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### RESTROOM ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE) NEWSLETTER - August 2004

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#### World Toilet Summit Special

##### Beijing Steps Ups Public Toilet Investment

As the time draws nearer to the 4<sup>th</sup> World Toilet Summit from 17 to 19 Nov in Beijing, the authorities are stepping up efforts to provide better public toilet facilities.



*BEIJING (Reuters)Tue Aug 3, 2004 12:20 PM ET - China's capital Beijing, trying to flush away its reputation for primitive public toilets, plans to boost investment to build more lavatories and keep them stocked with toilet paper, the China Daily said on Tuesday.*

*The city government, trying to polish its image as it gears up to host the 2008 Olympic Games, pledged to invest more than 100 million yuan (\$12 million) a year into modernizing its latrine infrastructure, the newspaper said.*

*Its first item of business was to build or renovate 400 restrooms around the city, mainly in its "hutongs," the winding back alleys that, for all their historic charm, are infamous for smelly toilets that often amount to little more than open holes.*

*Beijing has waged campaigns in the past to clean up its public restrooms, including adding high-tech, self-cleaning toilets near tourist sites like the Forbidden City and Summer Palace, and adopting a five-star system to rate cleanliness and service.*

*Under the new campaign, lavatories must be equipped with toilet paper, soap, hand dryers and access for disabled people, it quoted Ma Kangding, an official with the Beijing Municipal Administration Commission, as saying.*



*A commission plan called for 4,700 public washrooms by 2008, with business areas boasting one every 500 yards, the newspaper said.*

### Topics of World Toilet Summit 2004



The World Toilet Summit, to be held in Beijing, China, from 17 to 19 November, expects over 500 participants to attend.

The theme of the Summit is 'Human, Environment & Living' and besides local Chinese experts, there are also many international speakers. We can see from the following how Toilets affect us in more ways than one:

#### Societal Impact of Toilets

1. Toilets – A Tool of Social Change, Improved Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder, Sulabh International, India
2. The Horizontal Society, Mr. Simon Tay, Chairman, National Environment Agency, Singapore
3. The Toilet Culture of the Japanese, Mr. Koo Ue, Secretary General, Japan Toilet Association, Japan

#### Setting Standar

4. Start-up of a Toilet Association, Mr. Francisco Bernardo III, Restroom Association of the Philippines
5. Loo of the Year as a Marketing Tool, Mr. Richard Chisnell, Director, British Toilet Association, United Kingdom

#### Toilets in the Rural Environment

6. Dry Toilet – Sanitation of the Next Generation, Mr. Megha Raj Regmi, Dept. of Water Supply & Sewage, Nepal
7. Natural Toilets, Mr. Jukka Lindroos, President, Pikku Vihrea, Finland
8. Improving the Lives of People with Rural Toilets, Dr. Nguyen-Huy Nga, Dy Director, Ministry of Health, Vietnam
9. Improving the Lives of People with Rural Toilets, Dr. Nguyen-Huy Nga, Dy Director, Ministry of Health, Vietnam

## Human Factors on Design



10. The Humanised Toilet, Mr. Frank Wu, President, Taiwan Toilet Association
11. The Human Interface of Public Toilets, Dr. Michael Siu, School of Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

## Town Planning and Governance

12. Toilet Urbanisation through Design, Dr. Clara Greed, University of West of England
13. Code of Practice for Toilets, Ms. Jasmine Schmidt, Dir. Of Support Services, Simon Foundation for Continence, USA

## Impact on Public Health

14. Effects of Public Toilets on Public Health, Dr. Jean-Paul Deslypere, Epidemiology Research, SingHealth, Singapore
15. Disease Transmission through Inadequate Plumbing (SARS), Mr. Henry Hung, World Plumbing Council
16. New Technology – Mould Killing, Mr. Luigi Mocchia, MD, Perstop Chemitec SpA, China
17. New Technology Against Toilet-bourne Diseases, Dr. Terry Yeates, Int'l Marketing Business Manager, Arch Chemicals, United Kingdom
18. Etc. – more international and local speakers (to be updated soon)

To register, please go to [www.worldtoilet.org](http://www.worldtoilet.org) for more details

## News Bites

### Giant Toilet Raises Eyebrows in Berlin



Aug. 26, 2004, AFP — A giant plastic toilet bowl on Berlin's swank Unter den Linden boulevard, the work of a French artist, has been raising more than a few eyebrows in recent days.

