

AUGUST 2014 ISSUE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear FAOPMA Members:

It has been unbearably hot and humid in Korea lately. Due to the heat waves caused by climate change, summer in Korea began about a month earlier this year. At the same time, the long spell of dry weather and green algae bloom that hit Korea caused various changes affecting

different industries, including agriculture and fisheries.

According to recent research, the most powerful super El Nino in 17 years hit the world this year. It is imperative that every country takes bold measures to prevent potential disasters and sets up a quick response system to cope with any negative consequences resulting from climate change.

Following our discussions at last year's FAOPMA Convention on 'Comprehensive IPM technology on Combating Climate Change', I now suggest that we may be able to help each other.

Through PPM News, how about regularly sharing related problems that each of our member countries faces and the counter measures it takes associated with pest management? This could assist us all in dealing with the abnormal weather phenomena affecting many countries and worsening every year. The information should be sent to our **FAOPMA Administrator, Catherine Yan** or directly to our **Editor Doug Howick**.

Back in Korea, due to the earlier appearance of mosquitoes caused by the abnormally high temperatures we have had since last April, full scale pest control activities for the heavy summer season have already started nationwide. The Korea Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has announced that every year since 2000, mosquitoes tend to appear about a day earlier than in the previous year. For this reason, the nation's collection of *Culex tritaeniorhynchus* is already underway nationwide.

On the other hand, the Seoul Metropolitan Government will soon introduce a '**mosquito forecast system**' for the first time in the country. Other local governments also carried out eco-friendly pest control activities cooperating with each local health center.

Recently, several local chapters of KPCA have worked closely with local health centres and community centres to provide private and public joint pest control services. Some local governments organize civilian-self-pest control-corps to train them in pesticides application, prevention of infectious diseases, methods of using pest control equipment, pest control vehicle safety and so on.

Lastly, KPCA has successfully completed the second quarter compulsory legal trainings in pest control for southern areas of Korea. On the completion of each training program, we awarded citations and grand prizes, so as to encourage more interest and participation.

After all this news of KPCA and the pest management industry in Korea, tell us what is going on in **your** association or **your** country? I look forward to receiving more news from our members and so does our PPM News Editor. **We both wish you good health!**

Myeon-Ha Park, President of FAOPMA, KPCA

Welcome to FAOPMA AGM Conference 2014 Hong Kong



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Hong Kong Pest Management Association, it is my great pleasure to invite you to attend the **FAOPMA AGM Conference 2014** in Hong Kong from the 25th to the 28th of November 2014.

While hosting the Annual General Meeting of FAOPMA, we are delighted to have the opportunity to hold a business conference entitled: "Ensuring Higher Standards in Pest Management Services".

Furthermore, we will be honoured with the presence of three distinguished speakers, namely: **Mr. Rob Fryatt, Dr. Peter Whitthall and Dr. Chris Suter** who will share their expertise with us on the 27th November.

However, it is not all work and no play! In addition to this most professional and memorable event, **we will conduct a full day tour of Hong Kong** for our members and their spouses so they can enjoy the sights and sounds of our great metropolis.

Our latest news is to let you know that the website for FAOPMA AGM Conference 2014 has been launched! **You may register to attend our conference** or book exhibition booths and hotel **online now** at : <http://www.faopma.com/agmconference2014/>.

We also have extended the "Early Bird" period to 15 August 2014, so act now to get your "Early Bird" benefit.

Please go through our program and sign up to get the "early bird" rate or bring along a delegation to enjoy the group discount as well.

For your registration, early-bird rate (10% discount) and special discount of 5% will be applied for a group with 10 participants, so please hurry up and do not miss this chance!

We look forward to meeting you and your members in Hong Kong. Yours truly,

Catherine Yan,
President, Hong Kong Pest Management Association



**Hong Kong Pest
Management Association**

Unusual ways being developed to keep pests away

by Junji Yamaguchi

Hawks are among the unconventional methods being used in certain parts of Japan to drive away crows and other pests that spread garbage in residential areas or damage farmers' crops.

About a year ago, a building management company in Kobe that was long troubled by pigeon droppings around one of its condominium buildings sought help from Green Field Co., a bird pest-control company in Osaka.

Green Field sent out a falconer on a regular basis to fly a trained hawk around a building to chase away the unwanted birds.



For years, the condo management company had tried nets and other equipment that cost it ¥8 million. But the effects proved short-lived and the birds kept coming back.

