

## News Update

### Editorial

#### Water and Politics

Water and air can be considered being the new rarities of the planet. The crucial question we all have to ask ourselves is if these latter resources should be regarded as sustainable or ephemeral?

We have to be able to guarantee the physical and material accessibility to water and sanitation. Thanks to technical progress, we now have the knowledge to complete these missions but problems of a political nature persist. These can adequately be labeled 'Political Access'.

What does this concern? It is simply about the capacity of mastering the organisation of all water systems ranging from water used for agriculture to water used for domestic needs.

Political access is firstly about assuring every individual's right to dispose of a sufficient amount of water and level of sanitation in quantities and in a condition that guarantee his or her dignity.

Secondly, it is about the complete mastering of the financial cycle in order to pay the total cost of this service including investments but mainly the functioning.

Finally, it is the commitment to a free diffusion of the know-how that makes sure that the weakest, the poorest and the ones who live far away, all have access to the knowledge about how their regions, with all their specificities, work.

Solving the juridical, financial and knowledge-related issues implies seriously organizing the governance of water by placing it under the control of the citizens. It also entails recognition of water's central role in the political debate.

LOÏC FAUCHON



### At a Glance

#### Water and Culture

Water and culture have several things in common. Not only is water an extensive part of our cultures - we swim in it, we wash in it, our children play in it, but it is also a necessity for our survival. So is culture. Without our moral systems and habits it would be almost impossible to live in a society. Without water we cannot live at all.

Water and culture are furthermore in an interdependent relationship. Despite the effects of globalization, there are still great divides between societies. These cause conflicts that are hard to solve without the appeal for common values.

The value of water is a bridging factor that could enable us to respect our diversities while bringing us closer together. But to make this happen, we need culture. Through cinema, art, events and pure conversation we can aim to reach an extensive understanding of water issues and appeal for mobilization. As part of this objective, this month's newsletter focuses on different themes of water and culture.

## Focus on: Water and Culture

### Cinema as a Tool for Raising Awareness on Water Issues International Water & Film Event, Istanbul 2009

The second edition of the Water & Film Event (IWFE) should be held in Istanbul in March 2009, in parallel with the 5th World Water Forum. As part of popular culture, cinema is a great tool for raising awareness among the public at large on all water related issues. The Event, whose first edition was held during the 4th Forum of Mexico in 2006, will present feature films, documentaries and awareness spots in line with the topics of the Forum and under the overarching theme "Water & People". Members of the Steering Committee gathered last week in Rhodes on the occasion of the Ecofilm festival (see below), to define the selection process and modalities for this edition. The IWFE will be officially launched on 13 August during a Side Event of the Stockholm International Water Week. More information on the Water & Film website: <http://www.internationalwaterandfilm.com>



### A Ramsar/Medwet Award at the Ecofilms Festival

The 7th edition of Ecofilms, the Rodos International Films and Visual Arts Festival, was held 24 to 29 June on this latter Greek Island. At this occasion, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and its Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative sponsored a special award to encourage excellence and talent in film making addressing themes on water and in particular on wetlands. The World Water Council was kindly invited to participate as a Jury member for this award, represented by its Communication Officer. The award

was granted to the film "The Water Front" by Liz Miller, for the strong message she sent on how public participation and collaboration could overcome water issues. More information on Ecofilms: [http://www.ecofilms.gr/01.1.ecofilms\\_call\\_en.htm](http://www.ecofilms.gr/01.1.ecofilms_call_en.htm)

### The Water Front A film by Liz Miller

In 1917 Henry Ford built a landmark water plant for the city of Highland Park, Michigan to support his expanding auto empire. Ninety years later, residents of this post-industrial city, located by the largest body of freshwater in the world, are without access to affordable water. The Water Front is the story of one community's determination to fight the seemingly inevitable path to privatization.

[www.thewaterfrontmovie.org](http://www.thewaterfrontmovie.org)

### Zarqa River Photo Exhibition

"Past, Present & Future Perspective" is the theme of the Zarqa River Photo Exhibition that was inaugurated on 3 June 2007 on the occasion of World Environment Day in the Jordanian capital, Amman. The aim was not only to draw attention to water quality deterioration but also to its effect on community health, livelihoods and agriculture in this already dry and vulnerable region.

