

News Update

Editorial

FROM IDEAS TO INITIATIVES

Mexico City 2006 will be remembered as a big and wonderful reunion of the water family. This 4th Forum was a time for open debate and respectful dialogue, reinforcing the idea that development cannot exist without water.

This Forum made much progress, first of all, because everyone sat around the same table for the first time: ministers, parliamentarians, local authorities, NGOs, companies, international and professional institutions--over 19,000 participants from 150 different countries. And throughout these 200 sessions and nearly as many side events, each listened, thought, spoke and made suggestions.

Secondly, progress was made because fundamental subjects, such as the right to water or its financing, were central to preparatory work, publications and concrete proposals. From different and sometimes contradictory positions, dialogue was created, and a synthesis was established.

Finally, progress was made because beyond reports and declarations, the future was envisioned together. Initiatives were presented, both local and global.

The World Water Council is associated with several of them. Whether it be financing infrastructures in the poorest countries, creating schools for maintenance or the "Water for Schools" programme, there is a clearly felt will to encourage action.

Action is movement, it's progress, it's the future, and every Council member, I am sure, will willingly contribute.

Loïc FAUCHON
President



Loïc Fauchon at the opening ceremony of the 4th World Water Forum - Photo courtesy of Leila Mead/IIISD

What's new

In an aside to the 4th World Water Forum, the WWC Board of Governors unanimously renewed its confidence in its President on March 19th. Loïc Fauchon was re-elected for a three-year term.

The nomination of the Bureau members should take place in August, during a meeting of the Board of Governors to be held in Stockholm during the International Water Week.

Loïc Fauchon's biography and speeches (including those in Mexico) are available on the WWC website :

www.worldwatercouncil.org

Forum of Mexico

World Representatives of Local Authorities, Parliamentarians and Ministers unite for the first time for water

Local authorities, parliamentarians and ministers from all over the world gathered to discuss water issues for the first time in the history of the World Water Forum.

When choosing the Forum's overarching theme of "Local Actions for a Global Challenge", IOC members intended to involve local Governments that had not been associated as such with previous World Water Fora. In fact, local authorities convened in Mexico and attended quite a large number of sessions that had been selected by the organizers to show the importance of local authorities' and parliamentarians' roles in water and sanitation services and infrastructures.

More than 120 local Government representatives(1) attended the seminar organized and jointly chaired by the Chief of the DF of Mexico, the Governor of the State of Mexico, the Mayor of Quito, co-chair of UCLG, and the WWC President.

Countries represented

(1) Botswana, Belgium, Canada, China, Columbia, Indonesia, Equator, Spain, USA, France, United-Kingdom, Italy, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Portugal, Russia, Salvador, Senegal, Sweden.

(2) Representing national or regional assemblies: Argentina, Bolivia, Columbia, Cuba, France, Greece, Mexico, Spain, Thailand, Uganda, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and Parlantino.

(3) One hundred and forty-nine countries were officially represented by their ministers, vice-ministers or officials from national bodies in charge of water or their ambassadors, including various regions such as Africa (27), Mena (15), Europe (14), Latin America (14), Asia (14), CIS (6), Balkans (2), Central and Oriental European countries (1) and North America (1).

Debates focused on the right to water, financing access to water and sanitation services, and decentralization.

Strong political messages were issued, such as the recognition by local governments of their role and duty to foster the implementation of the right to water. To meet such a challenge, participation of all stakeholders needs to be developed and improved. Particular attention must be given to women and youth. Innovative financing mechanisms will be searched for based on available funding, such as solidarity mechanisms, Official Development Assistance, decentralized cooperation,

as well as private sector and International Financial Institutions funding.

Furthermore, because of limited water resources and often an unsustainable use of them, growing demography and quick urbanization, local elected officials know that they will have to encourage responsible consumer behavior, while giving particular attention to ecosystems.

The Forum in numbers

- 19,800 registered participants
- 1,100 journalists present
- 1,600 local actions presented
- 320 national and international organizations, public, private and mixed, involved
- 205 sessions held
- 140 ministerial declaration signatories

On the Parliamentarian side, their declaration stressed the importance of reaching a global agreement on the recognition for all human beings to the right to access to water as a fundamental right. The 150 Parliamentarians (2) who met over the course of 2 days called on developed countries to implement cooperative solidarity programmes to help poor countries provide access to water and sanitation to the poorest. Finally, they committed to promoting, within their respective Congresses, the idea of creating a "Water Parliament" at the global level that would design international water legislation.

