

WHO recognises WPC

World Plumbing Council admitted into official relations with World Health Organisation

At its meeting on 29 January 2007 the Executive Board of the World Health Organisation (WHO) agreed to admit the World Plumbing Council into what it terms 'official relations'. In recognising WPC as a bona fide non-governmental organisation, WHO now has a formal relationship which will allow official dialogue between the two organisations and provide WHO with a valuable source of expertise on plumbing matters. Commenting on the news, Deputy Chairman of WPC Robert Burgon said, "This is a landmark achievement for WPC and one which truly establishes us as a global force in plumbing."

Geoff Marsh was first Chairman of WPC after its formation in 1990 and he still takes an keen interest in the Council's activities. When told of the WHO decision he said, "This status, which was a very early ambition of WPC, clearly carries with it responsibilities and privileges which will no doubt concentrate the minds of those tasked with developing a working relationship with WHO. Fortunately WPC has a wealth of talented individuals who are capable of meeting all the challenges that will inevitably arise from this partnership which reaches through to the UN. Therefore the credentials of WPC are now firmly in place at international level which will enable the organisation to speak with increased authority."

ISH and WPC working together



The World Plumbing Council has a close working relationship with Messe Frankfurt, organisers of the ISH series of exhibitions which are staged worldwide. Part of this relationship is that WPC enjoys the opportunity to exhibit at ISH exhibitions and in recent months has had a presence at ISH North America, held in September 2006 and now at ISH Frankfurt, from 6 to 10 March 2007.

Future ISH exhibitions include ISH Kitchen & Bath Middle East to be held in Dubai from 13 to 15 May 2007 and ISH China in Shanghai from 19 to 22 February 2008. ISH North America will next be held in October 2008.

More at <http://ish.messefrankfurt.com>

WPC Scholarship

Council offers USD10,000 bursary to plumbing trainers

The World Plumbing Council's scholarship for plumbing trainers and lecturers is now in its 5th year. The aim of the scholarship is to promote high standards of training within the plumbing profession worldwide and offers the winner the opportunity to visit a country of his or her choice in order to study plumbing practice. Past winners, John Smartt from Ireland, Arnold Iru from the Solomon Islands and Phil Campbell from the USA have visited the USA, Australia and the UK respectively, providing WPC with comprehensive information and data to support its plumbing training activities. 2006 winner, Geoff Moore - a senior college lecturer from New South Wales in Australia - has chosen to visit Denmark.

Applications for the 2007 scholarship, worth USD10,000, are now invited and details can be obtained from the WPC Secretariat at the address shown on page 2. Alternatively, information and an application form can be found on the website www.worldplumbing.org/trainers.html

World Plumbing Conference 2008

The World Plumbing Council stages a World Plumbing Conference every three years, each time at a different venue and with the last event, in New Zealand, attracting over 500 delegates. The 8th Conference will be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from 24 to 27 September 2008 and have as its theme "Water - our business - our life - our responsibility".



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Global vote chooses sanitation

Some 11,000 people worldwide have voted in a poll organised by the highly-respected *British Medical Journal* which sought to identify the greatest medical advance in the last 150 years. Out of 15 milestones short-listed in the poll, sanitation received the most votes.

The competition, which was designed to mark the relaunch of the Journal and the many medical advances made since it was first published in 1840, saw 1,795 members of the public vote for sanitation, pushing antibiotics into second place with 1642. Johan Mackenbach of Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam, who championed sanitation, said, "I'm delighted that sanitation is recognised by so many people as such an important milestone. The general lesson, which still holds, is that passive protection against health hazards is often the best way to improve population health."

Indian Plumbing Conference



WPC member organisation, the Indian Plumbing Association (IPA), staged the 5th Indian Plumbing Conference in Bangalore during January. The event, which ran alongside the PLUMBEX 2007 exhibition, attracted delegates from across India and speakers from across the world. Among these were three members of the WPC Board - George Bliss, Robert Burgon and Andy Watts - while former Board members Russ Chaney and Stuart Henry also made presentations. The theme of the conference was *Health Aspects of Plumbing*, centering on the enormous work India has to do to cope with the demands of its 1 billion-plus population.

Sudhakaran Nair, President of the IPA and also a WPC Board member, stated in his address that much progress is being made, often led by the IPA, and which includes the establishment of a Uniform Plumbing Code for India in association with WPC member IAPMO.

Apprentice winner

Christopher Platner, pictured, was the winner of the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors-National Association (PHCC) 2006 Plumbing Apprentice competition.

Christopher, from New York, received a USD1,000 cheque at the PHCC annual convention held in Chicago in September last year where Jo Wagner from Texas was elected as the Association's new President.



Also at the convention, the PHCC Educational Foundation with industry partners awarded more than USD100,000 in student scholarships.



WPC Board member Henry Hung (above, centre, with spectacles) led a Chinese delegation to ISH North America, an event which attracted nearly 11,000 delegates.

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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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