The Event was organized by the World Conservation Union (IUCN, member of the WWC) through its West Asia, Central Asia & North Africa (WESCANA) Regional Office in partnership with the Jordanian Ministry of Environment. More information: [http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/06/05\\_pr\\_water.htm](http://www.iucn.org/en/news/archive/2007/06/05_pr_water.htm)



### Past and Futures of Water: 5th IWHA Conference

The International Water History Association (IWHA) held its fifth biennial Conference in Tampere, Finland from 13 to 17 June 2007. The conference provided an opportunity for scholars and practitioners from a variety of disciplines and different parts of the world to meet and discuss the many fascinating aspects of water history and futures. Water history touches upon and informs many areas, including economic business and political history, the history of science and medicine, the history of technology, development, environmental sciences and geography.

More information: <http://www.iwha.net/>

## WWC News

### 29th Board of Governors Meeting of the WWC

Most WWC Governors were present in Marseilles for the 29th Board of Governors on 21-22 June. The 2 days of discussions focused on the implementation of the work on priority issues recommended by the last General Assembly of Mexico. More than half of the Governors presented contributions on issues ranging from technical ones (Sanitation, Desalination, Innovation & Technology) to more political ones (Local Authorities, Parliamentarians, Right to Water & Gender) which triggered in-depth discussions on future actions of the Council.

Mr Olcay Unver, former WWC Treasurer and recently appointed coordinator of the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), attended the Board meetings with the aim of developing a partnership between WWC and WWAP. Other partnerships like with the Arab Water Council and the invitation of President Loïc Fauchon to participate in the High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster were also discussed and approved.

Representatives of the Turkish Secretariat of the 5th World Water Forum and members of the programme, political process and communication committees also came to work on the respective preparatory processes for the Forum in Istanbul.

Finally, 9 new members were adopted: Lake Victoria South Water Services Board ; Nairobi City Water & Sewerage Co. Ltd ; ARI Social Participation and Development Foundation ; Areva TA ; Water Resources Management Authority of Kenya ; IMDEA - Water Foundation; Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; UNHabitat, the American Society of Civil Engineers - Environmental and Water Resources Institute. Welcome to all of them!



### Financing Water to Meet the MDGs

The World Water Council, represented by its Programme Director Mr Paul Van Hofwegen, was invited by the Fundacion Canal Isabel II to speak about financing the MDGs during their 2nd Forum on Water for Development. This Forum, held in Madrid, Spain on 4 June 2007, evolved around the overarching theme "Financing Water to meet the MDGs", in line with the WWC working theme "Financing Water for All" (visit website: [www.financingwaterforall.org](http://www.financingwaterforall.org))

### Water Security - Does Europe Have a Strategy?

Coping with Climate Change requires adequate water management and development of infrastructures: these were the basis of the discussions at the European Policy Summit in Brussels on 7 June. The Event, organized by the European Water Partnership (EWP) and Friends of Europe, gathered some 250 EU and national policy-makers, NGOs and industry leaders around three sessions on Managing Europe's Water and Climate, Investment opportunities in Europe and Enhancing Water and Security. It was announced at this occasion that the EWP will coordinate the European Regional Process for the 5th World Water Forum. The World Water Council also took the opportunity to meet with several partners such as Woman for Water (WfW) and the organizers of the Expo Zaragoza, in view of the preparatory process of the 5th Forum.

More information: <http://www.friendsofeurope.org/> / <http://www.ewp.org/>



### Water for a Changing World

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education organised a three-day symposium entitled: 'Water for a Changing World: Enhancing Local Knowledge and Capacity'. The conclusions and recommendations were formulated for stakeholder organisations including academic and research institutions, water sector operators, governments and non-governmental organisations, civil society and donors to improve and strengthen the capacity of individuals and organisations where it matters the most, namely at the local level. The WWC Programme Director Paul Van Hofwegen was invited as a keynote speaker on "Water Security". More information: <http://www.unesco-ihe.org/news/symposium.htm>

## On the Member's Side

### The French Committee of ICID Gathers in Marseilles

The WWC was honoured to host in its premises on 12 June the General Assembly of the AFEID, the French National Committee of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID). Established in 1952, AFEID is a non-profit organisation whose objectives are to promote the rational management and use of irrigation and drainage in France, as well as to foster the dissemination of French techniques and know-how and to contribute to the international effort on technical co-operation.