Ministers (3), whose delegation was quite large, then debated with other water stakeholders during an official session. They also participated in side events organized in national pavilions at the fair. This enabled going beyond the Ministerial declaration, thanks to two initiatives: one launched by Ministers from Bolivia, Venezuela, Cuba and Uruguay and another by European Ministers. The right to water is clearly acknowledged, along with identification of the role that states, local authorities and communities must play in order to implement this right.

In addition, a call to support programmes on “women, education and water” was made by the ministers of Burundi, Chad, Togo, Burkina Faso and France.

The Mexico Forum was a good place to stimulate dialogue between stakeholders and more specifically between Ministers, Parliamentarians and Local Authorities. The WWC has greatly supported the process and is willing to help the implementation of important commitments made by these stakeholders. It will accomplish this through staff support and involvement of its members. Declarations from local authorities, parliamentarians and ministers are available on the WWC website.

Contact : Elisabeth Catton : e.catton@worldwatercouncil.org

Next steps forward

Many of you have expressed your satisfaction after the Forum. The quality of the sessions and the usefulness of the local actions that were presented are among the important reasons for this appreciation. Now, we must go beyond these positive comments and synthesize the main messages and recommendations that arose. This process started immediately after the Forum, through a variety of activities, as shown below:

Voices of the Forum: The main messages and recommendations made during sessions were collected using a questionnaire that was distributed to a majority of session participants. A great number of completed questionnaires were returned. They have been analysed by an established team, including representatives from various regions and stakeholder groups. The summaries of these messages are all available on the Council's website.

Sessions reports: Together with the Secretariat of the Forum, we are collecting the session reports that were prepared by the conveners. One hundred reports have been received so far, although we are still missing some. These reports are being analyzed and the remaining ones should be made available soon.

Conclusions: In the coming weeks, conclusions about the Forum will be drafted, based on the aforementioned messages and recommendations. They will be made available through the WWC and Forum websites for discussion, comments and suggestions. The final results of this process will be discussed in Stockholm during the World Water Week.

There is still time to contribute to the overall evaluation of the Forum in Mexico. The related questionnaire can be found at the following link: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org>. Your suggestions for improvement are very important to us as we are in the process of designing the next Forum.

Some echoes on the Forum

International Institute on Sustainable Development (IISD)
<http://www.iisd.ca/ywb/worldwater4/>

Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
http://www.odi.org.uk/wpp/News_events/WWF4_tripreport.pdf

Freshwater Action Network (FAN)
<http://www.freshwateraction.net/conferences/wwf4.asp>

Institut méditerranéen de l'eau (IME) (en français)
<http://www.ime-eau.org/images/publicationsweb/mars2006.pdf>

Partenariat français
<http://www.eau-international-france.fr/mexico/>

United Cities and Local Government (UCLG)
<http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/index.asp?T=1&pag=template.asp&D=255&L=EN>

The Women for Water Partnership
<http://www.womenforwater.org/>

Next Forum: Discussions have commenced with the Turkish government to determine the principles and the process for the preparation and organisation of the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009. A first meeting was held at the WWC Headquarters in Marseille on 13 April, and a second took place in Istanbul on 28 April.



Representatives of the Turkish authorities and the World Water Council holding discussion

The delegations met again in Switzerland on 17 and 18 May to refine the details of the Framework Agreement, which is expected to be signed at the next Board of Governors meeting in June. Turkey's geographical situation and historical background, bridging Europe and Asia, makes it unique in terms of geopolitics. This special status should be a source of inspiration to the motto that will be used for the 5th World Water Forum.

