

Former FAO and Other UN Staff Association

Associazione dei Pensionati della FAO e di altre Organizzazioni delle Nazioni Unite



Newsbrief 96
June 2015

45th FFOA General Assembly

27 May 2015

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The 45th session of the FFOA General Assembly was held on 27 May at FAO Headquarters, chaired by Mr Ali Mekouar, former Director of the FAO Conference, Council and Protocol Affairs Division. The Assembly reviewed progress over the year, and approved a budget of EUR 43,125, whilst maintaining annual dues invaried. The full report of the General Assembly will be dispatched with Newsbrief 97 in September 2015.

The Assembly was addressed by key members of top management from the three Rome-based agencies: Mr Denis Aitken, Director, Assistant Director General, a.i. CS, FAO; Mr Mageed Yahia Deputy Director HR, WFP; and Mr Peter Frobbel, Human Resource Management Adviser, IFAD. The speakers highlighted achievements and challenges faced by their respective organizations over the past year. The statement by Mr Frobbel focused on the inspiring success achieved with regard to the Millenium Development Goals 2015, particularly the first MDG of halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty. The dedication and commitment of former and current staff played a large role in making these remarkable achievements possible.

The Assembly was also addressed by Mr Mauro Pace, FAO-UGSS, on behalf of all the Staff Associations.

Representatives of the new medical insurance manager Allianz and of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund delivered presentations. Key issues were “teething pains” in medical insurance processes, and the continuing strong position of the Pension Fund.

Mr Alan Prien, President of FFOA, officially closed the Assembly at 13.20 hours.

Following a subscription lunch, Mr Mekouar offered participants a presentation on the objectives and outcomes of the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), held at FAO Headquarters in November 2014.



A Word from the President on Behalf of Your Executive Committee

Dear friends around the world,
We hope this message finds you in good health, and consequently encountering less problematic procedures with our new claims provider, Allianz, for those of you who are enrolled in our medical schemes.

I start with this topic because the transition from Vanbreda International has consumed an enormous amount of time and effort by your Executive Committee members in this first half of 2015. The JAC/MC (see the separate medical section, in this issue) has not functioned as well as it should, and consequently we have been required to bring directly to FAO management and to Alliance a continuing series of problems and complaints raised by our members.

At our recent General Assembly, FAO was represented by Mr Denis Aitken, who chairs the JAC/MC. In his statement, he admitted that the transition has not gone as well as had been hoped. We also had Allianz representatives in attendance, and we heard many promises to get things fixed, simplified, and speed up the claims processing. FAO has also committed to resuming the scheduling of monthly JAC/MC meetings.

The second most concerning activity has been dealing with worries caused by a number of allegations and the circulation of a petition regarding the proposals by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for an updating of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which from 2000 has governed the human resources operations of the Pension Fund Secretariat and the separate management of Investment Management Division personnel, both under the general authority of the Office of Human Resources of the UN. After approval by the Pension Board in 2014, the CEO's proposals were then approved by the General Assembly, but have given rise to a disquieting number of seemingly unfounded rumors and allegations, widely circulated on today's Internet facilities.

Your Executive Committee has just met with the CEO, and the RSG (representative of the SG for investments) who oversees a completely self-autonomous office. We have questioned both of them on the various issues raised.

For those members in the northern hemisphere, we wish you a good summer, and to others in the southern, a mild winter season.

Alan Prien
President

Newsbrief 96 June 2015

Newsbrief, the FFOA official quarterly newsletter, is produced in English and Italian and is distributed free to all members, electronically to those who have internet access, and in print to those who do not. Newsbrief (current and back issues) is also available on the FFOA website: www.ffoa-web.org. Suggestions or contributions from members are welcome.

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Pension Matters

(Responsible: M. Breschi, A. Prien, G. Eberle, A. Fusco Femiano, M. F. Purnell)

The state of the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund.

The FFOA General Assembly on 27 May devoted significant attention to important matters regarding UN Pensions. Members are aware that this year our Association is keeping high on its agenda the ongoing monitoring of the rumors and allegations concerning the current and prospective financial situation as well as the investments prospects of the UNJSPF.

