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LA VILLETTE  
CONFERENCE  
CENTRE

PARIS  
FRANCE

# Paris 2006 - International Conference on Environmental Epidemiology and Exposure

## Science, Diversity, Caution & Precaution

### CONTENTS

- ♦ Science, Population Diversity, Caution & Precaution
- ♦ 1531 Participants from 57 Countries
- ♦ 31 Partners & Sponsors
- ♦ Opening Ceremony
- ♦ 10 Pre-conference Workshops
- ♦ Conference Sessions
- ♦ Raising Awareness
- ♦ Afsset
- ♦ Sponsors' and Gala Dinners

In the course of a few years, environmental health, especially for populations at risk, has become a key public health issue worldwide. It is imperative that scientists around the world respond by joining together to effect change through the development and use of sound science to provide decision-makers and the public with accurate information. The strong involvement of the co-presidents of the conference, the International Scientific Advisory Board for the conference and the reviewers made it possible to put together a rich international scientific programme, illustrating the very diverse and complex issues at play in environmental health worldwide. Following a whole day of scientific workshops and the opening ceremony on the

Saturday (September 2), 4 days were fully devoted to scientific and technical sessions. Eight 1-hour early training courses, 3 ninety-minute morning plenary sessions and one 2-hour awards

& run 2: Tuesday-Wednesday) took place at the la Villette conference centre in the heart of the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie in Paris. No less than 1500 studies were presented during the event, contributing to a better understanding of the complexity and multi-causality issues in the area of environmental health. Topics for which preventive actions are required, either motivated by scientific evidence or by the implementation of the precautionary principle, were highlighted. Ways for efficient prioritisation of policy actions and collaboration between national research programmes emerged from the debates, offering a unique opportunity to promote the implementation of multinational projects and networks.



### 1475 Abstracts Published

plenary session, 25 symposia, 25 oral sessions, 17 poster-discussion sessions, all ranging from ninety minutes to three hours, and 2 poster runs (run 1: Sunday-Monday

## 1531 Participants from 57 Countries

This meeting attracted 1531 registrants, including more than 200 students and many scientists from developing countries.

Registrants from 57 countries were present. The 16 countries with more than 20 participants were: the USA (365), France (346), the United Kingdom (82), Canada (61), Italy (61), Taiwan (57), Germany (48),

The Netherlands (47), South Korea (38), Mexico (30), Spain (28), Australia (24), Belgium (23), Sweden (23), Denmark (20), and Switzerland (20).

The other countries represented included Finland (19), Japan (19), Poland (14), Norway (11), Brazil (10), South Africa (10), the Czech Republic (9), Greece (9), Slovakia (9), China (8), Portugal (8), Ireland (6), Israel

(6), Russia (6), Thailand (6), Hungary (4), India (4), Iran (4), New Zealand (4), Turkey (4), the Republic of Korea (3), Morocco (4), Romania (3), and Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Malaysia, Nepal, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Chile, the Republic of Congo, Cyprus, Guatemala, Kuwait, Lithuania, Mongolia, the Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, and Nigeria.



## 31 Partners & Sponsors



Thirty one partners supported the event including five French Ministries: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry for Labour and Employment, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. The other partners were: l'Oréal, the

French Agency for the Environment and Energy Management (ADEME), the French National Cancer Institute (INCa), the French National Institute for the Industrial Environment & Risks (INERIS), the French National Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS), the French Institute of Research for Development (IRD), the Mairie de Paris, Servier, the French Centre for Agricultural and Environmental Engineering Research (Cemagref), the French Scientific and Technical Centre for Building (CSTB), Météo France, Gaz de France, the Ile de France Region, the

Nord Pas-de-Calais Region, Aéroports de Paris, CEFIC (European Chemical Industry Council), HEI (Health Effects Institute), NIEHS (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences), Total, Véolia Environnement, the French National Institute for Health & Medical Research (Inserm), the Group Generali Assurances, the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES), Air France, ECNIS (Environmental Cancer Risk, Nutrition & Individual Susceptibility), as well as two media partners: la Recherche and France Culture.

### 31 Partners & Sponsors

Two common goals:  
human health and living  
in a healthy environment

## Opening Ceremony

Saturday the 2nd of September, nine scientists, representatives of ministries and political leaders spoke on the international, national and local issues at play in

environmental health: Michèle FROMENT-VEDRINE, Afsset Managing Director and President of the Conference Organizing Committee; Alain LHOSTIS, Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of Health and relations with the Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris; Didier HOUSSIN, Director-general of Health, Ministry of Health; Jean-Denis COMBREXELLE, Director-general of Labour & Employment, Ministry for Labour and Employment;

Laurent MICHEL, Director for the Prevention of Pollution and Risk, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development; Daniel WARTENBERG, ISEE President; Michael DELLARCO, ISEA President; Denis ZMIROU-NAVIER and Matti JANTUNEN, Conference Co-Chairs, focusing on two goals: human health and living in a healthy environment. In front of 800 participants, they insisted on the interaction between science and policy and strongly encouraged knowledge-sharing between scientists & decision-makers.



## 10 Pre-conference Workshops

Saturday the 2nd of September, seven workshops and three seminars were organised, bringing together over 290 participants. The workshops covered the following themes: Climate variability, climate change and health; Exposure assessment for environmental chemicals using biomonitoring; Introduction to models and modelling science for estimating worker and consumer exposures; Prioritization and precaution in design of human and ecological risk assessment

methodology; Odour and toxicity: measurements, relation, exposure; Separation of uncertainty and variability in NORMTOX; and the ECNIS network of excellence. Three seminars (free and with limited access) were organised: one by the large delegation of the ISEE East Asia chapter to discuss environmental issues in this region; one by young researchers

to create a new young researchers network; and one by the European project INTA-RESE.