Programmes

FINANCING WATER FOR ALL

Launch of the 1st report of the Gurria Task Force

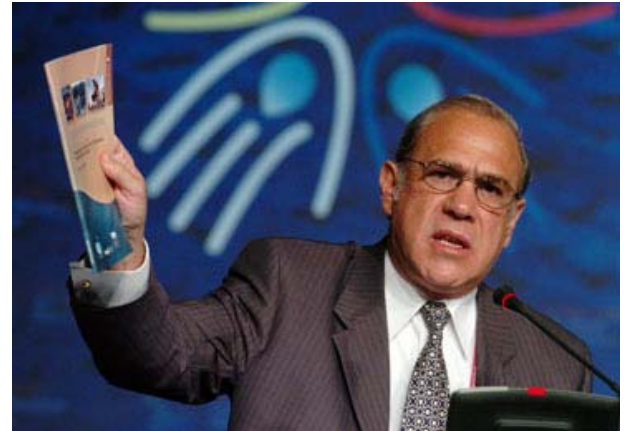
The Task Force on Financing Water for All was established in 2005 as a follow-up to the work initiated by the Camdessus Panel in 2003 and to take stock of what had happened since Kyoto (2003). It launched its first report at the 4th World Water Forum, titled “Enhancing access to finance for local government – Financing water for agriculture”, which has been widely distributed and has been particularly well received by the international community, noting in particular the utility of the concrete proposals formulated **to enhance the access of local governments to financial resources** for investments in water services and agricultural water management.

➔ Noteworthy evolution in debates

Whereas an alternative forum was taking place in parallel a few hundred metres away from the Banamex Center, Angel Gurria, chairman of the Task Force on Financing Water for All, recently elected new Secretary General of the OECD, lamented the lack of communication between both events. “It’s funny that in the alternative meeting, participants are speaking out against privatization, when none of the 12.000 or 13.000 delegates here are talking about it.”

And even if, during the opening press conference, a large majority of the questions asked were about public versus private water management—an indicator of the difficulty to advance the debate and change mentalities—in reality, privatisation was not prevalent during the Forum. Participants preferred to put more emphasis on partnerships and cooperation.

Angel Gurría expressed his pleasure at the growing consensus surrounding mixed solutions, linking grants and public tariffs to finance water services for those who are unable to pay for them. Loïc Fauchon was, likewise, contented to recall during one of his speeches, “it is time to break the loan-indebteness-debt cancellation spiral in favor of intelligent, balanced and socially sound tariffication strategies”.



Angel Gurria
Photo courtesy of Leila Mead/IISD

The report is available upon request at the WWC Headquarters. An electronic version can be downloaded from the dedicated website www.financingwaterforall.org, which features, among many other interesting and useful information, a database of action cases related to recent water sector reforms and innovative financing experiences. Should you have any questions, please contact Stefanie Neno at s.neno@worldwatercouncil.org



Two additional reports on financing issues were published by the WWC and launched in Mexico:

1. Official Development Assistance for Water from 1990 to 2004 – Figures and Trends;
2. Costing MDG Target 10 on Water Supply and Sanitation: Comparative analysis, obstacles and recommendations.

Both are available upon request and on the WWC website at <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org>.

RIGHT TO WATER

The Right to Water at the heart of debates in Mexico

Never has the right to water received as much coverage at an international meeting as it did at the 4th World Water Forum. An important step forward was made since the Forum of Kyoto because today everyone, whether NGOs, local authorities or private companies, agrees on the existence of a human right to water. The WWC position on this issue was clearly expressed by its President, Loïc Fauchon, on various occasions (See also the report published in March by the WWC and its partners).

- The right to water is a human right;
- The right to water is an indispensable element of human dignity;
- The right to water must be included both in national constitutions and major treaties.

Several sessions dealt with the right to water in Mexico. Although the World Water Forum succeeded in bringing the right to water to the forefront in Mexico, it failed to provide any agreed ministerial views on this issue.

However, this shortcoming is compensated by strong support for this concept from mayors, from elected representatives, and more generally from civil society. In particular, business organisations and large private enterprises made unambiguous statements in favor of the right to water. Finally, everyone agrees that it is now time to focus on the implementation of the right to water!

The report « Right to Water : from Concept to Implementation » constitutes the one year assessment of work on the topic of the right to water conducted in partnership with several members of the World Water Council namely Green Cross International, the French Water Academy, the Maghreb-Machrek Alliance and the International Secretariat for Water.

The purpose of the report is to clarify the content, the impact and the implementation problems of the Right to Water. More than 30 case studies were collected and used to illustrate the various approaches in the implementation of the right. More than 2000 copies were disseminated during the 4th World Water Forum.