The main thrust of the initiatives adopted by FFOA and in particular by our President, Alan Prien in full consultation with AFICS Management in New York, has been that of placing in the appropriate perspective the allegations and the correspondence, communication and web-based conferences which contributed significantly in spreading concerns and anxiety. In this context, an extensive exchange of correspondence took place in the early part of 2015 between our President and our partners in New York, culminating in the letter by the FAFICS President back in May (available on both

the FFOA and UNJSPF web sites) in which members were reassured of good state of affairs of the Fund.

In particular, both FFOA and FAFICS Presidents stressed the fact that the good health of the Fund lies in its well designed and well implemented governance structure encompassing a clear segregation of duties between the CEO, responsible for the liabilities (namely administration and payments of benefits), and the Representative of the Secretary General (RSG), responsible for the efficient, effective and safe management of the investments. The overall governance by the Pension Board, the oversight function by the Office of Internal Oversight (OIOS), the ongoing review and monitoring by the Board of Actuaries and the overseeing functions on human resources matters by the SG, complement a very strong control architecture.

The fund shows a continued positive financial outlook for the current year with a year-to-date overall positive trend. The value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2015 were US\$ 53,308 million up from US\$ 52,772 at the end of 2014. FFOA will remain vigilant and will continue to keep members informed of significant developments as appropriate.



Alan Blythe, Director of the Geneva Office of the UNJSPF, re-affirmed the health of the Fund.

UNJSPF- Annual Letter by the CEO.

The Annual Letter by the CEO has been published on the UNJSPF web site. The Foreword notes, “the reversal of the downward trend observed in the results of the actuarial valuations since 1999. The results of the latest actuarial valuation provide an important assurance of the Fund’s ability to meet all of its pension obligations and commitments”. The CEO also makes reference to the almost complete implementation of the new operational system IPAS which brings a number of significant administrative improvements. Members are encouraged to read the Annual Letter to keep abreast of matters of importance.

FAO/WFP Staff Pension Committee (SPC)

Policy meetings of the FAO/WFP Staff Pension Committee have been resumed only recently. The SPC is now planning to review and discuss the Agenda of the upcoming Pension Board session (to be held in Geneva in the third week of July this year). PB documents will be reviewed as they are published before the July session. Of particular interest to members is the recent

adoption by the SPC of a decision to allow FFOA representatives to attend as observers the SPC session at which individual cases of disability cases are reviewed and decided upon. Much credit for this goes to our President’s strong presentation of the case before SPC. We regard this as a very positive development for FFOA’s role in defence of member interests.

The CEO and the RSG visits to Rome.

Two separate visits to Rome by both the RSG and the CEO to meet SPC and FFOA members took place in the second half of June. Both visits provided an opportunity to review the state of the UNJSPF investments and of the Pensions administration. FFOA representatives were reassured of the good financial health of the Fund and of the considerable progress in its internal control systems.

Medical insurance

(Responsible: E. Seidler, G. Eberle, A. Prien, M. Breschi)

The first five months of 2015 saw a significant number of queries and



Maaref Wilson, from Allianz, and Kamila Guseynova, from FAO Social Security, responded to concerns related to the new insurance provider.

complaints from FFOA members on the services received from Allianz Worldwide Care (AWC), the new Claims Processor for the BMIP/MMBP plans. The causes included the use of new (and therefore unfamiliar) claims forms and settlement notes, difficulty in contacting designated AWC staff, the lack of prior medical records by AWC, delays in processing claims and a mind-set of processors that needed to change to better understand the plan coverage with a view to assisting participants.

These points related to i) delays, ii) bureaucracy and iii) inadequate and incomplete communications between AWC and participants were raised at the FFOA General Assembly. Allianz representatives provided answers and gave assurance that improvements were on their way and that by the end of June claims will be settled much sooner (on average within 48 hours).

In the meantime FFOA continues to monitor developments, report inadequacies to the JAC/MC and seek the assistance of FAO Social Security to properly address situations where participants need more understanding and help.

FFOA has convinced FAO management also to revert to monthly meetings of the JAC/MC, which usefully helps to speed up problem-solving.

News from the UN Organizations

WFP

The annual session of the WFP Executive Board took place this year from 25-28 May. The following policy documents were approved: the Annual Performance Report for 2014; the Gender Policy for 2015-2020; the Enterprise Risk Management Policy; the Policy on Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition; the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Policy; the Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy.

