

News Update

Editorial

MIDDLE-EAST: THE COUNCIL'S CONTRIBUTION

The Middle East is again burning, and the victims are first of all children, women, civilians and the innocent.

The weapons used also cause considerable material destruction whose effects will be long-lasting. This damage often relates to water and sanitation, initially, because the absence or shortage of electricity prevents the stations from operating and obstructs distribution considerably. Also, and especially, strikes of all kinds destroy works and networks, contrary to the stipulations of international law.

The World Water Council has informed both parties of its emotion vis-a-vis the suffering of the populations and of its availability to participate in repairing and rebuilding at the appropriate time.

Each one of our members has the duty to bring forth his or her contribution. The Council is honoured to be involved in promoting the most basic rights. And here, the right to water must still be strongly affirmed.

Loïc FAUCHON
President

Rendez-vous

Africities: where African local authorities meet every three years

The 4th African Summit for Local Authorities will take place in Kenya from 18-24 September 2006. Five thousand participants from throughout Africa and Europe are expected to gather around a common goal: to form local coalitions in order to implement the Millennium Development Goals identified by the United Nations.

This year, the Council will take an active role in the Summit. Besides being involved in the political section, it will organize two sessions on:

“How to reinforce local authorities in facing water access issues” and “How solidarity financing mechanisms can meet local authorities’ expectations and needs to increase access to water and sanitation services for all”, in partnership with PSeau and UCLG Africa.

The WWC will also participate in a round-table discussion on MDG7 Target 10, organized by UN Water and WHO and in the side-event “Re-thinking access and supply policies”, organised by the Institut de la Gestion Déléguée.

For more information about the WWC participation in Africities, please contact Elisabeth Catton:
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For detailed information about the Summit, please go to:
http://www.africities.org/index_eng.php .

Forum in Mexico

The World Water Forum is a unique concept, a true intersection where all types of stakeholders, not only from the world of water, but also from other sectors such as health or financing, can meet to share, network and make proposals. Raymond Jost, Secretary General of the International Secretariat for Water, has not missed one since its creation in 1997. A few months have passed since the 4th Forum in Mexico. In retrospect, he shares with us his recommendations for the next which will be held in March of 2009. He insists, in particular, on the necessity of evaluating results, organising the follow-up and encouraging institutions to become involved in the implementation of declarations and proposals.

→ Point of view



Raymond Jost

« We ought to be creative about what needs to be implemented concerning synthesis, capitalization and dissemination of the results obtained throughout the week.... »

The 4th World Water Forum was a success that surprised everyone, starting with our Mexican friends, themselves. A success, due to the numerous discussions and dialogues held between the various partners. In corridors, in the exhibition hall and at the alternative Forum, things were moving; interactivity was encouraged, positive confrontation had its place and many exchanges took place.

What is much more disappointing is to notice the difficulty of national and international institutions to take these results, to transcribe them into official declarations and to transform them into concrete actions with applicable deadlines.

For instance, the wording “right to water” is not at all mentioned in the ministerial declaration, although it was one of the main themes of the Forum.

Regarding the future of the World Water Forum and its preparatory and follow-up process, I would offer three remarks:

- First of all, the organization of the sessions must be revised because exchanges and dialogue with the participants were clearly insufficient. In my opinion, sessions should last two hours, with a maximum of one to two formal presentations and, if necessary, resource people in the form of panels. This does not exclude training sessions, with a knowledgeable teacher and students in the room who are there to learn.
- Secondly, we ought to be creative regarding implementation in the areas of synthesis, capitalization and dissemination of all the results obtained throughout the week.
- Thirdly, it seems quite obvious to me that, following each World Water Forum, a follow-up commission be established, composed of a maximum of five people for a six-month period. Its mandate would be two-fold: on one hand, to translate the key messages resulting from the works of the Forum into various languages so that appropriate advocacies may be designed that are easily understood by decision-makers; on the other hand, to propose working themes for the next Forum.

