



World Plumbing Day makes a splash

Name the number one invention of all time according to a scientist's study. The answer may surprise you - plumbing! No surprise to those who took part in World Plumbing Day on March 11 - there is *nothing* more important than clean drinking water and good basic sanitation to keep the world and the people in it healthy.

The World Plumbing Council introduced World Plumbing Day in 2010, and the event is building momentum each year with the strong support of member organizations resulting in events and activities being held in every corner of the globe. Parliamentary proclamations, international poster competitions in schools, PowerPoints in classes and for community groups were some of the dynamic and educational activities happening across the planet. From the Australia to Trinidad, the United States to the United Kingdom, Canada to Spain, and India to Scotland, on March 11 plumbers around the world were celebrated for everything they do to protect our health and safety.

According to WPC Chairman GP Russ Chaney, this is exactly what the World Plumbing Council is about. "It's more than giving plumbers a pat on the back. It's about empowering an undervalued profession today and creating new generations of innovative professionals for tomorrow," he said. "It's especially important in developing countries where a good plumber may be as vital to a young child's survival as the doctor who treats a water borne disease that could have been avoided."

The statistics are sobering. According to the World Health Organization 1.1 billion people lack access to a safe clean water supply and 2.6 billion do not enjoy the use of effective sanitation systems. The tragic result is 3.1 million children die each year as a result of diseases that could have been prevented if only the children had access to basic facilities.

World Plumbing Day raises awareness and salutes the integral role plumbers play to not only protect citizen's health and safety, but to boldly pursue innovations that improve lives. Russ Chaney also recorded a video message posted on the World Plumbing Day Website (www.worldplumbingday.org) that provides background on the important occasion as well as a call for everybody to get involved in spreading the word. The video was used extensively around the world.

WPC members everywhere delivered presentations on water, health and plumbing to schoolchildren, community and industry groups. Children were also invited to participate in an international poster contest that, in addition to smaller local prizes, could ultimately result in cash prizes for the students and their schools. (See *World Plumbing Day International Poster Competition*, page 5)

In India, Members of the Indian Plumbing Association joined hands to educate and to help people and communities promote better water management and sanitation. Many events and activities were held by IPA Chapters, including developing and using a World Plumbing Day Oath; "Today, on 11 March, while celebrating World Plumbing Day, I pledge that to the best of my ability, I will strive to preserve the precious natural resource of water and to protect the Environment. As a member of the Plumbing Fraternity, I declare that it is my responsibility to contribute towards provision of potable Water and safe Sanitation to those of my Countrymen, who are deprived of these basic facilities."

The promotion of World Plumbing Day continued to roll out across Canada, with some 22 jurisdictions throughout the country officially declaring March 11 as World Plumbing Day, and including a supportive statement in the Senate by the Hon. Donald Neil Plett.

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating (CIPH) and the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC) teamed up to promote the day throughout the country.

In Australia it was the turn of the Parliament to recognize World Plumbing Day, with The Hon Greg Hunt MP moving a motion in support of the event, supported by Members from both sides of the House who spoke strongly in support of the Motion. The Motion, while recognizing the important environmental role of the plumbing industry, also congratulated WPC on its role "in promoting the importance of the plumbing industry both in developed countries and in developing countries where good plumbing could save lives".



The Australian Parliament supported World Plumbing Day with a motion introduced by The Hon Greg Hunt MP

In Melbourne, Plumbing Industry Commissioner Michael Kefford hosted a World Plumbing Day lunch for some 230 plumbing practitioners and industry stakeholders at the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Center in Brunswick.

The Master Plumbers' Association of Queensland, in conjunction with supply stores around the state, offered free breakfasts for plumbers, along with a golf day in Brisbane. Meanwhile, in Perth, Western Australia, some of that city's hottest models dressed in their best plumbing outfits and headed to local shopping centres, alerting the community to World Plumbing Day. In addition, three trailers with illuminated signs were towed through Perth's Central Business District giving World Plumbing Day the rock star reception it deserved and ensuring maximum community exposure.

