

Community Plumbing Challenge

Fresh off the success of the Water Innovation Challenge in Singapore earlier this year, the World Plumbing Council (WPC) is pleased to announce the formation of the Community Plumbing Challenge, proposed for September 9 -11, 2015, in Nashik, India, in conjunction with the Indian Plumbing Conference.

Participants in the challenge will demonstrate the plumbing skills and techniques required to implement water harvesting/catchment and effective sanitation systems using locally available materials to ensure cost-effective solutions. It also will encourage local communities and individuals in nearby villages to learn the basic plumbing skills required to meet their own water and sanitation needs.



In June, the United States and Australia participated in the three-day Water Innovation Challenge, a competition in which the participants worked to develop innovative solutions for emerging water and sanitation in Nepal and Bangladesh in a series of hands-on design challenges.

The WPC is looking to expand on that event, and is seeking teams from India, the United States, Australia, South Africa, China, Germany, Switzerland and Canada, as well as others from WorldSkills countries not directly involved in the WPC, to participate in the event.

Grant Stewart, a former WorldSkills Plumbing expert who is now technical director, will serve as one of the coordinators for the Community Plumbing Challenge. Along with former WorldSkills champion Sean Kearney, Stewart will visit India early next year to meet with key industry stakeholders, including Sudhakaran Nair of the WPC and the Indian Plumbing Association (IPA); Neeta Sharma of IAPMO-India; Millind Shette, chairman of the IPA Nashik Chapter; Vinay Gupta of the Indian Plumbing Skills Council; and Indian WorldSkills representatives to discuss and finalize the program in Nashik, as well as to review facilities, accommodations and logistics.

The Global Community Plumbing Challenge targets the first three of Australian company Healthabitat's *Healthy Living Practices*, which were developed as a result of a detailed study of the living environment of aboriginal communities in Central Australia. In order of priority, they are (1) Washing people, especially children; (2) Washing clothes and bedding; and (3) Removing wastewater safely. Its goal is to contribute to improvements to global health in regions where communities are still threatened by a lack of basic sanitation and safe drinking water systems.

The challenge also seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Work with communities to design, produce and install sustainable solutions to problems of water quality and supply and sanitation;
- Provide education and training opportunities for community members and CPC teams and facilitate formal recognition of knowledge and skills gained;
- Promote the role of plumbing skills in solving problems of water quality and supply and sanitation; disseminate project outcomes to stakeholders and the general public; advocate for quality education and training based on real life problem solving by multidisciplinary teams; and
- Review and evaluate projects in consultation with communities and apply feedback to the continuous



improvement of project processes and outcomes; Produce and disseminate reports, stories, analyses and resources to support new projects and engage new organizations and individuals.

These objectives will be implemented through community-based projects that address water and sanitation issues identified by community leaders and may involve repairs and maintenance to existing infrastructure; installation of new water and sanitation facilities; and the design of innovative systems aimed at achieving long-term environmental and economic stability.

Community groups and high schools will have the opportunity to be part of the challenge's focus at its 2015 conference, making the promotion and delivery of the Community Plumbing Challenge a key priority for India in 2015. The World Plumbing Conference will be held in Capetown, South Africa the following year, and an event similar to the Community Plumbing Challenge to run concurrent with that conference is also on the agenda.

By supporting the Community Plumbing Challenge events in India in 2015 and South Africa in 2016, WPC member countries will foster community engagement and participation in gaining access to water and sanitation which will benefit the health and wellbeing of local communities.

The community health and safety challenges that the continents of Asia and Africa face make them a priority for the positive educational and skills development programs the Community Plumbing Challenge offers toward improving the public's health and well-being.

Second award for bath products 'Design for All'

Award presentation at the ISH 2015 – "Verband Wohneigentum", the German Association of Homeowners, joins the ZVSHK as a new partner – The Award promotes the principles of Design for All – Federal Environment Minister Dr. Barbara Hendricks acts as patron for the award



For the second time, the ZVSHK, the German Sanitation, Heating and Air Conditioning Association, is launching its international design prize for barrier-free bathroom products for all generations. Manufacturers and producers are invited to submit bathroom products that adhere to the principles of Design for All for the ZVSHK Bathroom Design for All Product Award. "After the widely acclaimed launch of the award two years ago, it was clear that we would continue running the competition," explains Manfred Stather, President of the ZVSHK. "As the leading representative of the interests of the German plumbing and HVAC trade, our aim with the competition is to promote forward-looking solutions that respond to the challenges of demographic change."

