

## News Update

### Editorial

#### NEW FORMS OF COOPERATION

The UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) devotes the better part of its latest report\* to countries from the “South” that are gradually becoming “essential actors on the global investments front.” Nearly 40% of investments devoted to creating or buying out companies have been carried out in developing countries. But above all, 17 % of global economic flows come from developing countries, and this proportion increases every year.

These new forms of cooperation are “fertile”, notes UNCTAD, which esteems that “technological models are easier to adapt between developing countries.” The water sector is increasingly concerned by this phenomenon. Today, several emerging countries, such as China, Brazil or Morocco, dispose of active cooperation policies in the water and sanitation field.

The landscape of development assistance will considerably change over the next decade. Consequently, the World Water Council is paying great attention to the subject and is investigating new financing and knowledge transfer opportunities that may be engendered by these changes.

This is a new chance for the poorest and a more equitable and distributed way of building the necessary place for water in human development.

Loïc FAUCHON  
President

\* Report on Global Investments 2006 (UNCTAD)

### What's new at the Council?

#### ■ Quick review of decisions from the last Board of Governors meeting

At the 27th Board of Governors meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, on 19 August, 2006, President Loïc Fauchon presented his suggestions for forging the Council's future over the three coming years. He particularly emphasised the importance of remaining flexible in order to adapt rapidly to what the future may hold and to respond efficiently to the needs and expectations of the international water community.

In his mission to accomplish these goals, he asked Ben Braga (ANA), Mokhtar Bzioui (Ministère de l'Aménagement du territoire, de l'eau et de l'environnement of Morocco), Paul Reiter (IWA), Jerry Delli Priscoli (US ACE) and Ger Bergkamp (IUCN) to join him on the Council's Bureau.

In addition, three member organisations were co-opted to the Board of Governors:

- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), South Africa
- National Water Research Center (NWRC), Egypt
- Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento de Mexico (ANEAS), Mexico

These organisations will be represented, respectively, by Ms. Khungeka Njobe, Dr. Shaden Abdel-Gawad and Mr. Roberto Olivares, whom we welcome to the Board of Governors and whose profiles can be viewed on the Council's website. The Governors also welcomed five new members to the World Water Council:

- Spanish Ministry of Environment
- Hisaar Foundation of Pakistan
- Association des Maires de Grandes Villes de France
- Association culturelle d'auto promotion éducative et sociale from Senegal
- Inter-American Association of Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences

## This month's guest

On 11 July, 2006, the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB)—an independent body established in March 2004 to give advice and to galvanise global action on water and sanitation issues—held a joint meeting in Paris with the OECD. Angel Gurria, Secretary General of the OECD, announced that this institution has set water, in addition to migration and health, as priority issues for the coming years. Consequently, during the closing session, Angel Gurria and UNSGAB's Acting Chair, Ushi Eid, signed a joint statement outlining the role of each organisations in their joint effort to encourage increased financing for the water sector.



### 3 questions for

**Angel Gurria**  
OECD Secretary General

→ *Will water become a priority for the OECD?*

Water is a good proxy for other issues such as poverty, gender and health, which are all critically important. Dirty water and poor sanitation are responsible for numerous diseases and 1.7 million deaths every year. And with 40% of people living in river basins shared by two or more countries, water, not oil, could be the cause of the next major war. Water is a public good and a human right, but it poses a massive challenge to global finances and security. Through our own work, and in coordination with other organisations, the OECD will contribute to the best use of available water resources.

→ *Will the role/relationship of OECD with developing and emerging countries change in the coming years?*

The OECD now works and shares best practices with more than 70 developing or emerging economies and we will further strengthen those ties. Already, OECD shares its expertise on water financing and pricing, water resources management and local infrastructure, water and climate change, water for agriculture, water and poverty reduction, regulatory reform, and water safety and health. In the coming year the OECD's African Economic Outlook will focus on water, the OECD Investment Committee will develop Principles for International Investor Participation in Infrastructure, and the Environment Directorate will expand its work on water pricing in OECD and non-member countries.

