

 **WASTECON 2006**



Well it's come and gone again WasteCon 2006 was held at The Lord Charles Hotel in Somerset West, Cape Town and what a wonderful congress this was. The steering committee with the assistance of Lesley Ferreira and the team of Cebisa Conferences had worked full steam over the past few months; everything was in place, catering and entertainment for the social functions had been arranged.

Excellent papers were submitted and speakers were lined up to present the delegates with some interesting facts and figures.

The morning of 4 September dawned and all the golf players sent off to enjoy themselves on the De Zalze golf course. The girls from Cebisa were adding the final touches to the registration process which was slightly delayed in an attempt to ensure that registration would run smoothly and that delegates would be attended to with professionalism and speed. And then registration opened and of course ran smoothly, delegates received a beautifully crafted bag made from recycled cans something that can be treasured for the future. (Take the time to study your bag to see what time and craft man ship it took to make it).

The meet and greet was well attended and some of those deserving golfers received well earned prizes. Food was served in the form of a finger buffet and then the networking began, delegates met friends and acquaintances last seen at the previous WasteCon; views were exchanged on new technologies and general industry news. The foyer was a buzz!! Behind the scenes the organisers were hard at work making sure that all would run smoothly for the official opening the next morning.

The opening ceremony was once again adorned with several Presidents and recognition awards. Congratulations to all that received these.



The Deputy Minister of Ms R Mabudafhasi address. She stated would be out at the end action be implemented needed to work together



Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism graced us with her presence and gave the keynote "that the first draft of the waste management bill of the year and that it was crucial that a plan of to empower the Historically Disadvantaged. We all to improve the services and to achieve this we need to share and empower others. We produce so much waste and there is opportunity to empower others to assist in handling this waste and this should include women. We share our knowledge with others enabling them to assist in providing a better South Africa. We need to support governmental projects and challenges industry to do the same. Recycling and waste buy back centres are high on the agenda. Well done Buyisa- E Bag, you are doing a wonderful job; we need to share your success. The glass industry is in a similar process as well as paper and PET. In line with the Polokwane declaration 70% of all waste should not reach the waste stream by 2022 and we should see targets to this effect. The new President Mr Shirleigh Strydom has indicated that he wants things to happen and DEAT will have to help. We need to get the youth involved in industry creating jobs and eventually owning companies. Please support them. The youth will inherit the environment, we need them now!"

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After all the formalities the congress was in full swing, delegates were changing from venue to venue listening to presentations that were of interest to them.



The indoor exhibition was a hive of activity with some wonderfully innovative stands. The larger exhibitors were outside in the parking area with huge trucks everywhere, what a sight this was. Delegates were continually reminded to support the exhibitors.

After the events of the treated to an excellent Tasting Evening was in a



first day the delegates were social function. The Wine nearby school hall, well

when I walked in my breath was taken away, it looked lovely, colorful lights and small stalls all over, the food and wine all looked so good, delegates mingled and more networking took place. Mayor Helen Zille addressed the delegates although due to technical glitch those situated in the back of the hall did not realise that she was there or even heard her speech. But being the professional person she is the Mayor continued with the speech joking about the noise in the background. The feasting and wine tasting began and believe me all enjoyed it.

Delegates enjoyed the sessions on the second day and the Patrons and Past Presidents were treated to a very special lunch to celebrate the thirtieth birthday of the IWMSA. The day was ended with the Annual General Meeting of the IWMSA which was very well attended, the members voiced their concerns and Council promised that these concerns would be addressed promptly.

The Gala evening was held in a school hall and, believe me with all the drapes and beautiful art works that adorned the wall one could not imagine this to be a hall. Boet and Swaar entertained the delegates with some South African humour, not all appreciated this but then how will you ever please every one of your delegates, this was an impossible task. The D and A band took over providing some excellent lively music. Eventually all were on their feet dancing and enjoying the evening. The food was excellent and well presented. Unfortunately as is always the case with this sort of function, many people that had indicated that they would attend the function did not arrive, meals had been prepared, and the organisers then decided that all the excess food would be donated to the homeless. We are all in the business of waste and when it comes to food nothing is wasted, many mouths were fed that night. The art work on the walls was then auctioned off realising a total R52000.00; this money would be donated to various charities in the area. Thank you to all those who participated you don't realise how much you actually contributed to making someone life a little easier.

And then sadly the last day of the congress dawned; the day was once again full of interesting topics and presentations which, sadly came to and end far too soon. Howard Robinson gave an excellent presentation on the events of the past few days and all were thanked for their hard work. A banner was handed over to the KZN Branch chairman; well I can only say they have a huge task on their hands.

The social function was held at Moyo, well once again the committee outdid themselves. The event was an experience never to be forgotten. The ambience was African and the selection of food never-ending. Here you could eat what you wanted when you wanted. Networking continued, old friends and colleagues used the opportunity to say their goodbyes.

WasteCon 2006 was well arranged and delivered some outstanding presentations. For those of you that could not attend please visit our website to view some photos taken at the event. CD's of the proceedings will be available at Head Office so please call should you require a copy at a nominal cost of course.



**Thank you
Western Cape
Branch - You guys
did an excellent job
!!!!**