

## Feed-back of 3rd ecosan online-course run by UNESCO-IHE

A brief feed-back of the 3<sup>rd</sup> online-course which took place in the period 31<sup>st</sup> March to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2008 (= 16 weeks) is given as follows:

This 3<sup>rd</sup> online-course was followed by 33 participants (11 female and 22 male, ranging from 24...50 years old) which have been selected from over 60 applications. Selection was made mainly based on their potential to become an 'agent for change' (unless they have their own funding).

The students have different levels of professional background (ranging from very little to running ecosan-projects) working in the following professions:

- Agro-industrial process engineer
- Agricultural engineer
- Pharmacy student
- Nursing scientist
- Industrial design engineer
- Assistant professor of environmental science
- Microbiologist
- Chemist
- Architect
- MSc in integrated water resources management (IWRM)
- MSc in sanitary engineering
- Sociologist
- Legal adviser

The participants are being employed at various employers such as:

- WaterAid Nigeria
- Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Rural development, Nigeria
- NGO Rwanda Village Concept Project
- PhD Student, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
- Oxfam Australia
- NGO Habitar, Nicaragua
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- CARE International
- NGO Invisible Children in Uganda
- The Bridge Fund, Netherlands

... and originating from the following countries:

- Africa: Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi
- Asia: Philippines, Indonesia, East Timor, China (Tibet), Cambodia
- Latin America: Nicaragua, Brazil, Peru

A selection of topics that have been discussed about were:

- danger of collapsing slabs on pit latrines
- pigs feeding on faeces – ecosan or not
- ammonia limits for groundwater
- waterless urinals at your work place
- above ground septic tanks

Students which were asked for what they liked the best gave the following answers:

- having classmates from all over the world and sharing experiences with each other
- learning without a need to travel (avoiding CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions)
- fun and enjoyable group dynamics

Problems that the students were faced with were:

- balancing work, family and this course
- people travel and work while doing the course (feed-back from New York, Accra, WEDC)

The online training course attended by world-class experts with world-wide experiences represents an opportunity to study without causing CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions due to air travel! Upon completion of the course the students will become 'Agents for change' creating a network of ecosan experts. Until today 81 people followed and completed the course.

The course fee is 550 EUR which has been either paid by the respective company (6x ROSA, 4x ISSUE-2) or oneself or subsidized by scholarships (SEI, Grontmij, UNESCO-IHE). However there is free access to all course materials all year around:

[www.lms.ihe.nl](http://www.lms.ihe.nl)

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