



BIR's London convention brings

More than 600 business people, including representatives from BIR member companies and observers, attended the world recycling organisation's Round-Table sessions last month at the London Metropole Hilton Hotel. Noticeably, the event attracted the presence of large delegations from both China and India.



Recycling International's Editorial Consultant Ian Martin and Sue Cooper having a drink at the BIR welcome reception.

Fifteen guest speakers contributed to a series of animated and well-attended meetings which took place during the latest BIR convention. The London event attracted a large number of delegates from China and India - two countries whose fast-expanding economies have helped to keep many secondary raw materials in short supply. Clearly, many traders and processors from India and China seized the opportunity provided by the convention to conduct some serious business.

International Environment Council

'We have been environmentalists since before the word was invented,' International Environment Council (IEC) Chairman Alvaro Rodriguez Martinez proclaimed to the body's London meeting. The recycling industry's activities served to protect the environment whereas many of the environmental measures adopted around the world were effectively 'commercial barriers' in disguise, he argued. Fellow Spaniard Luis Del Molino Garcia of paper and board organisation Repacar proposed that resources be channelled into an evaluation of the environmental benefits of paper recycling. The recycling industry deserved greater recognition but instead was coming under pressure to give out sensitive business information, including its raw material sources.

In his review of latest international developments, BIR's Environmental & Technical Director Ross Bartley highlighted a decision that was currently going through the Basel Convention to encourage more countries to provide extra information on the non-hazardous substances that they wanted to import. Also approved during the week of the BIR convention were Technical Guidelines on the environmentally sound recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds. With regard to EU affairs, meanwhile, Mr Bartley reported that the BIR was 'comfortable' with a Council compromise reached in connection with the revision of Waste Shipment Regulations. Reporting on activities within the US Institute of Scrap Recycling



IEC Chairman Alvaro Rodriguez Martinez of Spain (left) and Claude Beaumont of France.

By Manfred Beck



China extends deadline for AQSIQ registration

During the BIR convention in London, delegates learned that China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) had announced a two-month deadline extension for shipment inspection applications. According to AQSIQ Bulletin 159 (published on October 26), the deadline for the quarantine authorities to accept applications from unregistered scrap suppliers has been 'adjusted' from November 1, as stipulated in Bulletin 75, to January 1 2005. After that date, all scrap shipment inspection requests by unregistered suppliers will not be accepted. As of January 1 2005, registered suppliers will have to present their registration number when making their inspection declaration.

For more information, visit BIR's website at:

www.bir.org

up-to-the-minute recycling news



BIR's Technical and Environment Director Ross Bartley (left) explains some of the finer points of international waste legislation to Surendra Kumar Borad of the Gemini Corporation.

Industries (ISRI), the organisation's representative Bob Garino related a recent board of directors' decision to initiate the formation of a coalition of industry associations to 'explore options and suggest recommendations concerning radioactive scrap'. ISRI was also continuing to commit resources to issues including mercury removal, PCBs and 'a certification programme that would set exacting guidelines for scrap processors with respect to quality, safety and environmental standards'.

Fridge recycling

In the first of two complementary guest presentations at the IEC meeting, Andrew Slaney of UK refrigerator recycler M. Baker Recycling Ltd said that more than 10 processors were now operating in his domestic market with a combined capacity of over 3 million units per annum. His own company was finding markets for more than 92% by weight of a refrigerator - a proportion which would rise to 98% if applications were secured for the polyurethane

foam. Mr Slaney also explained that M. Baker Recycling had been awarded the contract to handle obsolete fridges from across the whole of Ireland, as part of which the company was able to track all units using bar-code technology. Noting that the supply of refrigerators containing ozone-depleting substances would dry up shortly, Mr Slaney said most plants would look to handle other waste electrical and electronic equipment. The second guest speaker, Pascal Leroy, Government Affairs Manager at appliance manufacturing body CECED, predicted that CFC-containing fridges would become the minority in around three years from now. Given the low global warming potential of refrigerators containing hydrocarbons, he argued that it would be disproportionately expensive and would make no environmental sense to extract and treat these substances. 'There may even be increased global warming resulting from pre-treatment operations and transportation of the extracted hydrocarbon gases,' he added. □



The workshop on 'Basic Principles of LME Business' was sponsored by BIR's Young Traders Group Committee.



This little Chinese girl is having the time of her life during the BIR cocktail party.

Future BIR conventions

2005

MAY 23-25

Barcelona

Princesa Sofia Intercontinental Hotel

OCTOBER 24-25

Milan

The Milan Marriott Hotel

2006

MAY 29-31

Beijing

The China World Hotel

OCTOBER 30-31

Brussels

Sheraton Hotel & Towers

2007

DATES TO BE CONFIRMED

Athens