



THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE

May 21, 2014

A TRIBUTE TO DR. RAJIV SHAH

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John Ruan
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I am delighted to join with so many others in this marvelous tribute that my good friend Gene White and the Global Child Nutrition Foundation have organized to honor Dr. Rajiv Shah, the Administrator of USAID for whom I have such great respect and admiration.

My hope is that Raj and Gene and all of the Gala organizers will excuse me for not being there in person, since I am in Guatemala assessing projects that are on the front lines of the struggle for enhanced child nutrition.

My connection to Raj goes back a decade when he was just beginning to shape a global agricultural strategy at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. At Raj's request, I put together a panel for him at our 2006 World Food Prize international symposium, which included Dr. Norman Borlaug, our Laureate Catherine Bertini and Sir Gordon Conway of our Council of Advisors, all of whom eventually became involved with Raj in Gates' programs.

As our relationship with Raj evolved, it eventually led to Bill Gates giving his inaugural address on bringing an agricultural transformation to Africa at the World Food Prize in 2009, an event that gave Dr. Borlaug enormous hope for the future just before he passed away.

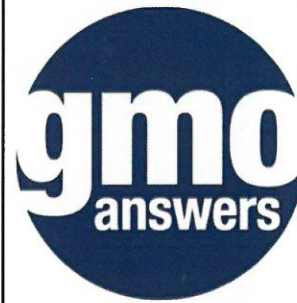
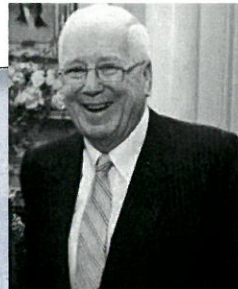
As a former USAID officer, for the past six years I have watched with enormous pride as Raj has implemented President Obama's Feed the Future Initiative, while simultaneously revitalizing AID as a transformative development organization. I am extremely gratified that Raj is continuing his inspirational leadership as we confront the greatest challenge in human history – whether we can we sustainably and nutritiously feed the more than 9 billion people who will be on our planet by the year 2050.

On March 25, as we unveiled the statue of Dr. Borlaug in the U.S. Capitol, I could not help but think about all that has been accomplished since that first symposium session Norm and Raj had at the World Food Prize in 2006. With that in mind, I feel certain that Norm is looking down at this gathering tonight with a smile on his face, not only about Raj's role in those achievements, but for all that I know Raj will continue to do in the years ahead.

Warmest Congratulations, Raj, from all of us at the World Food Prize.

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn (ret.)
President

666 Grand Avenue • Box 1700 • Des Moines, Iowa 50309 USA (Mailing Address)
100 Locust Street • Des Moines, Iowa 50309 USA (Office Address)
Tel: 515-245-3783 • Fax: 515-245-3785 • wfp@worldfoodprize.org • www.worldfoodprize.org



Open to Your Questions About How Our Food Is Grown

The Council for Biotechnology Information and GMO Answers share Dr. Shah's passion for achieving global food security through technology and innovation, and congratulate him on winning the 2014 Gene White Lifetime Achievement Award for Child Nutrition.



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