



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

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

ARGENTINA-BUENOS AIRES

There Is Still Time To Register

The 17th Congress of the World Federation will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 26-29, 2008.

There is still time to register so plan now to attend this great networking and learning event. The Congress will be held at the Sheraton



Buenos Aires & Convention Center, which is located in the heart of Buenos Aires and is just one-half hour from the Ezeiza International Airport. There are a limited number of hotel rooms left so you need to reserve your room now in order to secure accommodation. Rooms are available for \$230, \$279 and \$327 (VAT included). If you would like to arrange a transfer to/from the airport complete the required information in the Tours and Transfers Form stipulating the date, time and arrival and/or departure flight number. There is also public transport, city buses and taxis available at the airport. Be sure to bring a sweater or jacket, while the temperature in Buenos Aires in Octo-



ber is mild (spring) the evenings can be cool. The program begins with a City tour on Sunday, October 26th followed by the opening ceremony, the opening exhibition, which features over ten exhibitors, and a cocktail event. The 3-hour tour will go through the main areas of the city, visiting its most traditional areas, and displaying its historical and cultural evolution from immigration to tango to football. Monday starts the sessions and workshops. Tuesday will feature the Next Country Cocktail event at the end of a day of sessions. On the last day of the Congress, morning sessions will be followed by the closing ceremony, a golf tournament and the Gala dinner. There are a number of post Congress tours to places such as Mendoza, Iguazú and Ushuaia available if attendees are interested in exploring more of Argentina. For more information, please visit the Congress website at www.wfbcs2008.com.ar.



AUSTRALIA-VICTORIA

Population Growth Estimate Revised

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, which produces a set of population projections for all states, territories and capital cities in the country, recently revised its 2004 forecast of population growth based upon the 2001 census. The 2004 forecast reported the Australian population rising from 20.6 million in 2006 to 28.2 million in 2051 based upon falling fertility and net annual migration of 110,000. The revised numbers show Australia's population increasing from 20.6 million in 2006 to 34.2 million by 2051, reflecting net growth of 13.5 million. The immigration projection has risen to 180,000 annually and the fertility rate has now increased from 1.7

to 1.8 births per woman. As a result, Canberra will be adding 161,000 residents, Melbourne and Sydney will be adding 2.5 million residents each, Brisbane will have almost 2 million new residents and Perth will increase by 700,000. In addition, Tasmania and South Australia, instead of losing numbers as originally projected, will actually gain 12,000 and 126,000 respectively. According to an expert with KPMG, the revisions offer enormous opportunities for both government and business, which will require new growth planning documents and plans to capture the strong and dispersed population growth in market share.

BELGIUM-BRUSSELS

Employment Expansion Changing But Still Positive

Recent turmoil in financial markets, increasing commodity prices and downturns in several housing markets have caused economic output for the EU to decline slightly by 0.1 percent and employment growth to drop 1.3 percent over the previous year. However, 2008 total employment increased by 2.9 million to 227 million over 2007. Unemployment stabilized at 6.8 percent with Spain experiencing the highest in the EU. Eurostat projects that with the current economic climate, employment and unemployment numbers will trend negatively in the second half of 2008.

BRAZIL - GOIANIA

New Shopping Center To Be Built

US owner, developer and manager of market dominant shopping centers, Developers Diversified Realty Corp. is partnering with Sonae Sierra, a Portuguese-based developer with substantial Brazilian interests to build a 840,000-square-foot shopping center in Goiania. The center, set to open in 2011, will house 260 tenants, including 10 anchor retailers and 11 restaurants. The development is Developers Diversified's fourth in Brazil.

CANADA-TORONTO

Listeria May Have Outsmarted Cleaning Products

A recent outbreak of Listeria cases in an unusually high number of patients indicates that Listeria, a type of bacterium often found in food and elsewhere in the natural environ-

ment, may have figured out a way to overcome sanitation practices and sanitation agents. There are no issues with inspections at the Maple Leaf Foods Inc. where a team of 10 charged with food safety at the Toronto plant takes 3,000 swabs annually and analyzes them at the plant's in-house microbiology laboratory, looking for bacteria like Listeria monocytogenes. The outbreak has resulted in one of the largest food recalls in the country.

FRANCE-PARIS

Second Quarter Hard On Jobs

The second quarter of 2008 was not favorable for the job market in metropolitan France. In the market sector 28,800 jobs were lost and of that number, 18,300 of the jobs lost were in the Services sector. Overall jobs numbered 18,139,300 in the total competitive sector in the second quarter of 2008, a drop of 19,100 jobs over the same period in 2007.

GERMANY-ELMSHORN

Dirtiest Locker Room Winner Named

A competition held by a cleaning product manufacturer to name the filthiest changing room in Germany was won by a sporting club in northern Germany, which submitted photos and videos of mildew infested window panes and rusty showers dating from the pre-war period. The club, SV Lieth, located in Elmshorn and founded in 1934, will receive €20,000 for renovations to its facilities.

JAPAN-TOKYO

Cleaning And Showering At The Same Time

A Japanese researcher working for Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), a research and marketing organization which represents Australian woolgrowers, has developed a suit that can be worn in the shower and requires no soaking, dry cleaning or soap. The clothing has been a hit in Japan - especially with those who travel frequently - and AWI hopes it success will spread from the Japanese market through Europe and India.

