

Water Development Report published

The World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) was set up in the year 2000 by the United Nations in recognition of the growing global water crisis which threatens the security, stability and environmental sustainability of developing nations. Millions die each year from water-borne diseases, while water pollution and ecosystem destruction grow, particularly in the developing world. In its Millennium Declaration, the UN called on the nations of the world "to halve by the year 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water" and "to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources, by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies".

Over the past few decades there has been an increasing acceptance that the management of water resources must be undertaken with an integrated approach, that assessment of the resource is of fundamental importance as the basis for rational decision-making and that national capacities to undertake necessary assessments must be fully supported. Management decisions to alleviate poverty, to allow economic development, to ensure food security and the health of human populations as well as preserve vital ecosystems, must be based on our best possible understanding of all relevant systems.

Currently there is no global system in place to produce a systematic, continuing, integrated and comprehensive global picture of freshwater and its management. The UN system has the mandate, credibility and capacity to take on the task of systematically marshalling global water knowledge and expertise to develop over time the necessary assessment of the global water situation, as the basis for action to resolve water crises.



Resulting from the Programme, the first World Water Development Report was published in March this year. Launched at the World Water Forum in Tokyo, the report is a joint undertaking of twenty-three United Nations (UN) agencies and is a major initiative of the WWAP which has its Secretariat in the Paris headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The report is organized in six main sections: a background, an evaluation of the world's water resources, an examination of the needs for, the uses of and the demands on water ('Challenges to Life and Well-Being'), a scrutiny of water management ('Management Challenges'), seven representative case studies highlighting different water scenarios, and conclusions and annexes. The two 'challenges' sections are based on the seven challenges identified at the 2nd World Water Forum in 2000 plus a further four challenges identified in the production of the report. The book is documented throughout with revealing figures, tables and global maps that include country-based information, as well as boxes illustrating lessons learned.

Notable by its absence from the Executive Summary of the report (see below) is any direct mention of the contribution which plumbing can make to the safe and effective supply of water.

An Executive Summary covers the key points of the report and is available at www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/ex_summary/ in seven languages. There is also an online facility to order the full report at a cost of 49.95 Euros or US\$49.95, plus postage.

Plumbers Company

The Worshipful Company of Plumbers is one of the City of London's oldest 'Livery' Companies, founded over 600 years ago.



The London Livery Companies were established as guilds or societies of craftsmen, with the aim of setting high technical standards and ensuring best business practice.

In 1886, the Plumbers Company established a voluntary Register of Plumbers which continues to this day but is now managed by the UK's professional body, the Institute of Plumbing.

The Worshipful Company of Plumbers is still very active however, with a membership of some 340 individuals. Its aims and objectives state that it exists to:

- Foster, maintain and develop links with the Plumbing craft and allied disciplines.
- Promote as appropriate youth activities in the craft by financial and technical contributions to educational and vocational ventures.
- Contribute to Charity through the Company's Charitable and Educational Trust, which provides grants to improve the educational and management aspects of plumbing, as well as grants to the City of London charities.
- Support the "Pursuit of Excellence" so that through contact with other organisations the Company is able to call on past experience for the benefit of future enterprises.
- Generate a sense of fellowship among those in the Company.

To contact the Company, write to:

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Newsletter of the World Plumbing Council

"Uniting the world plumbing industry to safeguard and protect the environment and the health of nations"

WPC Board meeting in Germany

Wide ranging discussions on international plumbing matters and the future of the WPC

The Executive Board of the World Plumbing Council held a meeting during March at the international ISH Exhibition in Germany. Also present were observers from the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials Europe, RMC of Australia and ZVSHK, one of Germany's largest employer trade associations representing the majority of plumbing, heating and other mechanical services contractors.

An extremely wide-ranging agenda focussed on the future development of the World Plumbing Council which, as the Chairman, Stuart Henry remarked, had reached an exciting phase.

Global links strengthened

Board members reported on contacts they had made with various national and international organisations which are either directly or indirectly involved in plumbing matters. Among these

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The WPC Board met with representatives of the trade press while in Germany

Canadian industry and government provide perpetual scholarships

In the province of Alberta, Canada, home of WPC member the Mechanical Contractors Association of Alberta

and also the site for the 2008 World Plumbing Conference, two unique fundraising partnerships with the trade-specific industry and government have provided a total of 215 perpetual scholarships, worth C\$1,000 each, where previously there was only one.

Universities and Colleges have numerous scholarships available to their students but in the Alberta apprenticeship system only one scholarship existed for 35,000 apprentices! In order to overcome this inequity, the Alberta Apprenticeship Industry Training Board committed to match up to C\$1 million in industry contributions to apprenticeship scholarships on a 2:1 basis. Industry, with support from the AAIT Board, surpassed their goal and raised over C\$1.3 million which, when added to the C\$2 million maximum offered by government, provided C\$3.3 million for the start-up and ongoing operations. Through this programme, over 165 scholarships of C\$1,000 were presented to

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WPC Executive Board members pictured with Betty Heywood and Ulla Reinehr of Messe Frankfurt

Frankfurt in Germany has a long history of hosting major trade fairs. It was in the year 1240 that Emperor Frederick II inaugurated what was declared as the world's first trade fair with the proclamation that, "We will provide special protection for each and every person travelling to the fairs of Frankfurt. We demand that no person should be hindered or harassed in any form during his or her travels to or from the fairs"



Messe Frankfurt, together with ZVSHK (see story on page 3) organise the successor to these earlier fairs and ISH is now the leading international trade fair for house and building technology, attracting some 180,000 visitors over five days. It is a fitting setting, therefore, to host the WPC's meeting.

