

Newsletter from the President



International Solid Waste Association



NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT NO. 14 - DECEMBER 2007

As I write it is that time of the year when snowfall is rather normal each day, yet many of my readers in the tropics and southern hemisphere regions are enjoying the sun. Clearly, it is not the weather bringing us together! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the ISWA membership, for your ongoing support this past year. I wish you all the best for the holiday season.

Membership News

The ISWA Board has received and approved an application from WMAM, the Waste Management Association of Malaysia, seeking to be established as the host for Malaysia's Incoming National Membership to ISWA. We look forward to welcoming WMAM and its membership as of January 2008.

SWANA, the Solid Waste Association of North American has informed me that it recently has achieved the milestone of 8,000 members. Our congratulations to SWANA on its continued growth over the years.

Waste Management & Research

I am glad to report that our journal, WMR, will be sporting a new look and cover for 2008. Be looking in your post for the tasteful cover art. Also, beginning next month, ISWA has executed a 5-year renewal agreement with our publisher, SAGE Publications. We are pleased with this partnership, and the visible and technical enhancements recognized in this ISWA publication.

Meetings in Singapore

The ISWA Board and STC meetings were held in Singapore in late November 2007 in connection with the opening of the EnviroAsia Congress and Exhibition. At the opening session the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, drew attention to the ISWA Annual Congress 2008 and that Singapore will serve as host for this major international waste event.

The opening session was followed by a workshop sharing knowledge and experience on waste management and trends in the EU and South East Asia. The meetings and visits in Singapore also gave us a good understanding and valuable information for the planning of the Annual Congress for 2008.

Apart from Board and STC meetings there were also meetings and a study visit arranged with the WMRAS - Waste Management and Recycling Association of Singapore - organisers of the Congress 2008. Board and STC visited the off-shore Semakau Landfill Facility. This remarkable example, including a marine transfer station, integrated waste-to-energy plants, and a nature preserve, is one of the planned technical tours for next year's Congress. You can read more about the landfill visit at the ISWA website



I am pleased to report that the STC has taken steps to launch of the ISWA Task Force on Climate Change as a means to capture the many various activities where ISWA has involvement. Plenty of details will be available to you on the ISWA website.

Waste Policies for the European Union

We are seeing a fair amount of activity on the European front with regard to waste management and environmental policy. More activity at the institutional levels is anticipated next year as well and various ISWA members are tracking regulatory and legislative developments. As we reported in Amsterdam, a subgroup on EU matters has been established within the ISWA Working Group on Legal Issues. The subgroup, to be chaired by Suzanne Arup Veltzé of DAKOFA, will continue the work in the already established EU-network-group with members from 18 National Members of ISWA within EU, out of 27 EU member states. The objective of the ISWA EU group is the sharing of knowledge and information about European legislation and policy among ISWA Members.



As another step to keep members informed about EU waste policy and legislation, a specific EU website has been opened for all ISWA members. You can access the website when you have logged in to the ISWA website, in the right corner under Regional Networks: EU. Similar to 2007, ISWA is planning to hold two technical seminars in 2008 covering EU policy developments. For more information on EU matters, refer to the website or contact the General Secretariat (Project Manager Helena Bergman, hb@iswa.dk).

ISWA Vice President becomes State Secretary

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that my successor, Mr Atilio Savino, Vice President of ISWA, recently was named, by Presidential Decree, as the State Secretary, Secretary of Health Determinants and Relations, under the Ministry of Health, Argentina. I congratulate Savino on achieving this new position. I am happy that it still leaves him sufficient time to participate on the ISWA Board.



ISWA Communication Award

Another announcement is the ISWA Communication Award, which now is being launched for the very first time. The idea of the Award is to emphasise the importance of good communication within waste management. Terms of reference and submittal dates for the award will be forthcoming on the ISWA website and through the General Secretariat by next month. The Award will be presented at the 2008 Annual Congress in Singapore. If you have a good example, please consider creating a submittal for evaluation.

ISWA Conducts First Capacity-Building Workshop with the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI)

Earlier this year ISWA executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CCI. In a coordinated effort, an ISWA team spent a week in October 2007 with representatives of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) to explore solutions for the solid waste generated by the City's 12.5 million inhabitants. The ISWA delegation was led by N.C. Vasuki, PE, DEE (ISWA's Past President), along with James Bier, PG (Ameresco) and Sangeeta Lewis, PE (Lewis Engineering). Their reports and observations will be posted on the ISWA site. My thanks and complements to NC and his colleagues for providing good value and expertise where it is very much needed. This will be the first of several planned events with CCI to broaden ISWA's influence towards global improvements in waste management practices.



Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Niels Jørn Hahn.

Niels Jørn Hahn
President of ISWA