

CONFERENCE EVALUATION

1 INTRODUCTION

At the end of the conference, participants were asked to appraise the programs and materials of the conference and give their assessment of the experience. In addition to providing a detailed evaluation of conference program and materials, the exercise provides a means for conference sponsors to respond to the participants' needs when planning future conferences and activities. The format also provided a survey of participation by region, areas of expertise, and types of organizations.

Of the 245 conference participants, eighty-three percent of the conference participants returned their conference evaluation forms (200). Below are Tables 1, 2, and 3 indicating participant response by region, areas of expertise, and types of organizations. Sixty-nine percent of the participants (170) were attending one of these Conferences for the first time.

Table 1 Regional Response to the Evaluation

REGIONS	Participants		Respondents	
	No.	%	No.	%
Africa	21	9%	18	9%
Asia & Pacific	35	15%	31	16%
Caribbean	6	2%	6	3%
Central & Eastern Europe	29	12%	22	11%
Central America	7	3%	8	4%
International	25	10%	9	5%
North America	46	19%	33	17%
South America	18	8%	16	8%
South Asia	10	4%	9	5%
West Asia/Middle East	6	1%	4	2%
Western Europe	37	17%	40	20%
Unspecified	0	0%	4	2%
TOTAL	240	100%	200	100%

Table 3 Area of Expertise

Type	No.	%
International NGO	15	7.5%
National Government	105	52.5%
State/Province/Region	38	19%
Municipal/Local Govt.	6	3%
Nongovernmental	26	13%
Industry	0	0%
Other	6	3%
Unspecified	4	2.5%
TOTAL	200	100%

Table 2 Organizational Type

Area	No.	%
Legal	52	26%
Technical	28	14%
Policy and Management	68	34%
Legal/Technical	3	1.5%
Legal/Technical/Inspection	1	.5%
Policy and Management/Technical	17	8.5%
Policy and Management/Legal	10	5%
Other	6	3%
Unspecified	15	7.5%
TOTAL	200	100%

2 GENERAL COMMENTS

Overall, the conference was very well received by the respondents with over 70% of participants rating it either very good or excellent. Fully half of the respondents added written comments to that the conference provided a valuable opportunity for exchanging experiences, gaining information and networking with new contacts (105).

A number of respondents found various elements of the conference notably valuable and recommended increasing their time allotments. These recommendations included: longer plenary sessions (69); more informal time to engage with others in an unstructured setting, to network, and to absorb material (52); and more time overall for program activities and to allow for acclimation to new time zones for international participants (9).

Several respondents indicated that another international conference would be valuable if held in more than three years to ascertain any developments made as a result of the conference with a focus on the development of regional networks (15).

3 CONFERENCE PURPOSE AND GOALS

The participants were asked to evaluate the value of the purpose and goals set for the conference for the intended participants and whether they were successfully met. Seventy-four percent of the respondents who answered this question rated the purpose and goals as very good to excellent (143). Figure 1 represents the participants' responses.

Although a few respondents commented on the difficulty of the conference offering something for everyone (3), participants generally recognized and commended the worthiness of the goals.

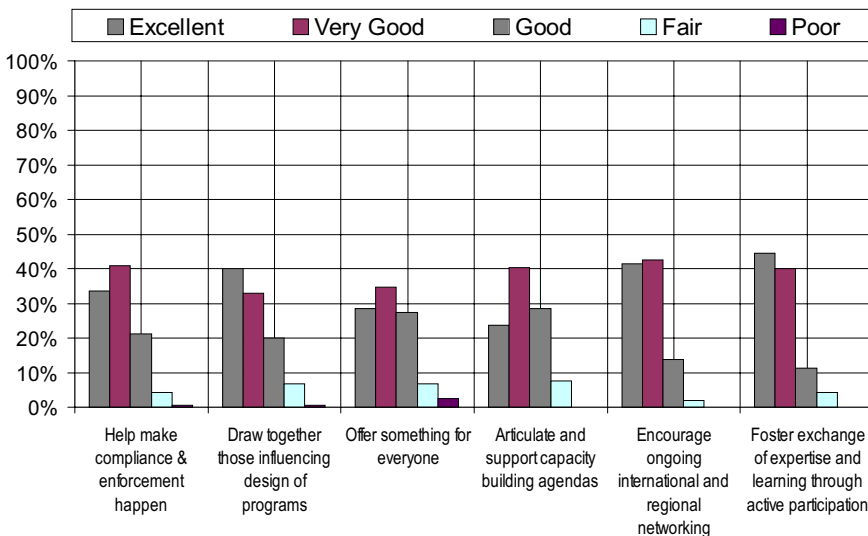


Figure 1. Overall ratings given by participants who evaluated the appropriateness of the conference purpose and goals (194)

4 CONFERENCE SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING GOALS

Participants were also asked to evaluate the success in achieving the conference’s purpose and goals. Seventy percent of the respondents who answered this question rated the success in achieving the conference’s purpose and goals as very good to excellent (132). Figure 2 represents the responses.

Specifically, some respondents indicated that the conference fostered the exchange of information and experiences that would help their domestic compliance and enforcement programs (10). Fourteen others suggested the conference would benefit from: adjusting the workshop format to reduce time constraints (6), increasing the level of participation of other groups involved with compliance and enforcement such as NGOs, local enforcers, etc. to broaden the viewpoints of experience exchanges (6), and stressing sub-regional networking more strongly (2).

