

Free press release

Ecology – it pays off

On 24 – 27 November, Poleko International Trade Fair for Environmental Protection and Komtechnika International Trade Fair of Municipal Technologies were held concurrently in Poznań. For the first time ever, Gmina Fair of Communes, Cities and Regions was organised, too.

For four days, Poznań turned into a European centre of information on ecology, effective use of energy along with waste management and recycling. The fair was also an opportunity for cities, communes and regions to promote their assets among prospective investors.

A total of 900 companies and institutions from 23 countries, including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, Ukraine and United States presented their offer at the fairs in Poznań. The exposition was even more attractive thanks to official national presentations organised under the auspices of either government agencies or institutions that showcased comprehensive solutions for environment protection and waste management. The following countries had their expositions: Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Switzerland. Professor Maciej Nowicki, Minister of the Environment, has assumed honorary patronage over this year's edition of the Poleko fair. This year, we also had the second edition of KOMTECHNIKA International Trade Fair of Municipal Technologies, where professionals had a chance to meet with suppliers of municipal technique and technology. This time, the POLEKO and KOMTECHNIKA duo had a new companion: GMINA Fair of Communes, Cities and Regions, being a forum for information exchange between the public and private sectors.

Over four days, over 21,000 visitors from Poland and abroad visited the Fair exposition. They had an opportunity to explore numerous new products showcased by exhibitors: a few hundred this year. The programme with more than 50 interesting debates, seminars and conferences proved a good addition to this compelling exposition. Waste management, including waste-to-energy prospects, was among others discussed at meetings.

The two-day „**Waste management – opportunities, threats and new technologies**” conference was prepared by the Ministry of the Environment, National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water

Management and the Regional Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Poznań. What was discussed there was among others the progress of waste management projects implemented under the Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme, planned amendments in waste management regulations and system solutions for waste management in other countries. „Waste management – conditions and challenges” was the topic of the **13th International Ecological Congress**. At the Congress, the Ministry of the Environment rolled out its concept of the organisation of the new waste management method. Duties and principles of operation of different levels of public administration in the new system along with the method of waste management funding were presented. Waste was also the subject matter of the annual debate organised at POLEKO. This time, the topic of the discussion was „**Energy from waste – pipe dream or necessity?**”. Waste to energy projects, being an alternative for fossil fuels, are of paramount importance for reducing the quantity of waste dumped at landfill sites and combating global warming. The debate was attended by representatives of key organisations and institutions interested in this topic, i.e. the National Chamber of Waste Management, Polish Chamber of Waste Management, Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas, Polish Association of Sanitary Engineers and Technicians, National Forum of Managers of City Cleaning Companies, Polish Recycling Chamber of Commerce, Polish Association of Municipal Unions of Communes and the Waste Management Employers’ Association. The „**Energy – from – Waste: what goes in? What comes out?**” seminar organised by the European Suppliers of Waste to Energy Technology was devoted to the very same topic.

The Recycling Exhibition, a special exposition where exhibitors presented technologies and equipment for waste recovery and recycling, was accompanied by the **Recycling Forum**. The following topics were high on the agenda of this year’s Forum: packaging waste recovery and recycling, hazardous waste: collection and recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment and waste batteries and accumulators as well as recycling of end-of-life vehicles.

This was already the ninth edition of the **Clean Energy Exhibition**, one of the largest fair events on renewable energy technologies and products in Poland. The Exhibition is organised in collaboration with chambers and associations involved in promoting renewable energy: the Polish Economic Chamber of Renewable Energy, Polish Biogas Association, Polish Small Hydropower Development Association, Polish Biomass Chamber, Economic Chamber of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Polish Solar Energy Society. The Exhibition was accompanied by a whole range of specialist conferences and seminars, including the **Clean Energy Forum**, a series of daily seminars devoted to the latest solutions for renewable energy generation.

Water and sewage management was also high on the agenda of the fair. This year, one of the chief events of this sector at the fairs was the **Waterworks Forum 2009** conference organised by the Aquanet company and Międzynarodowe Targi Poznańskie. Participants were trying to answer the question of how to find the golden means between the interest of investors and water and sewage companies. To do that, representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure, investors and representatives of the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection, as well as experts on law, taxes and appraisals were invited to take part in this discussion.

For the second time, Poznań hosted the Youth Climate Summit, attended by over 600 students from all over Poland. At the Summit, a message to the participants of the UN Conference in Copenhagen was adopted. The fairs were also accompanied by interesting shows, including the City Truck Show with live presentations of municipal cleaning vehicles and equipment.

The fairs in Poznań were an opportunity to select the most interesting and innovative products. In total, the jury awarded as many as 14 prestigious Gold Medals of Międzynarodowe Targi Poznańskie this year. Companies were also awarded for stands that best reflected their corporate strategy according to jurors.

More information at: www.poleko.mtp.pl , www.komtechnika.pl , www.gmina.mtp.pl

The next edition of Poleko, Komtechnika and Gmina fairs: 23 – 26 November 2010