To encompass the full extent of bathroom fittings, this year not only sanitaryware manufacturers but also producers of electrical equipment, doors, windows, bathroom furniture and wall and floor surfacing materials may also submit their bathroom products. Submissions can be made online on www.zvshk-award.com from 1 September 2014. The winners will be announced on 12 March 2015 at the ISH 2015 trade fair in Frankfurt am Main in Germany.

Dr. Barbara Hendricks, the German Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, will act as patron for the award. An international jury of experts will assess all product submissions according to the principles of Design for All, and the jury is supported by the European Institute for Design for All.

This year the Verband Wohneigentum, the German Association of Homeowners, joins the award as a new cooperation partner. Design for All Europe (EIDD), the German Sanitary Industry Association (VDS) and the German Federation of Domestic Installation Wholesalers (DGH) continue their support of the ZVSHK Product Award as they did for the first iteration of the competition. The SBZ Branch Magazine, published by Gentner Verlag in Stuttgart, will once again act as media partner.

World Plumbing Council Unveils Research Database

The World Plumbing Council is proud to announce the availability of a research database on its web site. The database is designed to provide users with the opportunity to investigate what is happening around the globe regarding research efforts pertaining to plumbing and water-related issues. The concept is to provide a resource to all interested parties to help learn about research programs that have been completed or are in progress on specific plumbing or water-related topical areas. The database also has a feature allowing users to submit their ideas and recommendations regarding new research programs that support advancing the body of knowledge along those same topical areas. In providing this resource, the WPC hopes to reduce duplication of research efforts and facilitate a new level of collaboration among researchers.

The website is intended to be utilized by academic researchers, students, industry, manufacturers, associations, standards-developing organizations, governmental entities or any individual interested in plumbing or water-related research programs. It uses free and open-source "wiki"-type software intended to be usable by anyone without having to download or install any proprietary programs. As with any wiki site, the growth and usefulness of this website will be dependent upon how well utilized it becomes by its users.

“I’m excited about the availability of the WPC Research Database,” said Pete DeMarco, senior vice president of Advocacy and Research for The IAPMO Group. DeMarco was one of several co-chairs from around the globe who worked to develop the database for the WPC. “As water risk challenges become increasingly apparent globally, the database can play a role toward reducing redundancy in research efforts and creating a platform for researchers to collaborate and share ideas and data,” DeMarco said.

Sudhakaran Nair, WPC Chairman, said ‘This is a fantastic initiative and I commend all involved in its development. It provides a unique research portal for individuals, industry associations and manufacturers across the world to access and upload valuable research information.’

The WPC Research Database may be found at www.worldplumbing.org/research/tiki-index.php or by visiting <http://worldplumbing.org/index.html> and clicking on “Research” in the upper right portion of the page.

Perceptions and Experiences of Apprenticeships in Plumbing

The following abstract was submitted by Dr Simon Reddy to the University of Exeter, England, as the introduction to his thesis for a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Education

The thesis calls on Reddy’s biographical detail and tells the story through three different lenses of identity as a master plumber, plumbing teacher and student.

The study seeks to ask some important questions about the training, qualifications and work experience that new plumbers receive prior to entry into the occupation that would be of interest to many readers of the WPC Review. Reddy says:

“I was growing increasingly concerned, as a master plumber, about the quality of workmanship I was encountering and, as a plumbing teacher, about the supply and demand of apprentice plumbers in relation to public safety and the reputation of the occupation. Moreover, as a plumbing teacher and student of education, I felt some responsibility for the courses I was involved in teaching.”



*Dr Simon Reddy
Master Plumber*

Abstract: There has been an increasing amount of interest shown in vocational education and apprenticeships in the early twenty-first century by successive governments and other parties connected with occupational training. However, the English further education sector has been described as chronically under-researched’ (James and Biesta, 2007: 7), particularly in regard to narrative accounts of college education and pedagogy (Richardson, 2007) and there has been very little empirical research on pathways into the plumbing profession. This study explored teachers’ and students’ perceptions and experiences of both full-time college courses and apprenticeships in



*The Plumber’s Apprentice
statue in
London, England*

plumbing in order to deepen understanding of these particular types of vocational preparation. It also endeavoured to investigate whether the two different routes into plumbing appeared fit for purpose. Within an interpretive framework, data were collected using two main research methods. Ethnographic snapshot observations were recorded during lessons in three further education colleges and at the workplaces of five plumbing students and formal 1:1 semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 tutors and 14 students. The data were thematically analysed.