In Scotland, the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers Federation commissioned a 15-minute DVD of Professor Mala Rao's presentation on the links between plumbing and health. Rao, previously head of Public Health Workforce and Capacity at the Department of Health in England and a director of Public Health in the UK's National Health Service for many years, is now director of the Indian Institute of Public Health in Hyderabad (part of the Public Health Foundation of India). Six other UK-based plumbing industry organizations supported the DVD which was featured on a number of websites and also shown at a number of industry meetings, at schools and Rotary clubs around the world in the lead up to and following World Plumbing Day. The DVD production was very much a UK team effort with the following organizations assisting;

- Association of Plumbing & Heating Contractors
- Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering
- BPEC
- Society of Public Health Engineers
- Worshipful Company of Plumbers
- Atelier 10 (a consulting firm).

The Scottish First Minister, Alex Salmond also expressed his support for World Plumbing Day.

In Spain, the Confederación Nacional de Asociaciones de Empresas de Fontanería, Gas, Calefacción, Climatización, Protección contra Incendios, Electricidad y Afines (CONAIF), featured prominent articles on both World Plumbing Day and the World Plumbing Council, including an extensive interview with World Plumbing Council Chairman GP Russ Chaney.

Meanwhile, in Trinidad, commercial and domestic plumbing company Plumbing Solutions took the initiative to invite schools to participate in the World Plumbing Day International Poster Competition, offering prizes additional to the awards from WPC.

On Friday March 9, Plumbing Solutions launched World Plumbing Day at Bishop Anstey Junior School in St. Ann's, Trinidad. The launch was formally opened by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities, Dr. Terrance Jurawan, who commended Plumbing Solutions for being the first company in Trinidad and Tobago to acknowledge, observe and celebrate World Plumbing Day. Students were told about the career opportunities in the plumbing industry and encouraged to study the supply and disposal of domestic water.

For the second straight year, the U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan resolution formally designating March 11 as World Plumbing Day. The Resolution highlights the role plumbing plays in safeguarding public health in the United States and worldwide, addresses the lack of safe drinking water and sanitation across the globe, declares access to such a vital human right and praises trained plumbing professionals for maintaining, repairing and rebuilding the aging water infrastructure of the United States.

WPC Director Richard Prospal was interviewed about World Plumbing Day on the "America's Work Force" radio program and wrote a guest column for the Brunswick Post newspaper.

To read his column, visit <http://www.thepostnewspapers.com/results/guest-column-prospal-B-2-11>.

In California, Gaby Davis, senior director of Worldwide Operations for IAPMO, appeared as a guest on a nationally syndicated radio program which reaches 6.1 million listeners each week.

Social media also played an active role in promoting World Plumbing Day, with many people following it on Twitter, plus a number of dedicated Facebook pages across the world.

WPC Chairman Chaney said, "Following on from this year's success, we must now begin preparations for celebrating the fourth World Plumbing Day in 2013. I certainly look forward to joining hand-in-hand with all member organizations in an effort to enlighten humanity that our industry has the best and brightest minds working to resolve the challenges of today and for the future.

"World Plumbing Day has given us the opportunity to demonstrate the benefits the plumbing industry brings to modern civilization. I could not be more enthusiastic that people everywhere will recognize the invaluable contributions to health and safety we provide. With these words, I offer my sincerest appreciation and great thanks to all of you who have helped commission World Plumbing Day 2012".



Terrance Jurawan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities, Mr. Scott Fabres, Managing Director of Plumbing Solutions, Trinidad with students from Bishop Anstey Junior School celebrating the launch of World Plumbing Day

Water is Life exhibition

In 2010 German Sanitation, Heating and Air Conditioning Association (ZVSHK) called on all students studying fine arts, design, communication design and architecture to enter an international poster competition "Water is Life".

The aim of the competition is not only to demonstrate that the younger generations are prepared to bear their share of the responsibility for our world but, first and foremost, to publicise the message that 'Water is Life' to a broad public by means of worldwide exhibitions. This is even more significant given the fact that on 28 July 2010 the United Nations General Assembly incorporated the 'right to clean water' in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The contest was held in collaboration with Professor Heinz-Jürgen Kristahn from the Berlin University of the Arts, Professor Lieyan Wu, Rector of the Nanjing Arts Institute, China and Professor Xiaou Zhou, Dean of the Fine Arts School, Hangzhou Normal University. It was sponsored Duravit AG, German Sanitary Industry Association (VDS), Gentner Group, Media Consulta International AG.