→ *What has been the main lesson learned from the work conducted by the Task Force on Financing Water for All?*

There are many important lessons. The first is that we have changed the scope of the questions related to water. We used to focus on finding the financing for water. Now, we recognize that financing is essential, but capacity-building is much more important. Water is a local issue, and it should be dealt with locally. In many places, municipal authorities are in charge of water administration, but too often, they lack the technical skills needed to manage projects. We must help them build those capacities.

*Angel Gurria was born in Tampico, Mexico. He assumed the post of Secretary General of the OECD on 1 June 2006 following a distinguished career in Mexico's public service, including two ministerial appointments. As Minister of Foreign Affairs from December 1994 to January 1998, he created dialogue and consensus-building, one of the hallmarks of his approach to global issues. As Mexico's Minister of Finance and Public Credit from January 1998 to December 2000, he steered Mexico's economy through a change of Administration without a repetition of currency crises that had dogged previous such changes.*

More about Angel Gurria and the OECD on: <http://www.oecd.org/>

## About Financing & ODA

### OECD – WWC partnership around Official Development Assistance (ODA) in water

Since the beginning of 2005, the WWC is involved with the OECD in an analysis of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the water sector. A joint report, “Official Development Assistance for Water from 1990 to 2004—Figures and trends”, was released at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. (E-version available at [www.financingwaterforall.org/index.php?id=1099](http://www.financingwaterforall.org/index.php?id=1099)) Further objectives now consists of establishing bridges between OCDE databases on ODA and the Water Monitoring Alliance ([www.watermonitoringalliance.net](http://www.watermonitoringalliance.net)), the WWC web-initiative dedicated to the inventory and coordination of monitoring efforts in the water sector.

For this, OECD data are being used to design an ODA-dedicated webpage for each “country profile” available on the Water Monitoring Alliance website, providing data on main donors per country, ODA withdrawal per water sector and per capita aid, among other things. It is hoped that this cooperation will render donors more accountable for their aid allocation. For more information, please contact Stéfanie Neno at [s.neno@worldwatercouncil.org](mailto:s.neno@worldwatercouncil.org).

#### → What was said in Stockholm about ODA?

During the International Water Week in Stockholm, several sessions discussed Public Development Assistance in the water sector. How are sources of aid stimulated at the local level? What are the absorption capacities at this same level? What means are employed to mobilise resource from local financial markets? These were questions raised in the sessions organised by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Overseas Development Institute, IRC and UN-Habitat

Three main points were retained from the debates and exchanges held: i) an initial tendency to coordinate better among funding institutions, ii) the need to consider the priorities of recipient countries to a greater extent, and iii) the importance of the principle of decentralisation when establishing aid processes.

### 4th World Water Forum Outcomes

#### Objective: Doubling investments for water - Recent commitments & initiatives

The issue of “Financing Water for All” features high on the international agenda. Reaching all Millennium Development Goals and especially Target 10 on water supply and sanitation will require increased financial resources that are estimated between 10 and 30 billion USD a year in the coming decades (See the WWC report *Costing MDG Target 10 on Water Supply and Sanitation: Comparative Analysis, Obstacles and Recommendations, March 2006, available on-line at: [www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=32&L=0](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=32&L=0)* ). It is generally recognized that, on average, the effort for water should double and that all financial sources must be tapped in order to be successful.

The difficulties of the water sector in financing its development lies in at least two important characteristics:

- *Lack of political exposure* (visibility): Water does not bring new fancy technologies, nor does it favour the election of politicians: pipes are less visible than roads or buildings!
- *Low direct economic returns*: Water infrastructure is the most capital-intensive public infrastructure: pipes & pumps are costly as compared to their expected direct benefits; unfortunately many benefits of water are indirect (health, education...) and difficult to assess in a quantitative manner.

However, several initiatives were announced in Mexico, including the following:

- **The Asian Development Bank launched a new five-year Water Financing Programme** aiming to increase its water investments to well over \$2 billion annually between 2006 and 2010 and, in addition to ongoing water operations, direct new investments towards rural communities, cities and river basins.
- **Transparency International announced the creation of the Water Integrity Network (WIN):** An initiative aiming to combat corruption in the water sector through the establishment of an appropriate balance between advocacy work and concrete action covering all aspects of water including water supply and sanitation and water resources management.
- **The Inter-American Development Bank announced the launch of an Infrastructure Project Preparation Fund (InfraFund)** that will provide grants for the preparation of infrastructure plans, programs and projects to be financed by the IADB.