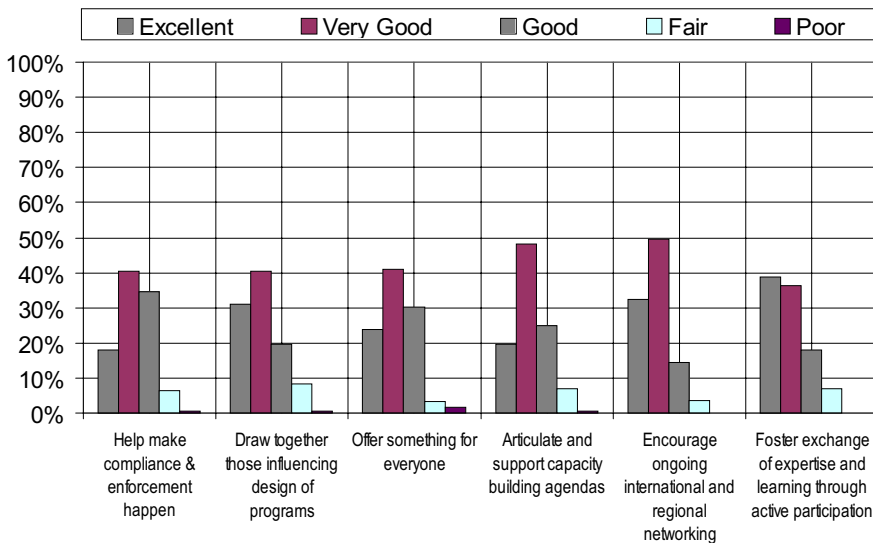


Figure 2 Overall ratings given by participants who evaluated the success of achieving conference purpose and goals (189)

5 CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Participants were asked to evaluate several aspects of conference participation including the number of individuals in attendance, the countries represented and the organizations represented as well as the mix of experience. Seventy-eight percent of the respondents who answered to this question rated the participant aspect of the conference as very good to excellent (148). See Figure 3. Both the number of attending individuals and the country representations were rated as very good to excellent by eighty-three percent of the respondents (157). Some respondents indicated that the diversity of representatives from different countries provided an excellent mixture of experience (7), while others suggested improvement in the composition of participant constituents citing the need for more NGOs, better representation from different countries and more representatives from specific professions such as local enforcers.(23).

Several respondents commented on the problems such as the large number of conference participants and the language barriers (16).

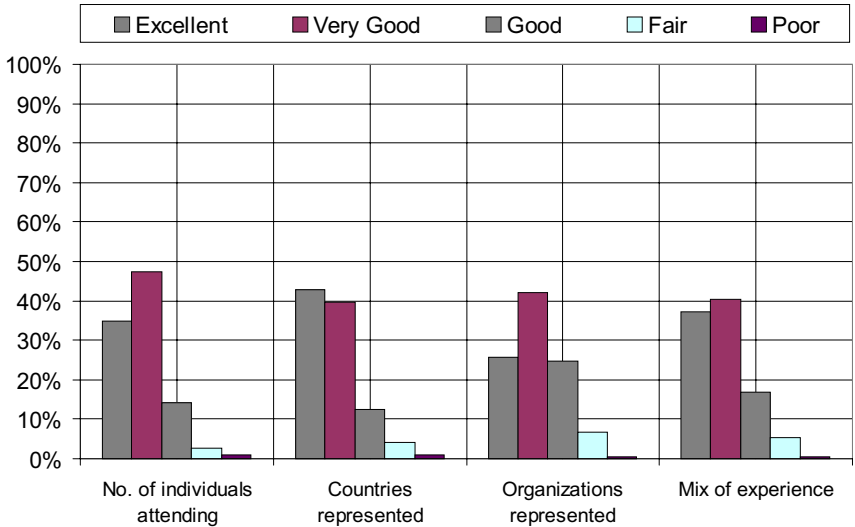


Figure 3. Overall ratings given by participants who evaluated conference participation (191)

6 CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

Participants evaluated the structure of the Conference which included the Principles of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement presentation, the theme plenary sessions which were followed by related workshops, free time for exhibits and clinics and regional meetings. The valuations of the specific elements are indicated in Figure 4. Participant comments generally included recommendations for more time for the planned activities such as the plenary sessions, presentations, regional meetings, and clinics. Specifically, these included: more time allotted for plenary sessions and regional meetings to allow for adequate discussion and presentations (27); more time for networking and informal time (34) and reducing the length of the conference (5).

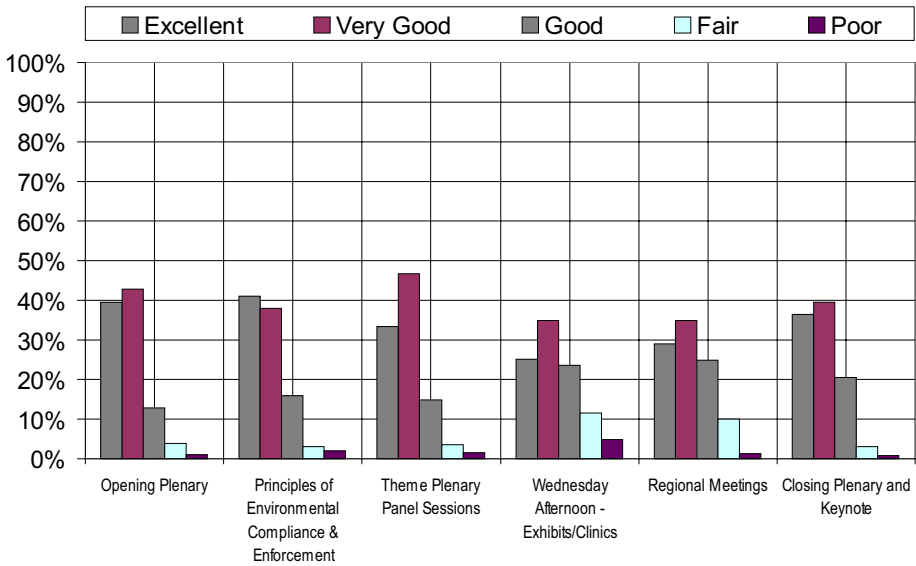


Figure 4. Overall rating for the structure of conference as evaluated by the responding participants (175)

7 PLENARY PANELS

Participants were asked to evaluate the individual plenary sessions that introduced the themes that were followed by related workshops and the Principles of Environmental Enforcement presentation. Figures 5 - 11 represent these responses. In addition to the ratings, several respondents specifically commented on the plenary sessions giving them general praise for their content and focus (18). Others noted that while the content was excellent, the sessions were hurried i.e. either the respondents felt that the plenaries were too short given the number of presentations or too many presentations were made in the allotted time. Specifically, respondents wanted longer presentations feeling that the 7-10 minute time limit resulted in a lack of depth for the presentations (32) and others specified the need for more time for the question and discussion period (30). In regard to the Theme #3 plenary, a few respondents suggested that more presentations on compliance be included (3).

