

Tuesday 7th March 2017**MEDIA RELEASE****AGIC Asia 2017 attracts record numbers in Vietnam and China**

This year's Australian Grains Industry Conferences (AGIC) Asia in Vietnam and China are both sell –out events.

“We have strong demand for both conferences reflecting the interest in Australian grain and its position in the world grain market” said Mr Pat O’Shannassy, CEO of host organisation Grain Trade Australia (GTA).

It is the first time AGIC Asia has been held in Vietnam and while returning to China, it is the first time it has been held in Shanghai.

The oversubscribed Australian grain conference events hosted in Asia for the 4th consecutive year are true indication of the mounting interest and enthusiasm in Asia for information on the Australian grains industry and its quality products.

Vietnam and China are important and valuable markets for the Australian industry” Grain Trade Australia’s Mr Pat O’Shannassy said.

Vietnam imported an estimated 1.5 million tonnes of wheat while China imported an around 5 million tonnes of Australia grain in 2015/16. On all accounts both countries are projected to import more in 2016/17 as Australia just finishes its largest grain harvest in history.

In addition to the AGIC Asia Conferences, Grain Trade Australia and the Australian Grains Industry Market Access Forum (GIMAF) will host “Roundtable” events to add further value to the conference series, said Mr O’Shannassy.

The Roundtable events involve high level discussions and dialogue with Government Agencies and industry participants looking at further alignment of the commercial, technical and regulatory trade environments for the grain trade between Australia and its trading partners.

“We have had strong participation and support in Asia for these events, together with key delegates from across the Australian Industry” said Mr O’Shannassy.

Mr O’Shannassy, said that these Roundtable events also work towards enabling increased trade facilitation, market access and promotion resulting in improved development of trade policy and communication between respective Asian and Australian industries at both a commercial and technical level.

AGIC Asia – Indonesia is planned for May 2017 to be accompanied by a Australian grain Roundtable discussion.

China, Vietnam and Indonesia are all major markets for Australian grain. All are nations where Australia has or is negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTA) or are part of regional FTA’s.

The 2017 AGIC conferences will be on 6th March in Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam and 9th March in Beijing, China. GTA hosts the AGIC Asia Conference series together with Australian Oilseeds Federation and Pulse Australia.

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