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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"*

Solomon Islander awarded WPC Scholarship

The WPC Trainers/Lecturers Scholarship for 2004 has been awarded to Arnold Iru of the Solomon Islands. This is the second time that the WPC has awarded such a Scholarship which is valued at up to US\$5,000 and allows the recipient to visit another country to research education and training issues.

There were 5 applications for the 2004 Scholarship and the Judging Panel (Robert Burgon, Scotland; Shannon Corcoran, USA; and Steve Movley, Australia) felt that the overall quality of applications had improved over the previous year and that Mr Iru was a clear winner from a strong field. Robert Burgon chaired the Panel and commented that, "Although we would have liked to have received more applications, it was encouraging to see that the standard was high and that we had applications from countries which have not been greatly involved in WPC activities".

Arnold Iru, who is a Lecturer in Plumbing at the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education, is 39 years old and has asked to use his Scholarship to visit Australia so that he can be exposed to different teaching techniques and new innovations.

WPC congratulates Mr Iru on winning the Scholarship and looks forward to assisting him in arranging what it hopes will be a successful trip to Australia.

Details of the 2005 Scholarship will be posted on the WPC website in the near future and will also be in the next issue of the REVIEW.



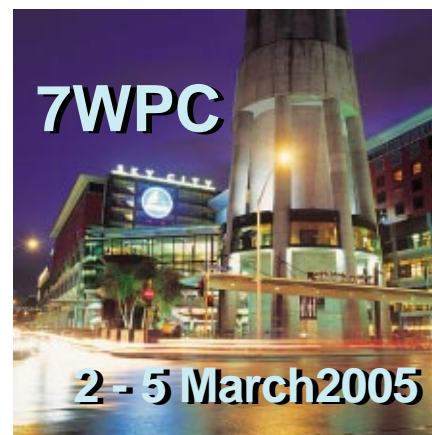
The Solomon Islands are situated in the Pacific Ocean and cover an area of some 28,900 square kilometres. They have a population of around 500,000 and the capital city, Honiara, is home to 54,600 people as well as being the location for the College of Higher Education where Award winner Arnold Iru works as a Lecturer in Plumbing

WPC Chairman elected MP

Australia held a general election on 9th October 2004 when World Plumbing Council Chairman, Stuart Henry, was elected as Member of Parliament for the Hasluck constituency in Western Australia.



Stuart Henry



Representatives of the global plumbing industry are being invited to attend the World Plumbing Council's 7th triennial Conference, to be held from 2nd to 5th March 2005 in Auckland, New Zealand.

The Conference, staged every three years, is expected to attract delegates from across the world who will have the opportunity not only to learn about latest developments in plumbing, but also enjoy an extensive programme of social events.

Hosted by the Master Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers NZ Inc, the 2005 event is to be held at Auckland's Sky City Convention Centre which is next to Sky City Auckland, New Zealand's most popular leisure destination with its two casinos, five restaurants and six bars. Sky Tower, Sky City Theatre and the 4-star, 344-room Sky City Hotel plus the new 316-room, 5 star Sky City Grand Hotel are also on site.

Registration is available at
www.cmsl.co.nz/wpc2005/
or contact Dean Bradley at
Convention Management
PO Box 24329

Wellington, New Zealand

Phone: +64 4 479 4162

Fax: +64 4 479 4163

Email: deanb@cmsl.co.nz

World Plumbing Council and SARS

Consensus statement sent to World Health Organisation

The World Plumbing Council, working with its member organisation the IAPMO Group has forwarded the International SARS Symposium (ISS) Consensus Statement to the World Health Organisation. Following the conclusion of the ISS programme in February this year, attendees began the process of developing a consensus statement based on the information presented during the event.

In the final statement, it was agreed that "...control of epidemic grade infectious diseases should be within reach of every populated area, and that a concerted effort by all plumbing industry professionals is necessary to ensure the world's public health, safety and welfare and to overcome the political, economic and cultural challenges that stand in the way of this goal."

World Plumbing Council Chairman Stuart Henry commented, "The number of attendees who participated in the process was very high, which reinforces how passionate the international plumbing community is about preventing the SARS virus from escaping from a plumbing system."

Russ Chaney, executive director of the IAPMO Group added, "We're very impressed with the final version of the ISS Consensus Statement. A tremendous amount of thought has been put into it, and I commend all the contributors. This document will no doubt have a positive impact on the World Health Organisation."

WPC and IAPMO publish SARS Symposium DVD

The World Plumbing Council and the IAPMO Group has released an International SARS Symposium DVD. The four-disk set includes more than six hours of viewing time with presentations from Stuart Henry, chairman of the World Plumbing Council; Charles Watson, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia; John Swaffield, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland; and Mark Sobsey, a World Health Organisation adviser from the University of North Carolina.

