



IUAPPA Newsletter

April 2011

The International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations

Autumn in Paris: Ambitious Plans for 2011 Meeting

IUAPPA's 2011 Annual Meeting will be held in Paris from Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 September, at the invitation of APPA. The International Board will meet on the afternoon of Wednesday 28 September, and the Steering Body of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum will meet on the morning of Saturday 1 October.

The programme is built around the three key themes of the Union's Vancouver Declaration. With a combination of state-of-the-art reviews, presentations on key current developments and workshops to develop future policy and priorities. The timetable allows members the enticing option of concluding their visit with a weekend in one of the world's most beautiful cities at the most attractive time of the year.

The themes for the meeting will be:

Air Pollution and Climate Change - How can we link assessment, planning and policy at the local and regional scales?

Bio-diversity, Eco-system Services and Crop Damage - How can we mitigate damage from air pollution?

International Co-operation on Air Pollution - Building hemispheric and global strategies for Ozone, Methane and Black Carbon

There will be no registration fee for the meeting, but a modest charge will be made for those wishing to attend the Welcome Reception and the Conference Dinner.

THE PROGRAMME, TIMETABLE AND PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY

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Future Meetings

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2011 - August - Sao Paulo
Bio-Fuels

2011- September - Paris
IUAPPA Annual Meeting

2012 - Spring - Rio de Janeiro
Air Pollution and Biodiversity

2012 - September - Istanbul
Air Quality Management at
Local, National and Global
Scales

2013 - September - Cape Town
16th WORLD CONGRESS



News from the Executive Committee

- To speed up management of the Union's business, and reduce travel costs, the Executive has piloted tele-conferences to allow its members in all parts of the world to confer regularly and more cheaply.
- Following approval by the Executive Committee, the proposals for widening the membership base of the Union have been circulated to members of the International Board for approval. If approved they are expected to come into effect from 1 May 2011.
- Subject to approval of the new membership structure the Executive has agreed that a strategy to widen and strengthen the Union's membership be prepared, in which all member organisations will be invited to participate.

Forthcoming Events

IUAPPA International Meetings and Congresses

2011, August - Sao Paulo, Brazil
ABEPOLAR meeting on Bio-fuels,
IUAPPA members are cordially invited

2011, 28 - 30 September - Paris, France
IUAPPA Annual Meeting (International Board
Meeting to be held on 28 September,
and Global Forum Steering Group on 1 October)

2012, Spring - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Air Pollution and Biodiversity - Preparatory Meet-
ing for Rio+20

2012, September - Istanbul, Turkey
Annual Meeting - jointly with the 4th International
Symposium on Air Quality Management

2013, September - Cape Town, South Africa
16th WORLD CLEAN AIR CONGRESS

Other Meetings

2011, 10 May - Rosario, Argentina
Clean Air Initiative for Latin America, Regional
Conference on Sustainable Transport, Air
Quality and Climate Change;
<http://cleanairinstitute.org>

2011, 26 - 27 May - Brussels, Belgium
EFCA, Ultrafine Particles; www.efca.net

2011, 21 - 24 June - Orlando, Florida
AWMA Annual Meeting; www.awma.org

2011, 2 - 4 November - Amsterdam, Netherlands
6th Symposium on Non-CO2
Greenhouse Gases.

Publications

IUAPPA Three Year Review, 2007 - 2010

This report records the main outcomes of IUAPPA's recent work, and discusses some of the issues likely to demand attention in the next few years. The main headings in this twenty-paged report include:

- Conferences and Meetings
- Promoting Science, Developing Policy
- Looking Forward and
- Strengthening the Union

The report also reviews the discussions and assessments over the past two years which have led to the current proposals on membership structure.

World Atlas of Atmospheric Pollution

Highly acclaimed reference work, published in 2008.

Provides a global overview of atmospheric pollution in the 21st century and its impact on our environment - long-range transport; climate change; ozone depletion; environmental and health effects; future trends and much more.

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South Africa: Plotting Paths to Sustainability

The 15th World Clean Air Congress held in Vancouver, Canada paved the way for the next World Congress to be held in Cape Town, South Africa. The drive towards integrated sustainable development programmes, policies, strategies and targets in becoming stronger and more pressing.

“The Air Quality Act (No 39) of 2004 provided a paradigm shift to air quality management”

The South African National Association for Clean Air (NACA) is enthused with the prospect of hosting the 2013 World Congress. NACA, similarly to IUAPPA, was founded in the 1960's and has a long standing record serving the Air Pollution community of South Africa. The Air Quality Act (No 39) of 2004 provided a paradigm shift in the approach to air quality management in South Africa, resulting in many challenges that necessitated innovative thinking and committed actions towards air quality management and climate change.