The still-unfinished white toilet, some 2.5 metres (eight feet) high, is part of a series of nine giant art works due to feature on the central Berlin artery this weekend in a collection called "RefleCity," by Armel Reau.

When the exhibition is inaugurated late Saturday, remote control cars will travel around and inside the bowl through transparent tubes to draw attention to the waste and transport problems in the world's major cities.

Reau told the Bild newspaper that he wasn't only trying to draw attention to the environment with his artwork.

"The first reaction from people should be that they burst out laughing," he said.

Cleanest place at work? It's likely the toilet, HARRY WESSEL, Orlando Sentinel

If you want to get nasty, then just pick up the phone and make a call

You don't want to know what's living on your phone at work.

University of Arizona microbiologist Charles Gerba conducted a "workplace germ study" in four U.S. cities: Tucson, Ariz., San Francisco, New York and Tampa, Fla.

Gerba and his team of researchers took bacteria samples from 12 workplace surfaces -- from desktops, phones and keyboards to water-fountain handles and toilet seats.



On average, toilet seats had bacteria levels of 49 per square inch -- the lowest of the 12 surfaces tested. On average, desktops had 20,961 per square inch.

In case you're confused by all those numbers, here's the summary: A toilet seat is cleaner than your desk.

And desktops were only No. 2 among the germ-coated workplace surfaces tested. The winner: Desk telephones, which had 25,127 bacteria per square inch. (Fortunately, it's tough to balance a club sandwich on a telephone.)

The workplace germ study was funded by Clorox, which makes disinfecting wipes designed to kill all those nasty bacteria. Nevertheless, Gerba's findings were unambiguous: "The average desktop has more bacteria than any surface tested in the bathroom," his study concluded.

There is a logical explanation to this off-putting finding. Most workplace bathrooms, including those checked in Gerba's study, undergo regular janitorial cleaning with strong disinfectants. Work desks, particularly cluttered ones, can go weeks, months, even years between cleanings.

Bob Ashley, professor of food-service management at the University of Central Florida, explains that humans are able to tolerate "a reasonable amount of germs."

But he rarely, if ever, eats at his desk. Just thinking about it makes him uncomfortable.

"There's an accumulation over time of people coughing, sneezing and talking over their desks," says Ashley, who teaches at the University of Central Florida's Rosen College of Hospitality Management.

In addition to frequent hand washing "for at least 20 seconds and rinsing under the hottest water you can stand," Ashley advises using an antibacterial spray to clean the desktop, keyboard, mouse and phone regularly -- at least once a week. He also likes the idea of keeping a waterless antibacterial hand cleaner at the desk and using it before eating.



"Sooner or later we'll have to cross their picket line."

### **National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre:Trends in Grant-making in the USA**



The National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre's fourth annual conference focused on philanthropic giving in Singapore. It was held from 27 to 28 July 2004. Participants included: practitioners in the private, public and non-profit sectors; Social entrepreneurs and fund raisers; Decision-makers in non-profits and businesses

concerned with corporate; social responsibility Family and corporate foundations; Academics and researchers of non-profit management etc.

The two-day conference examined changing attitudes towards giving – from the perspectives of corporates, foundations, grant makers, philanthropists and the man in the street.



The key issues discussed ranged from informed giving and best practices in strategic, sustained and structured giving to corporate giving and professional and innovative fundraising practices. For more information, please visit [www.nvpc.org.sg](http://www.nvpc.org.sg)

Reproduced below is a speech by Paulette Maehara, CFRE, CAE, President & CEO. Association of Fundraising Professionals, USA

"Giving USA" - American Association of Fund Raising Counsel Trust for Philanthropy – Facts about Philanthropy in USA

- ❖ Giving in 2003 (US\$240 billion) increased by a relatively robust 2.8 percent from the revised level of US\$234.09 billion in 2002. Since 2001, total annual giving had grown, on average, by only 0.5 percent each year.

