



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sugar industry conference to showcase global technologies

The sugar industry's emerging technologies will soon come under the spotlight when Mackay hosts the 38th annual Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ASSCT) Conference.

Organised by ASSCT and Mackay Sugar, the three-day event will take place at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre from 27-29 April.

The event, themed *Emerging Technologies in a Global Industry*, will feature international speakers, presentations of technical research papers, approximately 50 trade displays, tours, and evening networking functions.

According to ASSCT Honorary General Secretary Arthur Pinkney, the event aims to help local farmers broaden their technological base to increase efficiencies and productivity within their cane farming business.

"We've sourced international guest speakers to share their experience and knowledge of emerging cane farming innovations with visitors to this year's conference.

"Our key note speakers include Simon Usher, CEO of Bonsucro (an organisation based in Brazil and the UK that is dedicated to fostering the sustainability of a thriving sugarcane sector), and Executive Chairman Pramod Chyaudhr, of Praj Industries (a global bioenergy, renewable chemicals and environmental technologies company in India)," Dr Pinkney said.

Conference delegates will attend a meet-and-greet welcome night at Harrup Park's Lancaster Room on 26 April, and will also participate in field visits to several industry sites including the recently constructed molasses bladder at Mackay Harbour, and the ethanol distillery at Sarina.

Mackay Sugar's General Manager Milling Operations and 2016 conference President Terry Doolan said the conference is expected to draw in excess of 300 visitors.

"With the broad range of presentations on manufacturing and agricultural technologies on offer, I'm certain the conference will provide an ideal networking and learning opportunity for growers, manufacturers, practitioners and providers alike.

"It's our vision that each and every attendee will gain an invigorated interest in renewable energy and technologies following this year's event," Mr Doolan said.

The conference will also feature a Partners Program, which will provide partners of conference delegates an opportunity to participate in three days of sightseeing excursions that will showcase all that the Mackay region and nearby Whitsundays has to offer.

The conference is proudly supported by WEG, Mackay Regional Council, NQEA, Mackay Sugar, Alloys International, and SB Reshellers.

For further information and bookings, visit www.assct.com.au, email assctadmin@ozemail.com.au or phone 07 4954 3956. Early bird registration discounts are available until 18 March. All technical papers presented at the 2016 conference will be available from the ASSCT website after the event.

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