

Call for bids to host the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology, 2032 (ICPP2032)

The International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP), now held every four years, is the premier international convention of plant pathology professionals. The Congress is convened by the International Society of Plant Pathology under the guidance of the ISPP Executive and Council drawn from ISPP Associated Societies. Previous Congresses have been in Lyon, France (2023), Boston, USA (2018), Beijing, China (2013), Torino, Italy (2008); Christchurch, and New Zealand (2003) with ICPP2028 (www.icpp2028.org) scheduled for Queensland, Australia in August 2028.

The International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP)

www.isppweb.org/about



Established in 1968, the purpose of the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) is to promote the worldwide development of plant pathology, and the dissemination of knowledge about plant diseases and plant health management. The Society sponsors the International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) at regular intervals and other international meetings on plant pathology and closely related subjects. The Society establishes committees to consider and report on special fields or problems in plant pathology. The Society organizes other activities including the publication of journals and newsletters, websites, as approved by the Executive Committee.

The ISPP is incorporated under Minnesota USA Statute Chapter 317A. (Filing Number 3659446-2; Original Date of Filing: 1/13/2010; Duration: Perpetual). The Registered Office of the International Society for Plant Pathology is 3285 Northwood Circle Ste. 100 St. Paul, MN 55121 USA.

The procedures for bidding for the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2032) will follow ISPP Statutes and Rules of Procedure (Box 1). Procedures will be similar to the bidding to host ICPP2028, with an earlier timeline (and about 5 months in advance of rule minimum deadline), to allow for earlier processes for election of the ISPP Executive for 2028-2032.

Timeline:

- (1) By 31st March 2026, a notice (see below) will be placed on the ISPP Website (with a bidding deadline of 31 August, 2026) and a message sent to Council via the ISPP Council mail list.
- (2) The call will be simultaneously advertised in the March and April 2026 ISPP Newsletters.
- (3) Additional information (see following) will be sent to those who have expressed interest in hosting the Congress.
- (4) Background material on the selected successful previous bids for ICPP will be collated and copies sent to ISPP Business Manager for distribution. Please note that the bid documents and associated material for ICPP2032 **should not include letters of support or other endorsements** from any other ISPP associated societies, or their representatives.
- (5) ISPP also regularly receives solicitations from conference venues touting for business. In response to such enquiries the ISPP informs the congress venue representatives that consideration of a particular city or country as a venue for ICPP is really a matter for the ISPP Associated Society in their country or region. **The ISPP does not send bid announcements or materials to conference venue representatives.**

NOTICE

CALL for bids to host the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology, 2032

Associated Societies of the ISPP are invited to submit bids to host the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology in 2032.

Bids must be submitted by 31 August 2026. Please send bids to the Business Manager of ISPP, with c.c. to the Secretary ISPP, as e-mail attachments. Note that the ISPP has already reserved the website, ICPP2032 for use by the successful bid.

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Selection among bids will be made by a ballot of ISPP Councillors, representing Associated Societies and ISPP, later in 2026.