South Africa shares both first world and third world traits common to many developing countries. Air pollution problems range from household fuel burning in highly populated informal settlements to sophisticated industrial operations. Regional cross-boundary pollution is an increasing problem, with biomass burning in the central parts of Africa affecting the largest part of the southern African continent and transported as far as Australia. Globally, South Africa is a main

contributor to carbon monoxide emissions which prompted a pro-active national greenhouse gas emission reduction programme. The accessibility and affordability of South Africa will also attract delegates from other developing countries, where poverty, expanding cities, and escalating vehicle fleets pose considerable air quality challenges. The exchange of experiences and ideas serves as a pathway to the development of innovative initiatives to manage air quality and climate change, ultimately ensuring the sustainability of our economies and way of life.



South Africa, with its diversity, provides an ideal background for a dialogue on sustainable air quality management.

South Africa can be seen by the rest of the world as a timely and appropriate venue for a World Clean Air Congress with its current initiatives including:

- A bold new air pollution policy in the form of the Air Quality Act, 2004
- Notable international relations and issues resolution
- Strong environmental policy and climate change commitment
- Its ability to deal with air pollution as a developing country
- Its outreach programmes into Africa

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The Western Cape Province, and the City of Cape Town specifically, have been in the forefront with regional and local air quality and climate change policies. The City of Cape Town was amongst the first metropolitans to develop an Air Quality Management Plan, with the Western Cape Province boasting an Air Quality Management Plan that reflects the objectives of the Provincial climate change protection programmes. Cape Point is also home to the South African Weather Services Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) station where long-term monitoring and related research on trace-gasses of the atmosphere is conducted. This station is one of 24 global stations providing invaluable information on the atmosphere's constituents and how they evolve with time.

“South Africa offers visitors scenic beauty, a sunny climate and cultural diversity”

South Africa offers visitors scenic beauty, magnificent outdoors, sunny climate, cultural diversity and first world infrastructure, all of which make it an ideal location for international congresses. Aside from various world-class conference and exhibition venues in Cape Town, NACA is investigating alternative, more cost effective venues such as the University of Cape



Town and the Cape Town Stadium. The latter is a product from the 2010 Football World Cup which also resulted in the upgrade of road infrastructure and public transport in and around the City. Cape Town, South Africa's number one tourist city, is well equipped to offer a range of accommodation options, from affordable B&Bs to five star hotels and lodges.

The presence of Table Mountain, the pristine coastline with its white sandy beaches, the magnificent countryside with its bountiful rivers, lakes and dams, fauna and flora, together with the warm summer climate and friendly community, make the Western Cape the perfect business travel destination. Tourism in the City of Cape Town centres around the Victoria and Alfred (V&A) Waterfront, a working harbour offering everything from upmarket shopping malls, arts and craft markets, theatres and live music, to museums.



Air Quality and Biodiversity; Taking Forward the Vancouver Initiative

The impact of air pollution on flora and fauna and the eco-system services on which human beings depend, and its role in declining biodiversity and food security, emerged as one of the key themes of our Vancouver World Congress. A key outcome was a proposal released by the Executive Director of the Biodiversity Convention for close co-operation between IUAPPA and the Convention - and the air pollution and biodiversity communities generally - in addressing the problem.

How should the Union respond? In response to comments from members, the Executive Committee in a recent discussion agreed a three stage process:

1. To scope and clarify the issues, and take stock of recent developments, biodiversity will be one of the three main strands of the 2011 Annual Meeting in Paris in September, which will include a workshop and associated plenary sessions
2. Building on the conclusions of the workshop, the Union will establish a special review committee of members and invited experts to explore and make recommendations on what can be done to address the impact of air pollution on biodiversity more effectively; and
3. A special meeting of the Union will then be held in early 2012 in Brazil, to publicise the conclusions and explore their implications before they are submitted to the UN's Rio+20 conference in Rio de Janeiro in June.

Preparations for the workshop and plenary sessions at this year's meeting are being co-ordinated by APPA. They will include a Working Paper setting out recent developments and key issues for consideration in the Workshop. Any member interested in contributing is invited to contact the Secretariat.

Rio+20: Rekindling the Spirit of Rio

Twenty years on from the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, the UN's Sustainable Development Commission reconvenes in Rio de Janeiro in June next year. What are the issues this time, and what are the prospects?

As a delegate to the PrepCom put it, the hope must be that this summit can 'rekindle the spirit of Rio'. This will be challenging. As the UN Sustainable Development Commission itself recognises, progress towards the original Earth Summit's objectives has been, at best, 'inconsistent and uneven'.

