

WASTES MANAGEMENT SOCIETY OF NIGERIA

WAMASON NEWSLETTER NL012006

- *For inclusion of your activities or information in our newsletter please send your information to event@wamason.org.*

SECRETARIAT INFO

WAMASON Pays Courtesy call on Honourable Minister of Environment

The Waste Management Society of Nigeria paid a courtesy call on the Honourable Minister of Environment on the 10th of October, 2006. The Minister, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, congratulated the Society, after a brief on the Society by the President for the innovative programmes towards professionalizing the waste management industry. WAMASON team led by the President (Mr R. M. Ossai) included the 1st Vice President (Prof. Oladele Osibanjo), the National Secretary (Mr E. Chukwuocha) and an Ex-officio member, Prof. Dapo Afolabi. He pledged that the Ministry shall support the Society as her programmes are in line with the Ministry's vision and stated that the Ministry would want to collaborate with the Society in achieving sustainable waste management especially in Environmental law review, Establishment of a good Environmental Library and, in accessing of fund internally and internationally..

The Permanent Secretary further stated that the Ministry would want to be a member of the Society and also requested WAMASON to submit her blue print on professional training programme and, the proposed National Waste Management Bill for the Ministry's input. The Ministry promised to also consider the Society as a resource body for EIA reviews and accreditation of Consultants in the Ministry.

Minister Invites WAMASON to National Council on Environment

One of the outcomes of the meeting with the Minister of Environment is the invitation of the Society to the National Council on Environment meeting holding in Katsina from 13th to 15th November, 2006. The Society was further requested to present a paper on 'Moving Waste Management into the 21st Century'. This paper can be accessed in the Society's website.

EHORECON National Guidelines on Environmental Health Practice comes to WAMASON.

The Environmental Health Officers Registration Council of Nigeria (EHORECON), the body charge with the responsibility of regulating environmental health practice in Nigeria

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sent a proposed National Guidelines on Environmental Health Practice to WAMASON for review. This gesture is in recognition of the Society involvement in some areas of Environmental Health practice. WAMASON is expected to review and make constructive input. The Regulation is aimed at improving standard of service delivery in the various areas of EH practice.

The Council stated that they will formally invite the Society for a stakeholders' conference where various views will be harmonised for formal registration process for practitioners in line with the Act establishing EHORECON.

FMENV Collaborates with WAMASON for Training

The Federal Ministry of Environment has picked interest in the training programme of WAMASON and indicated her intent to adopt the programme for the continuous development of accredited Waste/Environmental management Consultants. This development led to the cancellation of the October training programme scheduled to hold in the three Training Centres of the Society, as the Ministry requested to make her input in the training courses. Training will be conducted next year in April and October. Details will be published in the Society's website and National Newspapers.

Expiration of automatic Professional Membership Offer

The resolution of the 1st joint meeting of the National Council and College of Councillor directing State Councillors to submit the list of all her executive members to the Secretariat for automatic admission into the Chartered membership class shall expire by the 31st of December, 2006. Councils that the Officers failed to utilize this opportunity thereafter shall be treated as fresh applicants and will be required to follow all admission procedures.

REGIONAL TIT BITS

South - South: Private Sector Participation in Waste Mgt

First Regional Seminar of WAMASON for 2007 will kick off in South- South Zone. The theme of the seminar is "Strategies for Private Sector Participation in Waste Management". The date and venue, according to the Regional Coordinator, Hon. Harry Ipalibo, will be communicated to all in due course. The Seminar shall take critical look at the new Federal Government Policy on Waste Management, addressing partnership, financing, cost recovery strategies and development of infrastructure. Regional Seminars is a CPD requirement for professionals and it is mandatory for all members in the region to participate.

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COUNCIL CORNER

LAGOS STATE

LAWMA Collaborates with WAMASON in organizing the 1st Lagos Medical Waste Summit.

Lagos State held her 1st Medical Waste Summit on the 19th of October, 2006 organised by the Lagos State Waste Management Authority in collaboration with Civil Societies and professional bodies amongst which are the Waste Management Society of Nigeria (WAMASON), African Children Renaissance Project, WELLCHILD Promotion Organization, Eplass Nigeria, Public Health Consultants from ICH & PC, LUTH and Action Family Foundation.

The Summit was in response to the earlier attention WAMASON drew to the poor medical waste management and its inherent dangers to public health and the environment in Lagos State. The aims of the summit according to the GM, LAWMA, Mr Ola Oresanya (who is also a Honorary Fellow of WAMASON) in his welcome address are to; Launch community-based education on appropriate medical waste management in the State; Provide situation analysis of current medical waste management in the State and its health and environmental implications; Mobilize stakeholders as advocates for collective action towards sustainable and safe medical waste management and; Provide opportunity for strategic networking among stakeholders in different intervention areas of medical waste management.

