

Newsletter from the President



International Solid Waste Association



NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT NO. 15 - MARCH 2008

I appreciate your patience in receiving this correspondence, the first President's Newsletter of 2008. Activity levels have been high since the General Assembly in Amsterdam and there is much to report. Highlights are given below; if you want more details, please let me know.

Extraordinary General Assembly to Address Possible Relocation of the General Secretariat

Based on decisions in Amsterdam, the Managing Director and I have made two trips to Vienna to work with the City of Vienna representatives towards a suitable agreement for the possible location of our headquarter offices. These discussions have been balanced and have gone well. The ISWA General Secretariat has issued a call for an Extraordinary General Assembly, accompanied by a voting and information package, to the National Members via email. Voting is to be accomplished by 30 April 2008, after which I will make public the results of the voting.

Brussels Workshops on the Waste Directive

In partnership with other groups, ISWA has co-sponsored two timely one-day events specific to the Directive on Waste. Held 21 January and 27 February 2008, good questions were raised and debated to a total audience of 200 or so. Key-note speakers from the Council, the Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, and the Economic and Social Committee contributed to the discussions. Thanks to Board Member Jean Paul Leglise (Veolia) for taking the lead in assembling the participants.

Waste Management & Research

I hope you have had a chance to read the Special Issue on Greenhouse Gasses (February 2008). Our WM&R publisher, SAGE Publications, reports excellent media interest following its on-line press release. You will find the contributed articles to be worthwhile. In addition, tributes to our colleague and friend Robert (Bob) Dean are provided. Bob, who served as the Founding Editor of WM&R, died in Copenhagen, Denmark on Sunday 30 December 2007 at the age of 94, following a brief illness. He will be remembered and honoured for his scientific integrity and his positive impact on setting the course for ISWA over the past 25 years.

Singapore Annual Congress Preparations

Our Singapore National Member, WMRAS, says planning is going well for what appears to be a successful Congress. The program is nearing finalization, including the key-note speakers, papers and presentations, technical tours, and the social program. Also, a technical workshop is planned for Saturday, 1 November 2008, organized by the Landfill Working Group. Covering leachate management and closure designs for open dumps, it will be open to all members for a reasonable fee.

ISWA Participates at WIREC

Managing Director Vogt has been invited to be a key speaker (along with US EPA, World Bank, and the Italian Ministry of Environment) at one of the many side events to the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC), March 3-6, 2008 in Washington, D.C. The side event will address international project opportunities for renewable energy.

Use PayPal for Your ISWA Payments



Starting this year, the General Secretariat has made it a bit easier to send payments for memberships, publications, sponsorships, and the like. ISWA has linked up with the PayPal system for easy, on-line payments. (One of our members from Italy jumped on and used it within the 24-hours; he will receive a small gift for being so 'quick with the click'). You can see this on the ISWA web site and your ability to use PayPal will be expanded with time for our technical conferences and events.

Working Group on Legal Issues and EU Subgroup

Working Group on legal Issues hold its first meeting since Helmut Stadler, Austria took over as chair. It was also the first meeting for the EU subgroup. At the meeting the work programme for the WG on Legal Issues was discussed as well as Terms of Reference for the EU Subgroup. WGLI wants to serve as a resource also to other working groups in relation to legal matters. The EU subgroup is mainly a forum for exchange of information and it will work by correspondence.

The next meeting for the WGLI is set to May 26-27 in Salzburg, Austria.

ISWA Taskforce on Greenhouse Gases

ISWAs Taskforce on Greenhouse Gases is under formation. The Taskforce will be led by Jens Aage Hansen and Gary Crawford and members are currently being appointed. I will be able to report more on the outcome of their work in the future Presidential Newsletters!

Staff at the General Secretariat

I want to offer a warm welcome to Ms. Karen Marie Westergaard who has joined us as the new secretary in the Copenhagen offices. Among other things, she will be keeping the ISWA membership database up to date and supporting the Managing Director.

Managing Director Vogt reports he was pleased to host a delegation of 14 individuals from our Chinese National Member, CAUS. Led by General Secretary Mr. Tau Hua, the group enjoyed a snowy January day visiting the Fairfax County Virginia Solid Waste Facility (just outside of Washington, D.C.) and its sanitary landfill ash landfill, thermal treatment plant, and three landfill gas beneficial use systems (electric generation, sludge drying, and heating for the maintenance buildings). The second day included participation at the Methane-to-Markets Program Annual Conference, where some 500 attendees were focused on landfills and biogas projects. Later in the evening, the group enjoyed 'ISWA home cooking' at the Vogt household.

Niels Jørn Hahn
President of ISWA