Almost 5,000 participants from 83 countries entered the competition. 130 of the best posters are part of an exhibition that has been shown for the first time at ISH 2011 in Frankfurt/Germany. It was then sent to Cape Town (South Africa) as part of the official event of UN World Water Day 2011. Later this year the exhibition was shown in China, Hungary and in Edinburgh/Scotland during the World Plumbing Council's Triennial Meeting.

On March 31, 2012 the exhibition was opened at Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts in Xi'an (China).

Together with the Vice-President of Academy of Fine Arts in Xi'an, Elmar Esser, CEO of ZVSHK and Professor Kristahn the event was attended by more than 100 guests.

Chairman Russ Chaney, General Secretary Stuart Henry, Board members Hans Tiedemann and Richard J. Prospal represented the World Plumbing Council as well as publisher Erwin Fidelis Reisch of Gentner Group.

A gallery of the exhibition can be found at www.sbz-online.de/Fotogalerie-2011/108757.html

WPC members interested in showing the exhibition should contact Elmar Esser, CEO of ZVSHK at hgf@zvshk.de



One of the outstanding posters from the Water is Life exhibition. Copyright ZVSHK

The International Emerging Technology Symposium

The third International Emerging Technology Symposium, held in Washington DC in May and co-convened by the World Plumbing Council and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), saw a great collection of innovative experts and officials in the areas of water and energy efficiency gathered for the two day event.

In delivering the keynote address Ms Kerri-Ann Jones, assistant secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs for the U.S. State Department, called water security "one of the great challenges of our time."

Jones said nearly 800 million people lack access to a drinking water source such as a well or a community tap that is protected from animals and debris, and said it is likely that two to three times that number lack access to water that is considered safe to drink. Additionally, she said, more than 2.5 billion people lack access to basic sanitation, calling these statistics "shocking."

"Taken together, the lack of access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation and poor hygiene practices pose one of our greatest health risks worldwide," she said. "Each day, nearly 6,000 people - mostly children under the age of 5 - die from preventable diarrheal diseases."

Beyond its connection to health, water is also a critical element in our food and energy security, the environment, and in looking how we will be affected by climate change, Jones said. More than 70 percent of the water used around the world goes toward agriculture, she told the assembled delegates, and in some developing countries that number can be as high as 90 to 95 percent.

Competition over water resources is also likely to rise as the need for water increases, said Jones, pointing to a recent intelligence community assessment on global water security. The report, requested by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton,



Kerri-Ann Jones, assistant secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs for the U.S. State Department, delivers the keynote address at the third International Emerging Technology Symposium, Washington DC

suggests that while state-on-state conflict over water is unlikely within the next 10 years, water will play an increasing role in the peace and security of many important regions.

The Assistant Secretary went on to say that experts predict two-thirds of the world will live in water-stressed conditions by 2025. The situation sounds dire, Jones acknowledged, but there are solutions that everybody can work on together. Most places now have enough water to meet people's needs, she said, and proper management measures must be in place to ensure clean safe, water reaches the people who need it.

"We have seen many countries doing more with less, including the United States," Jones continued. "And I know organizations such as yours are showing the way - and leading the way - with new technologies and approaches that use less water, less energy and increase water reuse. We really need to be smarter about how we use water."

Jones pointed to a World Water Day announcement Clinton made two years ago, outlining five steps the United States would take to enhance water security: build political will; build and strengthen institutional and human capacity at the local, national and regional levels; mobilize financial support; use science and technology to identify innovative solutions; and build and sustain partnerships. In the field of water conservation, the State Department is trying to lead by example, she said, and through its *Greening Diplomacy* initiative, is committed to a 20 percent reduction in potable water use in its buildings by 2020, and to cutting outdoor potable water use in half.

In addition to Jones' keynote address, those in attendance at the symposium were treated to a wide range of plumbing and mechanical-related presentations from industry experts; local, state and federal government officials; consultants and standards officials.

Topics included pipe and fitting advances, so-called "tipping points", spray valves, trap seal identification systems, irrigation, reclaimed water, electronic faucets, rainwater harvesting, thermal insulation, standards and grease traps.

Each day also featured a panel of experts and officials from throughout the industry. The first day's panel focused on Legionellosis and other pathogens, followed by a day two discussion on policies to support new water efficiency technologies.

