

Editor's Note

In this issue of the *Water Wheel* we are breaking new ground. Not only will the *Water Wheel*'s circulation figure exceed the 7 000 mark, but for the first time we will be publishing a fiction story (see page 14).

WHY THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT?

Firstly, the needs and involvement of stakeholders should be mentioned. In the world of accounting, corporations are nowadays encouraged to move beyond the traditional single financial bottom line reporting to what is known as the "triple bottom line". The three lines represent the economy, the environment and society and focus corporations not just on the economic value they add, but also on the environmental and social value they add – and destroy. Society depends on the economy – and the economy depends on the global ecosystem whose health represents the ultimate bottom line. This broadens the company's stakeholders to almost everyone in society.

In the water field, everyone is also a stakeholder. In a country like South Africa, where drought and water-borne disease are rampant, there is a particularly dire need to make the public more aware of this important stakeholder relationship that they have with water. Traditionally, water scientists and managers have used facts and figures to try and create awareness, understanding and appreciation for water. Now fiction is added to broaden the communication spectrum, and we trust that – side by side – fact and fiction will mutually reinforce each other, as well as strengthen the broader message – the importance of water.

Secondly, the Water Research Commission is taking the initiative to move beyond its traditional sphere of influence and build capacity in the water literature field where so much talent is just waiting to be stimulated.

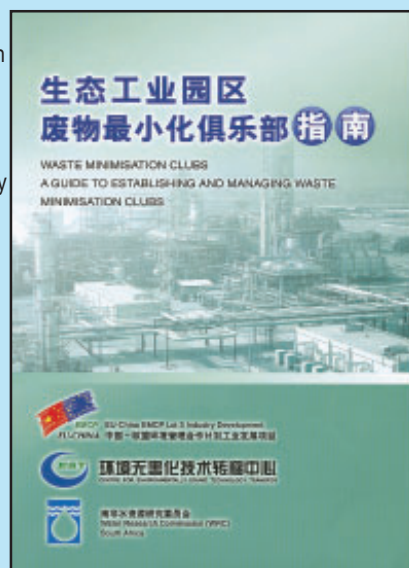
Therefore, if you feel you would like to make a contribution, we hereby invite you to submit your work to the *Water Wheel*.

Looking forward to your comments and contributions.

WRC MANUAL IN CHINESE

A Guide for establishing waste minimization clubs in South Africa, has been translated into Chinese. The Guide was originally compiled for the Water Research Commission by Susan Barclay of the Pollution Research Group, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban.

The translation and free distribution of the Guide is sponsored by the EU-China Environmental Management Cooperation Programme. For more information visit their website: www.cestt.org.cn/emcp/eindex.htm



WORLD WATER DAY

The theme for next year's World Water Day, which will be held on 22 March 2005, is "Water for Life 2005 – 2015".

According to Dick de Jong from IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre in the Netherlands, the theme highlights the fact that water is critical for sustainable development, including environmental integrity and the alleviation of poverty and hunger.

De Jong says the United Nations General Assembly agreed in December 2003 to proclaim the years 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action – Water for Life, starting on World Water Day.

He says the Water for Life decade will help to achieve the water-related goals of the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development as well as Agenda 21.

The first water decade from 1981 to 1990 brought water to more than a billion people and safer sanitation to almost 770 million.

AMIWASH ANNOUNCED

Entebbe, 6 November 2004 - a new program called the African Ministerial Initiative for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene" or AMIWASH, was announced at the opening session of the 5th general meeting of the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) today.

AMIWASH will be formally launched, with the support of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) at the forthcoming Global WASH Forum in Dakar, Senegal, from 29 November to 3 December 2004.

The AMIWASH programme is intended to be a political advocacy for Sanitation and Hygiene on the African Continent. It will assist African countries to achieve their Millennium Declaration goals through coalition building, WASH advocacy, policy development and implementation.

Mr Jay Bhagwan from the Water Research Commission was elected to the steering committee.