

## WPC appoints WHO liaison

*World Plumbing Council representative to work with World Health Organisation*

In an important step towards furthering its aim of facilitating safe plumbing and sanitation across the world, the World Plumbing Council has appointed a liaison officer to collaborate with the World Health Organisation (WHO) on a series of related projects. John McBride, who has worked with the Australian Plumbing Commission for the past ten years, will help to coordinate development of these projects which start with a training package for plumbers to be used by educational institutions anywhere in the world.

The World Plumbing Council (WPC) is recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a 'Non-Governmental Organisation' and the two organisations' joint publication *Health Aspects of Plumbing*, now widely accepted as an international reference for safe plumbing practice, will provide the base information for the jointly-produced training package.

John McBride's role, which is being totally funded by the WPC, is planned to extend to work with WHO on the establishment of emergency-response criteria for major disasters, together with a roster of volunteer experts in the water supply and sanitation field.

John McBride was Manager of Industry Standards, Training and Information Services for the Australian Plumbing Industry Commission from 1997 to 2007. In this role he advised the Victoria state building and plumbing commissioner on both technical and policy matters in areas of plumbing safety, durability, and water and energy sustainability. He has also worked in an advisory capacity on the development of a plumbing code for East Timor, developed working papers for tsunami relief and has undertaken overseas studies of the regulatory models in France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany and the United States.

WPC Chairman, George Bliss, commented, "In a world that sees vast numbers of people regularly travelling between countries and continents, the opportunity for a major health catastrophe is increasing all the time. A few years ago we saw this potential almost realised with a SARS outbreak in Hong Kong and that was traced back to poor plumbing practice and could so easily have turned into a pandemic. If we want to avoid this sort of thing happening again, it is essential that all nations have high standards of plumbing and sanitation. John McBride's appointment as liaison officer to the world's leading authority on health is, in our view, an important step towards achieving this aim."

## World Plumbing Conference

*8th Conference to be held in Calgary, Canada*

The WPC triennial conference will be held in Calgary, Canada from 24 to 27 September 2008. With the theme "*Water - our business; our life; our responsibility*", the event will be hosted by the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada, Mechanical Contractors Association of Alberta, and the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating.

A full programme of social and technically-related events has already been planned while the Conference will run alongside Western Canada's trade show for mechanical, design, building and renovation professionals, CIPHEX West ([www.ciphexwest.ca](http://www.ciphexwest.ca)).

Full details of the Conference, including an online booking facility, are available at [www.worldplumbing.org/2008.html](http://www.worldplumbing.org/2008.html)



*Newly-appointed WPC / WHO liaison officer, John McBride*



*The dramatic Calgary skyline*

## First ever international plumbing exhibition in India

WPC member organisation the Indian Plumbing Association (IPA), together with Akar InfoMedia (AIM), is organising India's first ever international exhibition of plumbing and allied products. To be held at the Bombay Exhibition Centre in Mumbai from 11 - 13 February 2008, **PlumbexIndia** recognises the unprecedented boom in India's construction industry which has increased the demand for modern and sophisticated plumbing products.

Speaking about the aims of the exhibition, IPA President Sudhakaran Nair said, "PlumbexIndia is part of IPA's ongoing endeavour to upgrade standards of the Indian plumbing industry to a level comparable to the best in developed western countries. IPA hopes that the participation of overseas manufacturers will facilitate exposure to modern, high-tech plumbing products for members of our ever-burgeoning domestic industry".

Meanwhile, the efforts to establish a national plumbing code for India have reached fruition. Working together, the newly-established IAPMO-India and the Indian Plumbing Association, both WPC members, have taken little more than a year to establish a model code of plumbing installation and maintenance for all of India. Commenting on the project, Sudhakaran Nair said, "The IPA and IAPMO have completed the Uniform Plumbing Code – India, and it will be introduced to all of India at the IPA Annual Meeting, 11 - 13 February 2008, in the City of Mumbai."

More information about the Plumbex exhibition is available at [www.plumbexindia.in/](http://www.plumbexindia.in/) while the IAPMO site is at [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org)



## 2007 Scholarship for Indian civil engineer

The fifth WPC Trainers Scholarship has been awarded to Subhash Deshpande, a civil engineer from Pune in India. Mr Deshpande is currently working with one of the largest professional engineering consultancy companies in India and is also Chairman of the Indian Plumbing Association's Pune Chapter.