The keynote address delivered by the Hon. Commissioner for Environment, Barr. Tunji Bello pointed out the danger and health hazards inherent in the poor and unsustainable medical waste management and the need to check it to avoid the outbreak of epidemics. The presentations included a documentary on medical waste scenario in Lagos and report on the situation is on the unsustainable methods of medical waste management by generating facilities. Mr E. Itua (Secretary, WAMASON Lagos State Council) asserted that it is on record that the government cannot tackle the challenge of waste management alone and encourage all to support the government. He emphasized that a holistic approach that recognizes solid, liquid and gaseous emission is required for a meaningful medical waste management. Overview of Health-Care Waste Management in Other Countries was presented by Mr. Allan Rotman of the World Bank Institute, where he highlighted the different management systems in Caribbean Islands, Armenia, India, Iran, Victoria Island, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria.

The event drew a large numbers of various professionals in the public and private sectors of the economy including Hon. Speaker Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Adeyemi Ikuforiji represented by Hon. Dr. Babatunde, Chairman House committee on Health services, Commissioner for Health Dr. Tola Kasali, the Federal controller, Lagos office,

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Mrs Olufunke; Deputy Director, Chemical and Toxic Waste Management of the Federal Ministry of Environment; Director, Environmental Services Dept., Dr. (Mrs) T. Anibaba

WAMASON Nominated as Member of the Medical Waste Technical Committee in Lagos State.

Following the success of the first Lagos State Medical Waste Summit and the immense contribution of WAMASON, Lagos State Council to it, the Council has earned a seat in the Technical Committee on Medical Waste Management. The Committee was inaugurated on the 28th of November, 2006.

AKWA IBOM

Akwa Ibom State Council losses her Secretary.

WAMASON regrets to announce the passing on of the Secretary of Akwa Ibom State Council, Mr. Mbuk Essien. He died in October after a brief illness. Until his death, he was the Publicity Secretary of National Population Commission of Akwa Ibom State and was a former Secretary of the Nigerian Environmental Society. He was buried on the 23rd of November, 2006 in his home town Ikot Odoro in Nsit Ibom Local Government Area. We pray God to grant the family the fortitude to bear the loss.

INDUSTRY NEWS

NATIONAL

Public-Private Sector Participation, a possible solution to MSW.

The Federal Government in her bid to proffer lasting solution to the seeming insurmountable problem of municipal solid waste is promoting a private sector driven municipal solid waste management under a public-private sector arrangement. Under this arrangement, the States will partner with private investors, who will build, operate and own an integrated waste management infrastructure which shall encompass Material Recovery facility, Composting Plants, Medical Waste Incinerator and Hazardous Waste Landfill. The government will provide land for the development of the landfill and transfer stations and infrastructure such as access roads and utilities as part of its 20% equity participation; assist the investor (on request) in setting up cost recovery machinery and; ensure the enforcement of relevant laws and check unauthorized dumping of waste.

The Federal Ministry of Environment is calling for pre-qualification from suitable partners in this regard (see Punch, December 14, 2006 publication).

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Federal Government sets up a new Environmental Standards and Enforcement Agency

The Federal Government has announced the merger of Ministries of Housing and Urban Development with that of Environment. Also a new Body called National Environmental Standards and Enforcement Agency is now formed with its Bill before the National Assembly. As we all know that enforcement of laws is the beginning of waste management, it will be necessary for us all to reposition WAMASON to ensure that better standards that will favour the industry is put in place for the growth of our profession. This change shall further make the Ministry a truly an Executive arm for policy development therefore, WAMASON shall cooperate with both for enthronement of sustainable waste management in Nigeria.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Certification of Waste Managers.

At this year annual Congress of International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) in Copenhagen, the vision of the Association to develop a Global Certification Programme for professional Waste Managers was advanced. It was highlighted in the speeches of both the outgoing president, N C Vasuki, and new president, Niels Jørn Harn. It has been gathered that ISWA is in discussion with the United Nation Environment Programme and hopes other international bodies such as the World Bank see the benefit of the programme and possibly join forces with them. Also, some countries, during discussion in the Congress, have suggested it could become their main certification programme to ensure knowledge and competence among waste managers.

(Source; CIMW, the Journal for waste & Resource Management Professionals, Dec., '06)