At the recent WSAVA Assembly Meeting held in Geneva, four countries including South Africa presented bids to host the 2014 WSAVA Congress. There were some excellent submissions from Germany, Singapore and Thailand and so it was with great excitement that the South African delegation witnessed the Assembly voting in favour of Cape Town. It will have been 20 years since we last held the WSAVA Congress in Durban (1994) and we are ecstatic to get the WSAVA back in Africa.

Africa has a mystical attraction….wildlife and scenery, a friendly hospitable people with a wonderful lifestyle waiting to welcome you to our beautiful land. Game drives, majestic mountains, a rainbow of interesting cultures all blended together…

South Africa was on show as host of the recent FIFA World Cup and is now firmly positioned on the international event map. Besides the organisational skills and the spectacular stadia, the true spirit of our nation beamed through. A nation once divided can now celebrate and bond together and reflect the true warm hospitality and vibrancy that is so unique to Africa. The vuvuzela may be banned but will never be forgotten!

Cape Town, affectionately known as the mother city, is a gem with a beauty that is truly breathtaking. Table Mountain and the two oceans with the windswept vineyards epitomise this beauty. The International Convention Centre is a state-of-the-art facility and is situated centrally, with ample affordable accommodation within walking distance of the venue.

The scientific content will include an African tone, highlighting our pertinent epidemiological problems. This will be a stage for our own veterinary surgeons to be heard. It will also be a true privilege to bring high-calibre WSAVA lecturers to our continent to present talks on all aspects of small animal veterinary medicine, surgery and animal welfare, and to fulfil the vision of WSAVA – dedicated to the continuing development of companion animal care around the world.

There will be a drive to draw fellow African vets to Cape Town – incentive schemes have been discussed to encourage neighbouring vets to attend.

For the first time WSAVA will make use of a central Conference Organiser, who will work in conjunction with local organisers (see page 27). The National Veterinary Clinicians Group (NVCG) of the South African Veterinary Association will be your host and the congress will take place on 15–19 September 2014. We are expecting to attract in excess of 2000 vets from all over the world. This is an event not to be missed!

Please put the dates in your diary now and start preparing for your mystical African experience.
Get ready for Korea!

Korean culture is surging due to ‘Hallyu’, the Korean wave

A new term ‘Hallyu’ (the ‘Korean wave’) has emerged to epitomise a social and cultural phenomenon in Korea. This term was coined by the Chinese media and followed the popularity of Korean television dramas exported to China in the 1990s. As well as China, this Korean media and music culture has become a great sensation in Taiwan and Hong Kong, and Korean entertainers have become highly regarded. In particular, this phenomenon has been an opportunity to change global perceptions about Korea, and has galvanised a cultural exchange between Korea and Japan. One of the archetypal examples of Hallyu dramas was the ‘Winter Sonata’ which was broadcast in 2002 and was a huge hit in Japan. Hallyu is now spreading across the globe – the singer ‘Rain’ was ranked in The Times top 100 most influential people in the world and Bae Young-jae (star of the Winter Sonata) and other Hallyu performers such as Lee Byung-hun, Lee Young-ae and Choi Ji-woo have gained tremendous popularity.