The WPC Scholarship carries with it a USD10,000 bursary which can be used to visit a country of the winner's choice in order to study plumbing practice. Subhash Deshpande has chosen Australia for his project and plans to go there in February 2008.

At the 2007 annual meeting in Japan, WPC decided on a re-evaluation of the Scholarship and in particular to consider establishing a mentoring / exchange programme between developing and developed nations.



Subhash Deshpande

## WHO project review meeting in Geneva

John McBride, who has been appointed by WPC to work with the World Health Organisation (WHO) on a range of projects (see page 1), visited the WHO offices in Geneva, Switzerland in early December 2007 for the first of a number of planned meetings during the period of the project. John had travelled from his home in Melbourne, Australia for the meetings.

Together with WPC representatives, Deputy Chairman Robert Burgon, Secretary Andy Watts and Chairman's Executive Assistant Russ Chaney plus a number of WHO officials, John presented the results of his work to date and wide ranging discussions took place about the next stages in the project.

This project, which is receiving extensive funding support from a number of WPC member organisations, follows the joint publication by WPC and WHO of *Health Aspects of Plumbing* in early 2006 and aims to emphasise the link between good plumbing and good health.

In a number of separate but related activities, John McBride has been asked to address other issues including:

- Developing a range of training materials which will help to build plumbing capacity and contribute to improved health in countries where little formal training exists;
- Prepare a paper for a network of water regulators which will demonstrate the role which regulation in plumbing can and should be;
- Identify minimum plumbing standards in high-risk locations such as healthcare facilities and schools;
- Contribute plumbing-related definitions to an international lexicon of water and sanitation terms being developed by WHO;
- Facilitate the identification of plumbing industry experts who might be eligible to join WHO's roster of experts to be mobilised in emergency situations;
- Examine how WPC might contribute to the International Year of Sanitation-2008;
- Investigate promotional materials which can be used to promote the link between plumbing and health.

Speaking after the meeting, Robert Burgon commented, "This has been an excellent chance to allow John McBride and other WPC representatives to discuss the details of the project with a group of individuals from WHO, including Bruce Gordon and Dr Jamie Bartram, both of whom are very supportive of the relationship which has been developed with WPC in recent years. Through this project we have a real opportunity to get the plumbing message across to many influential people working in the fields of water, sanitation and health and we look forward to having formal presentations of the work of the project at the Triennial World Plumbing Conference in Canada in September 2008. We hope by then that many more people will understand that plumbing is an essential component in the improvement and maintenance of health".

The next planned meeting of the project group will take place in Geneva in April and in the meantime, ongoing developments are handled through email contact between the participants.



*The WHO / WPC team, from left: Andy Watts, Dr Jamie Bartram, Robert Burgon, John McBride, Russ Chaney, Bruce Gordon*

## World Plumbing Conference 2013

The World Plumbing Council is seeking Expressions of Interest to host the 2013 World Plumbing Conference. Submissions are required on or before 23 March 2008, six months prior to the Triennial Council meeting in Calgary, and should be sent to the Council's Secretary:

Andy Watts MBE  
World Plumbing Council  
64 Station Lane  
Hornchurch  
RM12 6NB  
United Kingdom  
Email: [secretariat@worldplumbing.org](mailto:secretariat@worldplumbing.org)

## Distinguished Service Award

The World Plumbing Council is seeking nominations for its Distinguished Service Award. The Award can be made to an individual or an organisation and nominations can only be made by WPC members. Full details of the Award criteria are at [www.worldplumbing.org/award.html](http://www.worldplumbing.org/award.html) but please note that nominations must be received by 31 March 2008.

## Contribution to WHO liaison project

At the WPC annual meeting in Japan, Jay Peters, Executive Director, International Code Council presented a USD 5,000 cheque to WPC Chairman George Bliss as a contribution to the WPC / WHO liaison project (see page 1). The cheque brings to USD97,000 the total donated by WPC member organisations in support of this project.

