



review

News from the World Plumbing Council


January 2002

Pilot newsletter

This first edition of **WPC Review** is a 'pilot' for what may become a quarterly publication. It is designed to offer member organisations the opportunity to show what they are doing in their countries, to widen knowledge of global plumbing practice, to increase understanding of the problems facing the world plumbing community and of course, to keep members in touch with information regarding the activities of the WPC.

WPC Review is edited in England by Roger Willis, a freelance journalist who specialises in plumbing matters, and is printed in the USA by WPC member IAPMO. It will have an initial print run of 5,000 copies.


The success of **WPC Review** will depend on members supplying items of editorial interest which they wish to share with the world at large. If you would like to let the world know about your organisation, or if you have a plumbing story from your country that you think should be shared by a wider audience, send your editorial to: roger.willis1@virgin.net or fax +44 (0)1375 387415 or by post to: WPC Review 1 Hove Close, Grays, RM17 6PD, England

Photographs are particularly welcome in digital, print or transparency format but their safe return cannot be guaranteed. 

WPC Conference, Berlin 2002

The World Plumbing Council's triennial conference will take place in Berlin from 22 to 25 May 2002. With a theme of "Water, Heat, Air", this conference is the sixth in a series which started in 1985 and has subsequently visited venues all over the world.

The previous World Plumbing Conference was held in Sun City, South Africa and proved very popular, with over 600 delegates and their families in attendance. The 2002 event is expected to be as successful, offering as it does not only a full programme of technical presentations, but also a wide variety of social occasions in and around the beautiful city of Berlin.

Prof. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and Patron of the 6th World Plumbing Conference says, "The World Plumbing Conference 2002 is an important opportunity for those working in the sector to share ideas and experiences, to learn from one another and, hopefully, help move the world towards a healthier living environment for all." 



Pictured are the WPC Conference newsletter (left) and programme. Booking details and on-line registration can be found at www.6wpc-org.de or by contacting DER-Congress, Bundesallee 56, 10715 Berlin, Germany. Phone +49(0)30/8 57 90 30, fax +49(0)30/8 57 90 3-26 or email der@der-congress.de

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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

Plumbing Industry Forum - Western Australia


There is a perception within some plumbing circles in Australia that the craft and profession of plumbing is going or in some cases has already gone down the drain. The perception is that over the past decade or more, many governments and regulators have sold out the plumbing industry in the name of reduced government spending and increased competition all to the detriment of public health and safety.

In many parts of Australia the general public, commerce & industry and governments appear to believe that the high standard of plumbing that they are accustomed to will be maintained by continually sourcing the cheapest possible products (fit for purpose? approved? don't ask!), installed by the cheapest possible worker (the downside of open competition policies!), with the least possible interference by regulatory or standards authorities (Government corporatisation without the proper checks and balances!). To any thinking person this is obviously a downhill route. The Institute of Plumbing Australia believes that in some areas of the Country we are at the bottom of the hill, with an urgent need to plan the climb back up. For a successful climb, the industry must work as a whole and with that in mind the Western Australian Chapter of the Institute hosted a working luncheon and discussion forum with the object of providing a controlled and rational

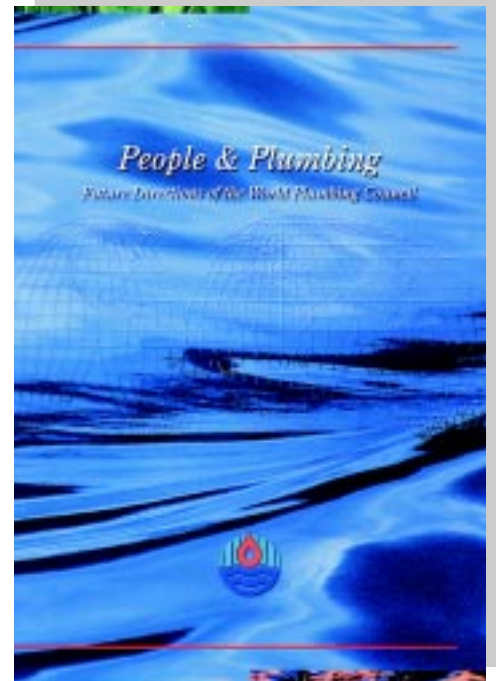


environment to allow open discussion on issues effecting all involved in the Plumbing Industry in Western Australia.