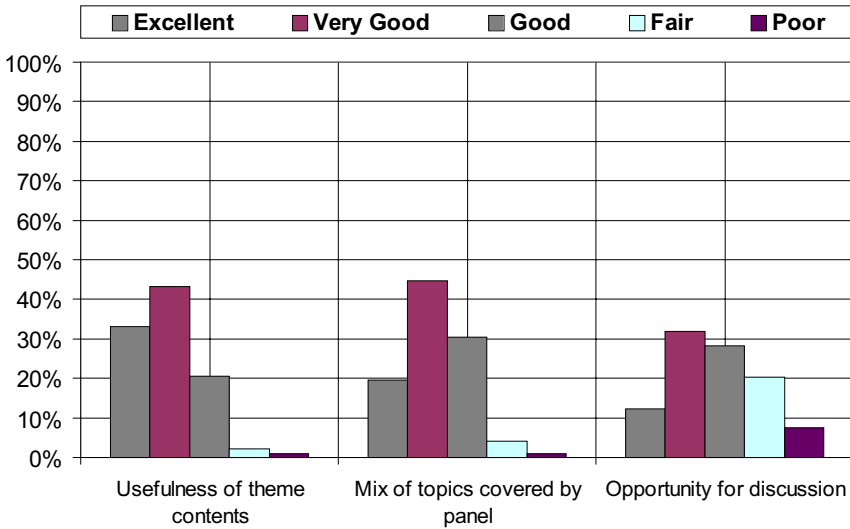


Figure 5. Theme #1 Plenary - Making it Happen: Applying the Principles of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

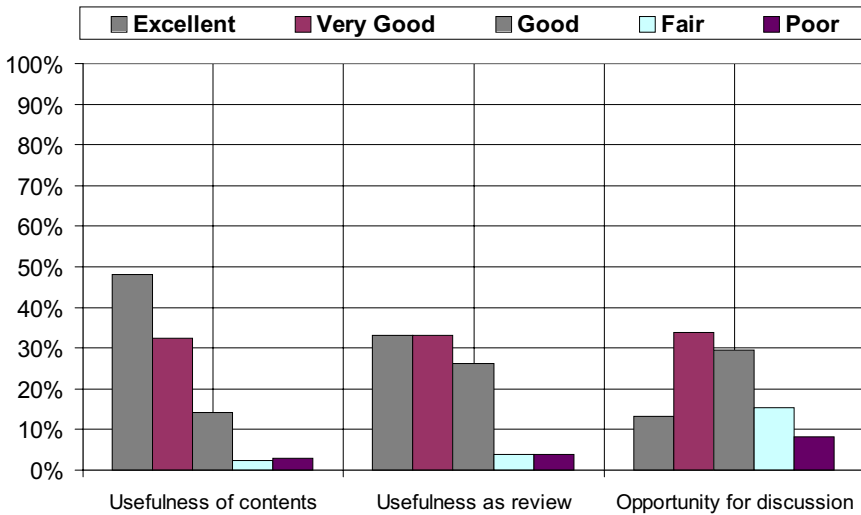


Figure 6. Theme #1 - Principles of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

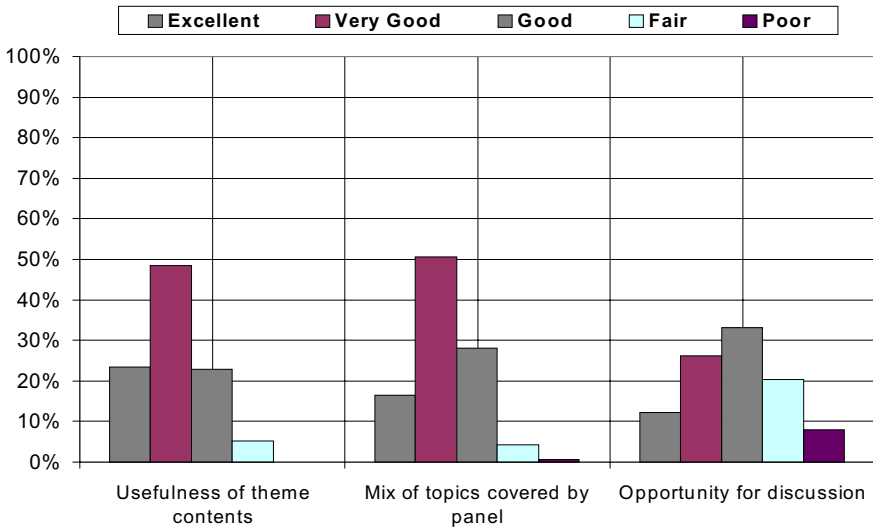


Figure 7. Theme #2 Plenary - Communications, Public Role, Compliance Monitoring

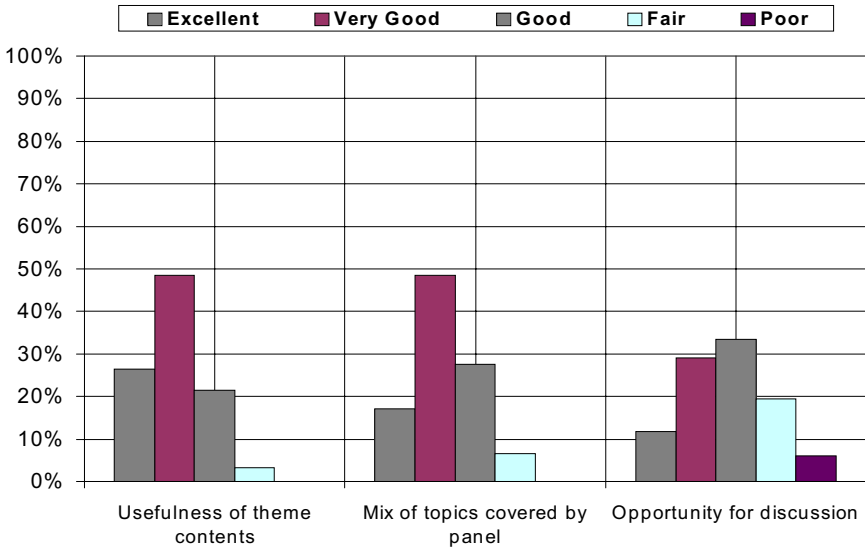


Figure 8. Theme #3 Plenary- "Carrots and Sticks"