At the beginning of the session, the Executive Director presented WFP's work and challenges, starting with a detailed overview of on-going complex emergencies of which the list is "long and growing". Total requirements are estimated at US\$7.4 billion of which WFP had received less than US\$3.0 billion so far.

Special guests at the opening session were the United Nations Special Envoy for the Syria Crisis Staffan de Mistura, currently involved in the Geneva consultations; as well as State Minister Ato Mitiku Kassa from Ethiopia, and Assistant Secretary Bathsheba Crocker from the United States.

FAO

The 39th session of the FAO Conference was held from 6-13 June. The Conference formally approved a regular budget of \$1,035.7 million for delivery of FAO's programme of work over the period 2016-2017.

FAO Director-General Graziano da Silva was elected, unopposed, to a second term in office which will run from July 2015 through July 2019.

In a special ceremony, the Conference recognized 72 countries for having achieved the MDG target of halving the proportion of hungry people. Of these, 29 have also met the more stringent goal to halve the number of hungry people as laid out by governments when they met in Rome at the World Food Summit (WFS) in 1996.

The Conference also re-elected Wilfred Joseph Ngirwa of the United Republic of Tanzania as Independent Chairperson of the FAO's Council. His second term in office will run from July 2015 to July 2017.

News from the Staff Associations

(Responsible: A. Van Arkadie)

Elections to fill vacant posts in the AP-in-FAO and UGSS held early May added new

members to their Executive Committees. AP-in-FAO is again led by Mr. Juan Coy, General Secretary, while Mr. Mauro Pace, is General Secretary of UGSS/FAO-WFP. We congratulate them and wish their teams onward success.

On 3 June, AP-in-FAO, in lieu of an urgent meeting with Management on the Mobility Exercise, conducted a rush survey to ask members affected or disappointed by FAO's "mobility plans" so that these issues could be raised with Management. Not even a week had elapsed, when some of their members were served with letters of re-assignment asking them to accept within a few working days a transfer to another duty station, without prior consultation or communication.

At the FFOA General Assembly, UGSS General Secretary, Mr. Mauro Pace, speaking on behalf of the Rome-based UN Staff Associations, summed up the two elements of dialogue and cooperation which he said are prerequisite for effective representation. "Consequently our respective functions are complementary and, to a certain extent, interdependent; it is through a continuous

process of information exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas that we can monitor the functioning of our social security scheme." Before concluding, Mr. Pace paid tribute to FFOA adding that, "you are our most precious source of information to strategize and recommend policy improvements."

Our previous Newsbrief noted the prevalence of "uneasiness" among both General Service and Professional Staff currently serving our Rome-based U.N. Staff Organizations. WFP-PSA in May reported on an ongoing review by the International Civil Service Commission on "Proposed changes to Staff Pay and Benefits." While there are some positives for certain staff, WFP-PSA emphasized that, "the unions, including the PSA, do not find this situation acceptable as the review will leave staff overall worse off, especially with expectations from staff to be more mobile."

In spite of this grey backdrop, FFOA is glad to note from a recent UGSS Resolution issued after an Extraordinary GA on Friday 5 June: "apprised of the positive attitude shown by Management towards the re-establishment of an enabling environment for constructive



Assembly Chair Ali Mekouar hands the floor to Mauro Pace, UGSS.

staff/management relations, ... with priority consideration for the job security of UGSS colleagues presently on temporary (TAP) contracts, for which the Assembly expects tangible solutions in the weeks following the Conference; Welcomes management's commitment to continue to discuss other matters, including, but not limited to, PEMS, the GS recruitment global calls and career development; Expresses its satisfaction that Staff Representative Bodies were granted permission to address the 39th Conference."

On a "hopeful" note, FFOA is pleased to quote here a communication dated 4 June from the President of FICSA referring to the 67th session of the FICSA Council held in Rome at which staff representatives had expressed concerns regarding the functioning of the internal system of justice in place in many international organizations of the common system. "The Standing Committee on Legal Questions thus adopted a recommendation requesting the Federation to explore ways to collect all relevant information and to prepare to hold a forum to propose a reform on the internal system of justice based on the established diagnostic. Most of the views noted a general failure of both the internal (advisory bodies) and external institutions (ILO Administrative Tribunal) in charge of appeals." The communication concludes, "FICSA remains committed for a fully independent, efficient and trusted international system of justice in favour of all staff."