From the many issues relating to the opportunities offered and the challenges posed by the different pathways into plumbing that this study identified, three key findings emerged. First, there was strong evidence of a dislocation between theory and practical learning, both within the college setting for full-time students and between the workplace and college settings for apprenticed learners. This had implications for both the quality of learning and the learners’ levels of motivation. Second, the study revealed the importance of supervised work experience that was centred on long-term acquisition of knowledge and relationship development for apprentices with support from their college tutors and co-workers. Finally, the findings showed the importance of authentic assessment. It was found that simulations in college could not adequately replicate the experience of doing the job in the real world. Given the inherent risks and problems regularly encountered in the plumbing profession, this signaled significant health and safety implications.

Dr Simon Reddy’s thesis can be found at <http://hdl.handle.net/10871/15728>

WaterAid’s Big History

WaterAid, the international charity that seeks to improve water supply, hygiene and sanitation in the world’s poorest countries, has launched its Big History project in the United Kingdom. The project is timed to



coincide with the 150-year anniversary in 2015 of the opening of the first modern sewer in London.

Big History will ask WaterAid supporters in the UK to explore and record the history of water and sanitation in their own area, in order to build a picture of the country's journey to achieving toilets and safe water supply for the entire population. By building this information base, WaterAid will be able to demonstrate to government and the public the difference that access to safe water and toilets can make to health and productivity. At the same time, says WaterAid, the project will provide information which can be used to help other villages and towns around the world.

Data will be collected until March 2015 and a report is scheduled to be released in July, together with a series of exhibitions, media and social media activities.

Companies and individuals are encouraged to support the Big History project and further details are available from Nicki Goddard at nickigoddard@wateraid.org

ISH 2015

Innovative bathroom design in focus

Modern bathroom design varies widely across the world, from the opulence sometimes seen in the United States where bathrooms can occupy a third of the living space, to Japan where traditional space restrictions in the major cities force an economy of scale. In other societies, China for example, traditional public bathing is giving way to a more Western-influenced approach resulting in domestic bathrooms which still include traditional elements but also embrace modern European glamour with a wide range of styles.

Whether it's Brazil or Bahrain, Australia or Austria, bathroom design across the world is becoming ever more innovative and ISH 2015 is seeking to reflect this. ISH is the leading trade fair for Building, Energy, Air-conditioning Technology and Renewable Energies which in 2015 will showcase *Energy efficiency-plus; Interior + Technology - Design and Function*

in Harmony; and Future Buildings. Its 'Water' area will include exhibitors showing designer bathroom solutions which will include not only the

latest in design, but also modern sustain-able technology adapted to today's needs.

ISH 2015, will be held in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, March 10 -14, 2015. The Water area will be, say the organisers, "emblematic of the overriding theme of technology - design and function in harmony". Reflecting this, it will embrace the efficient use of water as a resource, cleaning and hygiene plus special solutions for individual user requirements.

There is more about ISH 2015 at ish.messefrankfurt.com



Dates for Your Diary

World Plumbing Day, March 11 Every Year, Everywhere

World Plumbing Council General Meeting

ISH 2015, Frankfurt am Main, Germany March 14, 2015

ISH 2015

Frankfurt am Main, Germany March 10 – 14, 2015

ISH CHINA & CIHE 2015

New China International Exhibition Center, Beijing May 13 – 14, 2015

Community Plumbing Challenge & Indian Plumbing Conference

Nashik, India September 9 – 11, 2015

World Plumbing Council General Meeting

Shanghai, China. September 22 - 23, 2015 (dates to be confirmed)

ISH Shanghai & CIHE 2015

Shanghai New International Expo Centre September 23 – 25, 2015

World Plumbing Council General Meeting

Warsaw, Poland March 2016 (to be confirmed)

World Plumbing Council Triennial Meeting

Capetown, South Africa September 14, 2016

11th World Plumbing Conference & Expo

Capetown, South Africa September 15 – 16, 2016

Members:

If you have conferences or events that you would like listed in this section of the REVIEW, please send details to secretariat@worldplumbing.org

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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 for the benefit of all

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