NEW ZEALAND-AUCKLAND

MRSA Scare Closes Operating Rooms

After a visiting clinician tested positive to MRSA at Grey Base Hospital in Greymouth, the hospital's operating theatres were shut down for thorough cleaning to prevent the spread of the superbug. The clinician has since left the hospital and staff who had been in contact with the clinician were being contacted and tested for MRSA.

SOUTH KOREA-SEOUL

Country Investing In Combating Climate Change

The government of South Korea will spend \$4.38 billion over the next five years to combat climate change. The plan includes spending 111 trillion won on new and renewable energy by 2030, introducing a carbon trading system and carbon taxes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, building one million energy efficient homes by retrofitting them with new technologies by 2020, establishing an education program in schools and in the public in order to encourage more citizens to participate in the effort and take greater responsibility and by taking nine key industries and spurring them into engines for economic growth. These industries such as solar energy, fuel cells, and energy storage technology currently, are expected to grow an average of 15 percent annually over the next decade.

TAIWAN-TAIPEI

Wages Decline As Unemployment Rises

A Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics report shows the real wage decline widened to a record 2.72 percent in July while consumer prices accelerated 5.92 percent. In addition, unemployment climbed 4.14 percent, the highest rate in three years and the employee turnover rate dropped to the second lowest in the

country's history as employees held on to their jobs and new job expansion slowed. The report also noted that of the unemployed, 5.26 percent had a college degree or higher.

THE NETHERLANDS-AMSTERDAM

Unemployment Drops

For the first time since 2002, unemployment has dropped. A report from Statistics Netherlands shows unemployment decreased from 4.4 percent of the labor force in June-August 2007 to 3.8 percent in June-August 2008. In the past six months, unemployment declined by an average of approximately three thousand per month although prior to that it was declining at a rate of six thousand per month. Women accounted for more than two-thirds of the decline with 4.6 percent of the female labor force unemployed versus 3.1 percent of the male labor force.

UK-LONDON

Expert Recommends Cleaning Product Firm

A 20-year veteran specialist in international companies, who manages an international company fund, has recommended Bunzl PLC to her investors. The fund focuses on global companies that are leaders in their industry and have strong management, a track record of a high level of profitability and good growth prospects. Bunzl, based in London, is a distributor of disposable, not-for-sale or "nuisance items" such as plastic packaging, meat trays, stir sticks, cleaning supplies and toiletries, and safety apparel. Its market capitalization is US\$4-billion with 48% of its revenue coming from North America and 47% from the U. K. and Continental Europe. The specialist sees the customer base expanding with revenue growth at 8 percent and operating margins at 7 percent. She also notes the company return on equity is high at 34% and the stock trades at 12 times 2009 EPS estimates.

UK-MANCHESTER

Trapped Particles Can Lead To Contamination

Researchers at Manchester Metropolitan University have found that particles trapped in scratched surfaces can help bacteria survive industrial cleaning procedures in food processing factories. This can lead to possible food contamination with pathogenic bacteria. After comparing different methods for detection of food residues, which included ultraviolet (UV) light, microscopy and chemical and physiochemical techniques, the researchers found that minute particles of soil that remain on surfaces such as stainless steel often go undetected. The scientists report that more intense procedures for identifying food soil should be undertaken to help arrive at effective cleaning processes.

US-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Safer Chemical Policies Supported

Echoing the measures laid out under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, a global plan of action adopted by environmental and health leaders in Dubai in 2006, the World Federation of Public Health Associations at its 42nd Annual Meeting in Geneva passed a resolution in support of safer chemical policies. The resolution calls for preventing adverse effects among those who are especially vulnerable to the health risks of chemicals including women and children and that chemicals are used and produced in ways that minimize their effects on human and environmental health by 2020.

US-TEXAS

Discovery Can Help Bird Flu Fight

Researchers at Rutgers University and the University of Texas at Austin have discovered a virus protein, NS1, which is shared by all influenza A viruses including bird flu. When NS1 binds to one of its human protein targets, it suppresses the natural defenses of the human body, which then allows the virus to replicate itself more efficiently. The

discovery will help lead to the development of drugs to fight the Bird Flu and other strains of influenza.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

JohnsonDiversey

The World Wildlife Fund announced JohnsonDiversey, has joined the WWF Climate Savers program, pledging to significantly reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions from their operations. The company announced it will invest \$19 million over the next five years to achieve these commitments, but anticipates operational savings of \$31 million over the same period, which demonstrates, say company officials, that sustainability is the right approach for both the environment and the bottom line. WWF President and CEO Carter Roberts said the actions being taken by JohnsonDiversey to address climate change will set a new standard for the cleaning industry and serve as a model for other companies seeking to transform the way they do business to help preserve the environment. By 2013, JohnsonDiversey officials pledged to reduce emissions from their operations by 8 percent below 2003 levels, an 89,000 ton reduction in emissions. To achieve that target, the company outlined a number of operational initiatives including: improving the fuel efficiency of its worldwide auto and truck fleet by switching to vehicles with the best fuel efficiency in their class and alternative energy vehicles; upgrading the energy efficiency of its buildings, manufacturing plants and operations in major sites around the world; and installing on-site alternative energy sources such as fuel cells or wind turbines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

17th Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors

Buenos Aires, Argentina
October 26-29, 2008

Visit www.wfbsc2008.com.ar
for more information.

18th Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors

New Zealand - 2010



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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