



IUAPPA Newsletter

The International Union of Air Pollution Prevention
and Environmental Protection Associations

December 2008

DEVELOPING MEMBERSHIP

Over the past 30 years the nature of environmental NGOs has changed dramatically. They now take much more diverse forms and operate in different ways, reflecting changes in communications and IT, the scale of geographical operation and globalisation, and the widening of the environmental agenda beyond traditional pollution issues.

IUAPPA is always seeking additional national air quality representative bodies as full members of the Union. But, increasingly, the members of our network – as partners, collaborators or observer or associate members – have come to embrace a far wider range of bodies: inter-governmental networks, regional organisations, appropriate international business organisations, research institutes and many others.

Our Review Committee is considering ways to restructure the form and membership systems of the Union to allow our governance to reflect this far wider breadth of engagement, and so that we can more effectively bring together organisations and individuals of all kinds who share a commitment to our goals and values.

That review process will take a little time. Meanwhile we are working to extend our range of contacts and influence, targeting specific regions. At the recent co-benefits conference in Strasbourg, in conjunction with EFCA, we brought together representatives from a variety of countries in Eastern and Northern Europe where previously our links have been relatively limited. As a result we are delighted to welcome new associate or observer members in Poland, Norway, Lithuania and Bosnia, and a strengthening of our long-standing links with our organisation in the Czech Republic. We look forward to warm and constructive links with them over the years ahead.

Our plan over the next few years is to replicate this approach in a variety of different regions, starting next years with North Africa and the Middle East, in association with our planned conference in Tunis.

Meanwhile, as always, we would welcome suggestions from current members on other organisations and individuals who might be interested to link with us and be associated with our work.

Richard Mills

IN THIS ISSUE:

A PRODUCTIVE AUTUMN...

In September the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum held its successful international conference in Stockholm on air pollution/climate change co-benefits. Conclusions, reports, presentations and background papers can be found at www.gapforum.org.

In October, the IUAPPA regional conference was held in South Africa, focusing on air quality management, climate change and much more. Details can be found on page 2.

IUAPPA held its annual board meeting in South Africa as well, and highlights can be found on page 6.

In November, the European Federation of Clean Air & Environmental Protection Associations held a fruitful meeting focusing on co-benefits policies in Europe. A summary can be found on page 5.

A LOOK AHEAD TO 2009

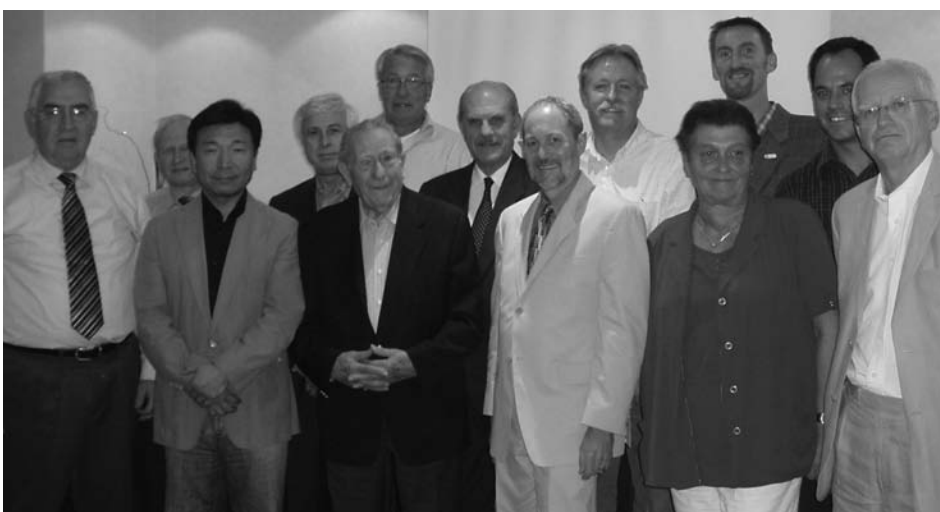
2009 promises to be an exciting year for the Union.

The Board is considering proposals to hold regional meetings in Tunis and Hong Kong. Both options offer outstanding opportunities for synergies with other associations. The Board will decide the location of the 2009 meeting early next year. The meeting will likely be held in October or November 2009.

Preparations will ramp up for a spectacular 2010 World Congress in Vancouver.

The Union will continue developing wider networks throughout the world through its work with the Global Forum and its efforts to expand membership.

Work will begin in earnest to develop a web-based *Clean Air Around the World*.



IUAPPA Board meeting, Nelspruit, South Africa 2008



CONFERENCE IN THE PLACE OF THE RISING SUN: NACA CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA A SUCCESS



Sara Feresu on co-benefits in Southern Africa

levels of congestion. The DART project provides a guided bus service, replacing thousands of mini buses and ensuring that the roadway is shared by all users. The initial 29-kilometer line is already enjoying high levels of ridership and there are ambitious plans for a further four lines over the next ten years. Emphasising the need for a range of solutions, Mrs Mlambo also spoke of her role in the Association for Advancing Low Cost Mobility, an NGO spearheading the development of non-motorized transport (in particular cycling).

