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An Uncertain Future...

We live in a rapidly changing world and I am sure that I do not need to tell you that! But where is the world of pest control heading to the future and what are some of the many challenges that lie ahead for the industry?

These questions are the focus of two of our feature articles, one by former FAOPMA President, David Gay OAM, and the other by Asia's leading urban pest researcher, Prof. Chow-Yang Lee. These articles are a summary of the keynote presentations from the last two FOAPMA-Pest Summit meetings. In the case of David, he discusses how customers will seek out pest managers in the future, in what he calls the 'Uber Effect'. Chow-Yang reviews the many and varied challenges to the industry within Asia, from the increasing demand in pest management services, to the new threats, to arguably the most difficult aspect of all, human resources. There is the question of how the industry will find staff to the future, and more importantly, retain the leaders.

Interestingly, many of the challenges are mirrored in this issue's *Insights from an Industry Icon*. Nancy Lee is a trail blazer; in an industry that is so male dominated, Nancy has excelled where so many have faltered. Nancy and her business, Chung Hsi Chemicals, provides a model that others can only emulate. One of the key factors that Nancy highlights in order to survive to the future, is knowledge. As we say, knowledge is power, and this issue promotes many of the key events ahead.

Without a question for the Asia-Pacific Region, the most important (and largest) meeting is FAOPMA-Pest Summit. This is being held in Daejeon, Korea over 24-27 September 2019. There are five pages devoted within this issue to the meeting, and the scientific session is going to be fantastic. The line up of speakers include a number of industry greats including, Brian Forschler, Bill Robinson, Jennifer McCaw, Erik Meurling, Scotty Yang, plus the two editors of this magazine. This is a meeting not to be missed and I am looking forward to seeing you in September.

Also included in this issue is a feature article on *Drosophila* (Vinegar flies) as vectors of food-borne illnesses. There is a story on the editor's experience in finding bed bugs in hotel rooms, plus an unusual story that attempts to demonstrate what a mosquito looks like to another mosquito - you may be surprised.

The book reviewed, *The Secret Lives of Flies*, is in my opinion, one of the most fascinating entomological texts that I have read to date, and can be thoroughly recommended.

The news section is especially comprehensive in this issue. One common theme is food contamination and how quickly social media can damage reputations.

Finally, did you guess what last month's pest was? The answer is forthcoming, along with a fact sheet on this pest. Another is included to challenge your taxonomic skills! ■

Stephen Doggett (Chief Editor)