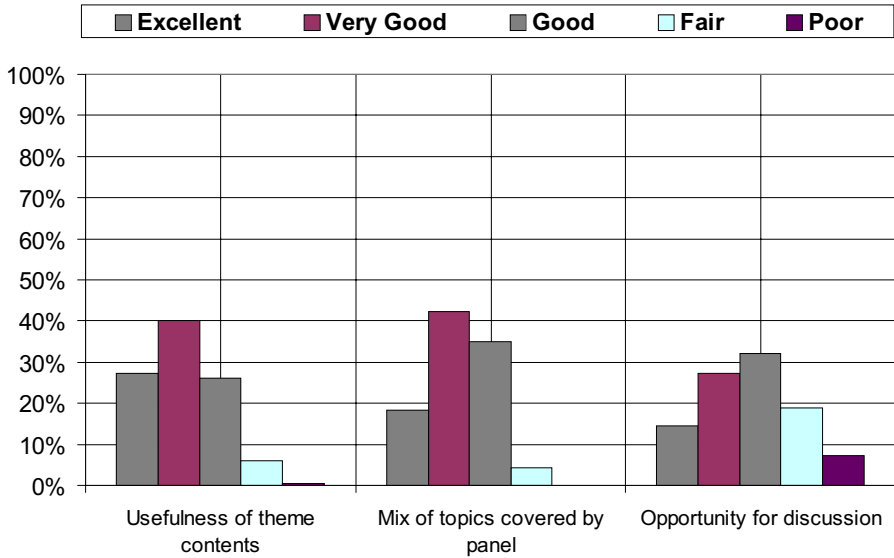


Figure 9. Theme #4 - Capacity Building

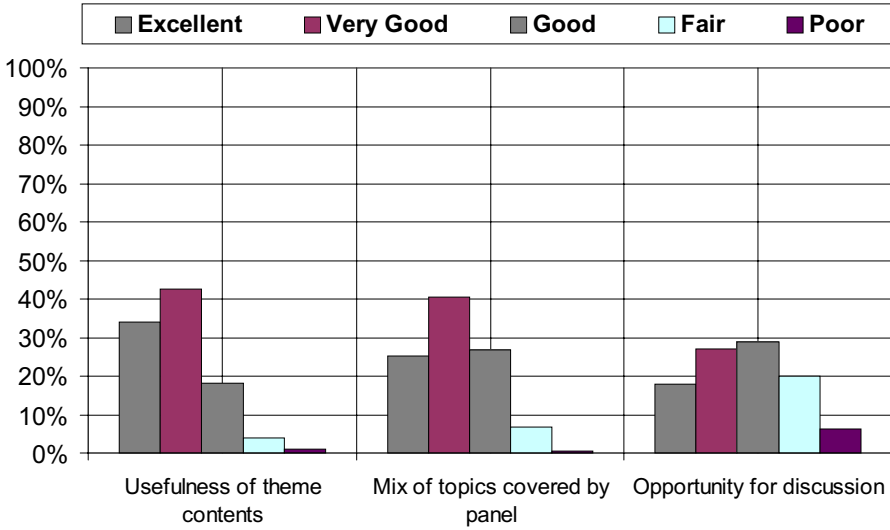


Figure 10. Theme #5 Plenary - International cooperation/Transboundary Compliance and Enforcement Issues

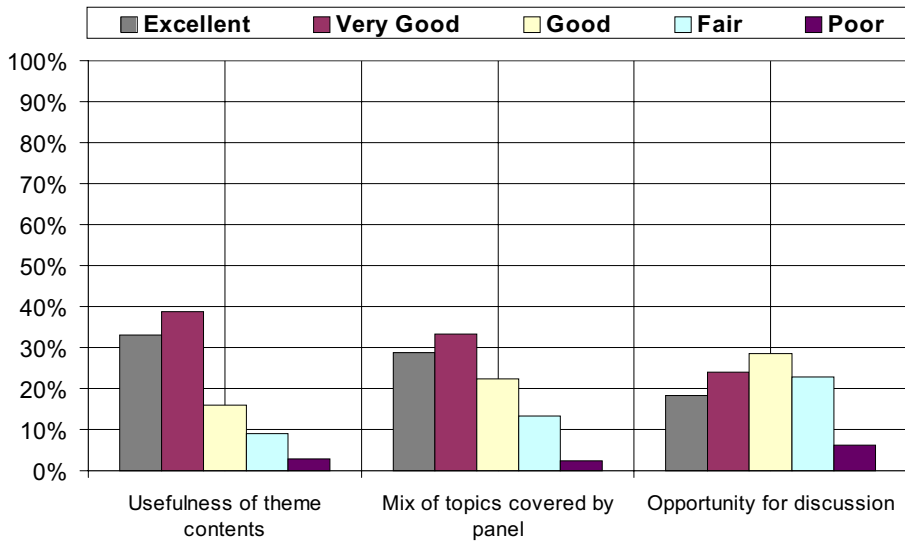


FIGURE 11. THEME #6 PLENARY - BUILDING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL NETWORKS

8 WORKSHOPS

Participants were asked to rate the workshops they attended in terms of the quality of the material, whether the goals were accomplished, and whether the issues were adequately addressed. The results of these ratings are presented in Figures 12 - 15. Results for the “Principles” workshops are presented in Table 4.

Respondents’ comments were varied among the workshops. A number of participants commended the workshops for their valuable discussions and small size (10). Other respondents suggested some improvements including: adjusting the discussion format (34); allotting more time for questions and discussion (20); increasing homogeneity of cultures and levels of experiences among participants to improve depth and focus of the exchange (9) and providing more support materials for discussions (5). Comments on the quality of facilitation also varied by workshop with some participants remarking that the good facilitation resulted in focused sessions (31), while other recommended better facilitation of and preparation for the workshops (16).

