

REPORT ON 7TH WORLD CLEAN AIR CONGRESS AND EXECUTIVE AND BOARD MEETINGS OF IUAPPA – SYDNEY 1986

The Congress

The Congress was organised by the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand. The Society's objective had been to attract 800 delegates and in order to reduce costs had not employed commercial help but used voluntary assistance entirely.

The organising committee was relieved when a total number of 370 – 400 delegates had registered as this was the break-even point in respect of costs. In fact there was a total 514 delegates plus approximately 140 spouses.

Thirty nine countries were represented.

The Congress was opened in the concert hall of the Sydney Opera House by His Excellency The Right Honourable Sir Ninian Stephen AK GCMG GCVO KBE Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia. His address was followed by an address by the Honourable R J Carr MP Minister for Planning, Environment and Heritage NSW Government.

Following these addresses Dr G B Tucker, Chief, Division of Atmospheric Research CSIRO (Australia) gave a Key-note address on "Trace Gas Trends in the Southern Hemisphere" emphasising that the effects of trace gases on the climate of the globe was a cause for concern. For example the fact that measurements in the polar ice cap indicated an increase in the past 17 centuries of methane from 200 parts to 1600 parts.

The second Keynote address was given by Dr I M Torrens, Head of the Pollution Control Division, Environment Directorate, (OECD) on "Reducing Air Pollution: An economically Sound Investment?"

In the address he gave estimates of the costs to the electricity consumer of 6% to reduce SO₂ and NO_x to acceptable limits. The cost of introducing catalytic converters added 5% to the cost of motor cars.

The venue for the Congress was the Sydney Hilton and although facilities were adequate they were not as good as facilities designed specifically for the running of congresses. In order to save on translation costs, where it was expected that interest in one or other of the two languages (French and English) used at the Congress was not great, "whispering" was used to great advantage.

The Congress papers were presented in six Strands over the five days with the following themes:

1. Stationary Sources Control
2. Air Pollution Modelling
3. Air Pollution Dispersion
4. Air Pollution Monitoring
5. Health Effects
6. Air Pollution Administration
7. Air Pollution Transportation Policy
8. Outdoor Air Pollution
9. Economic Strategies for Pollution Control

10. Material Effects
11. Guidelines and Economics
12. Developing Countries
13. Environmental Effects
14. Effects on Vegetation
15. Air Pollution from Motor Vehicles
16. Indoor/Outdoor Air Pollution
17. Air Pollution by Particulates
18. Atmospheric Chemistry
19. Air Pollution Control Policy
20. Air Pollution Meteorology

The papers were bound into five volumes comprising 2675 pages. They have been well edited and will serve as an excellent reference work.

Meeting of the Executive Committee of IUAPPA

The Executive Committee has the following representatives:

- a) Air Pollution Control Association (USA – Canada)
- b) Association pour la Prevention de la Pollution Atmospherique (France)
- c) Associazione Termatecnica Italiana (Italy)
- d) Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand (Australia and New Zealand (Australia and New Zealand))
- e) Japanese Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations (Japan)
- f) National Association for Clean Air (South Africa)
- g) National Society for Clean Air (UK)
- h) Vereniging Lucht (CLAN) (The Netherlands)
- i) VDI – Kommission Reinhaltung der Luft (Federal Republic of Germany,

When the minutes of the previous meeting were under discussion Mr C J Els expressed appreciation for the decision that the IUAPPA application to the United Nations for consultancy status with ACOSOC should be withdrawn as it was obvious that the application would not be accepted if South Africa was a member of the IUAPPA. The withdrawal had been done pointing out that air pollution transcends all boundaries and the IUAPPA welcomed members from all countries and is not concerned with politics.

The main matters of interest during the meeting were the following:

1. Brazil was transferred to observer status.
2. The application from Korea to join the Union was accepted.
3. The application from Mainland China was accepted.
4. Russia, Poland, East Germany and Hungary had been contacted to join the Union with little reaction. This would be followed up through EEC channels.
5. Israel would be contacted to become a member in May 1987.

6. 8th World Congress would be held in The Hague in September 1989. It was reported that the registration fee should not exceed 1000 Guilders and that 900 delegates were expected. The printing of the proceedings were expected to absorb 25% of the registration.

7. 9th World Congress Montreal 1992. It was reported that all was in hand and that it would be held in the latter half of September.

It was noted that as there were two official languages in Canada, English and French, the Government would pay for the simultaneous translation.

8. 10th World Congress 1995. Two offers for the Congress had been received from the Northern Hemisphere, Finland and the United Kingdom.

Mr C J Els reported that South Africa would like to host a Congress when it was considered that one should be held in the Southern Hemisphere.

It was reported that Singapore would make an offer for the 1995 Congress and the Japanese representative also offered Japan as a venue. It was agreed that all offers should be made in writing to the Secretariat.

9. During consideration of the accounts it was noted that at present there were sufficient funds but that the subscriptions should be reviewed in 1987. Italy with Germany and France following offered to pay £2 000 per year.

10. IUAPPA Compendium. It was agreed to send each member a copy of the Italian submission which was considered good. Members were asked to suggest names for the book and to make their submissions before February 1987.

11. It was agreed that members would forward copies of the rules pertaining to any awards they made to people who were considered should be honoured and that the Secretariat prepare an awards policy.

12. The Executive Committee will meet in Venice on 30th and 31st October 1987 and in Dallas during the week

19th to 24th June 1988. It was noted that South Africa wished to host the Executive meeting in 1990. (There was a good reaction to this offer).

13. Rear Admiral Sharp was awarded the title of Meritorious Director General and the first Honorary Member in recognition of his services to the Union. It was also agreed that he would be presented with a scroll prepared by the Netherlands and be appointed Consultant to the IUAPPA.

14. Air Commander J Langston was appointed Director General in the place of Rear Admiral Sharp.

Meeting of the International Board

All the decisions made at the Executive Committee were approved and it was agreed that Finland should join the Executive (it would have to be a member if it was to host the 1995 Congress). No mention was made of the offer of South Africa to host the Congress. Members were asked to submit full details of their congress facilities when making offers to host the 1995 Congress.

It was agreed to record the contribution that had been made by Jack Easterbrook to the work of the Executive Committee over the long period he had served on the Committee.

Conclusion

The Congress and the meetings of the Executive and Board were well run. The International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations is growing in strength with more members and as a result its objective of bringing the need for pollution prevention to the developing countries. The production of the proposed Compendium will be an important step in this direction.

There is no doubt that South Africa has many good friends amongst its members and it was important that we were present to renew these friendships. The fact that South Africa was present made it possible for the National Association for Clean Air to be elected to the Executive Committee which may not have been the case had we not been present.

G. Grange. Director, N A C A