
Crucial points to be addressed in the future

Luebeck Symposium on ecological sanitation, April 2003

The following points were raised at the 2nd International Symposium on ecological sanitation, during the course of formulating the 10 Luebeck Recommendations for further action for the promotion of ecosan and up-scaling its implementation. The points were seen as being crucial to the future dissemination of ecosan systems, according to the participant or organisation that raised the point. They are at times contradictory; nevertheless they reflect the broad range of opinion among the participants of the symposium as to what is necessary. They are presented below as they arose in the course of the conference discussion.

- Close all mineral agricultural factories in order to ensure the reuse of ecosan fertiliser
- Animal waste management should be included along with human excreta
- Limitation of chemical fertiliser production and size of animal farms would more efficiently promote the ecosan concept in the future
- Distillation of 3 or 4 key points targeting the senior policy maker and sector professional audience.
- Identification of mechanisms by which these comments can be taken up by other organisations e.g. WSSCC
- The promotion of education and training for ecosan is frequently cited – this must be further developed. Small steps approach could be adopted, working closely with Streams of Knowledge approach (as funded by the Dutch government over the next 3 years) recommended in order to influence the practical training courses running for engineers in Africa and Asia.
- Samples of ecosan toilets/devices should be distributed in developing countries for showcasing purposes
- Sufficient financial support from developed countries can be directed to developing countries to promote ecosan
- Secure quality of design, implementation and O&M in order to avoid health hazards and/or technical failures
- In developed countries urban sanitation systems must be recognised as the predominant reason for the low hygienic quality of surface waters
- Case studies for best practice and best available technology are recommended
- Creation of an ecosan fund for communities from poor and developing countries motivated to implementing ecosan systems (including technological and educational supervision) to start initiative. Fund release based on contest and ranking of applicants
- Promote net energy, life cycle, exergy, emergy and other systems methodologies for analysing which ecosan options are more sustainable (e.g. that minimise fossil fuel (and electricity) use)
- Agricultural demonstration plots to sensitise. Demonstration activities are recommended in order to make large and small scale promoters aware of the fertiliser value of ecosan products
- Symposium too focused on industrial nations
- Need for global data base

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- Use of media to promote pilot projects
- Train installation and design office personnel, involve practitioners
- Provide cost / benefit data and compare investment and running costs of conventional and ecosan projects
- Provide cost / benefit analysis for altering conventional systems
- Identify the missing link for extension
- Promote the availability of ecosan components on the shelves of sanitation installation shops
- Long term effects of fertiliser use on the food chain should be investigated
- Build ecological costs and hidden subsidies of traditional technologies and status quo situations into economic models
- Ecosan quality label
- Follow up processes needed
- Evaluation of cases studies needed
- Importance of education and training – need for competent personnel
- Social marketing for promotion (entrepreneurs etc.)
- Ecosan for everybody (no national limits)
- Emphasise the importance of the role of city planners
- Work through local leaders (in touch with local community) – How can they be targeted?
- Showcase in local context
- Convince people with local influence (e.g. the mayor) to shake up the planners and champion the cause
- Close gap between needs of users and technology
- Multi disciplinary approach in evaluation and development (economists, microbiologists, sanitation specialist, local experts etc.)
- Personal approach – we should practice what we preach, and share the experience
- Financing must be flexible to get the champions – get the people off the fence and into the conference centres / promotion etc.
- Combine points 2 and 4 of the Luebeck Recommendations (i.e. “Accelerate large scale applications of ecosan principles in urban areas” and “Raise awareness and create demand”)

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- Important not to sell ecosan to politicians or decision makers on its own – need to explain its relation to a more sustainable society, improve public health. Don't just promote large projects for their own sake
- Integrate ecosan into the existing range of sanitation options
- Gradually increase project size (building on experience). Implement simple research into existing projects which project managers etc., can carry out themselves
- For point 2 of the Luebeck Recommendations (“Accelerate large scale applications of ecosan principles in urban areas”) – carry out international development (life) project. Existing national projects are all too small
- Co-operation among “the ecosan community” could be more effective if certain topics or ranges were concentrated upon by specific groups
- Should developing countries be looking to developed countries for financing for ecosan projects?
- A comprehensive ecosan manual is needed
- Whoever finances should demand an evaluation as part of the project – should be given its own specific funding within project
- Patience is required until main issues are answered by research
- Where should we start to accelerate application on a large scale? – In places where sanitation is needed (no existing system).
- Very important when projects financed in peri-urban and rural area that stakeholders contribute in whatever way possible (money, labour, materials....)
- Important to consider the product within a financial scheme
- Financing of individual facilities should be financed by family/user. Should also consider return of investment

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