And finally, I am preoccupied by one last aspect : determining through which indicators the results and follow-up of such a week may be measured, in terms of practices, knowledge, institutional reforms, management modes, partnerships, financing innovations, improvement of access to services, complementarities between global networks, etc.

Raymond Jost is General Secretary and founder of the International Secretariat for Water, an international non-governmental organization based in Montreal. He played an important role in establishing the Montreal Charter on Drinking Water and Sanitation in 1990. This Charter is based on the principle that the right to access of water is an irrevocable right, whose management depends upon a political decision that cannot be carried out without the participation of those populations concerned. Raymond Jost is also the creator of the Citizen's House and is chairman of the steering committee for the International Water and Cinema Encounter, which was inaugurated in Mexico City in March, 2006 .

"Tsunami and sanitation in Sri Lanka--Turning tragedy into an opportunity for improving sanitation"

NetWWater and WfWfW

During the short-term and intermediate rehabilitation work after the tsunami which claimed 40,000 lives in Sri Lanka on the 26th of December 2004, the issue of sanitation was largely neglected. NetWWater focused on "Sanitation for All" in post-tsunami relief operations by providing sanitation-related technology to those affected by the tsunami. NetWWater raised awareness on sanitation and hygiene by networking with local universities and partners to develop specific low-cost and sanitation technologies and by providing documentation, disseminating this knowledge through capacity-building programs and livelihood-restoring actions. In the immediate aftermath of the tsunami, NetWWater and its university partners designed temporary sanitary disaster toilets in two relief camps and led programs to disseminate these technologies and know-how. These units served about 300 families and a primary school with more than 500 students. A National workshop was also held at the University of Moratuwa. As a step to restore livelihood, which is essential to resolving sanitation issues, over 300 families received replacements for the fishing gear lost during the tsunami and the fisherwomen's trade was revived with fish drying gear. A sanitation and integrated water resources management workshop was also organised and attended by more than 100 fisher-women leaders.

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Detailed information on the Kyoto Prize and the finalists on www.worldwatercouncil.org

Return to the Kyoto Prize

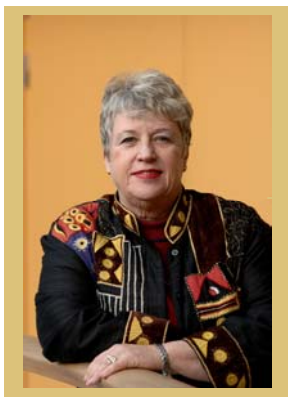
The Kyoto World Water Grand Prize, which was awarded for the first time in Mexico, was created to honour a distinguished individual or organization whose grassroots-level activities work towards addressing critical water needs of communities and regions. Thirty pre-selected individuals (one representative per organization) were invited to attend the 4th World Water Forum, of which ten finalists presented their activities to the International Panel of Judges and shared their experiences with Forum participants, in view of generating interest in these activities and reproducing them in other contexts.

While the prize winner was Gram Vikas, an Indian NGO actively working in rural communities, we feel that it would be useful to review the very worthy candidatures of the other 9 finalists whose actions also deserve to receive proper public attention.

The following is a summary of the action of NetWWater from Sri Lanka. The other finalists will be featured in the next issues of our newsletter.

This month's guest

In just a few days, the Global Water Partnership will celebrate its 10th anniversary. For the occasion, we have put its President, Margaret Catley-Carlson, in the spotlight. “Maggy”, as her working colleagues call her with much simplicity, has been involved in governmental and international policymaking and programmes for over 30 years and is among the figureheads of prestigious research institutes and international institutions.



3 questions for

Margaret Catley-Carlson
Global Water Partnership Chair

What, from your perspective, will be the biggest water related challenge(s) of the next 10 to 20 years?