Table 4 Principles of Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Workshops

	Excellent		Very Good		Good		Fair		Poor		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Coal Burning											
Realistic	1	6%	11	69%	2	13%	1	6%	1	6%	16
Quality of Materials	2	13%	8	50%	4	25%	1	6%	1	6%	16
Usefulness of Contents	2	13%	7	44%	6	38%	1	6%	0	0%	16
Usefulness of Package	1	6%	9	56%	5	31%	1	6%	0	0%	16
Workshop Format	1	7%	9	64%	2	14%	2	14%	0	0%	14
Mining											
Realistic	4	22%	4	22%	9	50%	1	6%	0	0%	18
Quality of Materials	3	17%	8	44%	6	33%	1	6%	0	0%	18
Usefulness of Contents	5	28%	4	22%	7	39%	2	11%	0	0%	18
Usefulness of Package	2	12%	7	41%	7	41%	1	6%	0	0%	17
Workshop Format	3	19%	6	38%	6	38%	1	6%	0	0%	16
Petrochemical											
Realistic	4	24%	5	29%	7	41%	1	6%	0	0%	17
Quality of Materials	6	35%	5	29%	5	29%	1	6%	0	0%	17
Usefulness of Contents	5	29%	5	29%	6	35%	1	6%	0	0%	17
Usefulness of Package	4	24%	5	29%	7	41%	1	6%	0	0%	17
Workshop Format	5	33%	4	27%	5	33%	1	7%	0	0%	15
Deforestation A											
Realistic	5	25%	12	60%	3	15%	0	0%	0	0%	20
Quality of Materials	7	35%	7	35%	5	25%	1	5%	0	0%	20
Usefulness of Contents	6	30%	6	30%	6	30%	2	10%	0	0%	20
Usefulness of Package	6	30%	7	35%	6	30%	1	5%	0	0%	20
Workshop Format	5	31%	8	50%	2	13%	1	6%	0	0%	16
Deforestation B											
Realistic	1	9%	5	45%	4	36%	1	9%	0	0%	11
Quality of Materials	3	27%	7	64%	1	9%	0	0%	0	0%	11
Usefulness of Contents	3	27%	5	45%	3	27%	0	0%	0	0%	11
Usefulness of Package	3	27%	3	27%	5	45%	0	0%	0	0%	11
Workshop Format	2	18%	6	55%	3	27%	0	0%	0	0%	11
Waste Disposal A											
Realistic	3	13%	9	39%	5	22%	5	22%	1	4%	23
Quality of Materials	6	26%	6	26%	8	35%	1	4%	2	9%	23
Usefulness of Contents	4	17%	9	39%	5	22%	4	17%	1	4%	23
Usefulness of Package	4	18%	8	36%	7	32%	1	5%	2	9%	22
Workshop Format	5	24%	5	24%	7	33%	3	14%	1	5%	21
Waste Disposal B											
Realistic	1	9%	4	36%	4	36%	2	18%	0	0%	11
Quality of Materials	1	9%	5	45%	5	45%	0	0%	0	0%	11
Usefulness of Contents	1	9%	5	45%	4	36%	1	9%	0	0%	11
Usefulness of Package	0	0%	5	50%	4	40%	1	10%	0	0%	10
Workshop Format	1	11%	4	44%	2	22%	1	11%	1	11%	9
Waste Disposal C											
Realistic	1	6%	7	44%	6	38%	0	0%	2	13%	16
Quality of Materials	4	25%	4	25%	6	38%	2	13%	0	0%	16
Usefulness of Contents	3	19%	6	38%	6	38%	1	6%	0	0%	16
Usefulness of Package	3	19%	5	31%	6	38%	1	6%	1	6%	16
Workshop Format	3	19%	6	38%	6	38%	1	6%	0	0%	16
Tourism											
Realistic	8	50%	1	6%	2	13%	3	19%	2	13%	16
Quality of Materials	4	27%	3	20%	4	27%	2	13%	2	13%	15
Usefulness of Contents	6	38%	3	19%	3	19%	1	6%	3	19%	16
Usefulness of Package	4	29%	3	21%	3	21%	2	14%	2	14%	14
Workshop Format	5	33%	4	27%	1	7%	2	13%	3	20%	15
Transboundary A											
Realistic	19	50%	3	8%	9	24%	4	11%	3	8%	38
Quality of Materials	19	50%	3	8%	9	24%	6	16%	1	3%	38
Usefulness of Contents	19	51%	4	11%	8	22%	3	8%	3	8%	37
Usefulness of Package	18	50%	4	11%	4	11%	6	17%	4	11%	36
Workshop Format	15	50%	1	3%	8	27%	4	13%	2	7%	30
Transboundary B											
Realistic	9	50%	1	6%	2	11%	5	28%	1	6%	18
Quality of Materials	10	50%	0	0%	5	25%	4	20%	1	5%	20
Usefulness of Contents	10	53%	0	0%	3	16%	5	26%	1	5%	19
Usefulness of Package	10	50%	0	0%	3	15%	6	30%	1	5%	20
Workshop Format	9	53%	0	0%	4	24%	4	24%	0	0%	17

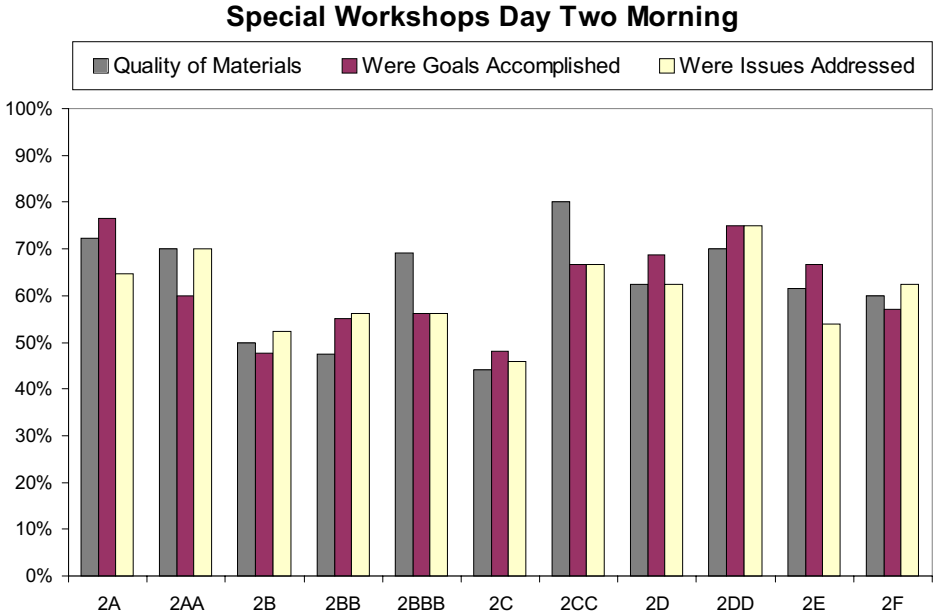


Figure 12. Theme #2 Workshops. This figure shows the overall percentage ratings for “very good” to “excellent” given by the respondents who evaluated the Workshops

