



ALEJANDRO THIERMANN

President
Code Commission
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Dr. Thiermann is president of the standard setting committee for the OIE, at its headquarters in Paris, France. He has been seconded to the OIE by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) to devote most of his time to the work of the OIE, serving as the senior advisor to the Director General.

Prior to coming to Paris, from October 1996 and until September 2001, he served as Senior Trade Coordinator and Regional

Director for USDA-APHIS in Brussels, with responsibility over Europe, Africa, Middle East, Russia and the former Soviet Republics.

During 1997 to 1999 he was twice elected Chairman of the World Trade Organisation, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (WTO-SPS) Committee. In 1994 he was elected vice-president of the Code Commission of the OIE. In 2000 he was elected, and since 2003 re-elected president of this important standard-setting committee.

He was also an active member of U.S. delegations to the negotiation of the Uruguay Round of the WTO, the drafting of the new International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), also served for two years as the U.S. Coordinator for the Codex Alimentarius.

Dr. Thiermann joined USDA-APHIS in 1989 as the Deputy Administrator for International Services. In this capacity, he promoted APHIS' role in trade facilitation, he also lead the overseas animal and plant health eradication and control programs such as the screwworm, foot-and-mouth disease, and Mediterranean fruit fly.

Before joining APHIS, he was the National Program Leader for animal health research under the USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS). He began his career with the U.S. Government in 1979 as the research leader for the leptospirosis and the mycobacterioses research laboratories in Ames, Iowa.

From 1973 to 1979 he worked at Wayne State University's School of Medicine as an instructor and veterinary clinician for the university's Laboratory Animal Unit. Where he obtained his PhD degree at the Department of Medical Immunology.

From 1972 to 1973 Dr. Thiermann worked at NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston, Texas in the Health Application's Office applying remote sensing techniques for the utilization of satellite data in animal and plant health projects.

A native of Chile, Dr. Thiermann received his doctorate of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Chile at Santiago, and a PhD degree in microbiology and immunology from the School of Medicine at Wayne State University in Michigan.