



Australian Institute of Environmental Health

... our environment, our health, our future

28 April 2008

Media Release

10th World Congress on Environmental Health Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre 11-16 May 2008

The 10th World Congress on Environmental Health will be held in Brisbane from 11-16 May 2008. The Congress is hosted by the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) and the Australian Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH). The theme for the Congress is 'Environmental Health, a sustainable future – 20 years on...' in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the inaugural World Congress on Environmental Health, which was held in Sydney and coincided with the World Expo.

The Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh MP, is personally welcoming delegates to the 10th World Congress on Environmental Health with her letter of welcome and support. In her letter the Premier states 'The challenges the world faces in our quest for a sustainable future have not diminished over the years, but they have changed'. She notes that 'By reflecting on the battles won over the past 20 years and the new challenges we face, environmental health professionals and governments across the globe can work together and move towards a more sustainable future'⁽¹⁾.

During the Congress over 400 delegates representing nearly 50 countries will hear from an impressive lineup of keynote speakers and presenters, including the world-renowned Professor Ian Lowe with his keynote address on *Sustainability and environmental health: opportunities to make a difference*. Other keynote speakers include:

- Emeritus Prof Valerie Brown, Vice-President of the Australian National Sustainability Initiative, presenting on *Environmental health: hope for the future*;
- Gary McFarlane from the Charter Institute of Environmental Health (UK) urgently calling for action from environmental health professionals to address climate change;
- Dr Linda Selvey, Deputy Chief Health Officer & Senior Director of Population Health Services in Queensland Health, promoting *Climate change: the time to act is now!*;
- Henning Hansen, International Federation of Environmental Health, László Pintér International Institute for Sustainable Development, presenting on *Sustainability indicator systems - how to measure progress*;
- Dr Hisashi Ogawa, Environmental Health Advisor for the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, addressing the *Challenges and opportunities for environmental health in the Western Pacific region*;
- Tom Calma, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, presenting on *Indigenous environmental health: challenges and opportunities*; and
- Prof Umar F. Achmadi from the University of Indonesia, discussing the *Globalisation of emerging disease and local specificity in the Asia Pacific Region: a lesson learnt from Indonesia*.

There will also be 110 concurrent sessions, covering important topics such as climate change and sustainability, environmental management, pollution, water quality, food safety, indigenous health, communicable disease control and disaster management.

Dr Jim Smith, President of the AIEH, notes that: 'Environmental health is a dynamic field which has changed a lot since the inaugural World Congress in 1988. Whilst some issues such as food safety remain topical, other issues such as climate change have emerged as global concerns. But rather than just looking back, we have to consider what environmental health challenges we're likely to face in the future, and what action is needed to prevent or minimise the negative impacts associated with these issues. That's exactly what environmental health professionals from all around the world will be doing during the 10th World Congress on Environmental Health. We anticipate that the knowledge shared, relationships strengthened and action arising from this World Congress on Environmental Health will help to build a sustainable future for us all.'

References:

1. Bligh, A. 2008, 'Message from the Premier', *The International Federation of Environmental Health 10th World Congress on Environmental Health*, www.ifeh2008.org/docs/84828IFEHProgram.pdf

Relevant publications and resources:

- International Foundation of Environmental Health (IFEH) 10th World Congress on Environmental Health:
 - <http://www.ifeh2008.org/index.php>
- 10th World Congress on Environmental Health program:
 - www.ifeh2008.org/docs/84828IFEHProgram.pdf

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Media Invitation attached.

Page 2 of 2.