

This News is brought to you by:

THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS



DECEMBER 2002

From the EXCO:

SEASONS GREETINGS: Kevin Rogers and the rest of the EXCO wish you a peaceful festive season. We would like to thank all members for their support and contributions to SASAqS during 2002 and look forward to working with you in 2003.

SASAqS CONFERENCE 2003 – CAPE TOWN: Please note the 29 June 2003 to 4 July 2003 in your diaries. It is the date for the annual SASAqS conference hosted by UCT. It will be held together with the bi-annual conference of the Zoological Society of Southern Africa and promises to be a momentous occasion. For more information please contact Heather Malan (hmalan@botzoo.uct.ac.za).

MEMBERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP FEES 2002: We would like to kindly request all members who have not paid their 2002 membership dues to please settle their accounts as soon as possible. Please inform the Secretary (Victor Wepener - vw@na.rau.ac.za) of any address changes or change in membership status.

Anybody wishing to submit an item for inclusion in the next issue must please email the information to Victor Wepener (vw@na.rau.ac.za) before the 10th of the particular month.

In Brief:

- 1. Course on Aquatic Biomonitoring in Water Resources Management:** The course will take place from Monday 10 to Friday 14 February 2003, at Rhodes University in Grahamstown. The deadline for registrations is 13 December 2002. Attached please find the course brochure and application form. More details could be found in the attached document. Contact details: Lisl Griffioen, Coastal & Environmental Services, PO Box 934, Grahamstown, 6140. Tel: 046-622 2364, Fax: 046-622 6564, lisl@cesnet.co.za.
- 2. Formation of the African Branch of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC):** With the formation of the African Branch of SETAC it is envisaged that connectivity between African researchers in the field of environmental chemistry and toxicology representing academia, industry and government will be increased. The African Branch of SETAC provides a forum for Africans to discuss African environmental problems with the support of the vast knowledge base that resides within SETAC. It is intended to launch the African Branch of SETAC during the International Conference on Pesticides in Non-Target Agricultural Environments that will be held from 21-23 January 2003 in Cape Town, South Africa. More details could be found in the attached document. Contact details: Victor Wepener vw@na.rau.ac.za.

Meetings:

1. SASAqS Annual Conference 2003 – Cape Town (Heather Malan, Department of Zoology, UCT)

Publications:

1. Call for latest research publications by SASAqS members

Job opportunities/ Courses/ Bursaries and Fellowships:

1. Call for information on employment opportunities, postgraduate bursaries, post-doc positions and fellowships in aquatic sciences.

▶ In Brief:

1. Course on Aquatic Biomonitoring in Water Resources Management:

See document.

2. Formation of the African Branch of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) is an independent, nonprofit professional society that provides a forum for individuals and institutions engaged in:

- Study of environmental issues,
- Management and conservation of natural resources,
- Environmental education, and
- Environmental research and development.

Environmental toxicology and chemistry embrace these fields of study:

- Analytical chemistry
- Anatomy / Physiology
- Atmospheric sciences and engineering
- Biology
- Classical toxicology
- Ecology
- Economics
- Environmental chemistry
- Genetics
- Microbiology
- Organic chemistry
- Physiology
- Soil sciences and engineering
- Water sciences and engineering

HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE

In the 1970's, no forum existed for interdisciplinary communication among environmental scientists -- biologists, chemists, toxicologists -- and others interested in environmental issues such as managers and engineers. The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) was founded in 1979 to fill the void. Based on the growth in membership, annual meeting attendance, and publications, the forum was needed.

A unique strength of SETAC is its commitment to balance the interests of academia, business, and government. The Society by-laws mandate equal representation from these three sectors for officers, Board of Directors, and Committee members. And although there is no control mechanism, the proportion of members from each of the three sectors has remained nearly equal over the past 22 years.

Like many other professional societies, SETAC publishes an esteemed scientific journal and convenes an annual meeting replete with state-of-the-science poster and platform presentations. Because of its multidisciplinary approach, however, the scope of the science of SETAC is much broader in concept and application than that of many other societies.

SETAC is concerned about global environmental issues. Its members are committed to good science worldwide, to timely and effective communication of research, and to interactions among professionals so that enhanced knowledge and increased personal exchanges occur. A sister organization, SETAC Europe, was founded in 1989, and the nonprofit SETAC Foundation for Environmental Education in 1990. As evidence of international acceptance of the SETAC model, member groups have been proposed in South America, Russia, South Africa, Japan, India, and Australia/New Zealand.

FACTS & FIGURES

Membership has increased from 230 Charter Members in October 1980 to more than 5,000 members from 50 U.S. states, 9 Canadian provinces, and more than 70 countries worldwide.

