



News, Views & Comments from the World of Building Service Contracting

Submit your news for publication to Carol Dean at cdean@wfbsc.org

ARGENTINA-BUENOS AIRES

Country Seeing Increase In African Immigrants

As a result of tougher immigration policies in European countries and a crackdown on border security since 9/11, Latin American countries such as Brazil and Argentina are seeing a significant increase in African immigrants. The immigrants, largely from Senegal, Egypt, Nigeria and Ghana arrive at Brazilian ports either as stowaways or armed with Brazilian visas and travel to Argentina by land. Currently over 3,000 African immigrants live in Argentina, an increase from a few dozen eight years ago, and almost a third of the nation's asylum seekers are from Africa. In Brazil, which has the largest black population outside of Africa, Africans are now the largest refugee group, and according to the country's national committee for refugees make up 65 percent of all asylum seekers.

AUSTRALIA-VICTORIA

Western Hospitals Seek Outsourcing

The BSCAA has welcomed a proposal by Western Australian Health Minister, Dr Kim Hames, to seek bids from private contractors to perform non-clinical cleaning and other services at the new Murdoch hospital as well as the Fiona Stanley Hospital. The decision on outsourcing will be made in the second half of 2010.

BELGIUM-BRUSSELS

Injuries In The EU Report Launched

EuroSafe has just published the 2009-report Injuries in the EU. The report presents data collected over the years 2005-2007. Accidents and violence are a major public health problem, killing more than a quarter of a million people in the EU-27 each year and causing around 42 million injuries that need hospital treatment. Injuries are the fourth most common cause of death, after cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and respiratory diseases. Every two minutes someone dies of a fatal injury - this adds up to a quarter of a million injury deaths each year within the EU with a huge disparity in deaths between countries. Over €15 billion annually is being spent on hospital and medical costs to treat injuries that result in hospital admissions.

BRAZIL-SAO PAULO

Brazil Has Third Highest Infection Rate

In its latest security intelligence report, Microsoft stated there was a direct correlation between software piracy and machines infected by malicious code since many users of pirated software are leery of applying security patches. China, Brazil and France have extremely high piracy rates and hence high PC infection rates – the percentage of computers that have been cleaned by the updated monthly Malicious Software Removal Tool, or MSRT. The infection rate in Brazil was 25.4, nearly three times

the global average. According to the report Serbia and Montenegro had the highest infection rate in the world, with 97.2 PCs out of every 1,000, infected. Turkey came in second with 32.3, while Brazil, Spain and South Korea were third through fifth, with infection rates of 25.4, 21.6 and 21.3, respectively.

CANADA-ALBERTA

Despite Growth, Net Population Outflow

Statistics Canada reports that despite an increase in births and immigrants, for the first time since 1994, the number of people attracted to Alberta was less than the number of people who departed the province. Between July and September, 20,790 Canadians from other provinces moved to Alberta while 23,325 departed resulting in a net outflow of 2,535 people. However, as births outnumbered deaths, the population still grew. The third quarter growth rate was the lowest it has been since 2000 but the population increase of 0.44 percent was the third-highest in the country after British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

FRANCE-PARIS

Mutation Leads To Deaths

A mutation in the H1N1 flu that was detected in Norway, led to the deaths of two patients in France. According to the French government's Health Surveillance Institute (InVS), the mutation allows the virus to bind more readily to the respiratory tract and lung tissue. The mutation also affected the virus and its resistance to Tamiflu, the drug most used to combat the illness. The case was the first drug-resistant strain found in France among the 1200 strains experts have analyzed here. According to InVS the two patients were not related and had been taken to hospitals in two different cities in France. The death toll in mainland France was 76.

GERMANY-BERLIN

Increase On Tax Contribution Proposed

In order to meet its goal of cutting the deficit by € 10 billion per year for the next six years, the government is considering an increase of the contribution workers pay to insure against future

unemployment from 2.8 percent to 4.5 percent. The increase would take effect in 2011. The current tax of 2.8 percent of gross income would not fund enough of the current unemployment commitment in 2010 and would fund even less in 2011. Without a hike in the unemployment insurance, the federal government would have to pour billions of euros in coming years into the Federal Employment Agency.

JAPAN-TOKYO

New Battery Has Ten Percent More Power

Panasonic Corp. has developed a rechargeable battery that can power at least 3.4 amperes per hour, resulting in 10 percent more power than a model it introduced earlier in the month. The lithium-ion battery started mass production on December 18, 2009. The company estimates that the global market for such batteries will increase fivefold from this year to ¥3.2 trillion in 2018 as products such as low-emission vehicles and mobile electronics gain ground. Panasonic, which recently completed a takeover of Sanyo Electric Co., plans to invest ¥123 billion to triple production of lithium-ion batteries by October 2011.

NEW ZEALAND-AUCKLAND

Diners May Face Rate Hike For Cleaning

The Auckland City Council is proposing a fee for outside dining in order to recover the cost of administering and cleaning up after outdoor eateries. The Council is seeking to change the existing charge of \$70 per chair to a flat license fee, plus a charge per square meter. Allocated space for each cafe, restaurant or bar would be marked on the pavement. The hospitality industry is strongly opposed to the suggested legislation countering that a rate hike would hit the industry hard, especially in a tough economy and that businesses already pay higher leases for locations with good outdoor dining. The Council says it is only looking for reasonable cost recovery and will not set any new fees until the industry has had a say on the policy.