All presentations over the two days may be viewed at

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFAFD747F2EAB2698&feature=mh_lolz

The first International Emerging Technology Symposium took place in Chicago in 2008, followed by a 2010 event in Ontario, California. Plans for a fourth symposium are already under way and will be announced once they have been finalized.

Tajikistan Revisited

WPC REVIEW reported in October 2010 a visit to a hospital near the city of Dushanbe in Tajikistan by World Plumbing Council Director Rich Prospal to prepare a "Water Safety Plan". The trip was as the result of a request from the World Health Organization (WHO), seeking the advice of a plumbing expert on a number of issues regarding water distribution, quality of supply and the sanitary system at the district hospital.

A report was published in 2010, following this visit, which described the conditions and included numerous recommendations for corrective projects to improve the water quality and sanitary systems, to bring them up to an acceptable standard.

The World Plumbing Council was subsequently informed that the recommendations provided in the report by Rich Prospal "have been followed up and rehabilitation work of the water and sanitation system of the hospital is now under way"

A further mission by the WPC was also suggested in May 2012 with the objective of:

- reviewing work done in the hospital
- developing a training program for plumbers and to conduct training for plumbers
- provide advice on further follow up activities.

In January 2012, the National Professional Officer for WHO based in Tajikistan made further contact confirming their earlier request to send a representative to review the work in progress, provide further advice for additional and future work. Inclusion of a basic training program for those that work on the plumbing systems in various hospitals across the country plus representatives from their Ministry of Health, was also to be delivered by WPC.

The return to Tajikistan to carry out training for the hospital staff and Ministry of Health representatives provided an excellent opportunity to use the WPC training programs developed through contributions made by the Plumbing Industry Commission in Victoria, Australia and the New Zealand Industry Training Organization.



The first training module, "Importance of Plumbing", used the World Plumbing Council's DVD, "Public Health and Plumbing - The Link" and included topics on a competent plumber's role; history of plumbing; water safety and the spread of water born diseases; sewage disposal; infrastructure; water conservation; education.

"Water & Water Distribution" included where water comes from and how it is delivered; types of treatment; piping systems and their protection; water supply safety.

The third module, "Drainage and Sanitation", covered types of systems, including pipe sizing; horizontal and vertical piping; drain and sewer materials; venting; trap seals.

The training sessions covered three days; two classroom days and one hands-on working day at the hospital site. There were a total of 20 participants, all of whom had some plumbing knowledge: two from the Ministry of Health and the others from various hospitals throughout the country, some travelling over 350 kilometres to attend.

After initial reservation, the participants soon started to ask questions which, despite the language barrier, quickly developed into lively discussion.

Other good news:

The hospital operating rooms now have hot water supplied by an electric-heated tank in the scrub area.

The overall general condition of the hospital seems to have improved quite a bit. The holes in the corridor floors have been patched.

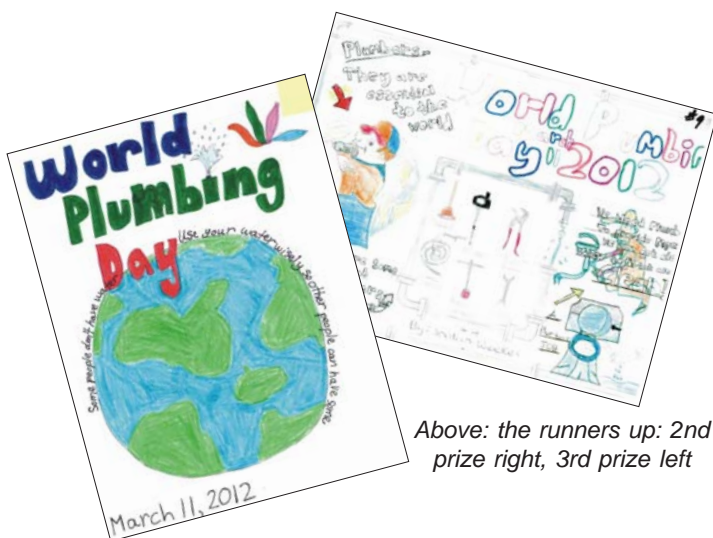
A Japanese Aid group has provided a coal-fired hot water boiler for heating some areas of the hospital buildings.