Participants and technical presentations at SETAC annual meetings have increased from 470 attendees and 86 technical presentations in 1980, to more than 2,900 participants and nearly 1,800 presentations in 2000. More than 1,200 participants were at the SETAC Europe 10th annual meeting in Madrid in May 2000.

ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY, an internationally acclaimed scientific journal, has grown from a quarterly publication of fewer than 400 pages annually (1980) to a monthly publication of more than 2,600 pages in 1997. SETAC Press publishes the journal, along with peer-reviewed workshop and symposia proceedings and a variety of technical reports.

SETAC World Council

The SWC became effective in 2002 to promote international communication of environmental issues through research and education. The SWC facilitates continued worldwide outreach to environmental scientists, engineers, and managers; encourages development of additional SETAC member groups. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President of each geographical unit comprise the SWC.

GOVERNANCE

Each SETAC geographic unit is governed by a Board of Directors/Council elected by the voting membership and comprised as equally as possible of members from academia, business, and government. An Executive Committee, composed of the President, Vice President, Immediate Past-President, Treasurer, Executive Director (ex-officio), and one other Board member appointed by the President, carries out the Board/Council's policies. Full Members and Emeritus Members constitute the voting membership of the Society; only members may hold office.

FORMATION OF THE AFRICAN BRANCH OF SETAC

As a developing continent, Africa is faced with a number of environmental chemistry and toxicology issues, unique to its arid, subtropical and tropical regions. This particularly relates to the extensive use of chemicals long since banned in the developed northern-hemisphere countries, increased mining and industrial activities. As a result ecotoxicological research and application of ecotoxicology within legislative frameworks are gaining momentum. With the formation of the African Union greater cooperation between African states is on the increase. This provides an ideal opportunity to address the environmental issues facing Africa in an integrated and cohesive manner.

With the formation of the African Branch of SETAC it is envisaged that connectivity between African researchers in the field of environmental chemistry and toxicology representing academia, industry and government will be increased. The African Branch of SETAC provides a forum for Africans to discuss African environmental problems with the support of the vast knowledge base that resides within SETAC. The first task would be to form a Branch Council so that the SETAC Europe Council can formally incorporate the Branch under the administration of SETAC Europe at its December meeting in Brussels. It is intended to launch the African Branch of SETAC during the International Conference on Pesticides in Non-Target Agricultural Environments that will be held from 21-23 January 2003 in Cape Town, South Africa.

BENEFITS

- *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*, a prestigious international journal in which peer-reviewed research papers are published, is printed monthly
- *SETAC Globe*, a bi-monthly newsletter that highlights environmental topics, SETAC activities, employment opportunities, and meetings of interest
- On-line Membership Directory which is up-to-date with the latest membership information available
- A published Membership Directory each spring, listing addresses of members (available only to members for their personal use)
- An Annual Meeting, a week of professional and social interaction with hundreds of platform and poster presentations
- Publications available to members at reduced fees (topics include workshop proceedings, conferences, unsolicited works, and papers from designated sessions at Annual Meetings).
- Current SETAC members have automatic membership of the SETAC Africa Branch.

ANNUAL DUES - 2003

Membership benefits include online access to both the journal (*Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry*) and membership directory. To receive a printed ET&C, you must pay postage costs. A 50% reduction in membership fees is offered to members from developing nations. Therefore the membership fee is only 50 Euros. Only once the SETAC Africa Branch has been launched will information be available on the nominal Branch fees that will be payable.

For any more information regarding SETAC, SETAC Africa or for application forms please contact Dr. Victor Wepener, Department of Zoology, RAU: vw@na.rau.ac.za or visit the SETAC web page on <http://www.setac.org>.

▶ **MEETINGS:**

1. SASAqS 2003

The next SASAqS conference will be a joint meeting of the Southern African Society of Aquatic Sciences and the Zoological Society of Southern Africa. The meeting is being organised by Dr. Heather Malan and Prof. Charles Griffith of the Zoology Department, UCT. 2003 is the Centenary Year of the UCT Zoology department and this meeting promises to be a stimulating occasion. Further details about the meeting will be announced soon, but in the interim remember to keep the 30 June to 4 July clear.

▶ **PUBLICATIONS:**

1. PUBLICATIONS BY SOCIETY MEMBERS

All members of the Society are once again invited to send in the references of their latest publications. In this manner other members of the Society can remain updated with the latest research output in aquatic science in South Africa.

▶ **JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ COURSES / BURSARIES AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

This section of SASAqS News is aimed at advertising available employment opportunities, courses, postgraduate bursaries, post-doc positions and fellowships in aquatic sciences. All information must please be sent to Victor Wepener (vw@na.rau.ac.za) before the 10th of the month.