It will be in the next 10-20 years that the world reaches its peak population: *more people means more need* for water – for drinking, for personal and household needs, for industry but above all for food production. Accelerated development in many parts of this growing world at the same time means more demand for a *higher amount of* water from each person as people start to demand more protein in their diets, more water for washing, better housing with in-house water facilities. Climate variability will mean more difficulty in managing the water we have access to: controlling floods, contending with drought, storing the water needed for the year from increasingly erratic rainfall. Our cities will get bigger and bigger and we will need much more financing for water infrastructures simply to keep basic levels of health control over disease. All of this comes at a time where responsibility for water services is being decentralized to levels of authority which often lack the managerial capacity to deliver services or the ability to collect revenues to maintain systems. It seems inevitable that our environments will suffer even more loss and degradation which, of course, creates a vicious circle.

Although the level of cross-border cooperation on water issues has on the whole been good for the past millennia, all of these pressures—combined with growing international tensions—will make it difficult to achieve and maintain the best possible solutions across boundaries.

Has IWRM been contributing to improve the global water situation?

Yes, absolutely. But like total virtue in an individual, a ‘perfect tax system’ or fault-free Government – IWRM can never be “achieved!” So, looking for places where “IWRM has been implemented” or “IWRM is being practiced” is illusory. But we can find many places where water resource management has been improved, using an IWRM approach—more integration among the user sectors, more value ascribed to the resource, more financially sustainable systems, more conscious attention being given to management—in terms of laws, rules, and in better consultation with those affected. We can see improvement of water quality in a lake or river—the Danube river basin, Laguna de Bay in Philippines—or reduced conflict over water resources, as in Lake Peipski on the Russian/Estonian border and in the Kafue river basin in Zambia, and more reliable domestic water services in Estonia, Singapore, mega-cities such as Manila and small communities like Black Local Authorities of Capetown. Water management reform is a slow process.

We need to be cognizant of and take satisfaction from the ‘boldness of small steps’; we must understand that making real change sets a building block for the next needed change, and that laying down these building blocks as quickly as possible will be both lasting and real is the only sustainable timetable.

It took some 3 decades to achieve the European Framework Directive, a dozen years to put the Tennessee Valley agreement together, and more than that to get agreement on the Murray-Darling river basin restoration. Lots of good and important small changes can be made rapidly; overhaul of the entire water resource management system is unlikely to be quick. But we want both.

In which GWP accomplishment or action do you take the most pride and what will GWP focus on in the near future?

I am very proud of how quickly the world has acknowledged the need for improvement in water management. It has pervaded our global consciousness—it's a long way from implementation of tough policy choices, but it is the necessary first step. GWP contributed a good deal to that, especially the TEC ideas on IWRM. I am proud of our Global Network—14 regions, close to 100 Country Water Partnerships, several dozen area water partnerships focused on local issues, and great supportive donors. A great deal of Network output represents volunteer time and effort from people who are passionate believers in the need for change and are willing to work for it. I am proud of our relationships—the work we do with WWC on the Forum and on Financing, as one good example. I am proud that a small and dedicated Secretariat in Stockholm keeps this all together.

The next two decades? We have to move from pronouncements to implemented policy, from law to regulation, from fragmented to integrated work on these issues, from talk to budget allocation, from obscurity to transparency. We need to concentrate less on 'what must be done' – that's been done enough to get on with, and concentrate on "why it is not being done", ie barriers and constraints. At some near point, humanity must find the arrangements and resources to make a real difference to the 1 billion not served with water and twice that without sanitation. And if we hurt the environment even more than we have, we know that we will suffer even more.

Margaret Catley-Carlson is actively involved in organisations that apply science and knowledge to national and international problems in freshwater governance, health, agriculture, environmental protection, international development and development finance. She is Chair of The Global Water Partnership, of the Board of ICARDA (Agricultural Research in Dry Areas) in Syria, and The Water Resources Advisory Committee for Suez/Lyonnaise of Paris. She is Vice Chair of the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa and a member of the Board of IIED in London, the Library of Alexandria (Egypt), and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Sri Lanka.

→ UN-HABITAT: Anna Tibaijuka re-elected

Following nomination by Mr. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka was re-elected Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT for another four-year term. Anna Tibaijuka is the highest ranking African woman in the UN system.

In April, she was designated by the Secretary General as Officer in Charge of the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), the only UN headquarters in Africa and the developing world.

