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# Waste Management

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## IWWG News & Views

Compiled by Marco Ritzkowski

*In this issue: Announcement of a training course on LeachXS Lite during the Sardinia 2017 Symposium; Social aspects of waste management presented on the IWWG webpage; Waste Management Editorials and News&Views; information on the IWWG Universities Forum; latest news about the International Waste Management and Landfill Symposium – Sardinia 2017 and details on future IWWG events.*

### IWWG training courses during the Sardinia 2017 Symposium

In line with a fine tradition a couple of IWWG training courses have been arranged for Sunday 1st October, prior to opening of the Sardinia 2017 Symposium. As customary these courses will be conducted under the supervision of leading international experts. Courses are open to all Symposium participants and are suited to beginners. Certification of attendance will be distributed at the end of each course. Next you may find a more detailed description on one of the scheduled courses.

#### *Leaching Assessment using LeachXS Lite*

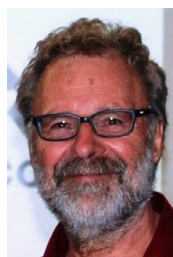
New leaching test methods have been finalized in Europe and the United States, which facilitate more robust evaluation of the environmental safety of materials under beneficial use and disposal conditions. These methods are anticipated to form the basis for developing environmental compatibility requirements for materials and other emerging environmental regulations. LeachXS Lite provides a tool for managing and evaluating data from the new leaching tests and historic tests for characterisation and environmental impact assessment of (contaminated) soil, sludge, compost, sediments, various types of municipal, industrial and hazardous wastes, mining wastes, preserved wood, treated wastes, stabilised waste and construction materials based on contaminant release as derived from leaching tests (pH dependence, percolation, monolith leach test). LeachXS Pro-Orchestra includes models for geochemical modelling of test data and prediction/decision support tools.

The following aspects will be covered: Introduction to leaching, LeachXS Lite and use of new leaching tools, comparison of different leaching tests; statistical data evaluation and quality control options; compliance testing; comparison of laboratory, lysimeter and field data; data input tool, reporting functions.

Geochemical speciation modelling of leaching test data and predictive modelling of release in different exposure scenarios will only be briefly addressed as available time is too short for an in-depth training. Time permitting an ad hoc LeachXS Pro training might be arranged during the conference.

The course will be chaired by Andre van Zomeren (Energy research Centre of the Netherlands, ECN) and Hans van der Sloot. Dr. Hans van der Sloot has retired from the Netherlands Energy Research Foundation (ECN, Petten, The Netherlands). Since January 2010 he started his private consultancy. He has been involved in

standardization of leaching tests for waste, soil and construction products at national and international level (CEN, ISO, US EPA). He is involved in several waste, construction and landfill related studies dealing with preparation of regulations. He is Associate editor for Waste Management. He is a board member of the International Waste Working Group (IWWG) and active in developing of and providing training in a decision support tool for environmental impact assessment (LeachXS) in cooperation with ECN (Petten, The Netherlands), Vanderbilt University (Nashville, USA) and DHI (Hørsholm, Denmark).



Hans van der Sloot



Andre van Zomeren

The final timetable for all courses as well as information about the courses' location and hardware requirements are available on the symposium's webpage ([www.sardiniasymposium.it](http://www.sardiniasymposium.it)) in due time. More details on the training courses including background information about the courses' Chairs are available from the IWWG webpage (<http://www.iwwg.eu>).

### Social aspects of Waste Management – A special section on the IWWG website

The IWWG is continuously up-dating information on the social aspects of waste management on its website ([www.iwwg.eu](http://www.iwwg.eu)). Initiated by a joint approach of Cristina van der Westhuyzen and Rainer Stegmann, different aspects of this topic are presented and reflected by guest editors. The intention behind the idea is the fact that social aspects of waste are often ignored or underestimated by present-day waste management strategies hinged on advanced technology to process the vast amounts of waste produced globally.

There is however an increasing appreciation for the need to consider and value these aspects when solving waste problems and finding new solutions. This is particularly true for developing and transient countries where the Informal Sector plays an important role in waste management.

In parts of the world, such as Brazil, efforts have been made to organize and structure the work done by the Informal Sector and to incorporate informal activities into waste management plans. The challenges faced by workers in the Informal Sector are many, ranging from hazardous, unsanitary work conditions to poor remuneration. Waste pickers, also known as “scavengers”, looking for recyclable goods on landfills are exposed to toxic fumes, bad hygienic conditions, dangerous compounds lurking in the heaps and ruthless dumping vehicles. The perils are many and the rewards are few however, in countries with high unemployment rates, this form of occupation is sometime the only means of survival for many people.

There are numerous examples of programs where the waste management activities of the Informal Sector have been successfully organized to build the capacity of disadvantaged communities and to improve their living conditions whilst increasing the volumes of waste recovered for recycling, cleaning up polluted areas and introducing treatment procedures that contribute to waste reduction. With this page on social aspects the IWWG wish to bring Informal Sector projects and initiatives to the attention of our viewers in the hope that this will generate a productive dialogue around this very important dimension of waste management. Furthermore we also aim to address issues of negative public perception, resistance and skepticism towards waste management strategies often created by misinformation. For this purpose, the focus will be on the role of information, education and projects to empower the public with knowledge and to promote a culture of waste reduction, reusing, recycling and safe disposal. A number of papers dealing with this subject are available to IWWG members free of charge in the proceedings of past IWWG conferences and also in the Waste Management journal.

A special focus has been set on the consequences of war – in particular what regards the environmental perspective. With current

ongoing conflict worldwide and with increased awareness of the effects of warfare on the environment, it seems only appropriate to dedicate a space on our Social Page to the issues related to the management of waste produced by war.

This topic was amply discussed during the International Conference on Industrial and Hazardous Waste Management where Professor Evangelos Gidarakos and his students (Technical University of Crete) presented a poster exhibition on “The Consequences of War. An environmental perspective”. This Poster presentation gives a comprehensive account of the pollution created by nuclear, conventional, radioactive, biological and chemical weapons. This pollution has long term effects on human, animal and plant life through the contamination of water, soil and air. The damages caused to the environment concern every phase of warfare, from the production of weapons to their testing, storage, usage and disposal. The activities involved in each one of these phases require specialized processes and technology. When these are not available the risk of contamination is very high.

Generally war and weapons are highly polluting and the consequences to health and the environment, devastating and long lasting. So what to do? The exhibition presents some possibilities about how to “clean up the mess”.

We would like to invite you to visit the page and to explore the presented examples. Please let us have your thoughts, suggestions and ideas but first visit the following presentations for some really interesting stories.

## Waste Management Editorials and News&Views

Are you aware of the fact that both the editorial of the journal Waste Management and the official IWWG Newsletter ‘News&Views’ are available online at the members area of the IWWG website (<http://www.iwwg.eu>)? Moreover, after login to the Members Area you may find not only the current issues but also all editions of the past two years, easy and safe to handle through regularly up-dated overview tables.

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