But thanks to the rent-a-hawk service, which costs about ¥1.5 million a year, the pigeons have vanished and complaints from the residents have declined, according to an official of the building management company.

Green Field's service is "doable considering the maintenance costs for nets and other equipment," the official said. "We are going to use the service for now."

Explaining that birds soon get used to conventional methods, Green Field President Keisuke Ikoma said, "We came up with an idea to take advantage of birds' instincts, instilling fear in birds by using hawks."

Ikoma said his company has seen orders climb, especially in the Kansai and Tokai regions. Its four hawks, he said, are all busy working.

A security firm has also entered the pest control market. Last August, Tokyo-based Sohgo Security Services Co., better known as Alsok, started using a surveillance device to send text messages to clients whenever a wild boar gets caught in a trap. The service is so far being used by farmers in five areas around Japan.

The Aikawa and Nashizawa districts in Futtsu, Chiba Prefecture, are among them. **Farmers there have been troubled by boars eating their sweet potatoes — their main crop.** Area farmers formed a prevention team, which installed nearly 30 traps in their fields, catching roughly 150 boars a year.

The Japan Times

Man fined \$5K over illegal pest control after 14 horses die

Posted Tue 15 Jul 2014

A man has been fined \$5,000 for illegally carrying out pest control at a south-west Western Australian stud farm where 14 horses later died.

Gregory Eric Zolnier applied a fumigant to two silos at the Myalup property last year without a licence. He advised the business it would be fine to use horse feed from the silos immediately, despite the chemical requiring a 10 to 14-day fumigation period.

Fourteen horses died at the stud property the next day.

Zolnier was charged with acting as a pest technician without a licence, not using a registered pesticide in accordance with the label and not keeping or using pesticides safely.

The case was heard in the Bunbury Magistrates Court yesterday and magistrate Malcolm Fisher noted Zolnier had pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity.

The State Solicitors Office yesterday told the court, Zolnier's actions were "reckless" and the penalty needed to send a message to the industry. Zolnier was fined and ordered to pay \$780 in costs.



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(Un)natural Architectures: Scorpion Design Temperature-Controlled Burrows



A scorpion warming up in its foyer. Credit: WikiCommons

Scientists have discovered that scorpions design their burrows to include both hot and cold spots. A long platform provides a sunny place to warm up before they hunt, whilst a humid chamber acts as a cool refuge during the heat of the day. — [Science Daily](#) This recent discovery of scorpion architecture adds to [a sizeable list of impressive non-human architecture](#).

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Old man in Foshan finds life savings devoured by termites

By Jennifer Hui



A Guangdong migrant worker in his 60s tragically found around 80 thousand yuan he'd stored in his shed was eaten by termites to half of the original amount.

The man, surnamed Cheng, had been earning a living by fish-farming in the Sanshui district of Guangdong's Foshan city. After years of hard work, he'd saved 80 thousands RMB. Wary of putting his money in the bank, he chose to hide eight bundles of one hundred RMB notes in the shed by the pond.

After a few months, Cheng found, to his horror, that the bag of savings was full of termites, and almost half of the bundles of cash notes had become nothing more than paper debris.

Cheng sought assistance from police, who helped him count the cash. Together, they attempted to piece together the torn-up notes, but most of the bills had been chewed up into irregular shapes that were hard to put together. On top of all that, humid air near the pond led to several cash notes sticking together into wads of money that were nearly impossible to separate.

Police accompanied Cheng to the People's Bank of China for an exchange, but because of the extensive damage caused by termites, he could only get back 40 thousands RMB.

The bank said that similar incidents have occurred before. If previous stories have taught us anything, it's to avoid keeping large sums of money at home, because at least the **bank is more reliable than termites, toddlers and thieves** (oh, and corrupt officials).



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Forts and castles in Oman shut down to fight termites



The 18 forts and castles are undergoing anti-termite treatment until next month. –File photo

Muscat: All 18 forts and castles of the country will be closed for a day for an anti-termite treatment drive which began yesterday, according to an announcement made by the ministry of tourism.

The ministry has urged people to avoid visiting these castles and forts on the days when the anti-treatment work is under way. These castles and forts are located in Al Sharqiyah, Al Dakhiliyah, Al Batinah, Al Buraimi, Musandam and Dhofar governorates.