The Business Manager will provide further guidance on the presentation of bids on request. Bids must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Bids must come from an ISPP Associated Society (national or regional) or combination of societies and not from a city or convention/conference bureau. On the other hand, the society or societies making a bid should consider working with a local convention bureau to help identify and advertise the unique features of their country that will interest the delegates.
- 2) Please note that the ICPP2032 proposals and associated material **should not include letters of support or other endorsements from any other ISPP associated societies or representatives.**
- 3) The financial obligations of hosting an International Congress of Plant Pathology are the responsibility of the host society (or societies). ISPP does not underwrite the financing of the Congress.
- 4) In close consultation with the ISPP Executive Committee, the society (or societies) hosting the Congress is responsible for organizing the program and therefore must be sufficiently large to provide leadership in the major sections of plant pathology. The program of a past Congress should be consulted as a guide. After consultation with the ISPP Executive, inputs from ISPP Subject Matter Committees and organizers (as well as the ISPP Commission on Global Food Security) should be sought. The theme and program of the congress should be reflective of the entire, broad coverage of the science of plant pathology (i.e. not just focused on (say) food security, but also covering forests, natural ecosystem protection, etc).
- 5) In consultation with the ISPP Executive, the format of previous Congresses should be followed. Previous Congresses have included oral presentations in Plenary and Keynote sessions as well as 7-10 concurrent sessions and evening workshops, with poster presentation of Offered Papers. The proposed Congress venue should provide up-to-date facilities for these requirements.
- 6) The site (city and hotels/campus) should normally be able to accommodate more than 2000 delegates and provide meeting rooms for around 7-10 concurrent sessions, as well as numerous small meeting rooms. The site should preferably offer a variety of amenities at a range of costs. Ideally, a university campus should be near to provide low-cost accommodations for those unable to afford more expensive hotels and meals.
- 7) The host city must be easily accessible by international airlines and offer a variety of cultural and tourist attractions. One day of the Congress may be scheduled for tours of local attractions.
- 8) The successful proposal is expected to include a clear and specific strategy to provide support to the participation of delegates from the developing world and from countries encountering major economic or social difficulties.
- 9) Congress planning should also include provision for managing risks of a global pandemic similar to the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic.

Box 1. ISPP Rules of Procedure concerning the International Congress of Plant Pathology

Rule 14: Congresses shall be held at least once every six years. The venue for each Congress shall be selected by vote of the Council at least five years in advance. The procedure for selection shall be as follows:

- a) Two years before the Congress, the Secretary-General will request bids from all Member Societies to be considered as a venue for the following Congress (about seven years in advance). Copies of all bids will be sent to all members of the Council by the ISPP Executive by at least 21 before the Congress.
- b) The Secretary-General will send a ballot, with all of the qualified bids represented, to each of the Councilors at least 21 months before the Congress and request their vote for one of the venues within two months. The ballots will be counted by the Secretary-General or Business Manager. In the case where there are only two qualified bids on the ballot, a simple majority will determine the selection. In cases where more than two venues are on the ballot, the venue with at least two-thirds majority will be selected.
- c) If one venue doesn't have two-thirds majority, then the Secretary-General will send out another ballot to each of the Councilors and request that they vote between the two venues having the most votes, and will request their votes be returned within two months. The selection between the two finalist venues will be determined by a simple majority vote.
- d) In the case of a tie, the President shall cast the decisive vote.
- e) Evidence of each Councilor's vote will be kept on file until after the Congress at which the venue of the following Congress is announced.

Rule 15: Congresses shall be open to all persons after payment of Congress fees.

Rule 16: Each Congress shall be organized by a Congress Committee appointed by the Member Society(ies) and or Nominating Body(ies) sponsoring the Congress. The Congress Committee shall consist of a Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and at least six other persons, or be composed in other ways approved by the Council. One Vice-President of the ISPP shall be a member of the Congress Committee with special responsibility for liaison between the Congress Committee and the Executive Committee. The members of the Congress Committee shall be appointed, if possible, within two years after the end of the preceding Congress and shall serve until completion of their duties in connection with the Congress for which they are responsible.

Rule 17: The general plan of the Congress shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval and shall be sent to the Council members and Committee Chairs for their information.

Rule 18: The Congress Committee appointed by the Member Society(ies) hosting the Congress, not the ISPP, shall be financially responsible for the Congress that it organizes.

Bidding for the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology, 2032

This advisory document should be read in conjunction with the document "Call for bids to host the 14th International Congress of Plant Pathology, 2032".

Additional points to consider

The last five Congresses (ICPP 2003, ICPP2008, ICPP2013, ICPP2018 and ICPP2023), and the next to be held in Queensland, Australia in 2028, have several aspects in common, and bidding societies are urged to consider these points in preparing their bid.

