

## Coprocem Chile: getting authorities on board

A conference was held by Coprocem Chile on 19 March 2008 presenting the worldwide experiences of the Holcim and Lafarge groups as well as the objectives of the PPP Coprocem Chile. The event was very well attended by almost 50 people from all related sectors of the industry and government. Andrés Jensen described the activities of the Coprocem Chile, formed in March 2007 as a PPP association for the entire nationwide cement industry (Cementos Bio Bio, Polpaico (Holcim group), Lafarge and GTZ Chile), as a subsequent continuation of the Holcim Alliance with GTZ. Jean Pierre Degré from Holcim and Dominique Bernard from Lafarge, focused on the key elements of the ecological industry and the increasing weight of Alternative fuels and raw materials in the world's cement production.

The event culminated with a panel discussion, where Coprocem Executive Committee members (Claudio Vidal (Lafarge), Gustavo Chiang (Cementos Bio Bio, Luis Cano (Polpaico), Alvaro Zurita (GTZ) and Karin Gauer as coordinator emphasized the urgent need for a unique regulatory framework for expanding industrial business activity. Chile's cement industry comprises six plants and offers co-processing facilities throughout the country.

Authorities of the Environmental Commission and the Health Ministry agreed to participate in a public private working group about the subject in question. With this official statement to join the Coprocem efforts, the event reached its ambitious goal. The establishment of a dialogue procedure with the governmental authorities is moving forward. The working modalities will be discussed at a workshop next month.



From left to right: Joost Meijer (CONAMA), Gonzalo Aguiler (Minsal), Karin Gauer (Coordinator), Claudio Vidal (Lafarge), Alvaro Zurita (GTZ), Gustavo Chiang (Cementos Bio Bio) und Luis Cano (Polpaico).