

Dane awarded 2008 WPC Lecturers' Scholarship

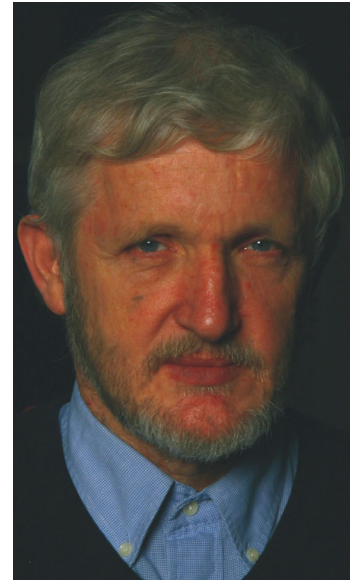
Benny Wielandt of Copenhagen, Denmark has been awarded the World Plumbing Council Scholarship for 2008.

The Scholarship, which is awarded to individuals involved in plumbing industry training, is worth up to USD10,000 and enables the recipient to travel to another country to investigate plumbing industry training practices in that country. Mr Wielandt has chosen to visit Thailand and his trip is likely to take place in August/September 2009.

Benny Wielandt, age 63, has been involved in plumbing industry training for almost 40 years and is currently a Student Counsellor and Curriculum Consultant at Technical Education Copenhagen. He has previously worked in Botswana and Kenya and has made a number of conference presentations in other countries, including Australia.

In accepting the award, Mr Wielandt said that he was “grateful and honoured” and would do his very best to achieve the purpose of the award.

WPC Chairman, Robert Burgon, has confirmed that the terms of the Scholarship are under review and it is expected that an announcement about future Scholarships will be made later this year.



WPC Strategic Plan

At its meeting in South Korea, in the latter part of 2008, the WPC's Executive Board arrived at a 3-year strategic plan for the organisation, designed not only to build on the achievements of the previous Board, but to increase WPC influence worldwide. The plan, which will take the organisation up to the next triennial Conference - to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2011 - focuses particularly on WPC's role in promoting awareness of the links between plumbing, public health and the environment.

There are nine principal objectives within the plan and these have clear definitions, in each case followed by outlines of the action required to achieve them. From international plumbing standards to training and research, the strategic plan represents an ambitious programme, the achievement of which will place the World Plumbing Council in a pre-eminent position within the world plumbing community.

The plan starts off by recognising that, in many countries, plumbing and plumbers are not held in particularly high regard, usually due to public ignorance of their importance to public health through the provision of safe water supply and sanitation. The key to remedying this mistaken perception, the plan says, is to publicise through all available means the professionalism required for success in the plumbing industry, while also reinforcing the vital role that plumbers and plumbing play in the community.

The plan goes on to highlight the importance of research and technology, making provision for WPC to widen its involvement through links with research and development organisations as well as working closely

The strategic plan's 9 objectives

- To develop and promote the image and professional standards of the world plumbing industry
- To encourage, participate in and facilitate the exchange of research and technology information applicable to the world plumbing industry
- To promote plumbing education and training worldwide
- To promote the plumbing industry's role in improving public health through the provision and protection of safe water and sanitation
- To promote the plumbing industry's role in safeguarding the environment through proper management, care, reuse, and conservation of natural resources
- To meet at a World Plumbing Conference at least every three (3) years
- To increase membership and participation in the World Plumbing Council
- To enhance the status and influence of the World Plumbing Council
- To ensure adequate resources to achieve the Mission and Objectives of the World Plumbing Council

with its own membership. At the same time, it is intended to disseminate relevant information via www.worldplumbing.org, international plumbing publications and this newsletter.

The WPC Board has also identified training as an area which is important in achieving its goals. The Lecturer/Trainer Scholarship programme and WPC's close relationship with WorldSkills will continue to be developed while the training packages which are being developed jointly with the World Health Organisation will also play an important role.

Plumbing's ecological responsibilities are covered with proposals to publish a WPC position paper, setting out the role which the industry must play in water conservation and other environmental issues.

This wide-ranging strategic plan sets out a clear path for the World Plumbing Council, a path which in some respects will echo the past: there will continue to be a regular World Plumbing Conference, for example and as is mentioned above, the relationships with other international organizations will continue and be enhanced. In other areas, there are bold new ideas which, when achieved, will provide a centre of plumbing reference to which the world's plumbers and plumbing industry can look for guidance and leadership.

Conference 2011

Planning is under way for the 9th World Plumbing Conference which will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland from 7-11 September 2011. Conference organisers have been appointed and work has started on booking venues and hotel accommodation. WPC Chairman, Robert Burgon, who is based in Edinburgh says, "This Conference promises to be one to remember and we look forward to welcoming a large number of delegates and partners from across the world. Edinburgh is an amazing city and we are confident that it will provide a warm welcome to our overseas visitors."



The Conference will take place shortly after the Edinburgh International Festival which will give those delegates who wish to come earlier the opportunity to attend some of the city's spectacular cultural events, including the Edinburgh Tattoo. The conference will be based in the city centre and there will be a range of hotel accommodation available to suit different budgets. A conference website will be launched within the next few months and in the meantime, those interested in attending are invited to contact the dedicated conference organisers by email to: enquiries@wpc2011.co.uk

Welcome to new members

WPC is delighted to welcome four new member organisations. CONAIF (www.conaif.es), the Spanish National Confederation of Associations of Provincial Companies involved in Plumbing, Drainage, Heating, Air Conditioning, Fire prevention/protection, Gas, Refrigeration, Water Treatment joins the Full Member category while one from the USA and two from China join as Affiliates. Shanghai Spoonrift Fountain Engineering Co., Ltd (www.pqsj.com) is based in Shanghai and specialises in the design, installation and servicing of fountains while Jiangsu Rongcheng Environmental Engineering Group Co., Ltd (www.pqsj.com) from Yixing City in the Chinese province of Jiangsu focuses on fountain engineering and optoelectronics.

The University of Wisconsin (www.epdweb.engr.wisc.edu) in the United States of America is the third organisation to be awarded Affiliate membership. Its Department of Engineering Professional Development seeks to improve the practice of engineering and related professions for the benefit of society via education, research and enhancing the public's understanding of science and technology.

New Secretariat

WPC members are reminded that the Secretariat of the organisation is now in Australia. The email address is secretariat@worldplumbing.org; telephone +61 8 9448 0430; fax +61 8 9448 0420; post PO Box 2005, Marmion, Western Australia 6020

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The World Plumbing Council aims to unite the world plumbing industry and promote the role of plumbing in improving public health and safeguarding the environment. Its objective is to provide and share information regarding research projects, technology and training that may be applicable to the plumbing industry and the people it serves.

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