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SPEAKER PROFILES

(presented in order of agenda)

MARTIN MCDONALD



Martin has over 30 years of experience in public service, commencing his career with local government in 1973. He later went on to work in the Town & Country Planning Service and in 1990 joined the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as a Rural Area Co-ordinator under the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme. Martin is well recognised as a key figure in the development and implementation of major rural development initiatives. He joined the Northern Ireland Rural Development Council (RDC) as Chief Executive in 1999 and remains a key influencer in rural development and in the development of programmes affecting rural areas. RDC manages the Rural Network for Northern Ireland contract as part of a wider Agri Rural Forum.

REBECCA FROST



Working within the Commission for Rural Communities, Rebecca is responsible for the development and co-ordination of the RDPE Network and UK National Rural Network. Rebecca has worked in the rural and community development field for the past ten years, including roles at local, regional and national levels within the voluntary/community and public sectors. Over the past two years, Rebecca has focused on European rural development and the opportunities and potential for building understanding and sharing solutions within different national and local contexts. Rebecca is currently completing an MSc in European Rural Development, on a part-time basis at the Countryside and Community Research Institute at the University of Gloucestershire.

KEY NOTE ADDRESS: GERALLT LLEWELYN JONES



Gerallt Llewelyn Jones is a native of Holyhead. Having graduated in agricultural Botany from Bangor in 1975 he completed a postgraduate Diploma in Education in 1976. After three years of primary school teaching in Llangefni he joined the staff of Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern, a new bilingual secondary school serving the rural areas of western Anglesey. Three years of working on the WDA's Rural Prosperity Programme facilitated his move out of education and into the rural economic development arena. Since establishing Menter Môn in 1995 he has steered its development into a substantial and diverse rural development deliverer with a turnover of £4m per annum and 60 employees. Living in Llanfairpwll and married to Nest, he has three grown up children. His interests include entrepreneurship, art, literature and Welsh history.

Brodor o Gaergybi yw Gerallt Llewelyn Jones. Wedi graddio mewn Llysieuog Amaethyddol o Fangor ym 1975 fe ddilynodd gwrs Ól - radd mewn Addysg ym 1976. Yn dilyn cyfnod o ddysgu mewn ysgol gynradd fe ymunodd a staff Ysgol Uwchradd Bodedern, ysgol ddwyieithiog newydd i ardaleodd gwledig gorllewin Môn. Bu tair blynedd o weithio ar Raglen Ffyniant Cefn Gwlad Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru yn gyfrwng iddo symud o faes addysg i faes datblygu economaidd. Ers sefydlu Menter Môn ym 1995 bu'n llywio ei ddatblygiad i fod yn gorff datblygu gwledig gyda throsiant o £4m y flwyddyn, ac yn gyflogwr i 60 aelod staff. Yn byw yn Llanfairpwll ac yn briod â Nest, mae ganddo dri o blant. Ymysg ei ddiddordebau mae mentergarwch, celf, llenyddiaeth ac hanes Cymru.



PAUL KEATING



Paul Keating is manager of the Rural Development Support Unit based at Tipperary Institute. The unit is responsible for the delivery of the National Rural Network and previously provided Technical Support to the LEADER+ Programme in Ireland. Over the course of the last 20 years Paul has worked as a community worker, academic, a researcher and manager of local development organizations in Ireland and in developing countries. Based in West Waterford on the foothills of the Comeragh Mountains, Paul's primary commitment is to the strengthening of rural identity and resilience through collective action and advocacy.

MICHAEL DOWER



Michael Dower is Visiting Professor of European Rural Development at the University of Gloucestershire, where he previously worked full-time at the Countryside and Community Research Institute. Before that, he was Director General of the Countryside Commission (England), after a period as National Park Officer of the Peak District. He has 25 years' experience as a civil society leader in Europe. He is a non-permanent staff member of the ENRD Contact Point, and currently lead expert to the Thematic Working Group on 'Targeting Territorial Specificities and Needs'.

JOHN DAVIES



John Davies was educated at Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig, Coleg Amaethyddol Gelli Aur and at Welsh Agriculture College Aberystwyth. In 1980 he joined MAFF at Trawscoed Experimental Farm Aberystwyth, he later joined an agriculture Livestock Cooperative as Procurement officer. In 1988 became an Agricultural auctioneer, joined NFU Cymru in 1992; a former NFU Policy Advisor. He commenced his post as Centre Manager of Food Centre Wales at Horeb Llandysul in November 2001. A Modern purpose built Research and Development Centre for the Welsh Food Industry. He has over 20 years experience working in Agricultural, Agri-Food Industry and within cooperatives structures in Wales. He has been instrumental in developing links between local food and the tourism providers. Membership includes Welsh Agri- Food Partnership 2002-2004, Chairman of Objective 1 Agri- Food Partnership 2002- 2004, Former vice-chairman of Rural Asset Strategy Partnership; Former member of Ceredigion Local Objective 1 partnership. President YFC Cymru.2003-2007; School Governor at Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth,2001- 2008;Wales Rural Network steering group Chairman; Vice Chairman of Mid Wales Agri-food partnership; Vice Chairman of Cambrian Mountain Produce marketing group; Member of ENRD Thematic working group " Agriculture and the Wider rural economy"; Member of Wales RDP PMC. John is married to Sian, have 5 children and live near Aberystwyth.

DR KATE BRAITHWAITE MBE



Dr. Kate Braithwaite is Director of the Rural Programme at Carnegie UK Trust. In recent years she managed a large Commission of Inquiry into rural community development which was chaired initially by Lord Steel. The final report - A Charter for Rural Communities - proposed new approaches including asset based rural development. Kate has also managed a Rural Action Research Programme, working with over 40 progressive organisations around the UK and Ireland to consider cost effective solutions to the most pressing issues facing rural communities. Summary findings have been published in 'The Manifesto for Rural Communities - Inspiring Community innovation'. Kate worked for her PhD at the Centre for Rural Economy at Newcastle University and has been awarded an MBE in the Millennium Honours List.