In the session discussion the need for integrated solutions, combining affordable mobility with low emissions transport, was emphasised. Strict controls on imports of second-hand vehicles, together with progress on fuel quality, were highlighted as urgent priorities. In summing up, Richard Mills, IUAPPA Director-General, noted how the special session had provided encouraging evidence that, despite the difficult nature of the problem, local solutions, well matched to local conditions were emerging.

Richard Mills also chaired the special plenary session on climate change/air

pollution co-benefits in southern Africa. Jeff Clark of the IUAPPA secretariat described the outcomes of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum's recent conference on the issue in Stockholm. Next Cornie Huizenga provided an Asian perspective on co-benefits in the developing world, noting how approaches that work in Europe or North America are not necessarily applicable in Asia; for example, Asia has limited experience with cap and trade programs and will need to pursue co-benefits using other means.

Dr. Stuart Piketh from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, gave a scientific overview of co-benefits and then identified several opportunities for pursuing co-benefits in southern Africa. He noted that southern Africa is a significant source of emissions from domestic burning for space heating and cooking. Reducing the wood cutting and burning associated with domestic burning would have climate benefits, but also major health benefits. This provides an ideal opportunity to evaluate the co-benefits of improving the efficiency of the burning or replacing it with alternatives like electricity, renewable energy (solar) and more efficient stoves/

burning. He also noted that controlling methane from landfill sites holds promise for climate/air pollution benefits.

Dr. Piketh also explained that not all measures can produce 'win-win' scenarios. For example, implementing a policy to increase diesel vehicles to reduce CO₂ would have a serious adverse effect on PM levels in the urban environment. He noted that in the South African context this is not only a concern but would be potential crisis. He also described how integrated GHG and air pollution emission management can significantly reduce the duplication of administrative load (such as emissions inventory requirements) on both authorities as well as industries.

The panel was then joined by Lars Nordberg, former Executive Secretary of UNECE/LRTAP, Dr. Sara Feresu, Co-coordinator of the Air Pollution Information Network for Africa, as well as Tirusha Thambiran, University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa, and Dr. Enda Hayes, University of the West of England, Bristol. The chair invited comments from Peter Lukey, who agreed that it would be useful for many developing countries to build in climate change from the ground up as they develop their air pollution programmes, but noted that this was already happening in South Africa where there is already extensive effort to integrate air pollution and climate change.

Dr. Feresu noted how southern Africa contributes to only a tiny fraction of global greenhouse gases, and that air pollution is the likely entry point to develop co-benefits approaches in that region of the world. Dr. Hayes and others noted how there were important co-benefits lessons to be learned from experience in the United Kingdom, using the impact of wood-fueled biomass on air quality conditions in London. Overall, the session succeeded in driving home the importance of integrating climate change and air pollution policies, and highlighting some of the special circumstances facing southern Africa.

John Murlis contributed to this article

CONFERENCE IN THE PLACE OF THE RISING SUN: NACA CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA A SUCCESS



Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister, Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa



2008 Regional Conference featured excellent exhibits



Active audience participation throughout NACA conference



Phil Mulligan, Chief Executive, Environmental Protection-UK



Abel Sakhau, Chair, Conference Organising Committee



Loyiso Bala performs at the Conference dinner

Report on the Outcomes of the EFCA Symposium on Air Pollution and Climate Policy Integration in Europe

On 6-7 November the European Federation of Clean Air and Environmental Protection Associations (EFCA) held a conference to examine ways to support the design and implementation of co-benefits policies in Europe. The event was organised by the French Air Pollution Prevention Association and sponsored by the French Environment Agency and the regional and local authorities of Alsace and Strasbourg. About 130 participants from 28 countries attended the event and contributed to the debates.

The conference was the latest in EFCA's programme of raising awareness of key air pollution and climate issues to European policy makers and concerned stakeholders, including industry, civil society and local authorities. It provided a European perspective on the co-benefits issues that IUAPPA and the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum have been pursuing at the international level. The conclusions of the EFCA conference and those from the Global Forum's Stockholm conference (see www.gapforum.org) are similar on the need for policy integration; the EFCA conference conclusions provide an important focus on European objectives and ways to achieve those objectives in Europe.

The conference involved experts from key European institutions, including European Environment Agency, Joint Research Centre, European Environment Bureau, Directorate General Environment, the European Topic Centres, and the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis. The European Commission, through Mr André Zuber, and the European Parliament through Mrs Catherine Trautmann, vice-president of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee, played major roles in helping determine the main conference outcomes.

Prof. Roy Harrison, from the University of Birmingham gave the keynote address which provided a comprehensive picture of the complex interactions between air

pollution and climate change. Despite the need for further investigation, it was concluded that remaining uncertainties must not prevent policy makers from making decisions now.