"The DVD is an excellent educational video for people who want to learn more about how the SARS virus escaped from the plumbing system of the Amoy Gardens complex in Hong Kong," said Russ Chaney, executive director of the IAPMO Group. "Viewers will also find out about floor drain trap seal protection, airborne cross contamination routes and product compliance."

"The international plumbing community will benefit greatly from this DVD," added Stuart Henry, chairman of the World Plumbing Council. "Several presentations covered how training plays a vital role in installation and how, without proper installation, the risk of infectious disease escaping from a plumbing system becomes much greater."

The DVD can be purchased for US\$35.00 via the IAPMO website, www.iapmo.org



The WPC/IAPMO SARS Symposium DVD set

3rd Indian Plumbing Association Conference and Plumbex Exhibition

24-26 February 2005

The Indian Plumbing Association will organise its third International Plumbing Conference in Mumbai (Bombay) from 24 to 26 February 2005. The theme of the event is 'Technological advances in plumbing' and it will run concurrently with a national exhibition, **Plumbex 2005**.

An innovation for the 2005 conference will be a 'Buyer/Seller Meet' on the first day when foreign companies interested in supplying the Indian market will be given the opportunity to use office space in the Nehru Auditorium in order to meet their Indian counterparts.

Over one hundred exhibitors are expected at the Plumbex 2005 exhibition while the conference itself is likely to attract over 500 delegates who will be able to learn about emerging global and local trends in plumbing.

Registration details for the 3rd Indian Plumbing Association Conference are available at www.third-ipc.com

Name change

The United Kingdom's Institute of Plumbing has changed its name to the Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering. The new title was agreed at the Institute's annual general meeting by a majority of



members who believe the change better reflects the scope of their work. Chief Executive Andy Watts commented, "I welcome the change of title because it makes it clear that we are the professional body for the whole of the UK's plumbing and heating industry."

Australian National Plumbing Forum

National event includes annual meeting of WPC

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Institute of Plumbing Australia staged a number of events including the inaugural Australian National Plumbing Forum and the annual meeting of the World Plumbing Council.



Held at the beginning of September in Perth, Western Australia, the Forum attracted delegates from a wide range of plumbing disciplines, including teachers, designers, regulators, manufacturers and suppliers. They heard presentations from, among others, WPC Director Russ Chaney who spoke about the connection between inadequate plumbing and the spread of the SARS virus and other pathogens.

The Institute of Plumbing Australia's website can be found at www.plumbing.org.au

Water and Sanitation

According to a report released in August by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), some 2.6 billion people, representing about 40 per cent of the world's population, do not have access to basic sanitation, and more than one billion drink unsafe water.

World Toilet Expo and Public Toilet Forum 2005

The inaugural World Toilet Expo will take place in Shanghai, China from 11 to 13 May 2005. With the theme *Gracious Living for a Model City*, the event will feature speakers from across the world and the organisers expect to attract some 400 delegates.

For further details, visit www.worldtoiletexpo.com

Welcome!

The Ontario Plumbing Inspectors Association Inc. (OPIA) is the latest organisation to join the World Plumbing Council as an Affiliate member.



Founded in 1920, OPIA is a non-profit-making organisation, dedicated to protecting the health and well being of the Canadian Province of Ontario through safe plumbing.

Now with over 800 members, OPIA seeks to protect the environment and to promote better knowledge of safe plumbing practice.

Further information about OPIA is at www.opia.info

World Toilet Summit 2004

WPC Vice Chairman to speak on SARS

WPC Vice Chairman Henry Hung will feature among the speakers at this year's World Toilet Summit, to be held in Beijing, China from 17 to 19 November.

The theme of the Summit is *Human, Environment and Living* and more than 20 Chinese and international speakers will cover a range of subjects, including:

- Societal Impact of Toilets
- Setting Standards
- Toilets in the Rural Environment
- Human Factors on Design
- Town Planning and Governance
- Impact on Public Health

Henry Hung's presentation, *Disease transmission through inadequate plumbing*, will be among those featured in the final section mentioned above.

More information on the Summit, along with registration details are at www.worldtoilet.org Alternatively, email jenny@worldtoilet.org or phone +65 68411621

The 2005 World Toilet Summit will be held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, from 26 to 29 September and will be hosted by the British Toilet Association. For more information on that event, go to www.2005worldtoiletsummit.com

The Importance of Education and Training

The subject of plumbing industry education and training generated considerable discussion at the WPC annual meeting in Perth, Western Australia.

One of the WPC's objectives is "to promote and assist in Plumbing Industry Education and Training, recognising the need for appropriate standards and their international recognition". In pursuit of this objective, the WPC is keen to share good practice in the field of education and vocational training between member organisations. The debate at the meeting sought to identify any common issues and solutions which could be shared between countries.

