



THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAL ASH ASSOCIATION (SACAA)

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ASH @ WORK

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN COAL ASH ASSOCIATION
from your Editors and President of the SACAA

Editorial

W is for **winter**, but in this issue it also stands for our council member **Wayne**, whom we congratulate on attaining his PhD. Well done Wayne!! Furthermore he caught some limelight during Tony Blair's recent visit to South Africa (see below).

With this winter edition of '**Ash at work**' it is the intention to increase the publication rate from three or four times a year to bi-monthly. In order to achieve this objective we would appreciate receiving any inputs from the local ash fraternity to make every issue as pertinent as possible to the industry and the SACAA.

The SACAA 2007 AGM

This year's AGM has been scheduled for Thursday, 23 August 2007, at 16:30 for 17:00. The venue is the same as we used for the Seminar in March i.e. the SAICE Auditorium, Midrand. Closer to the date, our administrator, Val Howard, will notify all members accordingly. Besides the usual official feedback of the AGM, we hope to receive feedback from the World of Coal Ash (WOCA) Conference 2007, held in May 2007 in the USA.

News Flashes

No usable ash from this technology

Samantha Enslin-Payne reports from Durban (Business Report, 19 June 2007) that Eskom will spend about R7 billion over the next five years at Majuba power station on underground coal gasification (UCG). The 3600 MW power station sits on a coalfield that is difficult to mine and thus coal is sourced from elsewhere in Mpumalanga. So far a R100 million pilot project established the characteristics of the coalfield. The particular UCG was developed by the Canadian firm Ergo Exergy Technologies, but UCG has been successfully employed at a power station in Uzbekistan since 1959.

At Majuba a small amount of electricity is produced utilizing the gas from the pilot study. "It will cost R366 million to increase output incrementally to 15MW. 250MW will cost R2,5 billion and a 350MW turbine will cost R4 billion." According to Steve Lennon, MD of Resources and Strategy at Eskom, "the final options were either a large-scale combined cycle gas turbine or to replace a third of Majuba's generating capacity from coal to gas fired or a combination of both."

Local News of Note

British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, visited the University of Pretoria on 1 June to discuss the impact of climate change on food security in Africa. [ref. : www.up.ac.za]

Mr Blair visited the Field Trial Section of the Department of Plant Production and Soil Science, at the University's Experimental Farm. He was introduced to specific research projects and discussed several important global issues with staff and post-graduate students and was shown several important research projects such as the investigation into the potential of alternative crops to produce fuel from renewable resources and the potential of sub-tropical trees and grasses to produce bio-energy on a renewable basis. He also met Wayne and was made aware of research being carried out on the use of fly ash in improving degraded soil. In the picture Wayne is standing next to Mr Blair. The other people in the photo are: Prof Johann Kirsten, Prof Anton Stroh, Prof Calie Pistorius (Rector and Vice Chancellor, UP), Prof Charlie Reinhardt and Prof Elsa du Toit.



Environmental News

Carbon Challenge (Mathabo le Roux reports in Business Day, 14 May 2007)

Growing fears about climate change and its impact on the global economy have spurred a flurry of activity to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

South Africa's CO₂ emission doubled from 1980 to 2004 and now exceeds that of Brazil (with a population 4x larger) and is only slightly below that of the UK.

SA companies are finding it increasingly difficult to penetrate world markets as international buyers become more environmentally aware.

The coal industry is likely to face the squeeze as Europe - its largest market - turns its back on South African coal which is deemed 'dirty' because it produces more N₂ (?) than coals from other countries.

SA exporters are already feeling the influence of environmental policy as retailers such as Marks & Spencer and Tesco have moved towards carbon labeling of commodities.

In light of this remember that for every ton of cement replaced by fly ash a ton of CO₂ emission is avoided.

Waste Plastic and Ash

At the University of Massachusetts Mr Charles Wilson has been conducting research into generating *synthetic lightweight aggregate* from 20% industrial waste (plastic electronic waste) and 80% fly ash: <http://www.chelseacenter.org>

Forthcoming events

EUCI New Business Opportunities in CCPs, Charlotte, NC, 16 - 17 July 2007

The two-day workshop will address CCP management strategies in the context of current market variables including increasing FGD construction, carbon allowance markets and mercury regulations.

Coal-Gen 2007 - One Hot Rock, Milwaukee, WI, 1 - 3 August 2007

Covers the latest topics affecting design, development, upgrading, operation and maintenance of coal-fired power plants as well as learning of the most critical issues affecting the coal-fired sector: <http://cg07.events.pennet.com/fl>

International Conference on Concrete Roads (ICCR 2007), 16 - 17 August 2007, Midrand

This conference will be held at the Bytes Technology Conference Centre, Midrand and is a joint venture by the C&CI and the International Society for Concrete Pavements (ISCP). The event has been endorsed by the South African National Roads Agency Ltd. Local experts will be joined by 12 of the world's top concrete road specialists. The latest version of C&CI's unique pavement design program, cncPave, will be launched at the conference.

Full details and registration form can be obtained from Loré de Bernier: lore@cnci.org.za

International Conference EuroCoalAsh 2008, 5 - 9 October 2008, The Westin Warsaw Hotel, Poland

This conference is organised by the Polish Coal Combustion Union together with representatives of European countries based on coal-fired power stations. Covering all aspects of coal fly ash, especially in the European Union. Details are available on: www.eurocoalash.org

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The editorial team would like to know whether the information supplied in this newsletter is useful. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and especially contributions.

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Disclaimer:

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Council of the South African Coal Ash Association