

sustainable
sanitation
alliance



SuSanA Exhibition at the IWA World Water Congress Vienna, 07. - 12. 09. 2008

Activity Report



Report written by

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1 Introduction

The 6. IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition took place from 7.-12. September 2008 at the Austria Centre in Vienna. It brought together about 4.500 international water / wastewater professionals and visitors, who discussed the latest developments in sustainable water and wastewater management and offered the possibility to exchange knowledge.

In addition to over 1000 papers presented, a number of keynote speeches and various workshops the congress included an exhibition, where companies, knowledge and research institutes, utilities, NGOs etc. had the possibilities to showcase their products and services. SuSanA used the possibility to present the coalition to the public and to raise interest among the participants of the conference.

2 Activities

2.1 SuSanA booth

The SuSanA booth was situated very central, next to the development corner and in close neighbourhood to other international “development” organisations, like Austrian Development Agency, SPLASH Program, WHO, UNHABITAT and others.

At the booth a variety of material from several SuSanA member organisations was showcased: a urine diversion dry toilet model, two different types of waterless urinals and a schematic model of a vertical flow constructed wetland system attracted interest and attention. Information brochures, posters, leaflets, magazines and books have been offered to be picked by interested visitors.

The booth offered additionally a platform for SuSanA members to meet and discuss. This opportunity was well used and throughout the conference many small informal meetings took place.

The interest was generally very high and many people passing by the booth stopped to have a look and asked for detailed information about the SuSanA network. Many people were impressed about the huge number of member organisations.



Figure 1 and 2: The SuSanA booth – a meeting platform.

2.2 Development corner

At the Development Corner two sessions were hosted by SuSanA:

- The challenging knowledge gap. Mo. 8.Sept. 2008. Speakers: Gunilla Brattberg (SEI) and Elisabeth van Munch (GTZ).
- Making “Sustainable Sanitation” more tangible – current thinking on criteria and indicators. Wed. 10. Sept. 2008. Speakers: Stefan Jung (EcoSan Club) and Helmut Lehn (ITAS).

Early progress for SuSanA

One of the dialogues at the Development Corner yesterday afternoon looked at current thinking on criteria and indicators for sustainable sanitation.

Discussion amongst participants was preceded by a short presentation on the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA), given by Stefan Jung of Austria's EcoSan Club. A second speaker, Dr. Helmut Lehn, outlined the development of appropriate criteria and indicators, framed by the basic concepts that a sustainable sanitation system should have regard to human health and hygiene, protect the environment and non-renewable resources, while being economically viable, socially acceptable and technically and institutionally appropriate.

In answer to a comment from the floor that the SuSanA was not often heard of 'on the ground', Jung said it was, as yet, a young organization, having started only in 2006/7. It had nevertheless grown to a current membership of 91, but remained in what he called the 'promotion' stage, probably accounting for the low public profile. ●

Both sessions were well attended and the participating congress visitors enjoyed the informal discussions.

Figure 3: IWA World Water Congress Daily, 11. Sept. 2008.

3 List of potential new members and future collaborations

Contacts of potential new SuSanA members and / or organisations important for future collaborations have been collected throughout the exhibition. These include the following:

- Environmental Cooperation Asia
- Canadian Water and Wastewater Association
- Global Dry Toilet Association of Finland
- Johannesburg Water
- Austrian Development Agency
- AWT
- Norwegian Water
- Emerging Markets Groups, USA
- Brown and Caldwell, Environmental Engineers & Consultants, Ireland
- UNICEF
- EcoSan Services Foundation
- Cranfield University, UK
- Coalition for Alternative Wastewater Treatment

Contact details are listed in the Annex.

4 Outcome

The SuSanA exhibition at the IWA Congress in Vienna 2008 was a great opportunity to present the alliance to a wider public. The response was very positive and inspiring.

Acknowledgements

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