<http://www.sommetjohannesburg.org/institutions/fr/ame-unhabitat.html>

→ New ISO for Service activities relating to drinking water and wastewater

ISO's Working Group on Water Management, Technical Committee (TC) 224 released Draft International Standards (DISs) in April 2006. Three standards for Service activities relating to drinking water and wastewater were circulated to the ISO member countries for comments and vote. This is the first time a draft ISO standard undergoes a review and ballot by the entire ISO membership, not just the member countries participating in the Technical Committee producing it. The standards are available for review and download. Interested organizations are invited to submit comments. The final standards are scheduled for publication in mid-2007.

Full information:

<http://inni.pacinst.org/inni/Water.htm>

CD-Rom

The four reports presented by the WWC at the Forum of Mexico on the Right to Water, Financing Water for All (report of the Gurria Task Force), Figures and Trends in ODA for Water from 1990 to 2004 and Costing MDG Target 10, are now available on a single CD-Rom upon simple request to the World Water Council.

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Publications

→ **Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities 2006: Meeting Developing Goals in Small Urban Centres**

This is the second UN-HABITAT global report on Water and Sanitation in the World's Cities. It highlights that attaining the MDGs overall will depend to a large extent on how we can strengthen the prospects of local economic development and improve the living and working conditions of small towns and cities which, in turn, depend on access to clean water and improved sanitation.

More information on the publication and on ordering conditions: www.sommetjohannesburg.org/institutions/frame-unhabitat.html

→ **Africa's Lakes: Atlas of Our Changing Environment**

In an effort to increase local and international awareness of some natural and some human-made changes, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in cooperation with Belgian Development Cooperation has produced *Africa's Lakes: Atlas of Our Changing Environment*, which will be launched during the Stockholm World Water Week. This atlas compares and contrasts spectacular satellite images of the past few decades with contemporary ones. For more information, please visit: www.na.unep.net

On the members side

Call for Entries to Excellence in Environmental Journalism Awards

Reuters Foundation and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), with the support of COM+ Alliance of Communicators for Sustainable Development, just launched the 2006 Media Awards. This worldwide competition, open to journalists working in print and online media, aims at raising global awareness of environmental and sustainable development issues, by encouraging excellence in environmental reporting worldwide. The global winner, selected out of the 6 regional winners, will receive a cash prize of US\$ 5'000. All submissions must have been published between 1 December 2004 and 10 September 2006. **The deadline for entries is 15 September 2006.**

For more information: www.iucn.org/reuters and www.foundation.reuters.com/

Contacts : Carolin Wahnbaeck carolin.wahnbaeck@iucn.org and Shan Kelly Shan.Kelly@reuters.com

Where can we meet...

September 13-15, 2006

3rd Asian Regional Conference and 7th international micro-irrigation Congress
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

www.icid2006.org

(From the WWC-HQ: Paul van Hofwegen)

September 18-23, 2006

Africités

Nairobi, Kenya

www.africités.org/index_eng.php

(From the WWC-HQ: Daniel Zimmer, Paul van Hofwegen, Elisabeth Catton, Celine Dubreuil)

September 21-23, 2006

Monitoring and Evaluation Regional Consultative Meeting

African Development Bank, Tunis, Tunisia

(From the WWC-HQ: Daniel Zimmer)

September 25, 2006

AQUATECH

Amsterdam

www.aquatechtrade.com/home.asp

(From the WWC-HQ: Daniel Zimmer)

September 26-28, 2006

IAHS 3rd International Symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management

Bochum, Germany

<http://conventus.de/water>

(From the WWC-HQ: Daniel Zimmer)

More events

International Riversymposium 2006

"Managing rivers with climate change and expanding populations"

September 4-7, 2006

Brisbane, Australia

www.riversymposium.com

5th IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition

September 10-14, 2006

Beijing, China

www.iwa2006beijing.com

4th International meeting on the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive

September 20-22, 2006

Megeve, France

Organized by: International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

www.inbo-news.org/friobang.htm
riob2@wanadoo.fr