We also note with thanks the publication of a special edition of the WFP-PSA Newsletter (June 2015) featuring information on FFOA, and particularly the Pre-retirement Service Programme (PRSP), under which serving staff can sample the benefits of FFOA membership free of charge before retiring.

IFAD

IFAD Alumni Association members held their pre-summer lunch on 24 June at

Ristorante Orti di Roma. Members were brought up to date on the medical transition latest developments, the meeting of the Executive Committee and the SPCs with the CEO on 16 June and the RSG on the 17 June, as well as the preparations under way for the next meeting of the Pension Board.

WFP

Some 30 alumni attended the General Assembly of the WFP Alumni Network on 8- 9 June in the Auditorium of WFP headquarters. The Working Group had prepared nine Conference Papers for approval or consideration with a view to facilitating the discussion.

The following decisions were taken: (i) to approve the revised Alumni Network Statutes; (ii) to confirm the composition of the Steering Committee (8 members), and the assignment of responsibilities; (iii) to establish the annual membership fees towards meeting operational costs at US\$25, and (iv) to hold the next General Assembly in June 2016, after the annual session of the Executive Board.

Suresh Sharma was elected President, Angela Van Rynbach Vice-President, Gretchen Bloom Secretary and Penepole Walker-Mandaini Treasurer. The Chair of the former Working Group, Bronek Szynlaski, was elected Honorary Chair. Furthermore, other members of the Working Group agreed upon the request of the Steering Committee, to provide support for a limited time to ensure a smooth transition. This is particularly important, as the Steering Group members are not Rome-based, with the exception of the treasurer.

Social support and recreational activities

(Responsible: J. Smidt, G. Monciotti, I. Novelli, A. Van Arkadie, A. Fusco Femiano)

Previous activities:

Since our last Newsbrief 95, the following

activities were enjoyed by some of our members:

March 2015	Three-day day trip to Napoli e Costiera, Ercolano, Pompei, Positano, Amalfi, Vesuvio Cerveteri Museo Nazionale Archeologico Napoli Museo di Capodimonte e Teatro San Carlo Riserva Naturale Regionale Nazzano, Tevere, Farfa Gita sul Vesuvio e Scavi Archeologici di Oplontis Narni e Cascata delle Marmore Passeggiate a Tenuta del Presidente, Castelporziano
April 2015	Trip to Orvieto Scavi di Pompei The Matisse Arabesque exhibition in Rome
May 2015	Montepulciano con in esclusiva collezione privata dei capolavori Macchiaioli. Un giorno nelle acque delle Terme dei Papi (VT) Roseto Fineschi a Caviglia e Museo delle erbe officinali Aboca a Sansepolcro Gita all'Oasi di Ninfa e alla città e al Castello di Sermoneta
June 2015	Napoli: Castel dell'Ovo, e centro storico Castello di Santa Severa Viaggio a Matera, Taranto, Gallipoli, Lecce e Ostuni

Unfortunately our Spring lunch in May at Babette was cancelled due to a breakdown of electricity in the center of Rome

Upcoming activities

July 2015	Viaggio a Ponza, Palmarola e Zannone (3 days)
September 2015	Two-day trip to San Galgano and Volterra

Our coffee mornings in March and April were attended by 43 and 22 people respectively. Remember that our coffee mornings take place every first Wednesday of the month in the FAO Aventino Room and in the summer on the FAO Terrace.

Farewell to Maurice Purnell

FFOA fondly salutes Maurice Purnell on his return to his native England. For nearly 20 years following retirement, Maurice has been a stalwart supporter of FFOA, including editorship of Newsbrief. Originally selected as Newsbrief editor because he was the only one who knew how to use a computer, we are certain that we will continue to benefit from his wit and wisdom, via today's virtual communication tools.

News from the Executive Committee

Executive Committee 2016-18 Elections, November 2015

As you may remember, when we voted for the FFOA Executive Committee in 2012, we allowed our members with an e-mail address to cast their ballots via the internet. Now, three years later and with a considerable number of new FFOA members who have access to the internet, we hope that the e-voting system will be used by the majority of our members.