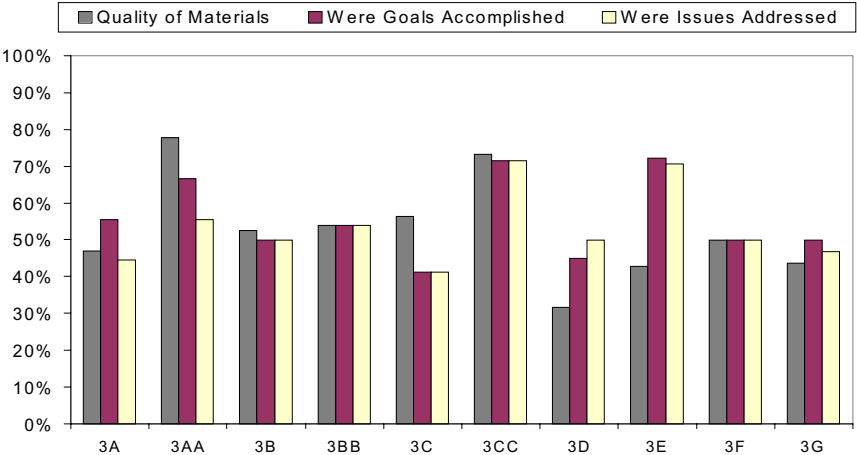


Figure 13. Theme #3 Workshops. This figure shows the overall percentage ratings for “very good” to “excellent” given by the respondents who evaluated the Workshops

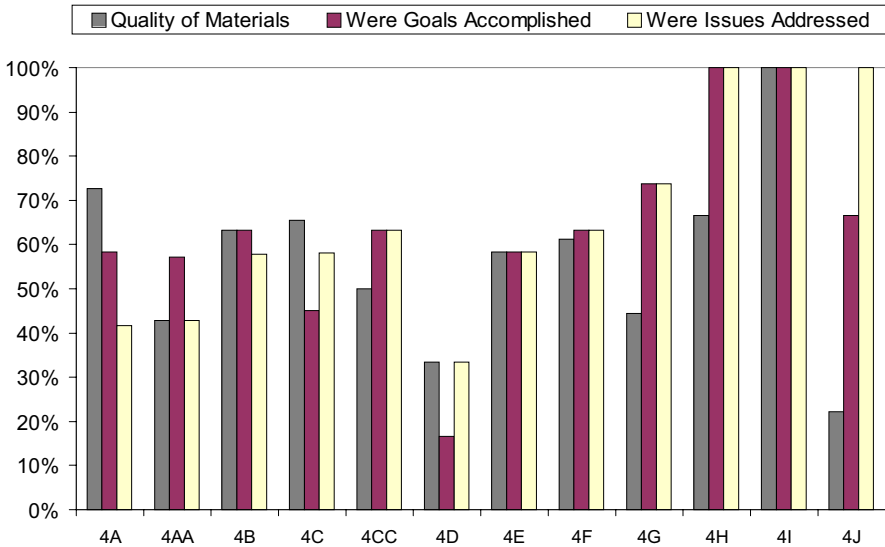


Figure 14. Theme #4 Workshops. This figure shows the overall percentage ratings for “very good” to “excellent” given by the respondents who evaluated the Workshops

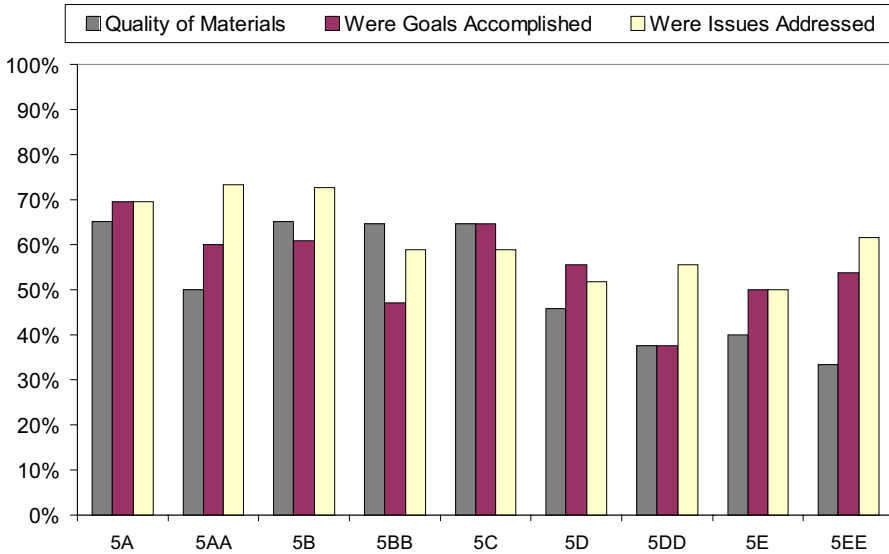


Figure 15. Theme #5 Workshops. This figure shows the overall percentage ratings for “very good” to “excellent” given by the respondents who evaluated the Workshops

9 REGIONAL MEETINGS

One hundred forty-three of the participants responded to the question concerning the four regional meetings: Europe, Americas, Asia and Africa/Middle East. Fifty-seven percent of the respondents from the Regional Meeting for Europe (27), sixty-two percent from the Americas Regional Meeting (25), seventy-five percent from the Asia Regional Meeting (27) and eighty percent from the Africa/Middle East Regional Meeting (14) rated the meetings as very good to excellent. The responses are presented in Figures 16-19.

A few respondents thought the productivity of the regional meetings were a result of good facilitation and discussion (3) while others indicated that the facilitators needed improvement (3). Again, some respondents commented on the limited time for speakers and the meetings themselves (8).