An e-version is available on:
<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org>. Around the 20th of May a French version will be on-line. For additional information, please contact Céline Dubreuil :
C.dubreuil@worldwatercouncil.org

Prizes



Joe Madiath, Executive Director of Gram Vikas, receiving the Kyoto Prize check from Shinji Mouri, Deputy Mayor of the City of Kyoto and Kimiko Yamauchi, Chair of Soroptimist International of Kyoto

Kyoto World Water Grand Prize: Gram Vikas rewarded

At the closing ceremony of the Forum, the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize was presented by William Cosgrove, former President of the World Water Council, to Joe Madiath, Executive Director of Gram Vikas, an Indian NGO active in the State of Orissa. Rewarded for its action towards rural communities, Gram Vikas succeeded in considerably decreasing the incidence of hydrous diseases in the area. (improving the lives of nearly 140,000 people).

The Prize, of an amount of 45.000 dollars (5 million yens), is awarded every three years on the occasion of the World Water Forum by the City of Kyoto, Soroptimist International of Kyoto and the World Water Council.

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize

Integrated Water Resources Management honoured

This year, the laureate of the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize is a Danish citizen. Dr. Torkil Jønch-Clausen, currently Director of Development and Deputy CEO of DHI Water and Environment, in Denmark, also co-founder of the Global Water Partnership, was rewarded for his action in favour of the global promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

At the Prize ceremony, which took place during the opening ceremony of the Forum and in presence of the Moroccan Prime Minister, Driss Jettou, Torkil Jønch-Clausen stated :

“One challenge in water management that we have all been poor in addressing is the recognition of the role of women in water management. And that in spite of the 14-year-old ‘third Dublin principle’ about the vital role of women at all levels in water management. I intend to make my small contribution by using this prize for a fund for young women from the developing countries to study water.”

The team of the WWC Headquarters presents their most sincere congratulations to Torkil and salute his altruism towards women of developing countries.

For details on the Prize and the laureates:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org>



Dr. Torkil Jønch-Clausen and H.E. Driss Jettou
Photo courtesy of Leila Mead/IISD

Special event

1st International Water and Film Encounter

The 1st International Water and Film Encounter took place as part of the 4th World Water Forum in the presence of Canadian film curator, André Paquet, President of the Jury, and Mexican filmmaker Salvador Aguirre, Director General.

The event featured over 300 films from over 50 countries, 195 films of which were selected for screening. The categories of the competition were: Short Films for awareness and Video Spots, the contents of which revolved around the phrase “For a New Water Culture.” Awards and honorable mentions were given in the different categories.

In the spot category, the Mexican Rubén Silva Ruiz was rewarded for his production “Aguas con el Agua.” Two short films were rewarded ex aequo: “Water, the mirror of the Andean World” by Frenchman Luc Bazin and “La Presa de agujas del río en Lucerna” by Swiss filmmaker Nora de Baan.

Full details at : <http://www.worldwaterforum.org>



Some of the photos used to illustrate this newsletter are made available by the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) <http://iisd.ca>

→ Water Efficiency Awards 2007

The Environment Agency Water Efficiency Awards are the leading event in England and Wales for recognizing the efforts of business and industry to conserve water. Winning a Water Efficiency Award shows your commitment to protecting the environment and preserving natural heritage. If you know of an outstanding example of water efficiency in your organization, take the opportunity of promoting it to a national audience by entering the Environment Agency Water Efficiency Awards 2007. Completed entry forms must be returned by 31 August 2006. More information: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk>

Governance

The newly elected Board of Governors (detailed list for view on the WWC website at www.worldwatercouncil.org) will have a busy summer. They will first meet from 22-24 June at the Council Headquarters in Marseille, with a special orientation planned for new Governors so that they may fully understand the functioning of the Council and the participation of its members. The Board will again meet prior to the World Water Week on 19-20 August in Stockholm, to define more specific goals for the Council over the coming three years.

In brief

→ ADB to double water investments in the next 5 years

Over the period 2006-2010, the new Water Financing Program of the Asian Development Bank will increase investments to over US\$2 billion annually, and ensure that substantial funds, reforms, and capacity development programs are directed toward rural communities, cities and river basins.