### Young Researchers Workshop



**Gaston Berger Auditorium**

The 1500 scientists, researchers, medical practitioners, elected officials and journalists gathered together to reflect on a number of major topics in environmental health, covering in particular, during the 3 plenary

remote science and responsiveness to societal concerns. The sessions, all very well attended (too well in some cases), spanned the wide breadth of substantive areas of interest to all scientists, researchers and

sessions, early life exposures and their effects on adult's health, the interactions between genes and the environment, issues surrounding the precautionary principle and how to promote science and responsiveness to societal concerns. The sessions, all very well attended (too well in some cases), spanned the wide breadth of substantive areas of interest to all scientists, researchers and

decision-makers involved in environmental health. The symposia, oral and poster-discussion sessions covered many areas, in particular air pollution, children's health, climate change, and cancer and the environment. Themes covered in other sessions included the use of biomarkers and biomolecular methods, intake fraction, pesticides and persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, environmental equity and ethical issues in environmental health, electromagnetic fields, chemicals in consumer products, dietary exposures and of course occupational health.

The 1500 participants gathered together to reflect on a large number of major topics in environment and health

## 17 Poster-Discussion Sessions & 810 Posters

The most up-to-date methods and results of exposure science and epidemiology were discussed in the context of progress in study design, exposure monitoring & modelling, and their applications in the assessment and control of health risks. Presentations covered all exposure routes (inhalation, ingestion and dermal) as well as the environmental media and pathways leading from sources to human contact. The whole spectrum of diseases that are shown or suspected to have environmental determinants and that may be revealed from birth (or fertility impairment) to late adulthood was covered. The emerging area of consumer product exposure analy-

sis was also prominently featured. The presentations included new developments in the ability to identify and assess genetic susceptibility, critical windows of development, and environmental vulnerability. Occupational health was also a key feature in the conference with two sessions devoted to this issue, enhancing the collaboration between occupational and environmental health specialists. This conference was a great opportunity to assess the state of research and its contribution to public policies and to exchange experiences and viewpoints at the international level, particularly at a time when the quality of our environment has become a major concern.



**Dr. Germaine Buck Louis:  
Plenary on "Children's Health"**

## Raising Awareness on these Issues

Afset wanted to take the opportunity of this major scientific event in Europe (largest number of participants in ISEE and ISEA conferences so far), to raise awareness among elected officials, the media and the general public on the diversity of environment and health issues worldwide and show their importance and the value of the research in that area. This was highlighted by the High Patronage of the President of the French Republic and the participation of members of the Government, the Parliament and the City of Paris. Mrs N. Kosciusko-Morizet, Representative of the Essonne

Departement at the French National Assembly and Chair of the "Environmental Health" group from the French Parliament participated in a plenary session and described the integration of the precautionary principle in the French Constitution and its appeal in environmental health policy development. Mr. G. Larcher, the French Deputy Minister for Labour and Employment, gave a keynote speech that described the importance and value of scientific studies in the implementation of worker safety programmes and the need to promote worker health and safety at the international



**Mr. Gérard Larcher, Deputy Minister  
for Labour and Employment**

level. The conference was covered by a number of press and audiovisual media (more than 40 articles published, 3 television and 8 radio interviews carried out). It was the first time ISEE/ISEA conferences had such a large media coverage.



## French Agency for **Environmental and Occupational Health Safety**

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Afsset Stand

Afsset is a state-controlled public administrative body reporting to the French ministers for ecology, for health and for employment. The Agency was created by law in September 2005, at its core the French Agency for Environmental Health Safety (Afsse) created in 2001 as part of the French health safety system.

The competency of the Agency was thus extended in September 2005 to occupational health risks.

Its mission is to contribute to ensuring health safety, in both the environmental and the occupational fields, by coordinating transparent, independent and public environmental health and occupational health expertise, assessing environmental and occupational health risks, informing the public and promoting the development of scientific and technical research by financing research projects on environmental and occupational health issues.

Organised as a network, the Agency works in partnership with over thirty national and international establishments. The Agency has 84 members of staff and its budget is of 18 million euros (2006 figures).

Visit the Agency  
on the internet!  
[www.afsset.fr](http://www.afsset.fr)

## Sponsors' and Gala Dinners



Musée d'Histoire de la médecine

Monday September 4th, Afsset organised a reception for the sponsors of the conference at the Musée d'Histoire de la Médecine, in order to thank the partners of the event for their crucial support. Without their scientific and financial support, the conference could not have been organised. Afsset also wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Presidents of ISEE and ISEA for placing their trust in a French agency,

the youngest of the French health agencies, and for their help during the 3 years dedicated to the organisation of this event. Afsset also wanted to thank the conference co-presidents, Pr. Jantunen and Zmirou-Navier. Plenary sessions were major highlights of the conference; the plenary speakers (Dr. Buck Louis, Pr. Davey-Smith,

Pr. Laird, Dr. Fallin, Dr. Schwartz and Mme Kosciusko-Morizet) and young researchers benefiting from a grant to participate in the conference (thanks to the conference sponsors) were also invited.

The gala dinner took place on Tuesday. 539 people embarked on a dinner cruise along the Seine, aboard one of the famous Parisian boats "La Gabarre" and savoured a 3-course dinner with a live Jazz band while

cruising past some of the city's oldest and most splendid bridges and majestic historic monuments beautifully illuminated at night, among which Notre-Dame, the Louvre and the Eiffel tower sparkling with its 20 000 lights: an unforgettable way to discover Paris.



Gala Dinner