Results from presentations showed that a number of integrated assessment reports have indicated that greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation costs are lower due to costs savings on air pollution and that benefits of GHG mitigation are higher due to reduced air pollution. They also highlighted how air quality policies aimed at reducing methane, ozone and black carbon can have immediate benefits on climate. Some air pollution policies, notably those aimed at abating sulphur oxides and secondary aerosols, will contribute to warming, resulting in the need for even greater reductions in GHGs to avoid long-term warming.

GHG mitigation strategies have substantial co-benefits on human health (and on ecosystems) via lower air pollution. However, some GHG mitigation measures exhibit clear trade-offs with respect to air pollution. Measures encouraging wood burning, bio-fuels and diesel cars were discussed at the symposium as examples of how not to develop integrated policies.

Speakers pointed to the need for strategic impact assessment concerning large policy sectors, such as biomass. Policy makers still need integrated indicators and tools like life cycle analysis and modelling capacities to help balance between different stakes and impacts so as to optimise decisions. Speakers from France, the UK and the US provided examples of how awareness of the need for closer integration emerged at national and local levels and how pragmatically developed approaches can

tackle the two challenges in a cost-effective way.

At the European Community level, climate change and energy policy have become a major challenge and a top priority. To meet the goals of the Climate and Energy Package currently being adopted – by 2020 a 20 % reduction of GHG emissions compared to 1990 and a 20 % share of renewable energy – the 'low hanging fruit' of energy efficiency, energy conservation and demand management must be harvested in the near term.

The EU will not propose co-benefit measures immediately. The Energy and Climate Package contains assessments of co-benefits, but it does not integrate air pollution and climate policies. The political priority for climate change is so high that we will have to wait a few years before considering a more integrated package. Over the longer term, an international convention on air pollution and climate change may be needed to find the best way forward.

The principal conclusions and recommendations of the EFCA conference will be provided to the European commission, the European Parliament, and all national and local concerned stakeholders, notably through a special issue of the French journal "Pollution Atmosphérique". The presentations, summaries of debates and principal conclusions are available at <http://www.efcasymposium.eu>.



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Highlights from the IUAPPA International Board Meeting

The IUAPPA Board met on 30 September 2008 in Nelspruit, South Africa. Some of the key outcomes of the meeting include:

- Preparations for the 2010 World Congress in Vancouver are moving ahead well. The theme for the Congress will be "Achieving Environmental Sustainability in a Resource Hungry World." President Alan Gertler reiterated his desire for the 2010 Congress to have a world focus and sessions that are useful to audiences in various regions throughout the globe and is soliciting advice and suggestions on subjects for sessions at the Congress.
- The Board agreed that, as a general rule, the timing of the World Congress will continue to be held every three years, but there will be flexibility to vary that (e.g. two years), if circumstances warrant.
- The regional meeting for 2009 will be held in either Hong Kong (possibly co-sponsored by A&WMA's Hong Kong Chapter), or in Tunis. The Hong Kong theme would be comparative air quality management, while the Tunis theme focusing on air quality in the Mediterranean basin (bringing together the French and Italian member organizations, as well as the Sahara and Sahel Observatory which is a member of the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum). Board discussion was positive about both options, particularly the Tunisian option. It was agreed that the Secretariat will further explore the possibilities and thematic content of each option and report back to the Executive Committee, which will make the decision in the next few months. Whichever option is selected, the

meeting will not be held until late autumn – likely October or November 2009.

- The Director-General also described the status of discussions for a seminar on Transport and Urban Air Quality in Teheran, Iran, in 2009. The Board generally supported moving ahead with the Teheran conference in late 2009.
- Past President Luria presented his report summarizing the outcome of his committee meeting on the future role and structure of IUAPPA. His report and any comments he receives will then be reviewed by the Executive Committee.
- It was agreed that the Executive Committee will meet each year during the period between the annual IUAPPA Board meetings.
- On communications issues, the secretariat discussed plans for issuing shorter, though more frequent newsletters; developing and publishing a 'biennial review' of IUAPPA, the first of which will be prepared in time for the Vancouver World Congress; moving ahead with plans to develop a web-based *Clean Air Around the World*; and encouraging members to find opportunities to help promote *The World Atlas of Atmospheric Pollution*.
- There was agreement to pursue co-operative membership development initiatives between IUAPPA and EFCA to bring in several potential representatives from Russia, Eastern Europe and other parts of Europe as observer members. (see page 5)
- The Board agreed that its next meeting will be held in either Tunis or Hong Kong in the autumn of 2009. A decision will be made by the Executive Committee in the next few months.

WORLD ATLAS OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AVAILABLE AT DISCOUNT RATES

Highly acclaimed reference work, published in 2008.
Edited by Ranjeet Sokhi, University of Hertfordshire, UK.

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