

Newsletter from the President



International Solid Waste Association



NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT NO. 18 - OCTOBER 2008

Hello everyone,

We have some changes before us. Here are some of the recent happenings with your Association...

ISWA Signing Ceremony in Vienna

On 9 September 2008, a signing ceremony was conducted between ISWA and the City of Vienna to publicly establish the 10-year partnership for the re-location of the ISWA General Secretariat. Those in attendance included Ms. Ulli Sima, Councilor for the Environment; Mr. Josef Thon, Head of the Waste Management Department MA-48, representatives from ISWA Gold Member ARA, ISWA Board members David Newman, Jorgen Haukohl, Steve Jenkinson, and myself, ISWA staff from the General Secretariat, and other city officials.

General Secretariat has New Mailing Address

You will be seeing many notices, but let me be one of the first to tell you that the ISWA General Secretariat has established a new transition office in Vienna. The Copenhagen address will be discontinued this Autumn. So, please mark down the new mailing address, valid through January 2010 (when it moves again into permanent quarters).

New!

ISWA General Secretariat
Mariahilfer Strasse 123, 3rd floor
1060 - Vienna, Austria
T: +43 159 999 8038
F: +43 159 999 700

Vision for Africa Project, Uganda

The ISWA Development Programme (IDP) represents part of ISWA's commitment to provide support to developing countries. ISWA, in collaboration with PUM Netherlands Senior Experts, supported a project for developing a waste management plan and to provide training for the Vision for Africa - International organization in Mukono, Uganda.

The Vision for Africa organization serves as an orphanage and works at providing primary education, as well as several vocational training courses for young people. The organization is situated close to the city of Mukono and is composed of approximately 60 buildings that serve as training facilities as well as living spaces. About 700 people are part of this organization and live and work on site contributing to waste production. There are no municipal or private disposal companies to collect the waste generated on site, which has increased and has become a visual and health problem.

In August 2008, ISWA member Bertus van Heugten spent 10 days living and working at the Vision for Africa organization. A waste management plan was developed based on estimated waste quantities, as well as available disposal options to fit with the economic, managerial and environmental conditions of the organization. To implement the waste management plan, staff members received training and responsibilities were appointed to two members at the organization.



ISWA Main sponsors



This project was developed with the support of the Working Group on Collection and Transportation Technology and the Communications Working Group. In addition, a private donor provided funds to support travel and expenses. A follow up visit will take place during the month of December and further support and training will continue. I am pleased to report that further ISWA donors to the IDP are in discussions to extend support to this worthy cause.

For more details on this project, please contact Diana de Bastos at the General Secretariat (db@iswa.dk).

Working Group on Communications

Did you notice the above paragraph? The Working Group on Communications is the new name for the Working Group on Communications and Social Issues. This change was adopted to better ensure that social issues are addressed within all working groups.

Working Group Meeting on Collection and Transportation Technology

Speaking of Working Groups, the Working Group on Collection and Transportation Technology met in Ivalo, Finland on 4-5 of September 2008. The hosts for this meeting were Lapeco, Molok and JLY (one of our Finnish Silver members).

Following the business meeting and various technical presentations, the meeting attendees participated in a technical tour of the Ivalo transfer station and a Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) collection and pretreatment facility that also serves as a social project for unemployed people in the area. The technical tour ended with a visit to a hazardous waste collection point for the Ivalo region.

Staff at the ISWA General Secretariat

I would like to congratulate ISWA staff members Peter Lundsted Hurup and Borge Boes Hansen who completed 10 years of service for ISWA this past August. When you get a chance, please thank them for all their work and long-term commitment to ISWA!

Additionally I am pleased to announce a new addition to our staff at the General Secretariat in Vienna. Ms. Diana de Bastos, Assistant Project Manager, is an environmental engineer and will be supporting the Working Groups on Biological Treatment, Landfill, Hazardous Waste, and Collection and Transport Technology.

Annual ISWA Congress, Singapore 2009

With less than a month to go let me remind you once more that the ISWA Annual Congress is scheduled for the 3-6 November in Singapore. Our hosts WMRAS and NEA are expecting good attendance and a vibrant social program for you. As you might suspect, several events will highlight your networking opportunities.

Of course, there is still time to sign up and join your ISWA friends from the vantage point of Singapore. While spaces in the main hotels may be limited, keep trying or let the General Secretariat know your needs. Usually something can be done to help.

I look forward to seeing you all in Singapore!

Mini-Questionnaires (Do you have a moment for another?)

ISWA ran a brief questionnaire and the responses were revealing. Also, the General Secretariat received several communications for future surveys and related research ideas. Interestingly, estimates were rather robust for new hiring in our sector (66 percent of the responses pointed to increased hiring). All this, at a time when eyes are focused on the integrity and strength of global financial systems.

A new mini-questionnaire is attached to this newsletter e-mail.



ISWA Main sponsors



Results from Mini-Questionnaire (#1)

1. For the next two years, do you predict staffing (full-time equivalent) in your organization to:

	<u>Responses</u>
Increase significantly	30%
Increase slightly	36%
About the same/no change	21%
Decrease slightly	11%
Decrease significantly	2%

2. If you were to guess, your next new hire will be at what level of responsibility?

	<u>Responses</u>
Administrative support	11%
Technician	11%
Field laborer	6%
Staff professional, 1 to 3 years experience	38%
Project professional, 5 to 10 years experience	26%
Senior professional/Project Manager, 11+ years experience	8%

3. It has been reported for some employment sectors that, in general, there is a rising difficulty to attract entry-level and staff persons from the 20 to 30 years age group. With regard to the waste management sector and your organization, do you agree or disagree that this is a problem?

	<u>Responses</u>
Strongly agree	11%
Agree	37%
Neither agree nor disagree	17%
Disagree	24%
Strongly disagree	11%



Niels Jørn Hahn
President of ISWA



ISWA Main sponsors