For details of similar ISH trade fairs on other continents, see www1.ish-frankfurt.de/ish_brand/



The bathroom furniture and accessories exhibition at ISH

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The mission of the World Plumbing Council is to unite the world plumbing industry to safeguard and protect the environment and the health of nations, for the benefit of all. Its objective is to provide and share information regarding research projects and technology that may be applicable to the Plumbing Industry and the people they serve

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Water conservation

The government of the State of Victoria, Australia, is offering householders rebates of up to A\$320 on purchases of approved water conservation products during 2003.



Victoria is experiencing its seventh consecutive year of below-average rainfall and the rebate scheme is primarily designed to reduce the amount of water used in irrigating gardens which accounts for 35 to 50 per cent of total water usage in Australia.

Australian Institute's 50th Anniversary

The Institute of Plumbing Australia, in the lead up to its 50th Anniversary in 2004, has secured the services of two experienced and enthusiastic Past Presidents to Chair the Institute Council. Ken Adams of the New South Wales Chapter will serve as Institute President in 2003, with Paul White from the Western Australian Chapter filling the role of President-Elect for 2003 and Institute President for 2004. This achieved the Council's wish that the President for 2004 be domiciled in Perth, to allow a hands-on approach to the planning for the Institute's 50th Anniversary International Conference and Australian National Plumbing Forum, together with the World Plumbing Council 2004 Annual Meeting to be held in Perth, Western Australia in early September 2004.

The Institute aims to attract representation and participation in an open forum on selected subjects relating to Best Practice Plumbing in Australia and the world. It is anticipated that participants will be individuals from all facets of plumbing and its

associated callings, together with representatives from all major State and national plumbing organisations, regulators, service providers, manufacturers, suppliers, plumbing consultants and designers, publishers and members of the World Plumbing Council.

The objective of the forum concept is to achieve 'conclusions by consensus' opinion suitable for widespread circulation. The Institute is open to suggestions for suitable topics of discussion and will consider any suggestions from the worldwide plumbing fraternity. Please forward your suggested topics to the Secretary of the Institute of Plumbing Australia by email to secretary@plumbing.org.au or by fax to +61 8 9448 0420.

Canadian industry and government work together

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registered Alberta apprentices and trainees in designated occupations, with some of the scholarships being designated for a specific trade, occupation or group of trades such as the mechanical and plumbing trades.

In an earlier fundraising partnership between industry and government, with slightly different guidelines and which was specifically geared towards the registered apprenticeship program (RAP) for high school students, enough money was raised to provide 50 scholarships of C\$1,000 each.

Thus in less than two years and through the ingenuity, generosity and leadership of both industry and government, Alberta apprentices now have the opportunity of at least 215 scholarships of C\$1,000 each whereas earlier only one existed. This is a great example of how co-operation between government and industry can lead to great perpetual results for the benefit of individuals in the trades.

WPC Chairman meets with President and General Secretary of member organisation

Chairman of the World Plumbing Council, Stuart Henry (*centre*) with Michael von Bock und Polach (*left*), Secretary General of ZVSHK and Bruno Schlieffe, President of ZVSHK.

ZVSHK, the Sanitation, Heating and Air Conditioning Association and a member of the WPC, is one of Germany's largest employer trade associations, representing the majority of plumbing, heating and other mechanical services contractors. It has some 40,000 member firms which train 50,000 apprentices.



WPC Board Meeting

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are the United Nations, the International Water Association, the Pacific Water Association, United Kingdom-based charity WaterAid and the International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentation. It is hoped to promote further cooperation between the World Plumbing Council and organisations such as these, to encourage greater international collaboration on issues which affect the world plumbing community.

Individual membership?

The Board discussed membership of the WPC and agreed to explore the possibility of introducing a category for individuals. This could provide a valuable forum for plumbers across the world while also extending the influence of the Council.

Russ Chaney and Stuart Henry updated the Board on proposed plumbing awards and scholarships to be sponsored by the WPC, details of which will be available when all arrangements are in place.

The WPC's website, www.worldplumbing.org also came up for discussion and it was agreed

that the possibility of making it more responsive should be investigated.

WorldSkills

Looking at the WorldSkills competition, to be held in St Gallen, Switzerland in June, the Board agreed that Stuart Henry, Robert Burgon and Henry Hung should attend on behalf of the WPC and that Robert Burgon would liaise with the organisers as to the WPC's involvement.

Russ Chaney reported to the Board on the *Health Aspects of Plumbing* (HAP) document which the WPC is preparing for the World Health Organisation (WHO). He said that after some unexpected and frustrating delays, the Board and HAP contributors should have the opportunity to examine a final draft in July and August, prior to its submission to WHO.

Turning to training and skills shortages, the Board agreed that these were key issues of concern to the world plumbing community. Robert Burgon offered to draft a discussion paper on these issues for initial consideration at the 2003 Annual Meeting.