The successful bid will be selected by a vote of ISPP Councillors, representing the Associated Societies and Organisations of ISPP. Among the issues councillors are likely to consider are: (i) the technical aspects of the bid and the appeal of its presentation, (ii) the capability and experience of the host society for organising a good Congress, (iii) the anticipated costs of attendance, (iv) support for and visa access for delegates from developing countries and (v) other (tourist) attractions in visiting the country or destination proposed.

To avoid disadvantaging other societies who may be proposing competing bids, the bid document and associated material should not contain letters of endorsement from other ISPP associated national or regional plant pathology societies or their representatives. Societies submitting a bid (as well as Congress venue representatives) are also **requested to refrain from 'lobbying' other societies or councillors**. This is meant to also ensure that ISPP associated societies and their management are not persuaded to endorse any one bid before they have the opportunity to assess all other bids that may have been submitted.

By tradition the Congress is scheduled in the month of August (This coincides with Summer holidays in North America and Europe) – although ICPP2003 was held in the Southern hemisphere summer (February) in New Zealand.

Congress Committee

Under ISPP Rules of Procedure the Congress is organized by a Congress Committee, one of whose members is appointed as a Vice-President of ISPP and has special responsibility for liaison between the Congress Committee and ISPP Executive. The general plan of the Congress is to be developed in close consultation with the ISPP President and submitted to ISPP's Executive Committee for approval.

A range of groups and committees are usually convened (e.g see previous congress brochures and handbooks for examples) to co-ordinate local and international planning of the Congress.

Finances

The host society or societies, not the ISPP, is financially responsible for the Congress.

Sample budgets of past Congresses are available to provide potential bidders with an idea of the types of items and costs that need to be included in the budget. The organisers should budget to cover all costs, and this is likely to require significant income from sponsorship.

A Bursary Fund is normally established, to assist attendance from developing or less-favoured countries. Organisers are required to insure against liabilities associated with organising the event. Organisers should generally expect invited concurrent session speakers and organisers to cover their own costs since selection as one of the 200 + invited speakers is in itself an honor. They might also expect or arrange that at least some keynote and plenary speakers contribute to their costs of attendance. However, the participation of developing country invitees as keynote or plenary speakers is particularly encouraged and may require full financial support from the Congress or sponsors.

The Congress will be required to cover participation of the Jakob Eriksson Medal awardee (fares, accommodation, registration) and the Glenn Anderson Lecturer (Registration), and provide complementary registration and booths in the Congress Trade display area for the ISPP and the publisher of the ISPP Journal.

Scientific Program

The scientific program should ideally reflect the breadth of international progress in applied and basic plant pathology. After consultation with the ISPP Executive, inputs from ISPP Subject Matter Committees and organizers (as well as the ISPP Commission on Global Food Security) should be sought, (with complementary involvement of the organizing Society's own nominees/subject specialists). The ISPP Executive will also advise closely in the planning and selection stages of the Scientific Program Committee, to ensure that the Committee and program are reflective of the diversity of membership and interests of ISPP Associated Societies. The Congress is an opportunity for an international audience to hear presentations from global specialists, and it is important that the program distinguish itself from the meetings of regional or national societies through diversity in choice of speakers and topics.

In recent Congresses, Subject Matter Committees have also played a significant role in devising programs of technical sessions and workshops. It is also especially appropriate to involve scientists from the developing world in development of the program. **Ethnic and gender diversity must be reflected in the choice of program speakers.**

Publication of Congress Abstracts in a special issue of the Society's Journal might be appropriate (as was the case for many previous congresses).

The ISPP Executive and the Editor in Chief of the ISPP journal, *Food Security*, should be consulted in relation to opportunities to publish plenary session papers in the ISPP journal.

Special sessions

A feature of recent Congresses has been a public session organized by the ISPP Commission on Global Food Security on a theme related to plant pathology and global food security. This Session includes the Glenn Anderson Lecture. The Glenn Anderson Lecture is published by the lecture sponsors, the Canadian Phytopathological Society.