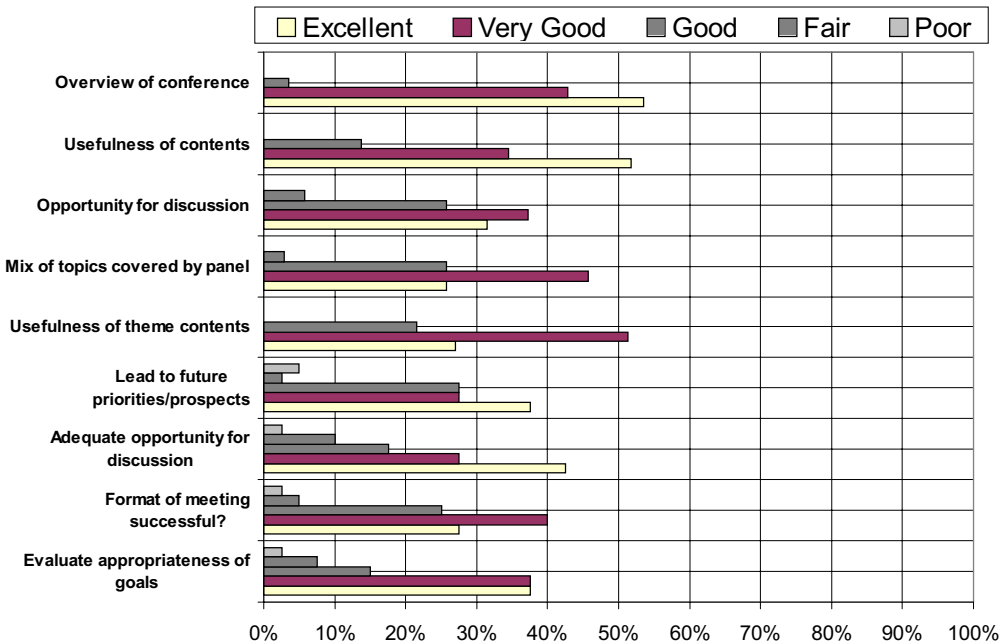


FIGURE 16. ASIA REGIONAL MEETING

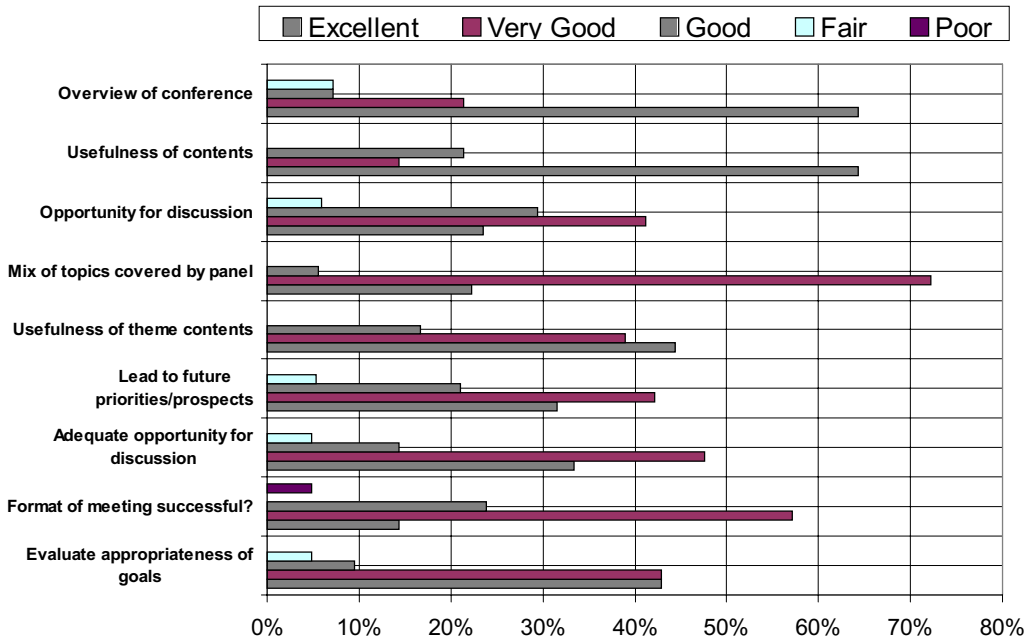


FIGURE 17. AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL MEETING

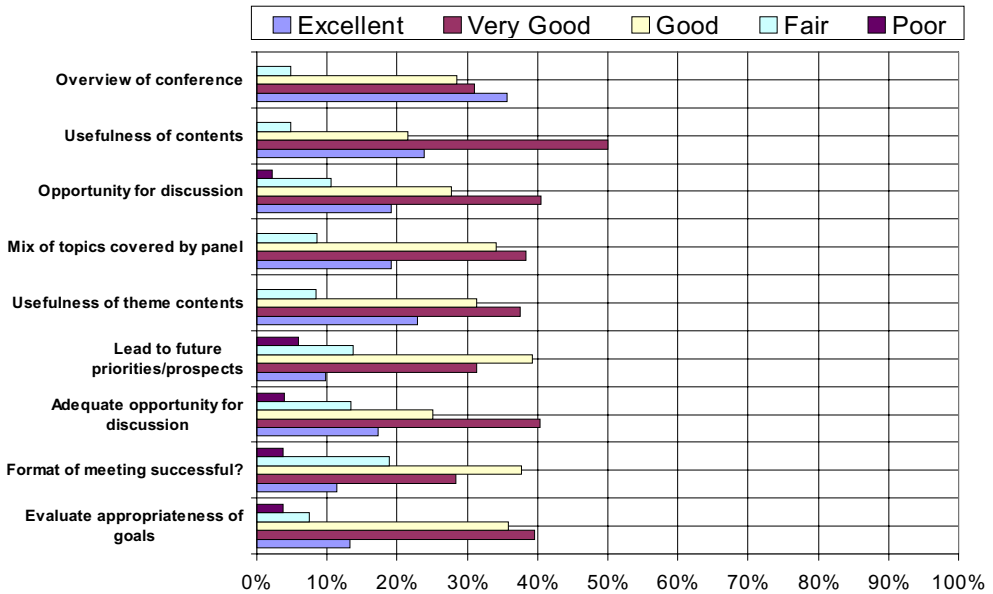


FIGURE 18. EUROPE REGIONAL MEETING

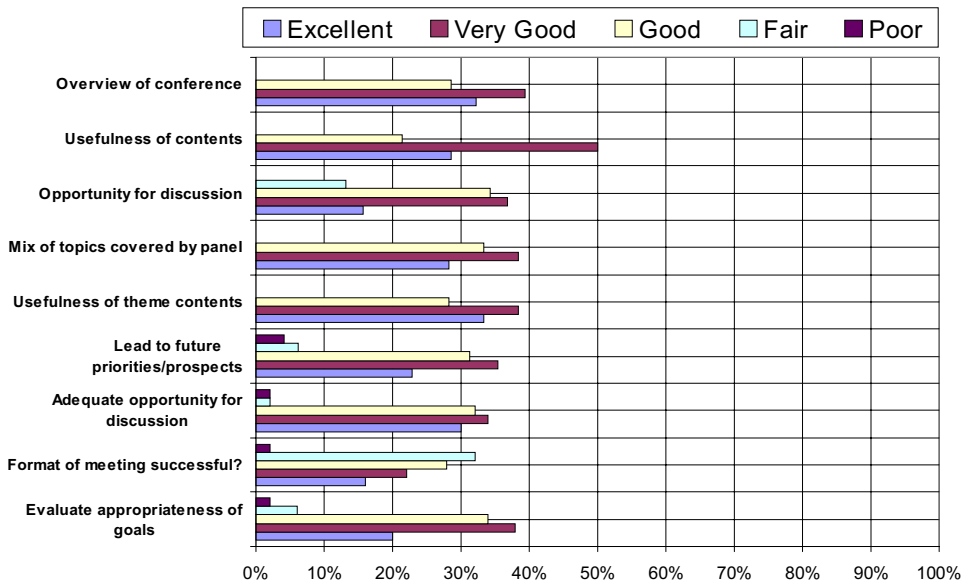


FIGURE 19. AMERICAS MEETING

10 EXHIBITS AND CLINICS

Exhibits provided participants with information about environmental compliance and enforcement issues in different regions. Regional displays included information on networks, institution building projects and programs, as well as country highlights. Demonstration exhibits included computer modeling and INTERNET/Automated Systems support, NGO access to information sites and Inspector/Police training materials. Video displays provided information and demonstrations on communications and training. Sixty percent (110) of the respondents who rated the exhibits and clinics gave a very good to excellent rating as seen above in Figure 4 . The Americas and the Western Europe Regional Exhibits received the highest overall ratings.

Clinics offered participants an opportunity to engage in one-on-one discussions focusing on specific topics. Although a few respondents indicated that the afternoon would have been better spent as a free one (3), others indicated that it would be worthwhile if structured differently to assure greater participation (5).

11 SITE VISITS

For the first time, conference participants had the opportunity to visit selected area sites on the Saturday following the conference. 86 participants signed up for a pre-arranged tour at one of the three sites of interest: a USEPA regional laboratory that analyses compliance samples, Fort Ord, a former military installation that underwent environmental remediation and is now used as a junior college, and a state-of-the art regional sewage

treatment plant and state-of-the-art solid waste management landfill at which a related compliance inspections was enacted. Although not recorded on the evaluation form, remarks were uniformly enthusiastic about the visits with recommendations that this activity become part of future conference programs.

12 ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE

Seventy-three percent of the respondents who answered this question rated the conference organization as very good to excellent (137). See Figure 20.

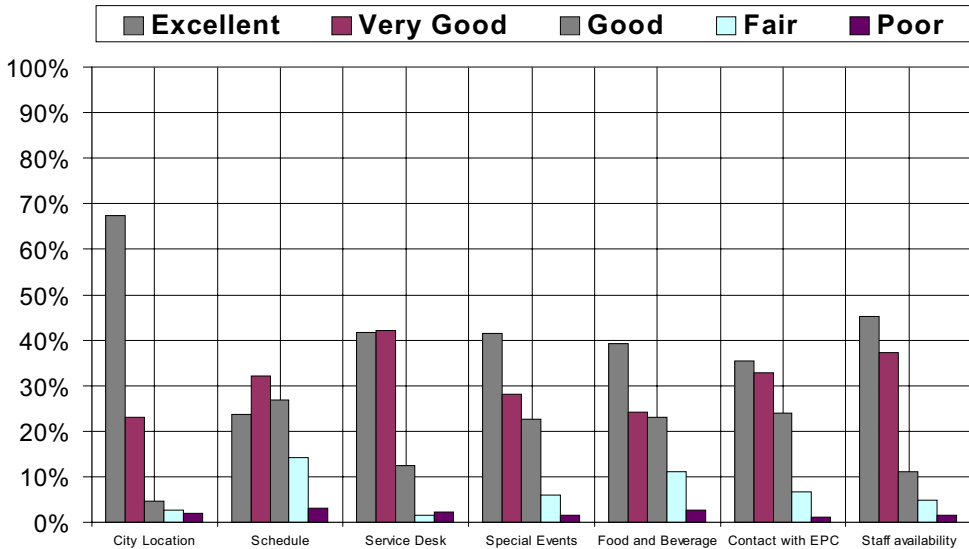