Future improvements suggested include:

1. Installing flush style toilets - the type, Eastern or Western, does not matter
2. Provide point-of-use water heaters at as many of the sinks as possible. Having the sinks and clean water is fine, but having hot water would be considerably better
3. Continuously test the water both at the pumping station and at the hospital. If the new bore well is used, that water must also be tested on a regular scheduled basis.

Hopefully, the work at Rudaki Central District Hospital will continue and be completed very soon. It is very heartening to see the efforts of everyone involved in this project.

World Plumbing Day International Poster Competition



Above: the runners up: 2nd prize right, 3rd prize left

Entries for this year's competition exceeded expectations! A total of 81 finalists from hundreds of posters submitted by school children from many countries around the globe were entered in the 2012 World Plumbing Day International Poster Competition. Children from Jamaica, Trinidad, Scotland, British Columbia & Ontario, Canada, Newfoundland and four states in the USA submitted their entries.

Children under the age of 10 were invited to participate in the global competition by designing a poster illustrating the important role plumbing plays in our society.

Posters were judged primarily on the message World Plumbing Day represents: that plumbing is vital to good health; the role that plumbing plays in our everyday life and the role that plumbing plays in the environment. The artistic merit of the posters was secondary. Of the 81 entries, the judging panel from the American Society of Sanitary Engineering



WPC Chairman G P Russ Chaney, Poster Competition winner Alexis Briano, school principal Mr. Gary Temkin, Liz Otto IAPMO holding Alexis's poster and the school's mascot Dan D Lion

(ASSE), on behalf of WPC, chose the 10 best, which were then put on display at the ASSE Mid-Year Board meetings for judging by the members present.

The winners of The World Plumbing Day International Poster Competition were;

First Place - Alexis Briano, Grade 5, La Verne Heights Elementary School, California, USA

Second Place – Jordan Weekes, Grade 4, Bishop Anstey Junior School, Trinidad

Third Place – Olivia Cooley, Grade 3, Crestview Elementary, Brunswick, Ohio, USA

The talent shown in all the posters submitted was absolutely amazing but more importantly, all the children heard the message of World Plumbing Day and displayed it in their posters exceptionally well.

In April, WPC Chairman GP Russ Chaney attended an assembly at Alexis Briano's school and proudly presented her with the competition's first prize of USD1,000 for the school and USD100 for herself.

During his presentation to the school, Chaney reminded the students that there are children their age in other countries who are not fortunate enough to have plumbing systems and that they should use water wisely. Similar presentations were made at the schools of second and third prize winners.

Footnote

World Plumbing Day was celebrated across the world in a number of innovative ways, none more so than in Singapore where the Singapore Plumbing Society held a song writing competition in association with the local authorities.

The Society's operations manager Chia Wai Chon commented, "Through the ages, songs have been composed because of their power to communicate. Likewise, we can compose plumbing songs to express our thoughts and feelings, represent our lofty ideals and aspirations to highlight the important role of efficient quality plumbing installations to maintain public health safety.

"This would enhance the image of the plumbing profession considerably, and give plumbing professionals due recognition which they rightly deserved."

The winning song, *Plumbing a Healthy Lifestyle* was written by Chia Wai Chon himself.

Dates for your Diary

World Plumbing Council General Meeting
Brisbane, Australia
October 21-22, 2012

Australasian International Plumbing Conference
Cairns, Australia
October 24-26, 2012

World Plumbing Day
Every year, Everywhere
March 11, 2013

ISH 2013
Frankfurt, Germany
March 12-16, 2013

World Plumbing Council General Meeting
Frankfurt, Germany
March 15-16, 2013

Worldskills International Competition
Leipzig, Germany
July 2-7, 2013

World Plumbing Council General Meeting
Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
August 15-16, 2013

10th World Plumbing Conference
New Delhi, India
November 14-15, 2013

World Plumbing Council welcomes new members

The World Plumbing Council is pleased to welcome the following organizations that have recently become Full and Affiliate Members

Full Members

China Building Ceramic & Sanitaryware Association, China
Services Trades Queensland, Australia

Affiliate Members

Piping Industry Training School, Canada
O M Enterprise (Devang Bhatt), India

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The World Plumbing Council aims to unite the world plumbing industry and promote the role of plumbing in improving public health and safeguarding the environment. Its objective is to provide and share information regarding research projects, technology and training that may be applicable to the plumbing industry and the people it serves.

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