Al Mintarib castle, Jaalan Bani Bu Hassan castle and Bilad Sur castle will be closed for a day, each in sequence, during the four days between July 13 and July 16.

Similarly, Ras Al Hadd castle, Bait Al Raeeda and Nizwa Fort will be closed a day each between July 20 and July 21. Jabreen castle will be closed on July 24.

Ibri castle, Barka castle, Nakhal Fort, Al Hazam castle and Rustaq Fort will remain closed for one day each between August 3 and August 7.

Al Suwaiq castle, Al Khandaq castle and Al Hilah castle will be closed between August 10 and 12 for a day each in sequence. Similarly, Khasab castle will be closed on August 18 and Taqah castle on August 19.



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Oakland: Propane tank explosion causes fire at apartment complex

By Karina Ioffe Bay Area News Group

A propane tank that exploded caused a fire at an Oakland apartment building, although no injuries were reported.

The blaze occurred in the 3500 block of Brighton Avenue shortly after 8 p.m., displacing six people from three apartments. A dog and a cat were also rescued by fire fighters, with the cat suffering smoke inhalation. The animal was treated with asthma medication and is expected to recover.

The explosion happened when the owner of the building turned on the propane heater in an effort to exterminate termites, said Battalion Chief Coy Justice.

Officials did not immediately offer a damage estimate for the building.



An apartment building owner trying to use heat to battle termites may have set off an explosion that displaced six residents, Oakland fire officials said. (Courtesy of Oakland Fire Department)

CONTRA COSTA TIMES
ContraCostaTimes.com



'They're like my children': The woman who keeps 100,000 cockroaches in her home

Keira Lu Huang

While others would do everything in their power to keep cockroaches out of the house, one Chinese woman has welcomed the creepy critters – **all 100,000 of them**.

Yuan Meixia, a 37-year-old pharmacy employee in Fujian province, uses her countryside home next to the woods as a breeding ground for the roaches, which she then sells to a pharmaceutical company that uses it in certain medicines.

The insects will eventually be dried and sold to a factory in faraway Anhui province, but during their short lives with Yuan, she treats them “like her children”.

“These are all my children, my babies,” she says to a *Southern Metropolis News* reporter on a tour of the facility in Linbian village. Yuan resides at another house in Siqian county, but visits the breeding house every day.

Inside the house, there are zippered silk nets instead of doors and every crevice or hole is sealed shut with cement to keep the cockroaches in.



Although she calls them her 'babies' or 'children', the insects are killed and dried before being sold to a factory. Photo: Nandu.com

In hot weather, Yuan cools down the house by sprinkling water on the walls. In the cold, she has a gas-fired stove to keep the insects warm.

Yuan, now a local celebrity for her offbeat side project, raises mainly Palmetto bugs, a large and winged cockroach species common in the United States. They thrive in damp conditions and have a preference for sweets and starch.

On a CCTV show last year, “I saw people raise this kind of cockroach in Anhui. They said it can be food and also can be medicine,” Yuan said. “So I took tens of thousands of yuan to learn [breeding them] for a week and spent more than 10,000 yuan [HK\$12,600] to buy 20kg of live cockroaches.”

Yuan believes components in the insects can fight cancer. “Dried Palmetto bugs can act as anti-cancer drugs,” she says, without citing specific studies.

Researchers at the Second Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University said in a recent report that components in the insect have liver-boosting capabilities when consumed by mice with liver damage.

“The Palmetto bug and its extracts can protect liver functions when [the natural protein Concanavalin A] caused acute immunity hepatic injury among mice,” they wrote.

Yuan places honeydews, apples and rice bran on shelves at each end of the room, where the insects swarm and feast. On the living room table is a bag of glucose for the baby cockroaches, or nymphs, which resemble little red beans.

“Like children, they need sufficient nutrition,” said Yuan with a smile, adding that she keeps the adults separate from the nymphs. She feeds them at 6pm every day.

“They are most active at night, mating and hunting for food,” said Yuan. “They mate with each other after eating. The mating process lasts for two hours, and then spawning [happens]. Every spawn hatches dozens of baby cockroaches.”

In the warm conditions of southern China’s regions, it takes about a month for the babies to hatch. At any given time, she has around 100,000 cockroaches and sells the matured ones to the factory every two months.

Yuan drowns them in vats of water then dries them under the sun before placing them in plastic bags and selling them to the factory more than 900km away in Anhui. A doctor of traditional Chinese medicine says Palmetto bugs are not officially accepted in TCM but are used in many folk recipes.

