

## **Isegen is recognised for looking after the environment.**

At a recent award ceremony in Durban, Isegen South Africa, a wholly owned South African manufacturer of food acidulants, plasticisers and resin raw materials based at Isipingo in Durban received a Silver Award for waste management. The company was audited by the Institute of waste management of Southern Africa and received the award, which was the highest awarded this year, for the management of waste on the site. The initiative was supported by the Department of Agriculture and Environment Affairs.

Contributing to this was the company's intention of reducing the use of benzene on the site and replacing this with the more environment-friendly butane. Mixed butanes, made up of iso-butane and normal (straight chain) butane are a by product of the refining process. The refinery separates the two butanes from the gas stream and the iso-butane is utilised as an octane booster in lead free petrol. The normal butane is received via pipeline from the Sapref refinery next door. Isegen has expanded the Maleic Anhydride plants at Isipingo, thereby utilising larger volumes of normal butane, and thus assisting the gas balance.

Isegen has also agreed at its own cost to take over the administration of the sensitive dune area adjacent to the factory and will be working with the environmental authorities of the Ethekewini Metro to stabilise the area and remove alien vegetation. This should have a beneficial effect on the neighbourhood as the beach area is used extensively for fishing by the local community.

Robert Fowlds, the Managing Director of Isegen, said that the company's contribution towards ensuring a better environment was recognised recently by one of the multinational companies supplied worldwide by Isegen during a quality audit. The social and environmental aspects of triple bottom line reporting will become increasingly important when these multinationals adjudicate their suppliers in future. Fowlds welcomed this as he said that it was one of the ways that Isegen could differentiate itself from competitors from the Far East whose concern for the environment was notoriously absent.

He was full of praise for the staff and for Rajend Mahadew, the company's Systems Specialist, who drove this initiative. The Durban Metro was also involving the local community and industrialists in the "Cleaning and Greening" exercise as part of the business retention program of DIPA, the Durban Investment and Promotion Agency. This concern for the local environment bodes well for the future of our businesses in the sensitive Durban South Basin.