FIGURE 20. OVERALL RATINGS OF THE QUALITY OF THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION (187).

Twenty-two of the respondents who answered this question applauded both the quality of the conference and the efforts of the conference organizers. Ninety percent of the participants who answered this question gave the city location of the conference a very good to excellent rating (172). As before, many respondents indicated the lack of free time available to appreciate the surroundings. Some respondents indicated the inadequacy of the hotel staff (6), food (3), location (3), activities (2), and reimbursements (2).

13 NEWSLETTER

The Fifth Conference allowed INECE conference organizers to also assess the first published INECE Newsletter. Of the 111 respondents who evaluated the newsletter, ninety-five percent of the respondents indicated that the newsletter met their expectations (106). When asked to participate in the upcoming newsletter, ninety-percent of the respondents agreed to participate (122), while a few respondents would consider participating if specific issues were addressed (4).

14 FOLLOW UP TO THE CONFERENCE

Ninety percent of the respondents supported future regional conferences (173) and seventy-three percent of the respondents supported another International conference (141). Fourteen participants agreed that the international conference should take place no earlier than two years from now. On the issue of limiting participation, fifteen did not agree with the suggestion of more limited participation at the next international conference, but two cautioned that too many participants results in less individual attention and therefore less opportunity for discussion, information exchange, and capacity building.

Ten respondents specifically encouraged the organizers to continue the strengthening and expansion of the networks, however a number of respondents recommended that INECE should further develop the regional and sub-regional networks before any additional plans were made for another International conference (32). Further recommendations included: focusing on various groups such as developing countries, NGOs, and law enforcement while balancing the various relationships (18), following up with conference participants through establishment of a communication system (9), changing the program and methodology for future conferences (6), and setting up regional secretariats (2).