Attendance was by invitation and to encourage open discussion was limited to a maximum of 20 persons representing a broad spectrum of the industry. Organisations represented included Plumbers Licensing Board, Water Corporation WA, Materials Testing Authority, Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association WA, Australian Hydraulic Services Consultants Association WA, Trainers, Plumbing Contractors (Commercial and Housing) Manufacturers, Merchants, Consultants and IoPA WA Chapter.

The Forum in itself cannot act with any authority, its purpose is to identify the issues effecting the recommencement of providing world best practice plumbing in Western Australia and the seamless operation of the plumbing industry, and subsequently to pass these issues onto the relevant industry groups where they may be expanded on and discussed with associates and/or members so as possible solutions and suggestions may be tabled at the next forum, planned for early 2002. A list of the more general subjects discussed may be viewed on the web at www.plumbing.org.au/wa_forum_01.htm 

WPC publishes "People & Plumbing"



The World Plumbing Council has published a booklet "People & Plumbing" which sets out the aims and objectives of the organisation. The brainchild of WPC Executive Board member Stuart Henry, the booklet identifies the areas of the world plumbing industry where the WPC feels it can contribute the collective expertise of its members for the benefit of the global community. In particular, it highlights education and training, pro-active partnerships with governments, links with other global organisations like United Nations agencies and the need to pursue a solution to the unequal international access to fresh water. "The critical areas of water and energy conservation, greenhouse gas emissions and public health are important opportunities for the international plumbing community to make a positive contribution," says the booklet. 

Annual General Meeting in Beijing

11 countries represented, wide-ranging agenda



The 2001 Annual meeting of the World Plumbing Council was held in China's capital, Beijing on 27 September 2001, attracting delegates and observers from 11 countries.

A wide-ranging agenda was introduced by the Chairman, Don Morin (USA) who went on to invite Professor Shao Zhuowen, Standing Vice President of the China Association for Engineering, Construction, Standardisation, to address the meeting. Professor Shao said that his Association is in many ways similar to the WPC in that it is a voluntary, non-profit professional organisation promoting standards and co-operation in China. He went on to say that holding the WPC Annual Meeting in China would foster better understanding between his country and WPC members in promoting the safe and efficient supply of water and its disposal after use. [wpc](#)

WPC, WHO and GoHAP

The World Plumbing Council is co-operating with the World Health Organisation (WHO), based in Geneva, Switzerland, on the production of revised

Guidelines on Health Aspects of Plumbing (GoHAP).

The WPC has provided WHO with a draft proposal for new Guidelines and this was presented to Doctor Jamie Bartram and Hiroki Hashizume at a meeting in Geneva in November 2001 attended by Russ Chaney of IAPMO (USA) and Andy Watts (WPC Secretary).

The original GoHAP document was published by WHO in 1982 and the WPC were very pleased to be able to take on its revision, co-ordinated by IAPMO in the USA.

WHO has reviewed the WPC draft and has commented favourably. One reviewer stated, "GoHAP is a practical and useful document that could well be referenced in the WHO Drinking Water (DW) Guidelines and it should be disseminated in developing countries."

WHO has asked the WPC for a number of revisions to the draft document and work is currently under way. It is hoped that a final version will be available by the time of the WPC Conference in May 2002. [wpc](#)



From left to right Andy Watts, Dr. Jamie Bartram, Hiroki Hashizume and Russ Chaney. Andy is holding the October 2001 WPC draft revision of GoHAP first published by WHO in 1982, a copy of which is held by Russ

CIPH raises charity money

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH)

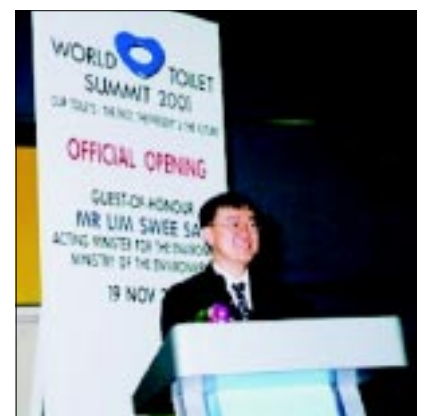
has raised more than Can\$200,000 in cash and products for Habitat for Humanity Canada.