- ❖ Individuals gave US\$179.36 billion, an increase of 2.5 percent (0.2 adjusted for inflation) from the revised 2002 figure of US\$175.04 billion. Giving from individuals represented 74.5 percent of all giving in 2003.
- ❖ Bequests reached an estimated US\$21.60 billion, an increase of 12.8 percent (10.3 percent adjusted for inflation) from the 2002 revised estimate of US\$19.15 billion. Bequests accounted for 8.2 percent of all giving in 2003.
- ❖ Foundations gave US\$26.30 billion, a decrease of 2.5 percent (4.7 percent adjusted for inflation). Giving by foundations represented 10.9 percent of all contributions in 2003. Corporations and corporate foundations gave US\$13.46 billion in both cash and in-kind donations, an increase of 4.2 percent (1.9 percent adjusted for inflation) from the revised 2002 figure of US\$12.92 billion. Corporate and corporate foundation giving represented 5.6 percent of all giving in 2003.



#### Giving by Sub-sector

- ❖ Religious organizations received US\$86.39 billion, an increase of 4.3 percent (2.0 percent adjusted for inflation) from 2002. Giving to religious organizations represents nearly 36 percent of total contributions, the largest of any of the sub-sectors.
- ❖ Educational institutions received US\$31.59 billion, a decrease of 0.8 percent (3.0 percent adjusted for inflation).
- ❖ Health organizations received US\$20.89 billion, an increase of 10.7 percent (8.2 percent adjusted for inflation).
- ❖ Human service organizations received US\$18.89 billion, an increase of 1.3 percent (but a decrease of 1.0 percent when adjusted for inflation).
- ❖ Arts, culture and humanities organizations received US\$13.11 billion, an increase of 7.3 percent (4.9 percent adjusted for inflation). This is the highest rate of growth for this sub-sector since 1996.
- ❖ Public society-benefit organizations received US\$12.13 billion, an increase of 4.6 percent (2.3 percent adjusted for inflation) after two prior years of declines.





- ❖ Environmental/animal organizations received US\$6.95 billion, an increase of 5.4 percent (3.1 percent adjusted for inflation).
- ❖ International affairs organizations received US\$5.30 billion, an increase of 14.8 percent (12.1 percent adjusted for inflation).

### Attitudes and Practices Concerning Effective Philanthropy”

The Urban Institute

- ❖ 63 percent of community foundations believe it is important to maintain a broad grants program, while just 12 percent of private foundations hold similar views.
- ❖ 91 percent of corporate foundations and 73 percent of independent foundations felt it is very important to focus grant making on limited areas.

Of those foundations that believe it is important to solicit outside advice:



- ❖ 26 percent say that community input is not important in formulating grantmaking priorities
- ❖ 32 percent have not convened people from outside the foundation to inform foundation activities
- ❖ 62 percent have not solicited grantee feedback

### “Listening to Grantees: What Nonprofits Value in their Foundation Funders”

The Center for Effective Philanthropy

Foundations that were perceived to bring the most value in a grantor-grantee relationship performed well and scored high marks in the following areas:

- ❖ Quality of interactions with foundations staff, including fairness, responsiveness and approachability
- ❖ Clarity of communication of a foundation’s goals and strategy, including clear and consistent articulation of objectives
- ❖ Expertise and external orientation of the foundation, including a strong understanding of fields and communities of funding and an ability to advance knowledge and affect public policy

The grant making process:

- ❖ Grantees spend, on average, 62 hours over the life of a grant fulfilling administrative requirements, with more than half of that time used to create the grant proposal
- ❖ It takes, on average, 3.4 months from the time a grantee submits a proposal to hear whether the proposal has been accepted for funding
- ❖ Only 17 percent of grantees reported receiving assistance from foundations in the area of strategic planning, and even fewer (6 percent) received assistance in financial planning

For other articles, please visit [www.nvpc.org.sg](http://www.nvpc.org.sg)

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Your Help Is Needed



Restroom Association of Singapore is a non-profit organization and we need YOU! We need you to give public toilets a voice . . . . . to tell the public that their simple but good toilet behavior such as “flushing the toilet after use, and not flicking excess water off their hands onto the floor” can facilitate and convert dirty public toilets to clean public toilets.

**BE OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Just call 65 6841 1621 to register personally! OR: Obtain a form from our

website at [www.toilet.org.sg](http://www.toilet.org.sg) and email it to [info@toilet.org.sg](mailto:info@toilet.org.sg) or fax to 65 6841 2891.