

IAPMO signs agreements with China, Indonesia

Long time WPC member from the United States, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), recently signed an agreement with two of the most populous countries in the world.

In December 2001, IAPMO Research & Testing, Inc., (IAPMO R&T) and the China Certification Center for Quality Mark (CQM) signed the first mutual recognition agreement for product certification since China's entry into the World Trade Organization. This landmark



Russ Chaney congratulates Zhang Wei on establishing a new relationship between IAPMO and CQM

agreement provides that both parties will recognise each other's product conformity assessment and certification system and listing results in order to reduce and/or avoid repeated testing and listing processes. The objective of this agreement is to allow one party to use its certification marks on the products approved by the other party. When this agreement is fully implemented, United States manufacturers will possess the ability to sell their products in China without the delays often associated with the Chinese regulatory process.

In April, 2002 IAPMO and the National Standardization Agency of Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning plumbing and mechanical standards for Indonesia. This MoU will provide the framework for IAPMO and the National Standardization Agency to develop and maintain the plumbing code and mechanical code for all of

Indonesia. IAPMO's consensus partner, NFPA International, has signed a similar agreement for building, fire, electrical and life safety codes thus providing all of Indonesia with a full set of harmonized construction codes.

The IAPMO group includes the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO); IAPMO Research & Testing, Inc. (IAPMO R&T); and IAPMO Testing and Services, LLC (IAPMO T&S). In addition to maintaining its world headquarters in Southern California, the IAPMO group has national offices in Louisiana, Virginia, Massachusetts, Kansas and Oregon, as well as international offices located in Beijing, Buenos Aires, London/Brussels and the US Virgin Islands.

More about the IAPMO group, its services and expansion into the international arena, is at www.iapmo.org

Australian plumber's century

Congratulations to Thomas Timmins of New South Wales, Australia for his 100th Birthday on 22 April 2002. Thomas was a Foundation member of the Institute of Plumbing Australia when it was formed in 1954.

2008 Conference

The WPC's Executive Board, at its meeting in Berlin, considered presentations from China and Canada in support of their bids to host the 2008 World Plumbing Conference.

Both presentations were of an extremely high standard but unfortunately there can only be one host country and after a secret ballot, Canada was chosen.

The Board thanks China for its formidable challenge and hopes to receive from them a further bid for 2011. All other WPC members are, of course, also invited to bid.



Water Africa

The *Water Africa* conference and attendant *Water Africa 2002 Sub-Sahara* exhibition was held in Tanzania from 29 - 31 May this year. The basic theme of the conference was *Water Security: guarding resources against drought and pollution*.

.... and finally



Many new friendships were formed at the WPC Conference in Berlin, friendships which help to unite the world of plumbing and which will no doubt be carried to the 2005 Conference in New Zealand.

WPC Review is published by the World Plumbing Council which is incorporated in Geneva as a non-profit organisation under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code Federal Number CH-660-2641000-8

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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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July
2002

Volume 1, Issue 2



Newsletter of the
World Plumbing Council

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

Berlin Conference

More than 300 delegates plus, in many cases, their families attended the World Plumbing Conference in Berlin during the latter part of May.

Some 26 countries were represented with at least one from each continent, delegates having travelled from such far away destinations as Australia, Nigeria, India, China and the USA while, of course, several countries in Europe had also sent representatives.



26 countries were represented at the Conference

The four-day conference had as its theme "Water, Heat, Air" and featured a number of presentations and workshops hosted by international experts from around the globe. All aspects of this wide-ranging subject were covered, including areas such

as water quality and public health, air hygiene and air conditioning, climate protection and energy efficiency.

Also discussed were the future directions of the World Plumbing Council, training and information technology - this last a cornerstone of the WPC, given its geographically widespread nature. Featuring heavily in the events of the four days was the "SmartHouse", part of an exhibition run to coincide with the conference. The SmartHouse demonstrates latest environmentally friendly technology, showing how energy can be saved in a number of areas, for the benefit of the planet's ecology. It also features technology which allows remote access to appliances, simplifying the servicing regime.

On the following pages, there is a review of some of the events and workshops at the 2002 Conference, plus more news from the global world of plumbing. More details are at the WPC's website, www.worldplumbing.org

New Zealand to host 2005 Conference

Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, will be the venue for the next World Plumbing Conference, to be held in March 2005. Final dates and details will be published on the WPC website, www.worldplumbing.org and of course, in future editions of this newsletter.



As well as a number of presentations to delegates, the Berlin Conference featured four Workshops on a range of subjects which are summarised below.



Full details of the Conference and all the subjects covered are at the WPC website, <http://www.worldplumbing.org>

Image/Vocational Training - Workshop #1

The first Workshop at the World Plumbing Conference in Berlin covered training and the image of plumbers in the community. Chaired by Robert Burgon from Scotland with support from George Bliss (USA) and George Verry (New Zealand), the Workshop covered a range of subjects.

Starting off with the new business opportunities offered by latest and forthcoming technology, participants went on to discuss the role that plumbers across the world can play to help conserve water and energy, while at the same time ensuring safe and wholesome potable water supplies.

