

Newsletter from the President



International Solid Waste Association



NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT NO. 13 - NOVEMBER 2007

ISWA's President in Republic of Macedonia

As the ISWA president only has the leading position in the association for two years, the duties never get to be routine.

There are a lot of opportunities to meet new people and travel to new places. The time after our successful congress in Amsterdam has been quite busy. Within five weeks I have had the pleasure of participating in four different conferences in Skopje (Republic of Macedonia), Malmoe (Sweden), Salzburg (Austria) and Rimini (Italy).

For me Skopje and the Republic of Macedonia was a brand new and very positive experience. The occasion was a request from our organisational member; Communal Hygijne Public Enterprise, in Skopje on participating in "International Conference on Waste Management". A conference organised in cooperation with ADKOM (Association of Public Service Providence of the Republic of Macedonia).

In connection with the conference a trade fair was held for the very first time including local as well as international exhibitors. About 100 participants were at the conference, all very interested and active in the programme. The Republic of Macedonia is one of the candidate countries to EU and everyone is clearly interested in improving and developing the waste management systems. One of the short term problems is establishing an effective payment system for waste management that would allow new sites to be financed.

The Republic of Macedonia has around 2 mill. inhabitants of which 500.000 live in Skopje. By far the greater part of the waste are deposited and until now the country has only one landfill which is established and run according to modern principles.

Apart from my presentations there were presentations from the ISWA WG on Biological Treatment and WG on Recycling and Waste Minimisation and I also gave an interview to the Macedonian Television.

The conference had participants from several Balkan countries and it was clear that there is both a need for and an interest in developing qualifications and sharing knowledge. ISWA has the possibilities and the obligations to contribute with training and education in this matter.

Waste management is however not the only reason to be interested in the Balkans. The Republic of Macedonia is in regards to culture, history and landscape a very exciting country to visit including a wine production of - to me - surprisingly good quality.

I look forward to develop the knowledge of ISWA further, and to get to know the basis of possible new ISWA members in the region. I am sure this development and cooperation will be of mutual joy and benefit for ISWA, The Republic of Macedonia and sustainable development.



ISWA Beacon Conference on Waste-to-Energy 2007

The 5th ISWA Beacon Conference in Malmö on waste-to-energy was held 25-26 October. The Conference was organised together with the Swedish National Member "Avfall Sverige" and more than 200 people from 20 countries participated. This ISWA conference has succeeded in becoming one of the most important conferences within the field of waste-to-energy.

The programme clearly showed that waste-to-energy is an important aspect according to the future EU waste policy and to the future energy policy in general. It also became clear that the sector today is environmentally safe as regards to emissions. In the future we will see waste-to-energy change from being a part of the waste treatment sector to be an integrated part of the energy production sector.

All the presentations will be available at the conference website. If you want to get access to the presentations please contact Mrs Anette Meija at the ISWA secretariat: am@iswa.dk

The conference website can be visited at the following link. ([click here](#))

6th International Conference on Solid Waste and Biological Treatment Workshop

During the same week (23-26 October), ISWA activities were going strong in Viseu, Portugal. Hosted by the Portuguese National Member APESB, this event focused on Sustainable Waste Policies, Advances in Recycling, Waste Operations and Management, and Emerging Technologies. Some 150 participants attended the 1-day workshop as presented by Enzo Favoino, Chair of the Working Group on Biological Treatment, and the conference and technical tour on the following days. Managing Director Greg Vogt remarked: "This APESB event has been a top-notch program over the years and this year's program was excellent as well. In many ways, it begins to set the stage for a successful ISWA Annual Congress for 2009 when we come to Lisbon."

You can read more about conference at the ISWA website ([click here](#)), where Chair of the Landfill Working Group, Derek Greedy, writes about the event

Meeting in the Working Group on Collection and Transportation Technology

The Working Group on Collection and Transportation Technology met in Copenhagen on 25-26 October 2007, the meeting was hosted by R98. An important item was selection of a new Chair for the Group. Bertus van Heugten, The Netherlands was elected unanimously as Chair.

The Group has for some time been working on the project "Presentation for Developing Countries" and a training material on this project was presented by Bertus van Heugten. It consists of a number of text slides highlighting the key aspects of waste collection and a large number of pictures of collection systems in developing countries. The presentation can easily be fitted to use for training in developing countries.

The Working Group also dealt with its questionnaire on transfer stations and National Reports.

The technical tour started with a discussion on the upcoming Copenhagen tender of household waste collection, followed by a visit to R98's fleet of collection vehicles and their maintenance facility. Finally the Group saw a waste solution in high-rise buildings in the municipality of Frederiksberg with up to 9 waste fractions in the backyard and collection of hazardous waste in 40 litres boxes from one-family houses.

Changes in ISWA

Working Group on Legal Issues: Helmut Stadler, Austria is taking over the position as chair of the group replacing Glen McLeod, Australia, who continue as vice-chair.

It has also been decided to establish a subgroup under the Working Group on Legal issues to deal with EU issues. ISWA is closely monitoring EU activities and is providing excellent EU service to its members. The establishment of the subgroup on EU issues is to formalise and put the activities in line with the ISWA Operational and Internal Guidelines. A specific EU website is awaiting final approval.

Working Group on Collection and Transport Technologies: Bertus van Heugten, The Netherlands is taking over the position as chair of the group replacing Georg Dostal

Working Group on Landfill is the new name of the former WG on Sanitary Landfill. The name change is made to better represent the scope for the working group – the goal is to create sanitary landfills but the WG is addressing all issues in relation to landfill.



International Waste Manager

ISWA's programme on Professional Qualifications IWM is an important cornerstone of the ISWA values. Having been in place for a couple of years, it is now time to evaluate and further develop the programme. Following a Board decision a call will soon be launched for members willing to participate in the Review Board for IWM.

East meets Waste in Singapore, ISWA Congress 2008 - Call for abstracts

ISWA Annual Congress 2008 takes place in Singapore 3 – 6 November and the scientific programme is about to be drafted. WMRAS (National Member in Singapore and host of the 2008 Congress) invites you to contribute to this important event by submitting abstracts for the Congress. The abstracts for presentation (oral or poster) will be selected by a programme committee.

Abstracts are encouraged from all areas of solid waste technology and management, including:

- Best Practices in Municipal Waste Management
- Recycling Technologies
- Industrial Waste Management
- City Management
- Waste Management in Developing Countries
- Waste Strategies/ Legislation and Policies
- Implications of Waste on Climate Change
- Public-Private Partnership for Waste Management
- Biomass Management
- E-Waste Management
- Incineration Technologies
- Producer Responsibility
- Cleaner Production

Please visit the congress website at www.iswa2008.org for more information on submission of abstracts.

Deadline for submission is 15 March 2008

Niels Jørn Hahn
President of ISWA

