



International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions  
Internationale Föderation der Chemie-, Energie-, Bergbau- und Fabrikarbeitengewerkschaften  
Fédération Internationale des Syndicats de Travailleurs de la Chimie, de l'Energie, des Mines et des Industries Diverses  
Internationella kemi-, energi-, gruv- och fabriksarbetarefederationen  
Federación Internacional de Sindicatos de Trabajadores de la Química, Energía, Minas e Industrias Diversas  
国際化学エネルギー鉱山一般労連  
Международная федерация профсоюзов химиков, энергетиков, горняков и работников других отраслей

**President:** Senzeni Zokwana • **General Secretary:** Manfred Warda

Ref : ICEM08/EN Inv Pulp & Paper Conf

Geneva, 2 July 2008

## To all ICEM Pulp & Paper Affiliates, Presidium, and Executive Committee Members

### *Invitation to the 2008 World Pulp & Paper Conference December 8-10 Piriápolis, Uruguay*

Dear Colleagues,

I write to inform you that the 2008 ICEM World Pulp & Paper Conference will be held December 8-10 in Piriápolis, Uruguay, a distance of 100 km from the capital city of Montevideo. The event will be held at the Argentino Hotel and Resort.

**Please Note:** *the Building and Woodworkers International Union (BWI) will conduct a meeting at the same hotel on 6-7 December for its Latin American forestry union affiliates. This meeting will discuss current issues in the global supply chain from wood to pulp/paper products, as well as promotion of forest certification programmes in the region. ICEM Pulp & Paper union affiliates are welcome to attend this two-day meeting.*

As you may know, a day-long meeting was held prior to ICEM's 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Bangkok. At that meeting, the decision was made to bring the Pulp & Paper World Conference up from 2009 to 2008, and to begin intense networking between national unions in this sector, specifically around coordinated bargaining, health and safety, contract labour, trade rules, climate change and sustainable forestry practices, and attention to corporate social responsibility.

Since then, the ICEM has held one Work Group meeting of this sector in Brussels, on February 6, 2008, and another one will be held in Geneva on September 3, 2008, in part to shape the agenda for the Uruguay World Conference.

Please know that there is overwhelming consensus among Pulp & Paper affiliates that solid links of Solidarity and networking must be made between trade unions from the Global South and the Global North. It is no secret within Pulp/Paper that while pulp and paper production, and jobs, in the North have decreased, the industry – including forest harvesting – has massively expanded in the South. Thus, establishing North-South trade union links is essential, and is the reason why ICEM Pulp/Paper affiliates in Bangkok chose Uruguay for the venue.

The final Conference agenda and documents will be finalised after the September 3 Work Group meeting, and forwarded in November.

#### **Hotel and Conference Venue**

Argentino Hotel  
Rbla. de los Argentinos  
Piriápolis, Uruguay  
Tele: +598 (043) 22791  
Fax: +598 (043) 23107



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## Rates

Room Rates per person are as Follows:

	Single	Double/Triple
Superior room	US\$99	US\$79

(Note: Three meals per day are provided with the room rate.)

## Calendar Dates

December 5 to December 11, 2008

(Please check the dates on the attached form that room(s) will be needed, and plan on arriving between December 5 and 7, depending on your attendance at the BWI meetings.)

## Visas

Please check with the Uruguayan Embassy or Consulate in your respective country to see if Visas are necessary and if so, inquire plenty of time ahead for the required documents for visa application.

The ICEM will organise a Social Event/Dinner on one night of the Conference. Simultaneous translation will be available in English, Spanish, French, Russian, and possibly other languages. The ICEM will attempt to arrange transportation from the Montevideo International Airport in Carrasco to Piriápolis.

Since the ICEM has blocked rooms and confirmed a contract with the Argentino Hotel, **all room reservations, changes, cancellations must be made directly with the ICEM Secretariat. Therefore, please send, fax, or e-mail the enclosed hotel reservation and participation form to the ICEM, c/o Fanja Rasolomanana: Fax + 41 22 304 1841; e-mail [fanja.rasolomanana@icem.org](mailto:fanja.rasolomanana@icem.org); mail, 54bis Route des Acacias, 1227 Geneva, Switzerland, by October 1, 2008.**

According to ICEM statutes, all **costs** for travel and accommodations must be borne by the participating Organisations. For those Unions in the Pulp/Paper Sector unable to participate for financial reasons, there are limited resources available to support attendance. It is ICEM policy that such Organisations seeking financial assistance must be in good standing with the ICEM (affiliations fees paid, or compliance with and agreement of exoneration policies).

Priority for financial assistance will be given to those Organisations who are able to pay part of the costs themselves. If financial support is needed, please send your request **as soon as possible. Tell us the number of members you have in the Pulp/Paper Sector**, total membership, **detail the travel costs involved, and explain what portion of the costs (hotel, airfare) that your Organisation can bear itself. All financial support must be approved by November 1, 2008.**

Thank you, and we look forward to your participation at the 2008 World Pulp & Paper Conference.

Fraternally,

Manfred Warda  
General Secretary