<http://www.adb.org>

→ New UN-Water Website

In 2003, UN-Water was endorsed as the new official United Nations mechanism for follow-up of the water-related decisions reached at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. UN Water's work encompasses all aspects of freshwater, including surface and groundwater resources and the interface between fresh and seawater.

Access UN-Water Website: <http://www.unwater.org>

Membership

■ The Council welcomes 20 new members

The twenty following organisations have recently joined the Council or are in the process of finalising their membership. Details of their activities may be found on our website. We welcome these organizations as well as their representatives to the WWC.

Intergovernmental Institutions

- Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo - Oubangui - Sangha - CICOS - Congo, Dem. Rep.

Governments and government authorities

- Ministère des mines, de l'énergie et de l'eau - MMEE - Mali
- Agence d'Acces Universel - APAUS - Mauritania
- Ministry of Environment - British Columbia - MoE - Canada
- Public Utilities Board - PUB - Singapore
- Ministry of Water and Electricity- Saudi Arabia - MOWE - Saudi Arabia

Enterprises and facilities

- Société Nationale des Eaux du Cameroun - SNEC - Cameroon
- African Water Association - AFWA - Africa
- Alexandria Water Company - AWCO - Egypt
- Groupe Solroc - Canada
- Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation - QGEWC - Qatar
- Subsea Infrastructure Ltd - United Kingdom
- Groupe Genoyer - France

Civil Society and water users organizations

- Tanzania Association of NGOs - TANGO - Tanzania
- Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network - UWASNET - Uganda
- Jal Bhagirathi Foundation - JBF - India
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - IFRC - International

Professional organizations and academic institutions

- Library of Alexandria - Egypt
- Institut de la Gestion Déléguée - IGD - France
- Centro de investigaciones energeticas, medioambientales y tecnologicas - CIEMAT - Spain

On the member side

→ IWA Project Innovation Awards

This award aims to recognize excellence and innovation in water engineering projects worldwide. All entries will be displayed on the IWA website during the four weeks of judging from 23 June until 21 July and the winning entries will be profiled in a feature article in Water 21. <http://www.iwahq.org>

→ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies appeal to help victims of floods in Romania

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has made an emergency appeal to aid survivors following devastating floods in Romania. The appeal was made in the effort to assist some 13,000 displaced persons over the next three months and to obtain 2.4 million Swiss francs (€ 1.5 million/US\$ 1.9 million) for the purchase of supplies to distribute to the victims and the setting up of sanitation facilities.

To read more, please go to: <http://www.ifrc.org>

→ US water networks form partnership

Officials from six water associations in the US and USEPA have agreed to collaborate on activities to advance Water Utility Management. They include AWWA (American Waterworks Association), WEF (Water Environment Federation), APWA (American Public Works Association) Association of Metropolitan Water, National Association of Clean Water Agencies and National Association of Water Companies <http://www.awwa.org>

Internship opportunities

The WWC Headquarters is looking for interns. Two opportunities are currently offered to students who are either European citizens or residents, in the following fields:

- **Research and analysis of monitoring activities in the field of water** (Contact : Abdoulaye Fall, a.fall@worldwatercouncil.org)
- **Communication** (Contact: Stephanie Porro, s.porro@worldwatercouncil.org)

The application deadline has been extended respectively to June 9 and June 16. Full details on the WWC website at <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org>.

Publications

→ **Spatial Water Management: Supporting Participatory Planning & Decision Making** introduces the reader to the current Dutch policy of water management, which combines conventional water engineering with a new policy which incorporates planning for flood areas.

For more information about the book and how to order it please go to: <http://www.technepress.nl>

→ **The 3rd annual Global Monitoring Report (GMR) on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**, subtitled 'Strengthening Mutual Accountability - Aid, Trade and Governance', has been just published on 20 April 2006 by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Access the full Report: <http://www.worldbank.org>

Where we can meet...

Daniel Zimmer, Executive Director

May 23-27: Follow-up of the 4th World Water Forum, Conagua, Mexico

Elisabeth Catton, Project Officer

June 17: Address on Water and Health, Congress of the Pediatric Society, Lyon, France

Please feel free to send your press releases, publication & event announcements, etc. to be published in the *WWC News Update* to: Stéphanie Porro, Tel.: +33 (0)4 91 99 41 00
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