



Media Release

Water Loss Conference set to tackle pertinent issues

Johannesburg, 6 April 2009 – Rand Water is the main sponsor of the sixth Water Loss Conference (Water Loss 2009) taking place in Africa for the first time. The conference, which forms part of a series of international water reduction events, will be held at the Southern Sun Cape Sun hotel in Cape Town from 26 – 30 April.

The International Water Association (IWA) and the Water Loss Task Force are hosting the conference to the African region in order to address the pressing need for improved water utility efficiency in this part of the world, according to information posted on www.waterloss2009.com

“Water Loss 2009 will be a platform for water specialists to present and discuss the latest developments, strategies, techniques and applications of international best practices in water loss assessment, management, leakage reduction and control and improvement of customer metering”.

“As a full water services utility, and Africa’s leading bulk water supplier, Rand Water has an obligation to offer efficient, high quality water services to our customers. We believe that by participating in a conference of this nature, together with colleagues from all over the world, will give us an opportunity to share valuable lessons on how countries manage their water loss issues,” said MacDonald Mkhize, Rand Water Chief Operating Officer, and Conference Chairperson.

He adds that the hosting of the conference in Africa, and in South Africa in particular, also creates a platform for the country to witness and share in the challenges facing the water industry. “Water loss is mainly due to wastage,” he says.

The Conference organizers, International Water Association (IWA) and Water Loss Task Force initiated a biannual conference in the wake of the success of the first Water Loss Conference in Nova Scotia, USA in 2005. The second Water Loss Conference was held in Bucharest, Romania in 2007.

“These forums play a significant role in deliberating and sharing possible solutions to this very pertinent issue, particularly in light of increasing water scarcity that is becoming a reality around the globe,” said Mkhize.

The safe, adequate and accessible supply of water is a priority in the developing world and reduction in the loss of water is a primary element of the United Nations’ (UN’s) Millennium Development Goals.

Among others, themes at the conference will include feasibility and benefits of undertaking water loss reduction projects, performance indicators and best practice, intervention techniques and sustainability.

Delegates from academic institutions, water experts, industry leaders and participants, as well as environmentalists are expected to attend the conference.

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