



## CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

The conference was attended by 260 delegates. 79 papers were presented and a field excursion was undertaken. The following conclusions summarise the comments of delegates during the various discussions that took place at the paper sessions as well as at the wrap-up session.

- This conference has been a major contribution to the development of ecosan both in Africa and the world.
- The challenges in front of us are enormous, especially if we want to contribute to meeting the MDGs.
- There are MDG meetings coming up and ecosan requires strategic positioning both now and in the future.
- There is an increased need to develop capacity, alliances with other sectors, and links to food security, agriculture, health, solid waste, energy, housing, etc.
- Ecological approaches to sanitation need to be better communicated and understood.
- Strengthening and widening of our network is necessary, including reaching out to the developed countries that have yet to become involved.
- Working groups are needed to provide continuity in the efforts we are making around the world.
- Ecosan is accepted as an approach to address the sanitation backlog.
- There should be an increased involvement of women at all stages of project implementation.
- User education is critical to the sustainability of any project.
- Ecological sanitation is not just about toilets, especially not just about urine-diversion toilets.
- Research results should be translated into practical guidelines as soon as possible. NB. Guidelines require adaptation to local conditions.
- We need to consult other professionals, e.g. architects, project managers, etc, in order to achieve well-performing projects.
- More case studies of large-scale applications are required.
- Ecological sanitation should be integrated with water resources management.



- We need to counter the perception that ecosan is expensive.
- Customer satisfaction is of cardinal importance.
- Logistics of collection systems for urine and faeces require further development.
- Breakaway groups for discussion would be a useful addition at future meetings.
- Each participant to leave a valuable contribution (a commodity) to inhabitants at site visits.
- Simultaneous translation into various languages at future conferences is recommended, but cost is recognized.
- Themed chat rooms on the internet prior to and following conferences are suggested.
- More agricultural use expertise is required at future conferences in order to balance the engineering input.
- Toilet designs for handicapped people: building norms are required.
- Going to scale means providing options poor people can access. Financial implications are critical and governance aspects need strengthening.
- The amount of information is increasing and more sectors are getting involved. There is a need for more effective dissemination.
- Communication via internet is restrictive for those with slow or no connections, requiring alternative methods to be put in place.
- Municipalities need to be encouraged to participate in future conferences.
- Dialogue on various sanitation options is necessary – beyond ecosan – to achieve participation of a larger diversity of stakeholders.
- South-south exchange of ecosan information/ideas should be enhanced.
- Tolerance is necessary among ecosan practitioners in order to accept a wider range of sanitation solutions.
- Enhanced dialogue with conventional sanitation engineers is necessary.
- Financial comparisons between conventional and alternative solutions need to be done.
- Better toilet designs for women and children need to be developed.



- Sanitation for refugee communities needs attention.
- A strategy to advocate sustainable sanitation at the global level is required in order to link the positive CSD results to the MDG meetings in New York.
- Curriculum development needs to be spearheaded by creating an international network for capacity building.
- Private sector involvement needs encouragement.
- It is necessary to organise how we move from one conference to the next. We need to meet in the meantime to help coordinate efforts – international working groups are recommended in order to tackle specific options.
- Presentations and case studies are not enough – there is a gap in marketing to the masses. A strategy is required. Regional working groups are needed to look at this aspect. Outreach and media programmes are necessary.
- University research involvement in ecosan needs to be increased.
- Politics of water, wastage of resources in affluent suburbs, virtual water export, etc are important linked issues.
- Need a balanced view of perception of risk – the health risk of dry sanitation is exaggerated compared to many other risks like chemical pollution from other sources.
- Mayors, ministers, etc from various countries should be invited to attend future conferences.
- Domestic financing of ecosan in developing countries needs to be encouraged and foreign financing reduced.
- In order to create markets, commercialisation of ecosan is required. Proof of functionality will be needed.
- Global conferences are expensive – would it be better to regionalize them instead?
- The municipal involvement in South Africa could be highlighted at a future domestic ecosan conference.
- Ecosan ambassadors need to be appointed in order to increase country participation at future conferences.
- Small businesses need to be developed.
- A clearing house is recommended for coordination of conference content between conferences.
- An ecosan journal is suggested – possibly an e-journal similar to the GTZ newsletter.



- International working groups:

A series of formal and informal working groups needs to be set up, e.g.

- **Technical groups** for design, greywater, urine management, nutrient recycling, environment and health aspects, attitudes and norms, etc.
- **Working groups** on capacity building, standards, regulations and guidelines, socio-economics, policy, scaling up and financing, private sector involvement, communications, information clearing house, etc.

And these should be asked to develop professional portfolios for these components.