Looking at the image of plumbers within the community, the Workshop recognised that in some countries much needs to be done to promote the profession in a positive way. Also identified and discussed was the need to attract more people into the profession by taking advantage of new training technology and help from interested parties.

Lifelong learning, or continuing professional development as it is also known, was another form of training which held delegates' interest, with general agreement that it was essential if customers' expectations are to be met.

Summarising the Workshop, it was felt that there are many opportunities to promote training and the image of plumbers, and that the World Plumbing Council should remain vigilant for opportunities.

Communication/ Information Technology - Workshop #2

With a membership and Executive Board spread across the globe, communications and information technology were subjects close to the hearts of all delegates to the World Plumbing Conference.

Chaired by Stuart Henry (Australia) and supported by Henry Hung (China) and Andy Watts (UK), the Workshop looked at how the Internet has the power to change the lives of everyone on the planet, particularly as the latest broad band, 'always on' technology becomes more widely available.

Whilst recognising the importance of this change, however, the Workshop also saw that, if change is rushed through too quickly, it risks raising expectations beyond a reasonable level, while also potentially creating 'information overload' and resultant stress.

An entertaining presentation concluded by stating that despite the communications revolution, "human beings will still want to meet and enjoy each others company"!

Globalisation and Mutual Recognition - Workshop #3

Chaired by Stuart Henry, supported by George Bliss and George Verry, Workshop 3 considered the many ways in which plumbing can contribute to reducing the environmentally harmful impact of heating and cooling, while also looking at how plumbers across the world can help not only each other, but also the global community.

As with the other three Workshops, this one spent time considering what the future will offer and how technology still under development will help to achieve the requirements of modern society. It also, of course, looked at the role the World Plumbing Council will play in these developments and how it can help to ensure their earliest introduction.

Ray Herbert highlighted a project in Victoria, Australia where the community was 'educated' in environmentally-friendly technology, supported by local plumbers and the State.

New skills were learned in the process, while coordination and standardisation also helped the successful project.

SmartHouse Technology as a Worldwide Prospective - Workshop #4

This Workshop was chaired by Andy Watts (UK) with support from Andreas Muller, Manager of Technical



The exhibition which ran alongside the Conference attracted considerable attention, particularly



..... the 'Smarthouse' which featured



..... many of the latest advances in energy conservation and water technology



It was not ALL work at the Berlin Conference. The WPC's German hosts had also arranged a full and varied social programme for delegates and their families

Department, Central Association Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning, Germany and Bernd Wattenberg, Landis & Staefa GmbH, Frankfurt.

Technology is currently under development that will allow remote diagnosis, via ordinary telephone lines or the Internet, of problems with household appliances like central heating boilers and air conditioning units. It will also be possible in the future to carry out some repairs through these mediums.

Much of this technology was on display in the 'SmartHouse', featured in the exhibition which ran concurrently with the Conference. For example, it is now possible to receive a service alert from an appliance via a mobile telephone.

While these new developments will undoubtedly provide benefits, negative factors are also possible: Andy Watts pointed out that research in the United Kingdom showed that it is possible to have too much Internet-based functionality while it also poses the question, who will do the work? Will it be plumbers, electricians or a new breed of 'SmartHouse Technicians'.

There also exists a risk that a 'digital divide' will be established between those countries and people who may or may not have widespread access to the Internet.



The new WPC Executive Board, from left: Henry Hung (China), Robert Burgon (Scotland), Andy Watts (UK), Stuart Henry (Australia), Russ Chaney (USA), George Bliss (USA) and George Verry (New Zealand)

Chairman's media release

"WPC playing a crucial role"

Following his election at the World Plumbing Conference, new Chairman Stuart Henry published a press release to the media. In it, Stuart set out the plans for the future of the WPC and how it can help with the natural resources challenges that face humanity.

"With less than 1% of the world's water being available for human use and a growing world population," he said, "all countries share the urgent issue of safe water supply and waste water



management. Water is also closely linked to energy use and plumbers are experts in the integrated application of water and energy resources, especially the low-carbon emission natural gas."

Stuart confirmed that WPC will be establishing exchange programmes for students, lecturers and training professionals with relevant vocational training providers around the world. It will also create alliances and partnerships with other industry groups to assist WPC in playing a crucial role in the global change process as it happens.

"I see the WPC's role as being the training and technical leader in improving plumbing for people all over the world," says Stuart. "Our purpose is to advance the global plumbing industry by promoting a sustainable environment using effective plumbing systems in all countries."

WPC welcomes ..

The World Plumbing Council is delighted to welcome as new members:

International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) South Pacific Office, USA

IAPMO, Beijing
Peoples Republic of China

IAPMO Research & Testing, South America Office
Buenos Aires
Argentina

Mechanical Contractors Association of America Inc USA

Plumbing Facilities Sub-Committee of China Construction, Metal Structure Association
Beijing
Peoples Republic of China

Backflow Prevention Institute USA

Master Plumbers & Mechanical Contractors NSW
New South Wales
Australia

IAPMO, Europe

Details of new members are at www.worldplumbing.org