



## 2006 - What is around the corner?

2005 has been an amazing learning and growing experience for me personally. I have been fortunate to meet many members of our global fraternity both within our culturally rich and diverse region, as well as in Europe, the Americas and Australia.

The year, sadly, did not get off to a good start, with the awful Tsunami affecting many people in South East Asia. Yet most importantly, I wish to acknowledge the hard work, swift response, commitment and empathy of our culinary association in raising funds across the globe to help those affected by the disaster.

The good work continues within that region and I suspect that we will need to revisit our commitment continually, in order to offer the best services that we are able to.

Great commitment from the presidium and continental directors this year has seen WACS move forward in many directions and the next couple of years will see tremendous strides being made in how the association is run. Recent discussions have centred on the global certification programme, WACS Global Chefs Competition, culinary competition guidelines, membership fees and WACS Statutes and Bylaws.

Unfortunately the Tsunami was not the only disaster to affect the globe this year, with Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in Pakistan affecting millions of people. Many associations across the globe and WACS in particular have once again made funds available where possible, to alleviate the suffering. The past year has shown me, what generous souls chefs have, by dedicating time, resources, infrastructure and capital in order to help others across the globe in their time of need.

The next major event in our calendar is undoubtedly the congress in Auckland, New Zealand. This culturally rich country will offer members the opportunity to experience a congress like none before: Culinary workshops highlighting the exotic cuisine of New Zealand, New World Wines and of course the Hans Bueschkens Competition and the Dr Bill Gallagher Junior Forum. Further the congress will allow your association to have its say in all business matters and gives everyone attending the opportunity to make new friends and to strengthen existing friendships.

Early registration has now closed, but, there is still ample time to book your seats at the congress. For registration information and the Congress 2006 Programme visit [www.wacscongress2006.com](http://www.wacscongress2006.com). I truly look forward to meeting a member or two from your association at the congress.

I am enthusiastic about the future of our region, together we have made great progress, and with continued mutual support, I am confident that the best is yet to come.

Please take this important time to reflect on all we have, all we can do together, and how much we have accomplished this year. Let us celebrate those successes. Our culinary world is constantly changing, and only through commitment and dedication are we able to make sure it changes for the betterment of the next generation of chefs.

As we head into a new year, we wish you and yours only the very best.

Kind regards,

*Arnold Tanzer*

WACS Continental director Africa and the Middle East

*Dr. Bill Gallagher*

WACS Honorary President