



SMB2007



“Sustainable Materials for the Built Environment 2007 Innovation-Process-Design”

19 & 20 Feb 2007 - Hilton on the Park Hotel, Melbourne

PRESS RELEASE – Wednesday 22nd February 2007

The conference held by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainable Materials in Construction (AASMIC) and Materials Australia concluded yesterday, Tuesday the 21st February in Melbourne.

The conference brought together the key players that make up the decision makers in the construction industry and examined problem areas, assessment of potential solutions and paved the way for improved communications into the future.

Keynote speakers included Rick Fedrizzi, chairman of the US Green Building Council Niclas Svenningsson, program director for global activities in urban development and environmental urgencies for the United Nations Environment Program and Professor Tom Graedle, an industrial ecology expert from Yale University in USA.

The conference also addressed sustainability issues in the construction industry relating to materials and their use as well as the opportunities and barriers to commercialisation of newer more sustainable materials and issued the following communique

CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE

While acknowledging the initiatives being taken by government at different levels in relation to green building rating the conference urges state and federal governments

1. To use their purchasing power to further drive the commercialization of innovative sustainable materials across all product categories.

Governments at all levels must recognise that it is insufficient to merely support sustainable new technology research and commercialization. This must be followed by active procurement of products and services incorporating these technologies to enable their establishment in the market place.

2. To recognise the need for Australia to address urgent climate change and sustainability policy and during the current debate on carbon trading consider the role of newer or refurbished buildings and infrastructure elements with a much lower environmental footprint.
3. To further promote the use of environmental assessment systems within government and industry

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