Habitat for Humanity Canada works with families that are living in poverty housing, to help them become homeowners. The homeowner contributes hundreds of hours of labour toward the construction of their home and then assumes a no-interest, no-profit mortgage. The mortgage payments are recycled to build more Habitat homes.

Since 1994, CIPH members have contributed \$1.14 million to help build Habitat homes in Canada.

Charity Committee Chairman Mike Dennis recently announced that CIPH's goal is to raise \$500,000 in cash and products to help build 75 homes in 2002 and another 75 in 2003. [wpc](#)

World Toilet Summit



Singapore hosted a "World Toilet Summit" conference in November 2001. Coinciding with the trade fair "Restroom Asia 2001", the Summit featured speakers from 16 countries including Japan, India, England, South Korea, Malaysia, Australia, Vietnam, Finland, Singapore and the USA. [wpc](#)

New Euro-Body



GCI-UICP Vice-President, Jacques de Meester (left) congratulates the first President of the new body, Marcello de Stermich

An historic meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium in November 2001 when a new organisation was created to represent the interests of plumbing, metal roofing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning contractors at European level.

The new organisation, to be known as GCI-UICP, has been formed through the merger of the plumbing and roofing organisation (Union Internationale de la Couverture et Plomberie (UICP)) and the body for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (Genie Climatique Internationale (GCI)). The organisation seeks to ensure that the needs of the Industry are reflected in European Directives and legislation. It will work closely with the European Commission and other relevant bodies. It is anticipated that initially there will be 22 member organisations from 16 European countries.

The first Board members of GCI-UICP are: President - Marcello de Stermich (Italy); Vice-President - Jacques de Meester (Belgium); Treasurer - Jean Rougnon (France). Advisers to the Board will be: GCI-UICP Secretary General - Oliver Loebel; Chairman of the Committee of Secretaries General: Robert D Burgon (Scotland). 

Good luck wishes

The Institute of Plumbing in South Africa has been an active member of the World Plumbing Council for a number of years. In fact IOP(SA) hosted the last WPC Conference at Sun City in 1999 which proved to be certainly very different from previous conferences held in Chicago and Hong Kong.

On looking back to find out why it was so different we discovered that apart from the wild African theme that we purposely selected for the conference which was supported by a series of high quality technical papers, the part of the conference that seemed to interest most delegates was the experience and opportunity of being able to discuss and compare each other's plumbing differences.

This newsletter will make a difference, hopefully now we will all have the opportunity to read about and understand what's happening to plumbing in other parts of the world. It will also provide a user friendly communication format to encourage member nations to become involved with WPC projects!

Good Luck!

*W.H.M. Randell IOP(SA)
Executive Director*

Tasmanian Master Plumber and Institute of Plumbing Australia Councillor Tom Helmich has been appointed to the Tasmanian Building Registration Board and the Tasmanian Building Appeals Board. Meanwhile, Secretary of the Institute of Plumbing Australia Mr Stephen Movley is to be made a Life Member of the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of Western Australia.

UK support for Conference 2002



The United Kingdom's two leading plumbing organisations, the Association of Plumbing & Heating Contractors (APHC) and the Institute of Plumbing (IoP) have got together to attract UK delegates to the 6th World Plumbing Conference in Berlin.

The two organisations have contributed to the publication of an invitation document (illustrated above) with a foreword by the UK's WPC representative, Raymond Brooks. In it, Mr Brooks says, "In the past 10 years we have visited Hong Kong, South Africa and America and on each occasion we (*the UK*) have fielded the largest delegation - the 6th WPC is a lot nearer home and our aim must be to have the largest presence once again.

"The ZVSHK or German Masters as we know them, have without doubt put together an excellent programme both technically and socially."

The Presidents of the APHC and IoP will be hosting a welcome reception for British delegates on 22 May and there are also a number of tour packages available for members of the two organisations. For further details, contact Mr Bernard Bateman, 5 Kirkgate, Ripon, HG4 1PA England. 