“Those dried ones can be sold at 300 yuan to 400 yuan per jin [about 0.5kg]. I harvest every two months and dry 10kg to 20kg every time,” Yuan told the newspaper.

He Chuangyao, director of an animal-welfare institute in the city said Palmetto bugs have medical value to a certain extent, but their breeding should be carefully monitored.

“The mass rearing techniques are mature, but not many locals are currently breeding them,” He said. “Owners should prevent them from running out, spreading viruses and damaging the ecosystem.”

South China Morning Post 南華早報
CHINA

Bangalore's 20 rats chew Rs.2 lakh in 2 years



Rats can chew up almost everything, even money. Trust Greater Bangalore City Corporation for it; **the civic body has spent Rs.2 lakh to capture just 20 rats in the last two years.** The scam adds up to the Corporation's ill reputation as being a corruption-ridden organisation, known internationally for its inept handling of civic issues like garbage disposal.

GBCC's latest scam came to light following an RTI application by Bharatiya Janata Party Councillor N.R. Ramesh about the expenditure incurred on pest control in the Corporation's offices. It was revealed that the BJP-ruled civic body doled out the money to three pest control agencies tasked with tackling rat menace at the Corporation's offices in Bangalore. But, in the last two years all that the pest control agencies could do was to get hold of 20 rats. **It translates into Rs.10,000 for each rat captured.**

"Rat poison does not cost more than Rs.20. What is GBCC's logic behind engaging the services of three pest control agencies, just to capture 20 rats?" Ramesh asked. "This is unbelievable. Unfortunately, the officials have not given a convincing answer."

The Corporation had invited proposals from pest control agencies to deal with the rodents that had destroyed files at GBCC head office here and another building nearby. Though the payments were promptly made to the agencies, their performance was poor.

"Spending Rs.2 lakh to catch 20 rats is ridiculous. GBCC is making a mockery of itself. It manages the civic affairs of an internationally-renowned city, but look at the people who are at the helm of affairs," said former councillor M. Narayana. "This could be just a tip of the iceberg. Several such scams have become routine in the GBCC," he added.

As one of the most corruption ridden civic agencies, the GBCC is in the red with debts of over Rs.3,500 crore.



Rentokil Acquires India's Pestcone Plus

Rentokil Initial India has acquired Gujarat-based pest control service providing company **PestconePlus** for an undisclosed amount, a statement issued by the company (Rentokil Initial India) said.

Commenting on the acquisition, **Sam Easaw, Managing Director, Rentokil Initial India,** says, "Acquisition of PestconePlus Pvt. Ltd marks our entry into Gujarat, an exciting and emerging market in India. We will continue to build our regional strength in India through organic and inorganic growth. This acquisition further strengthens our presence in India and supports our journey of accelerated growth through differentiated services."

Rentokil initial has established itself as a leading pest control service provider since 2008 in India and for more than 100 years internationally, the statement said.

The acquired company, the statement added, with offices across India will help in bringing an experienced local management team into the company.



Morons' lining up to bid on Banksy



'Pest Control – Banksus Militus Vandalus' was secretly installed in the Natural History Museum in 2004, where it stayed for two hours until staff spotted it and took it down. *Photo: Reuters*

FINANCIAL REVIEW

North Vancouver man getting eaten alive by bedbugs

By Brent Richter, North Shore News July 10

A North Vancouver man says he is getting eaten alive by bedbugs each night while having no luck getting his landlord to acknowledge the problem.

Sam Tabei, a 32-year-old contractor, has been dealing with the infestation at his apartment at 255 East 13th St. since January 2013.

Property manager AWM Alliance has hired pest control companies numerous times to spray the apartment with pesticides and now insists to Tabei that his claim has no merit. Meanwhile, Tabei said he is "covered in bites."



"My place has probably been sprayed eight times so far within the past year. From April until now, they've refused to do anything more," Tabei said.

"I'm constantly itchy. I'm trying to stay positive but sometimes you have suicidal thoughts because it's been happening for so long. Holy smokes. I'm a strong dude but this stuff breaks you down."

Tabei has since seen his doctor to get cortisone treatments for the bites and a note that says his rash is consistent with bedbug bites. He has also hired his own exterminator to come in at the end of June to confirm that his unit and his neighbour's unit are both still infested, and spray them both.

