, and light brown. The roses are rendered in a soft, slightly faded style, blending into the background.

Life Story

every hour, every thought, every smile...

August 21, 1941

Born in **India** on **August 21, 1941**.

October 28, 2007

Passed away on **October 28, 2007**.

Our Deepest Sympathy
WWW.LAST-MEMORIES.COM