None of the problems recognised 20 years ago have gone away: climate change, biodiversity and ecosystem loss, and desertification, all interacting - as both cause and effect - with the over-arching problems of poverty and disease.

There is also a recognition that major new problems have emerged in the last few years to further complicate progress in sustainability. Goals will clearly be more difficult to deliver in the face of the financial crisis, increasing evidence of the problems of food security and migration, and, perhaps most important of all, an increasing lack of trust between developed and developing worlds evident in the climate negotiations.

What practical goals can be achieved, and what part can IUAPPA and the Air Quality community play? While Air Pollution does not itself feature prominently in the agenda, it is critically relevant at every level to the sustainability issues under review and to some of the major objectives of the meeting, such as reforming environmental governance and strengthening co-ordination among environmental agreements. The Air Quality community's contribution can be confidently built on firm foundations. It is now evident for all to see that air pollution plays a critical role in key issues of sustainability, including eco-system degradation and

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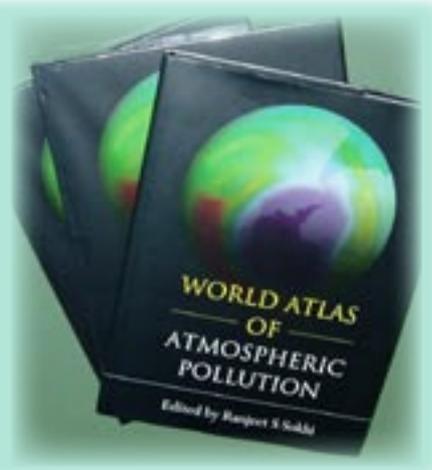
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food security as well as the more obvious problems of urban environments. But it is also one of the few areas where in recent decades substantial progress has been made: much has been achieved at both scientific and policy levels which may be relevant in other areas. This includes the work by IUAPPA and the GAP Forum to illuminate the extent to which climate change and air pollution are linked and the critical ways in which air pollution policies could mitigate short-term climate change; and our promotion of better international atmospheric management by linking air pollution conventions and strengthening regional networks.

Climate and Air Pollution; Towards an Intermediate Climate Policy - End of the Beginning?

Since the Global Forum's Stockholm Conference in September 2008 the Union and its partners have argued the case for a new focus in climate change and air pollution policy. The so-called 'Short-Lived Climate Forcers' (primarily Ozone, Methane and Black Carbon) account for almost as much radiative forcing as CO₂, and also exact a very heavy toll in terms of health damage, particularly in developing regions, but SLCFs have a relatively short residence time in the atmosphere. Action on them could therefore mitigate climate change much more rapidly than action on CO₂, as well as delivering substantial health benefits. That, in essence, is the case - which IUAPPA and its Forum partners have been arguing for the last two years for developing an 'Intermediate Climate Strategy' to complement long-term action on CO₂.

Making this case has not been simple, particularly given the current separation of the climate and air pollution communities, and the heavy preoccupation of climate scientists and negotiators with CO₂. However, over the last six months the tectonic plates of climate and air pollution policy have begun to shift, through major initiatives and policy developments within the LRTAP Convention and UNEP - the two international organisations which sponsored the Forum's 2008 conference.

At the annual meeting of its Executive Body in December the LRTAP Convention took major steps to realign its policy stance and priorities to accommodate the SLCFs and integrated climate-pollution strategies. The Committee agreed to include regulation of Black Carbon within the Gothenburg Protocol, the over-arching instrument for regulating long-range transport of air pollution in much of the Northern Hemisphere. It also took some limited steps to begin assessment of Methane. Finally it accepted the report of the Task Force on Hemispheric Air Pollution and gave it an enhanced brief. While these measures are in some respects limited and partial, they represent the first major commitment at international scale to action on the short-lived forcers.

Within UNEP progress has been less substantive but in some ways more broadly based. After sponsoring the Global Forum's 2008 conference, UNEP responded positively to one of the main recommendations - for a global assessment of Ozone and Black Carbon. The Assessment Report has now been published. It demonstrates that co-ordinated action on a relatively small number of emission sources could have a dramatic impact on health and on near-term climate change, in effect buying time for essential long-term measures to address CO₂ to have effect.

In February UNEP submitted the report to its Governing Council, with a proposal for international action towards what, in effect, would be an international abatement strategy for the SLCFs. The political response from countries fell well short of giving political endorsement for a strategy but it agreed steps which should allow momentum further to develop. Clearly there is a long way to go, but at least we may be at the end of the beginning.