SOUTH KOREA-SEOUL

Tax Cut Delayed For A Second Time

The National Assembly's Finance Committee tabled plans to lower the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 22 percent for those whose taxable income exceeds 200 million won (\$168,800). The tax rate cuts now won't occur until sometime in 2012. This is the second time the government has delayed the planned corporate tax cut and experts claim the delay will undermine the government's credibility as well as put a damper on facility investment in 2010. The committee also agreed on a delay by two years of the plan to reduce the highest income tax rate to 33 percent from 35 percent for those with an annual income exceeding 88 million won. Experts fear the lack of corporate tax cuts will make it harder for Korea to attract foreign investment from Singapore or Hong Kong where corporate tax rates are lower.

TAIWAN-TAIPEI

Domestic Trade Increases

The Ministry of Economic Affairs reported that domestic trade and sales increased over 2008. Domestic trade, which includes the retail, wholesale and restaurant sectors was up almost 15 percent from the same period prior year and totaled \$34 billion in November. Retail sales were particularly strong with an increase of 17.37 percent. This was the largest increase in five years. In addition, the government also announced that the unemployment rate fell for the third consecutive month to 5.86 percent.

THE NETHERLANDS-AMSTERDAM

New High Pressure Pavilion At Show

At the 2010 ISSA/InterClean show, which takes place, April 26 –29 in the Amsterdam RAI, a High Pressure pavilion will highlight high pressure cleaning methods including the latest innovations and environmentally-friendly cleaning technologies such as hot water cleaning and

dry-ice blasting. The pavilion will be interactive and will showcase products and parts for graffiti, paint and chewing gum removal from floors and façades, and the cleaning of cars, machines and streets. In addition blast-cleaning, reaching hard-to-access areas and chemical and industrial cleaning will be featured.

UK-LEATHERHEAD

Cleaning Products Continue To Grow

According to a new study by Intertech Pira, The Future of Green Cleaning Products, the global cleaning products market is projected to reach €37.6 billion in 2009, growing marginally by 1.1% over 2008 estimates and will reach €48.3 billion by 2014. Laundry makes up the largest category at nearly €21 billion, followed by surface cleaners at €12.6 billion with 20 percent of the total cleaners used in the industrial and institution (I&I) cleaning sector. While developed markets such as North America, Western Europe and Australasia have lower growth, regulations such as EU detergent legislation, which demands that all cleaners are biodegradable, make green cleaners a niche growth area. New manufacturers are introducing niche products into the market, which meet self-imposed stricter environmental criteria and while the market is only 3-5 percent of the total, it is growing rapidly. However, only about one fifth of consumers are prepared to pay more for green products. For more information contact Stephen Hill at stephen.hill@pira-international.com.

UK-LONDON

£451 Million Lost In 2008

The new Plimsoll Industry Analysis – Cleaning Equipment & Materials gives a performance rating on the top 648 companies in the market by ranking them as either Strong, Good, Mediocre, Caution or Danger. The losses in the industry amounted to £451 million in lost profit in 2008 with over 400 companies bearing the brunt of the recession. However there were 75 companies that have maintained or increased their profit margins in the last year. More Information : www.plimsoll.co.uk.

UK-LONDON

Contract Cleaning Growth Predicted For 2010

A recent report from MTW Research shows that while the UK contract cleaning market was significantly negatively impacted by the recession, returning to values previously experienced in 2004, growth should return in 2010 with opportunities in added value services such as live audit data, mobile response units, and more specialist service provision amongst others. The report notes that public expenditure cuts may occur however private spending is going to increase especially in light of government incentives for virus and infection control. For more information go to www.marketresearchreports.co.uk.

US-CALIFORNIA

Small Businesses Willing To Lose Revenue

In its SMB (small/midsize businesses) Disaster Preparedness Survey Symantec noted that SMB vendors are willing to lose over one third of their customers. This correlated strongly with actual customer actions. The survey showed 39 percent of customers actually did make the switch to another SMB vendor when their current SMB vendor experienced a disaster and could not come back online in a timely manner. The survey of almost 1,700 small and midsize companies also revealed that SMBs can realistically expect to take a 40 percent hit in revenue if they are affected by a disaster.

US-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

iPhone Can Detect Deadly Chemicals

A postage stamp sized device can be plugged into cellphones and can quickly detect traces of deadly chemicals such as ammonia, chlorine gas, and methane. Scientists at NASA's Ames Research Center, working with the Department of Homeland Security, developed a portable chemical sniffer that senses chemicals in the air using a "sample jet" and a multiple-channel silicon-based sensing chip, which consists of 16 nanosensors. It can plug into 30-pin dock connectors. Once a chemical is sensed, the device sends the

detection data to another phone or computer via telephone connection or Wi-Fi.

US-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MRSA Strain On The Rise In Hospitals

A study, published in December, which analyzed data from more than 300 microbiology labs across the United States, has revealed that the proportion of Community-associated MRSA (CA-MRSA) increased more than 90 percent among outpatients with staph, and accounts for more than 50 percent of all Staphylococcus aureus infections. The rapidly growing strain has increased sevenfold in outpatients between 1999 and 2006.

US-MISSOURI

Facility Forced To Clean After Meth Incident

The health department is forcing a Sonic restaurant in Missouri to thoroughly clean the facility including throwing away everything from sugar packets and straws to food after police discovered a 27 year-old Sonic employee, who was a shift manager, cooking up a batch of methamphetamine in the restaurant. Police said that the employee had worked the night shift and then came back after the restaurant had closed. The employee was charged with second-degree burglary and an attempt to manufacture a controlled substance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

18th Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors

Auckland, New Zealand
February 6-12, 2011

Congress updates will be available at:
BSCNZ PO Box 31-067, Lower Hutt 5040
EMAIL: info@bsc.org.nz
WEBSITE: www.bsc.org.nz

19th Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors

Curitiba, Brazil
2012



ALL BUILDING SERVICE CONTRACTING COMPANIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE ASSOCIATIONS THAT IS A WFBC MEMBER, ARE AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS OF THE WFBC.

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