THE PROBLEMS

During a lively discussion, it became apparent that there are several issues which are affecting the industry throughout the world including:

Shortages of skilled labour

Several countries reported shortages of appropriately skilled and qualified plumbers to meet the industry's current and projected future needs. These shortages were linked to inadequate training of apprentices in previous years and the demographic fact that large numbers of the existing workforce are approaching retirement age.

The tension between university and vocational education

It was reported that young people in many countries are encouraged to stay in full-time education as long as possible and are given the impression that the "best" thing to do is to continue into tertiary or university education. This has created problems for the industry where typical recruitment of apprentices comes from recent school leavers. In too many cases, a vocational route, such as plumbing, has been viewed as second best.

The industry's poor image

Linked to the problem of encouraging bright young people to take up a

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ISH China

China International Trade Fair for Sanitation, Heating & Air-conditioning,

The ISH China Exhibition was held in Beijing from 14 to 17 September. Attending on behalf of the World Plumbing Council was Henry Hung who had the honour of cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony. During the seminar which ran alongside the exhibition, Mr Hung also gave a presentation on *The prevention of virus transmission (SARS)*.

The World Plumbing Council, as part of its agreement with the joint organisers, Messe Frankfurt, had a display stand at the exhibition manned by Henry Hung and Mr Jin Luo from WPC member organisation IAPMO. The stand was visited by delegates from all over the world, including those from Spain, Italy, Denmark, Iran and Germany.

The exhibition, running for the 5th time since 1998, attracted over 14,000 trade visitors from the building and construction sector, including some 1,000 from overseas.

A total of 247 exhibitors from 18 countries and regions participated in the show, including a large group from Germany of 35 companies, and a group from the Danish Board of District Heating with seven companies. There was also a large offering of Italian products and equipment at the show, with 24 companies from Italy taking part.

The next ISH exhibition takes place in Frankfurt, Germany from 15 to 19 March 2005. For further details, visit www.ish.messefrankfurt.com



WPC Vice Chairman Henry Hung (left) manned the WPC exhibition stand with the help of Mr Jin Luo, IAPMO Senior Director Asia Pacific Programme Development

The Importance of Education and Training *continued from page 3*

plumbing apprenticeship is the fact that the plumbing industry does not enjoy a good image in many countries. Representatives at the meeting shared their frustrations that careers advisers, parents and often young people themselves did not see the value in a plumbing industry career.

The need for continuing training and development

Another common theme seems to be that many people who completed a plumbing apprenticeship (no matter how many years ago) feel that they know everything they need to know about plumbing and they have no need for further training. Given the pace of development in industry technology, it is quite obvious that this view is both incorrect and dangerous. It is felt that it may contribute to the industry's poor image with people undertaking work for which they have not been properly trained. In some countries where the industry is licensed this is leading to a debate about whether a licence is for life or whether someone needs to be retested from time to time.

SHARING SOLUTIONS

Examples were given at the meeting of various initiatives which had been undertaken by plumbing

industry organisations in an attempt to address the above problems in their respective countries. These ranged from careers CD-ROMs in Canada to promotional material for both primary school children (in the UK) and secondary pupils (in Victoria, Australia). Several useful initiatives undertaken by the United Association in North America were also mentioned including the links between plumbing industry qualifications which provide credits for future university degrees and the "Helmets to Hard Hats" scheme which provides retraining in the plumbing industry for those who have already served in the military.

It was agreed that it would be useful to focus on some of these initiatives in future issues of WPC Review and Executive Board member

Robert Burgon (Scotland and Northern Ireland) agreed to co-ordinate this work. Any WPC member organisation with an education and training story to tell is urged to contact Robert by email at robert.burgon@snipef.org

Canada to host 2009 WorldSkills

Calgary, Alberta, Canada has been chosen to host the 2009 WorldSkills competition which tests the skills of young people from all over the world.

Calgary will also be the venue for the 8th World Plumbing Conference in 2008.

For further details of the WorldSkills competition visit www.worldskills.org

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The Council's Secretariat is based at:
The Institute of Plumbing & Heating Engineering (IPHE)
64 Station Lane, Hornchurch,
Essex RM12 6NB, England

Tel: +44 (0)1708 472791
Fax: +44 (0)1708 448987
secretariat@worldplumbing.org
<http://www.worldplumbing.org>

The Council's Registered Office is c/o
KPMG Fides, 14 Chemin De-Normandie,
CH-1206 Geneva, Switzerland

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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WPC Review is edited by: Roger Willis
22 Collingwood Drive, Mundesley,
Norfolk, NR11 8JB, England
Fax: +44 (0)1263 722492
Email: roger.willis1@virgin.net