"We found a whole bunch of them a few nights ago. They're definitely there," he said.

Tabei wants AWM to hire a pest control specialist to give the building a thermal treatment, which involves bringing in a "furnace on wheels" to pump hot air into all the cracks and crevices of the unit, bringing the temperature up to 57° C for about six hours and killing every insect, egg and larva inside.

"The fact is heat is by far the most effective remedy against bedbugs. There's no doubt about it," said Brett Johnston, president of Assured Thermal Solutions. "There are situations that you will never ever solve without a heat treatment. The reason for that is bugs can hide in places that you can't spray or steam or dust."

But it's also significantly more expensive. **A one bedroom apartment like Tabei's typically costs \$1,000** depending on the size, layout and logistics involved, Johnston said.

Tabei is now planning to take AWM to the Residential Tenancy Branch, which is often the only option for renters, according to Tom Durning, spokesman for the Tenant Resource & Advisory Centre.

"There are treatments out there. If you do an integrated pest management system and a heat treatment and the whole bit, it will cost the landlord thousands and a lot of them don't want to do that," he said.

The Residential Tenancy Act's provisions for health and safety are vague enough that landlords typically opt to spray and consider the matter closed, Durning said.

"It gets kind of complicated as it goes along for these little brown bastards," he said. "If the landlord is saying 'Look, I'm only doing Chevrolet pest control. I'm not doing Cadillac pest control because I can't afford it,' we'll have to see how a third party rules."

Bedbugs are now at pandemic levels across North America in all types of housing, and seniors are least likely to report them out of a greater fear of stigma, eviction or being put into an extended care facility by their families, Durning said. It's also harder for them to prepare their units for fumigation and there is no requirement for landlords to help them.

Durning said that the best way to avoid bedbugs is to check the online registry found at bedbugregistry.com before moving into a building with a known infestation. The City of North Vancouver has its own bylaw that states all residential buildings must be kept free of bedbugs.

AWM Alliance declined to comment on the story.

The Province

It starts here.



Beetle infestation in imported timber pallets

The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) has expressed concern over the recent detection of **Asian longhorn beetle**, the brown mulberry longhorn beetle and the Japanese sawyer beetle in imported timber pallets. It is understood that pine wilt nematodes—microscopic parasites that are carried by the beetles and can quickly infect large stands of trees—have also been detected in some of the Japanese sawyer beetles.



Chief Executive Officer Mr Ross Hampton said; ‘These beetles and the nematode have the potential to rapidly infect our plantations and cause serious economic damage to our AU\$22 billion forest products industry.

‘We have been lucky this time, with the beetles being detected through routine quarantine inspections. But the industry is greatly concerned of the risk posed by the import of products from places that do not maintain the same very high biosecurity standard as we do in Australia.



The Attacus Atlas Moth



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Sharjah Municipality to name pest control firms on website

Afkar Abdulah

Responding to a long-standing demand of residents, the Sharjah Municipality is planning to post the list of approved pest control companies on its website and newspapers.

This would help residents as the absence of such an avenue till now has forced them to hire companies without knowing whether they are authorised and whether the pesticides they use are safe and allowed in the country.

The move was announced by Hassan Al Tafaq, Director of the plantation and environment section at the municipality, after inspectors seized a large quantity of illegal pesticides being used by some pest control companies. The municipality inspectors also caught several pest control companies that were offering services without a valid permit from the municipality.

Al Tafaq said during the intensified inspection campaign, the municipality confiscated a large quantity of chemicals used in pesticides from the warehouse of one of the pest control companies. These illegal chemicals being used in pesticides are dangerous and could pose a serious threat to public health, he said.

The municipality, in coordination with the Criminal Investigation Department of the Sharjah Police, arrested several persons who were caught contacting residents and offering them pest control services using unauthorised pesticides. The suspects were found working in construction and painting companies and had some connection with pest control companies involved in using such illegal pesticides.

To make people aware and end the practice of hiring illegal pest control companies, the municipality is planning to post the list of the approved companies on its website and in newspapers, he said.

He warned the public not to contact pest control companies that slip their leaflets or brochures under the doors of their houses and apartments. The municipality would impose hefty fines on those found offering unlicensed pest control services. The civic authority issues licences to companies only after ensuring that those providing the services are experts.

Al Tafaq urged the public to cooperate with the municipality and inform it about any illegal activities by calling hotline number 993.



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