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Water&Sanitation Africa

Countdown to WISA 2010

BY THE TIME you receive this first issue of **Water&Sanitation Africa** for 2010, you will most probably have just returned from your end-of-year leave and should be feeling well rested, revived and ready to tackle the new year, the one we have all been waiting for.

My editor's letter of this issue will focus on the upcoming WISA 2010 conference that will be taking place at the ICC in Durban in April 2010 from 18 to 22 April. On pages 8 and 9 of this issue, I chat to Dave Nozaic, WISA 2010's conference chairman, about what we can expect from this prestigious event.

In summary, over 350 abstracts have been received, of which approximately 150 have been selected. For the first time ever, papers are to be peer reviewed. A panel comprising prominent individuals in the water industry has been selected to assist with the review process.

On-site registration will commence on Sunday 18 April 2010 with the welcome cocktail reception taking place on that evening. The conference will open on Monday 19 April 2010, ending Wednesday 21 April, when a series of technical tours will take place. A wide range of topics will be presented during three parallel sessions that will commence after the opening ceremony on Monday 19 April. Four technical tours are scheduled that will cater for interest fields across the board, from technical people (scientists and engineers), environmentalists, and those involved in institutional affairs. A nominal fee will be charged.

There are approximately 130 exhibition stands, of which 90 have already been booked. The space at the venue is large and the refreshment stations will be accommodated within the exhibition hall.

Sponsorships have been secured for the meet-and-greet opening function, the gala dinner and the conference's closing function. The book of abstracts and CD of the conference proceedings have a partial sponsorship. Among the sponsorship supporters at this stage are Siemens, Zetachem, Umgeni Water, Rand Water Services, WEC Projects, 3S Media and the Water Research Commission.

More than 1 000 delegates are expected to attend the WISA 2010 conference. The deadline for early-bird registration is the 28 February 2010.

As I close off this issue, I am counting the number of days to the conference of the year! **35**

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