Visit their website: <http://afeid.montpellier.cemagref.fr/afeideng.htm>



### ICOLD Meeting in St Petersburg

The International Commission on Large Dams held its 75th Annual Meeting in St Petersburg, Russia from 24 to 29 June 2007. The Event included a Symposium on «Dam Safety Management: Role of State, Private Companies and Public in Designing, Constructing and Operating of Large Dams» and an International Workshop on Dams and hydropower in Russia and countries of the CIS. More information on the ICOLD's website: <http://www.icold-cigb.org/>

### General Assembly of the Mediterranean Institute for Water

The General Assembly of the Mediterranean Institute for Water (IME), held in Marseilles on 25 June, approved the five-year working plan 2007-2012 for the Institute's future activities. IME is now able to maintain its mission in the Mediterranean region as a network for exchange and cooperation. Within the framework of this cooperation, the IME wishes to mobilize the Mediterranean Water Community and organize a regional initiative at the next World Water Forum which will be held in Istanbul in March 2009. Mr. Loic Fauchon has called for the representatives of the Mediterranean Water Community to participate actively in this regional initiative. Contact: [info@ime-eau.org](mailto:info@ime-eau.org) - site web <http://www.ime-eau.org>



### Говорим по Русский! (We Speak Russian!)

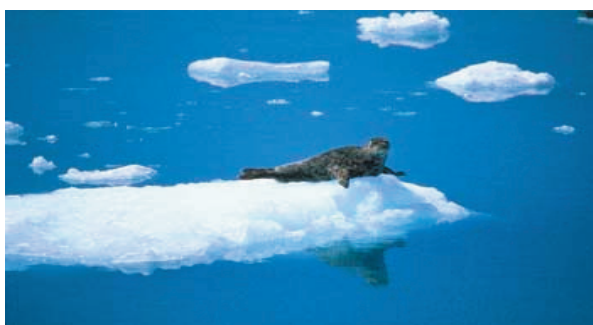
Thanks to a fruitful collaboration between WWC and SIC-ICWC (Scientific-Information Center of the Interstate Coordination Water Commission of the Central Asia), the Russian version of the Council's Website is now online! You can access it on the following link: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=1&L=3> (or just click the Russian flag on your English page). Please forward the information to your Russian speaking colleagues!



## Blue News

### World Environment Day - Melting Ice: a Hot Topic?

World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action. The slogan selected for 2007 is Melting Ice – a Hot Topic? In support of the International Polar Year, the WED theme selected for 2007 focuses on the effects that climate change is having on polar ecosystems and communities and the ensuing consequences around the world. Visit website: <http://www.unep.org/wed/2007/english/>



### A Prize for «Water Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas»

The UNESCO Great-Man Made River International Water Prize for «Water Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas» recognizes the achievements of an individual, a group of individuals or a research institution having made fundamental and substantial contributions to the assessment, development, management and/or use of water resources in arid and semi-arid areas. The deadline for applications is 30 July 2007, and all information is available from the UNESCO website: [http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/prizes/great\\_man/](http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/prizes/great_man/)

### 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit Call for applications to host an Open Event

The 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit (APWS) will be held in Beppu city, Japan, on 3-4 December 2007, gathering political leaders and representatives from the relevant sectors in the Asia-Pacific region. The event aims to raise public awareness among the Asia-Pacific region's citizens while providing a forum for sharing information. APWS invites you to host an «Open Event», which will be held during the time period of the 1st APWS and will be open to a range of people and actors from the region. For more information visit the APWS web pages: <http://www.apwf2.org/weblog/information/archives/200706/000169.php>

## Publications

### Du Droit de l'eau au Droit à l'eau au Maroc et ailleurs (From Right to Water to Water Right in Morocco and Elsewhere) – Houria Tazi Sadeq – ED. Eddif, Casablanca 2007-07-02

With the objective of investigating how to contribute to an efficient water administration, within the framework of long-lasting environmental development, this book appeals to international rights that refuse to establish a juridical and institutional structure that concerns water as a source of life, social good, cultural politics, economy and geo-politics.

The book values the past of water hydraulics while explaining its socio-religious function. It also brings back into favour the traditional way of handling water, insists on the importance of social acceptance of change and stresses the relevancy for Morocco's decision makers, as well as communities, to understand the value of water. Houria Tazi Sadeq, a lawyer and juridical expert, holds the title of interdisciplinary UNESCO Chair for Sustainable Water Management. She is also a governor for The World Water Council. She testifies, through this book, of water's effect of mobilization through a social organizational factor and a democratic tenet.

### Water Policy for Sustainable Development

Water Policy for Sustainable Development – This book examines river-basin management cases around the world to show how fresh water can be managed to sustain economic development while protecting the environment.

The author argues that policy makers can employ adaptive management to avoid making decisions that could harm the environment, to recognize and correct mistakes, and to monitor environmental and socioeconomic changes caused by previous policies. [http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title\\_pages/3333.html](http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title_pages/3333.html)



## Where to Meet

The Whole WWC staff is waiting for you for the

2007 World Water Week  
12-18 August 2007  
Stockholm, Sweden

More information: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

For those who won't be able to attend, we wish you very pleasant Summer Holidays!

Please feel free to send your press releases, publication and event announcements, etc. to be published in the WWC News Update to:  
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