

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

**THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ECOLOGICAL SANITATION,
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, DURBAN,
SOUTH AFRICA, 23 TO 27 MAY 2005**



THEME:

“ECOLOGICAL SANITATION: A SUSTAINABLE, INTEGRATED SOLUTION”

The Third International Conference on Ecological Sanitation (EcoSan) is being organised by the CSIR. It will be held under the auspices of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, with the cooperation of the Water Research Commission, the South African Institution of Civil Engineering, the Institution of Municipal Engineering of Southern Africa, Rand Water, Umgeni Water, eThekweni Municipality (Durban), the Water Institute of South Africa and Mvula Trust. Various international organisations are also expected to support the conference. It is to be a five-day event.



Why this EcoSan conference?

In the world today, 1.2 billion people are without access to safe drinking water, 3 billion are without proper sanitation, and 50% of solid wastes remain uncollected. The Bellagio Statement of February 2000 asserted that current waste management policies and practices were abusive to human well-being, economically unaffordable and environmentally unsustainable, and that a radical overhaul of these policies and practices was needed. The Statement called for universal access to safe environmental sanitation, within a framework of water and environmental security and respect for the economic value of wastes. Principles governing this new approach were considered, among others, to be:



- that waste should be considered a resource, and that its management should be holistic and form part of integrated water resources, nutrient flows and waste management processes; and
- that the domain in which environmental sanitation problems are resolved should be kept to the minimum practical size (household, community, town, district, catchment, city) and wastes diluted as little as possible.

The Millennium Development Goals were agreed to in 2000 when all United Nations member states pledged to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015. At the WSSD in 2002, it was further agreed to reduce by half the proportion of people without basic sanitation by 2015. The development of appropriate technical options and implementation methods plays a pivotal role in meeting these objectives

WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS MEETING THESE OBJECTIVES?



Why Durban, South Africa?

South Africa is committed to eradicating its water supply and sanitation backlogs by 2008 and 2010 respectively. The country has also firmly grasped the ecosan challenge, with tremendous advances being made in this field. Since 1997, when the first projects were initiated, approximately 20 000 ecosan toilets have been implemented, with eThekweni Municipality (Durban) accounting for the largest number. Delegates will be afforded the opportunity to visit some of these projects in the area. A further attraction, of course, is the country's rich diversity of cultures, geography and wildlife, as well as its wonderful climate.



Preliminary programme:

Monday 23 May:

- Welcome: Mayor of Durban.
- Keynote speech: Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa.
- Setting the scene: Various invited speakers will summarise, firstly, the issues raised at previous international ecosan conferences and symposia and consider the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Goals. Secondly, the speakers will reflect on the 10 Recommendations for Action from the Luebeck ecosan conference in April 2003 and provide status reports on what has happened in the different continents since that time.

Tuesday 24 May:

- Excursions to various water, sanitation and environmental projects in the area.

Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 May:

- Detail sessions with presentations and case studies covering the following broad topics:
 - A. Optimising choices for urban and rural settings: This will include aspects such as design, promotion, education, finance, O&M, etc.
 - B. Health issues for urban and rural settings: This will include aspects such as O&M, re-use, environmental conservation, etc.

Friday 27 May:

- Recommendations for action and wrap-up.

Technical and poster exhibition

Various manufacturers and developers will exhibit their ecosan-related products and systems. Authors not making oral presentations will also be afforded the opportunity to display poster papers.

Call for abstracts

Persons wishing to make oral presentations at the conference are invited to submit abstracts according to the guidelines and MSWord template attached. The abstracts should be for papers dealing with topics A or B above. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15 October 2004.

Further information

Further information will be provided in the 2nd conference announcement in September 2004, which will include the call for registration. A special conference web site, which will be used for online registration and notification of the latest conference details, is currently in the process of being set up. An announcement will be made as soon as it goes live (expected during August 2004).

We look forward to seeing you in Durban!

Aussie Austin
Conference Chairman
Ecosan 2005



Photographs by courtesy of ICC, Durban.