The software will be easy to use: those having an e-mail address on the FFOA database will receive an e-mail message (subject: FFOA 2015 Elections) that will invite them to cast their votes by just clicking on the link provided. The e-voting process is then self-explanatory. The reduction in manual effort required to count votes will greatly assist the FFOA.

Those members NOT having an e-mail address on the FFOA database will continue to receive the ballot papers via snail-mail and will need to submit their sealed envelopes via

post or personally to the FFOA office. The traditional ballot papers will be accepted by FFOA up until 17:00 on 30 November 2015.

You are kindly urged to submit your new or updated e-mail addresses to the FFOA office as soon as possible (in any case not later than 30 September 2015). As you are aware, this can be done either via our website (Member Services-Updating your personal details) or by telephone (+39 0657055623).

However, there is another important issue to address, namely the availability of candidates.

As you may be aware we need to elect 11 members to the new Executive Committee and in order to achieve this target it is important to have enough candidates willing to run for elections. Please use the Nomination form sent to you in March 2015 to nominate candidates. The form is also available on the FFOA web-site (GA Documents page).

Nomination forms must be received not later than 12 noon on 1 September 2015.

News from the Membership sub-Committee

As a member-driven organization, it is essential that FFOA works to obtain new members, and to retain those who have already joined. The FFOA Membership sub-Committee (MSC) has as its main objectives to promote the Association and to increase its membership. During 2014, as a result of a number of promotional activities undertaken, the membership of FFOA increased by a net 2 per cent. (130 new members, 48 left through resignation or death, and 38 members were suspended for non-payment of dues for more than two full years).

As a tool to attract potential members, FFOA offers the Pre-Retirement Service Programme (PRSP) under which future retirees access to all services and benefits for free during the last 18 months of their career in order to prepare them better for their retirement. And, of course, one of our most

effective means of attracting new members is through informal, personal contact with current members.

Retaining current members is the other side of the coin. More information on promotions aimed at retaining current members will be covered in a future issue of Newsbrief.

Volunteers from the membership are always welcome to join the MSC to assist with the important task of membership promotion and retention.

General Assembly participants donate Euro 800 for those less fortunate

Participants at the FFOA General Assembly on 27 May generously donated more than Euro 800 to the Istituto Santa Margherita, Istituto Suore di Madre Teresa di Calcutta, and Istituto delle Piccole sorelle dei Poveri. The collection is made to honour the memory of Eileen Nolan, who managed the coordination of donations to these homes for many years. Thanks to all who contributed.

FFOA summer office closure

The FFOA Office will be closed from 3-28 August for the usual summer holiday, and will reopen on Monday 31 August.

News from the Electronic World

(Responsible: Pino Pace)

Blogging Italy

This time I want to walk you through a couple of fantastic sites which I believe are worth the time you will spend to visit them. In actual fact they are blogs developed by a friend of mine from Brunei, who fell in love with Italy, following her marriage with an Italian.

The two sites are BrowsingRome.com and BrowsingItaly.com. These are personal accounts (like all blogs), but the stories they share, the cultural tips they contain, and the

fantastic pictures they include cannot but help to keep our love with our former (or current) host country and city.

And, of course, being blogs, you can actually participate in the sites, leaving comments, providing pictures, etc. etc.

And if you still have not planned your trip to Milan 2015 EXPO, these two blogs provide excellent tips.

Have a nice time !!!!!

To your good health

(FFOA publishes health suggestions for pensioners but does not guarantee their accuracy or efficacy.)

Studying the fourth age

World population is ageing at unprecedented rate but little is known about the information behaviour of persons in the fourth age (those over 75 - also known somewhat unkindly as ill-derly or disability zone). A study reported in Information Research (Volume 20, March 2015), entitled "Unexplored Territory: Information Behaviour in the Fourth Age" explored the everyday information needs of these people, the sources and processes they used to meet those needs, and their continuing ability to use computers and the Internet for meeting those information needs.

Over a two-year period the study employed semi-structured interviews and observation to track and observe the information behaviour of 25 participants residing at two independent-living retirement communities.

Not surprisingly, the most important information needs were: the health and wellness of themselves and their families and friends, pharmaceuticals, personal income and finance, assistive devices, safe mental challenges, legal matters, consumer goods, and benefits and services. For the participants, the most important information sources included: caregivers, intimate

social networks, wider social networks, mass media, and outside professional and institutional sources.

