

Africa's first sanitation technology demo centre opens

Sanitation remains one of the most important elements of service delivery as the pre-local government elections' open toilet saga demonstrated. Local municipalities can potentially be dazed by the myriad of technologies on offer, and it can become difficult to choose the right solution for the application. Africa's first sanitation technology demonstration centre, which officially opened its (toilet) doors in May, is expected to go a long way in helping

in this regard. The open-air, permanent display centre, situated at CSIR's Pretoria headquarters, displays full-scale examples of more than 30 sanitation products and technology – from full waterborne systems and dry sanitation to urine diversion toilets. All the toilets at the centre adhere to the basic sanitation policy requirements – namely safety, reliability and privacy. The centre was funded by the CSIR and the Water Research Commission. WRC CEO

Dr Rivka Kfir was the keynote speaker at the official opening on 27 May. "While a picture says a thousand words, seeing is believing, and this centre, where one can actually interact with the systems on display is of considerable value. The lack of proper sanitation still leads to the unnecessary death of millions of children each year, and it is hoped that this centre will make a difference in the provision of appropriate sanitation to all."



Sanitation technology demonstration centre 'champions' Louiza Duncker of the CSIR and Jay Bhagwan of the WRC view some of the displays on site.



CEO of the WRC, Dr Rivka Kfir, was the keynote speaker at the official opening of the centre.



Hans Ittmann, Executive Director of CSIR Built Environment says a few words before officially opening the centre.



Visitors take a stroll through the sanitation technologies on display.



Technology suppliers were on hand to explain some of the features of their products on display.



The unusual 'ribbon' cut to officially open the centre.



The dry sanitation technology display.



This colourful display shows that toilets can be beautiful as well as functional.