



ONLINE WORKSHOP: WORLD TOILET DAY

VOICES FROM GENERATIONS OF WASH PROFESSIONALS

Date: 17 November 2022

Time: 13h00 to 14h45

Registration link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DAamdRf-S6Shv5U1GjEUnw

Event owner: Sudhir Pillay

South Africa has produced high-quality Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) professionals that continue to develop world-leading products for the improvement of public health. For World Toilet Day, some of these professionals from different generations will speak on some of the lessons, successes, and mentorship in goal setting. Join us as some of the professionals share their skills, knowledge and expertise to stimulate other WASH professionals in achieving their goals.

Background

The 19th of November 2022 is the official United Nations international observance day, World Toilet Day. Nearly half of the global population lacks safe sanitation and every day, around 700 children under age 5 die from diarrhoea linked to unsafe water, sanitation and poor hygiene. In a bid to break the stigma around toilets and encourage behavioural change and stimulate the increase of safe and appropriate sanitation, World Toilet Day was declared an official UN day in 2013.

Toilets are one the most important medical barriers for the home and prevent the spread of disease. The provision of safe and hygienic toilets has a positive impact on public health, human dignity, and personal safety, especially for females. Without a safe and hygienic toilet, people often have no choice but to use open fields or unreliable, unhygienic toilets. Toilets are one part of the solution; the emptying, collection and subsequent disposal of human faecal waste are equally important to ensure that untreated human waste does get out into the environment and spreads deadly diseases. World Toilet Day serves as an important reminder to all citizens of the importance of safely managed sanitation

For this World Toilet Day, the Water Research Commission (WRC) is hosting an online webinar that is open to everyone. For the webinar, we have invited various generations of WASH professionals to ask them how and why they get involved in the field, what lessons have they learned, provide feedback on some of their challenges and successes, and what advice would they give for future WASH professionals for them to succeed in their career.



Fig.1 Some photos of earlier sanitation researchers and research undertakings. Left: Mr Jay Bhagwan, Mr John Harrison and Mr David Still inspect a lightweight VIP superstructure. Right: Municipal staff trying to sieve collected faecal sludge at the head of a wastewater works; at the time, it was not known the effect faecal sludge would have on wastewater works. Through a collective research effort, we now understand the characteristics of latrine sludge.

Draft Programme Chair – Dr Sudhir Pillay, WRC

Draft Agenda		
13h00 - 13h10	Welcome & Opening	Mr Jay Bhagwan (WRC)
13h10 – 13h25	My +20 Year Sanitation Journey	Mr Dave Still (PID)
13h25 - 13h35	From the Private Sector to Innovating for Improved Services	Mz Lungi Zuma (EWS)
13h35-13h45	Liquid Gold – My Urine Innovation Story	Prof Dyllon Randall (UCT)
13h45 – 13 h55	My Sanitation Journey	Mz Lusanda Agbasi (DWS)
13h55 – 14h05	What Were Key Drivers to WASH Success?	Mz Jeanette Neethling (PID)
14h05 – 14h15	Re-Engineering the Toilet – How Did I Get Here?	Mz Reneiloe Seodigeng (BAAS)
14h15 – 14h30	Climbing the WASH Professional Ladder: Lessons Learnt	Mz Estella Zandile Jingxi (UKZN)
14h30-14h45	Open Discussion & Questions	Sudhir Pillay (WRC)
	Close	

Target audience

Participation from the following stakeholder groups is highly encouraged and these are research institutions and organisations, consultants, municipalities and water sector officials.