

## **9<sup>th</sup> Cd Conference Lisbon: Closing Summary**

So, what have we learnt Ladies and Gentlemen that we can take away from the last 2 days. Well personally I now understand a little more about Meta-analyses, Forest plots but I'm confounded if I really understand the confounding effects!

Seriously, while we clearly should not be complacent and we are unlikely to be successful in overturning established regulations and limit values, we can now see there is new data and interpretations from studies in a wide range of occupational and general population health and effects and in the food and environmental fields which we can certainly use going forward.

As we have heard, some of these upcoming issues include Reach or look-alikes with the Authorisation and Restriction possibilities and the conflicting Directives of IED and WFD. The excellent work which continues to be done on Cd sources to soil studies and the whole food chain and the effect on environment and health are invaluable.

We have understood the various applications and markets for Cd materials. We have also shared good practice within processing plants and I'm sure each of us has picked up 2 or 3 new ideas on how to improve worker safety and conduct accurate monitoring to confirm the air quality. This will ensure the health of our most important asset – people, is well protected. Looking forward we can see increased focus on recycling to protect scarce resources and progressively reduced emissions to protect the environment.

There is still much work to be done to understand the evolving complexity of world markets especially the emerging economies if we are to continue to be the face of product stewardship for cadmium.

So to quote yesterday morning 'the linking theme of the conference is that of Responsible Care and Management of what we do and promote within our field. We should all be aware of the issues but face them with confidence, knowing that we will continue to share knowledge, explore our understanding and continually develop risk reduction measures so that we are rightly seen as the trusted and responsible stewards of these materials in a sustainable future.'

I do hope you agree that, thanks to the excellent formal presentations and the informal opportunity to network socially with so many key people in this field, which this conference has achieved its goals and you return to your respective places of work re-energised with new information and knowledge.

Finally we must thank a few people. To all the team at ICdA, Mik, Noömi, Annette, supported by Christian and Frank, IZA and Eurometaux, for doing much of the organising of the event. To our speakers for agreeing to share their thoughts and insight, to our session chairs and to you all for supporting this conference by attending – may I wish you a safe trip home.

**Howard Winbow**

**James M Brown**