

MEDIA STATEMENT

**MORE THAN 100 INTERNATIONAL AND SOUTH AFRICAN ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS AND SCIENTISTS
TO MEET AT THE 16TH IUAPPA WORLD CLEAN CONGRESS
TO SHARE RECENT CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR POLLUTION RESEARCH FINDINGS**

Cape Town, Wednesday, 25 September 2013 - The 16th International Union of Air Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA) World Clean Air Congress, will be held from Sunday, 29 September to Friday, 4 October at the Cape Town International Convention Centre. The event will be host to more than 100 international and local environmental specialists and scientists presenting their most recent research findings on climate change and air pollution. The congress is expected to be attended by more than 350 delegates.

“Air pollution knows no borders, unlike many other forms of pollution which tend to be more localised. It is therefore of the utmost importance that scientists internationally focusing research on the effect of air pollution on the environment, health, food security and short-term climate change mitigation meet to share their findings”, said Hanlie Liebenberg-Enslin, the IUAPPA Chairperson.

The congress is held every three years – in a different host country. The theme of this year’s event “Many Nations - One atmosphere: Plotting the Path to Sustainability” recognises the need for all-encompassing management, and policy-making approaches to effectively address environmental challenges on air, climate, water, food and energy.

“The success of this approach will depend largely on a coordinated international effort to reduce ‘Short-Lived Climate Pollutants’ (SLCPs), (primarily comprised of Black Carbon, Methane and Ozone tropospheric and other harmful Greenhouse gasses (HFCs)),” added Hanlie.

Setting the tone for the event are two key-note presentations one, on the Climate and Air Pollution Impacts on Africa by Dr Bob Scholes, System Ecologist at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the other, on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants: The Scientific and Policy Issues by Dr Martin Williams, the Chairperson of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. (The Convention was established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in 1979).

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“These are just two of more than 100 presentations to be heard and more than 60 scientific posters that will be on display at the congress. We aim to reach substantial conclusions on the scientific and policy aspects of SLCPs through the range of peer reviewed presentations and focussed special sessions in order to plot the path to sustainability,” says Hanlie.

The special sessions featured in the programme, include “Tackling Climate and Air Pollution Together: Thematic Programme on Mitigating Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP’s), supported by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)” a Coalition recently established by the United Nations Environment Programme; “Co-benefits for Clean Air and Climate: Prominence of Black Carbon” supported by the European Federation for Clean Air (EFCA), a special session on “Transport and Environment in Mega-Cities” and one on “Domestic Combustion Stoves”, a major source of atmospheric pollutants in the developing world.

A detailed programme and information on the congress is available on the congress website at www.IUAPPA2013.com. Interested parties can register on the website and choose to either attend the week-long congress or attend one or two days of their choice. Payment can be done by credit card on the website, by EFT or upon arrival at the congress.

The congress is organised and hosted by the South Africa National Association for Clean Air (NACA) and IUAPPA, which are non-profit organisation.

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