Provision also needs to be made for the presentation ceremony for the Jakob Eriksson Prize (see Appendix) and Oration.

ISPP will also provide some support for the participation of the Glenn Anderson Lecturer¹ and the Eriksson Prize recipient.

Provision should also be made for the following ISPP meetings during the Congress:

- Opening and closing ceremonies and plenary sessions (the order of 2000 persons)
- a Council (the order of 70-100-200 persons)
- a meeting of the Commission on Global Food Security
- a meeting for the chairs/co-chairs of ISPP SMCs (20 persons)
- several Executive Committee (EC) sessions (about 10-12 persons each)
- Editorial Board meeting for the ISPP Journal, *Food Security*
- Complimentary registration and display booths for ISPP and the publisher of the ISPP journal, *Food Security* (and including other booth benefits such as complimentary registrations, wifi, staff access, standard furniture).

For the functions of these meetings, see the ISPP website at http://www.isppweb.org/about_objectives_statutes.asp.

Concurrence with national or regional conferences It may be appropriate for the host society to hold their regular national or regional conference concurrently with the Congress.

¹ At ICPP2013 the costs of the Glenn Anderson lecture were shared by the Canadian Phytopathology Society, ISPP and the ICPP organisers. The Glenn Anderson Lecture was first given at joint meetings of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) and American Phytopathological Society (APS) in honour of Robert Glenn Anderson, the eminent Canadian agricultural scientist, who played a major role in the green revolution. The lecture series, on the security of world food supply, was approved by CPS and APS in 1986, and an endowment fund was then established by the CPS. More recently, the Lecture has been given at some International Congresses of Plant Pathology (ICPP1998 to 2018).

Abstracts of presentations. Ideally these should be prepared in a form that can initially accessed from an ICPP2032 site, and later accessed (in PDF) from the ISPP website.

Associated Workshops The Subject Matter Committees of ISPP, and other groups, may want to organise evening workshops or pre- or post-Congress meetings. The Congress Committee should facilitate the evening meetings through provision of meeting rooms over two evenings, coordinating scheduling, and ensuring that organisers meet deadlines. An additional registration has usually been charged for pre- and post-congress meetings, but not evening meetings.

Social Program and Technical tours A program of social activities including a welcoming reception and congress dinner should be included in the program. Organisers may also want to include a range of technical and sight-seeing tours as pre-or post-congress activities.

Cost of registration Every effort should be made to contain the costs of registration, with special consideration given to students and participants from developing or less-favoured countries. The latter could also be supported through the Bursary Fund (see above).

Congress venue The venue (or venues) should include a hall large enough to host the opening session of around 2000 delegates and other plenary sessions, with easy access to other venues for con-current sessions and workshops. The venue and arrangements must be include provisions for access and participation by people with disabilities.

Support for developing country participants Host societies should consider strategies to boost attendance from developing countries and people with disabilities, including the Bursary Fund mentioned above.

Childcare. Congress planning and facilities should include 'family friendly' options and arrangements.

Accommodation A range of options should be provided from 4 or 5 star hotel, to budget hotel, to university dormitory **within walking distance** of the Congress venue or via shuttle bus, ride-share or taxi.

ISPP support ISPP may be able to provide limited start-up funding as a refundable loan.

The Congress Committee member who is a Vice-President of ISPP should ensure good liaison with ISPP throughout the planning of the Congress.

Use of Congress surplus Host society bids should also indicate that, in addition to repaying any funds advanced by ISPP, a portion of any surplus be returned to ISPP for activities that benefit all member societies and/or promote international plant pathology. The ISPP should receive \$30,000 + 10% of any additional net surplus within 6 months of the end of the congress (These funds are used by ISPP to help defray costs associated with planning and liaison on subsequent congresses)