The study concludes that specialized information sources aimed specifically at the oldest section of the population, as well as hands-on support from care providers, will be a particularly important growth sector in the information age over the coming years.

Arranged by Sabatino Salvi - FFOA

News from the membership

The lighter side

A "hot" vacation

An elderly couple books a holiday in the Caribbean in the same hotel where they stayed on their honeymoon. For practical issues, they travel separately, with the husband arriving first. He finds an Internet connection and sends his wife a message. Unfortunately, he makes a mistake with the address and instead of going to his wife, the message goes to a widow just returning home from her husband's funeral service.

The message reads, "Arrived at destination. As you can see, they have Internet here now. All is ready for your arrival – hope that your trip is as good as mine. Don't bother to bring heavy clothes, because it is beastly hot here!"

New members

A hearty welcome to all our new members.

Albert, Ms Janice
 Angeloni, Mr Franco
 Atiquzzaman, Mr Mohammed
 Baralle, Mr Francisco Ernesto
 Batankova, Ms Blanka
 Belanga, Mr Paul
 Breukelman, Ms Wilhelmina
 Celestini, Mr Giuseppe
 Comas, Ms Blanca
 Corazzi, Ms Rosanna
 Davies, Mr Kenneth

De Santis, Ms Anna Paola
 Di Napoli, Ms Carla
 Eddy, Mr Richard
 Faloci, Mr Michele
 Gasperini, Ms Lavinia
 Greco Ramogida, Ms Geraldine
 Hasan, Mr Mohammad Rezaul
 Hopper, Ms Susanne
 Karavia, Ms Eleonora
 Lowrey, Mr Peter
 Maman, Ms Anne
 Mandri, Ms Cinzia
 Marchetti, Mr Roberto
 Mayer, Mr Nino Roberto
 Menage, Ms Nicole
 Minoiu, Ms Dorina
 Nobile-Brancato, Ms Fiorella

Paganelli, Ms Gianna
 Paubadano, Ms Aedaerminda
 Rahman, Ms Farhana
 Renard, Ms Nadine
 Salvi, Ms Daniela
 Schembari, Ms Concetta
 Tiffney, Ms Theresa
 Travani, Ms Tiziana
 Wagner, Ms Christa
 Zarrelli, Ms Adriana
 Zogheib-Azouri, Ms Antoinette

All retirees ought to join the Association to support its work representing the pensioners, and for their own interest, and should encourage their ex-colleagues to join!

IN MEMORIAM

Andreade, Mr Gustavo
 21 February 2015
 Belien, Mr Joseph Lea
 17 February 2015
 Bourgeois, Pierre
 25 April 2015
 Contessini-Savio, Ms Renata
 9 May 2015
 Fitzgerald, Ms Pepita
 4 March 2015
 Fitzthum, Mr Alfred
 23 March 2015
 Monique Grignon
 20 March 2015
 Hemsted, Ms Clara
 28 March 2015
 Iacoacci, Mr Pier Luigi
 11 February 2015

•
 • Kazinetz, Ms Nadia
 • 5 March 2015
 • Kerr, Ms Janet
 • 26 February 2015
 • Penna, Mr Valerio
 • 28 March 2015
 • Renson, Mr Hubert
 • 28 February 2015
 • Tosbath, Ms Colette
 • 13 April 2015
 • Wenderoth, Mr Heinz J.
 • 3 January 2015
 • Yarza, Mr José Ramón
 • 26 May 2015
 • Zafar, Mr Mohamed Aslam
 • 18 November 2014
 •

On behalf of all the members of FFOA, we express heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the above-mentioned members.

Pierre Bourgeois

25 April 2015

Pierre Bourgeois died in Montpellier, France, on 25 April 2015 at the age of 76. Following a five-year assignment with the European Commission in Brussels, Pierre worked at WFP for 30 years in both the field (Africa) and at HQs in Rome. Pierre was known to all for his exceptional integrity

and unbureaucratic devotion in providing support to WFP field staff.

After retiring from WFP in 2000, Pierre spent a good deal of his time in his home village of Reugney in the French Jura. He was a life member of FFOA.