## TENDERS INVITED FOR WPC SUPPORT SERVICES

The World Plumbing Council (WPC) has decided to invite tenders from full and affiliate member organisations for the provision of secretarial and support services commencing 1 October 2008.

This appointment will coincide with the retirement of the present Secretary, Andy Watts, who has held the position on an elected basis since 1996. The WPC has agreed that it is now appropriate for the secretarial role to be combined with the role which has until now been carried out by an elected Treasurer. There will be a new elected position on the Executive Board for an Honorary Secretary/Treasurer to whom the organisation appointed to provide support services will report.

In summary, the services which are to be provided by the organisation appointed will include:

-  Maintaining the WPC membership database including processing new applications for membership;
-  Invoicing and collecting WPC member subscriptions and other income;
-  Arranging hotel accommodation and meeting facilities for WPC meetings (generally two per year);
-  Preparing and issuing agendas for meetings (generally two per year);
-  Transcribing and circulating minutes of meetings (meeting minutes will be recorded by the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer);
-  Managing arrangements for the WPC website (which may be handled by an external organisation);
-  Maintaining bank accounts and financial records and providing regular financial reports and annual financial statements (the currency used by WPC is US Dollars);

Full details of the services to be provided are contained on the WPC website ([www.worldplumbing.org](http://www.worldplumbing.org)). This also provides details of the information to be contained in tenders.

The closing date for tenders is 12 noon (GMT) on 14 March 2008 (details of the address to which tenders are to be submitted are also on the website).

The WPC Executive Board looks forward to receiving tenders from member organisations who may be interested in providing administrative and other support services. Enquiries about the role and/or the tendering process can be directed to the WPC Deputy Chairman, Robert Burgon (email: [robert.burgon@snipef.org](mailto:robert.burgon@snipef.org))

## IAPMO welcomes delegation from China

In November 2007, WPC member the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) welcomed a six-person delegation from the Shanghai Research Institute of Building Sciences in China (SRIBS) for a tour of IAPMO's testing facilities and an introductory dialogue on potential future joint endeavours.



Founded in 1958 and designated as a state-run enterprise in 2001, SRIBS performs building technology research and inspections, and provides product testing and evaluation services to the Chinese building industry. "SRIBS and IAPMO are very similar in the scope of services provided, but with different core strengths, so there is a great opportunity to learn from each other," said Dave Viola, director of Special Services for IAPMO, who led the discussion.

SRIBS was awarded a Chinese government contract to design and construct the "Tomorrow House," a residential project to serve as a model of sustainable building and construction at the 2010 World Exposition in Shanghai. The multi-layered eco-residence will incorporate several cornerstones of the "green" building movement, including natural ventilation, day lighting, solar energy, changeable building envelope and indoor gardens.

## ISH NORTH AMERICA

ISH North America (ISH NA), the international trade show for Kitchen & Bath, Plumbing, Commercial/Industrial Pipes, Valves & Fittings (PVF), Heating and Air Conditioning, will be held from 1 to 3 October 2008 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The show will offer numerous seminars and workshops relevant to the industries' diverse interests and, reflecting the trend towards cleaner building and environmentally-conscious construction, it will highlight renewable energies. Further details are at [www.ish-na.com](http://www.ish-na.com)

## China exhibition

The 8th China International Heating, Ventilation & Air-conditioning Expo, a merger between the China International Trade Fair for Heating, Ventilation and Air-conditioning (HVAC CHINA) and the China International Heating, Ventilation & Air-conditioning Products and Technology Exhibition (CIHE), will be held in the Beijing Exhibition Center from 20 to 22 March 2008. More details are at [www.cihe-hvac.com/en/](http://www.cihe-hvac.com/en/)

## Legionellosis publication from WHO

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published *Legionella and the Prevention of Legionellosis*. Guidance is provided on risk assessment and risk management of susceptible environments and the necessary measures to prevent, or adequately control, the risk from exposure to legionella bacteria are identified.

Full details and an order facility are at:

[www.who.int/bookorders/anglais/detart1.jsp?sesslan=1&codlan=1&codcol=15&codcch=633](http://www.who.int/bookorders/anglais/detart1.jsp?sesslan=1&codlan=1&codcol=15&codcch=633)



WPC Chairman George Bliss spoke at the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada conference in 2007

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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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