For more information about the topic of financing water, see [www.financingwaterforall.org](http://www.financingwaterforall.org).

## Prizes

### ■ Return to the Kyoto Prize

In Newsletter No. 17 published in August, we started featuring finalists of the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize, which was awarded in Mexico during the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. Indeed, we believe that if the aforementioned actions deserve an award, then they also deserve to be given more attention over a longer period of time.

The following is a summary of the action presented by KIWESA from Kenya. Other finalists will be featured in upcoming issues of our newsletter.

#### **"Kiambiu Water and Environmental Sanitation Project" Maji Na Ufanisi (Water and Development)**

Kiambiu slum is one of the many slums found within the perimeters of Nairobi City. KIWESA is a joint Community and Maji Na Ufanisi project that started in 1998. The project aims at assisting the community to improve its dire water supply and sanitation situation and to secure the village for its inhabitants by investing in permanent infrastructure. Communities were first mobilized and organized through clean-ups and clearing of garbage. Then, the community designed, raised funds for and implemented a plan for 24 cubicle sewerer public toilets with a water tank and kiosk, which they planned to run as a business.

The KIWESA project has created many jobs for the slum community in Kiambiu and created revenues, which are being kept in a community-run bank account and are earmarked for maintenance of the water and sanitation facilities and the purchase of other plots within the slum where future toilet blocks can be built. In addition, the project has impacted positively on the cleanliness of the village environment. Other slums in the area are using this case as a model for improvement with regard to their own pressing water and sanitation challenges.

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*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 grass root-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.*

## On the members side

### → French Government establishes an international task force on the development of sustainable tourism

To promote and support initiatives aiming at making the modes of production and consumption of tourist services more sustainable: such is the new commitment of the French Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development, through the creation, in the framework of the Marrakech process, of an international working group on the development of sustainable tourism. The Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are also involved in this challenge, in view of the trebling of tourist streams between 1995 and 2020.

The World Tourism Organisation estimates the number of tourists throughout the world in 2020 to reach one and a half billion, or 21% of the world population. Developing countries should be the destination for half of that number. Already confronted with the strong growth of their own populations, the ecosystems and the local cultures of these countries will then be exposed to considerable pressures.

The first international meeting took place on September 18th and 19th in Paris, in the presence of high-level decision-makers representing developed, developing and recently developed nations, as well as prestigious international bodies. The objective was to establish a programme of actions to promote the development of sustainable tourism by June 2007, notably through the identification, inventory, analysis and dissemination of good practices in sustainable tourism.

For more details, please visit the following website: [www.ecologie.gouv.fr/article.php3?id\\_article=6386](http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/article.php3?id_article=6386)

#### Facts and Figures...

- In a 1994 study for the Caribbean Tourist Organization, it was reported that 80% to 90% of sewage from hotels and associated facilities was released in coastal waters and was thought to have adverse effects on coral reefs and mangrove swamps.
- An average golf course in a tropical country such as Thailand needs 1500 kg of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides per year and uses as much water as 60,000 rural villagers.

Source: Facts and figures about water and tourism; The UNESCO Water Portal Weekly Newsletter  
[www.unesco.org/water/news/newsletter/](http://www.unesco.org/water/news/newsletter/)

### → Julia Marton-Lefèvre appointed Director General of the World Conservation Union

Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre, a global expert and leader in development and conservation, has been appointed Director General of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the world's leading conservation authority. Ms. Julia Marton-Lefèvre is replacing Mr. Achim Steiner who recently took up leadership of the United Nations Environment Programme. She will assume her position on 1 January 2007.

Ms. Marton-Lefèvre is the current Rector of the University of Peace in Costa Rica. Formerly, she was Executive Director of LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) International and of the International Council for Science (ICSU) based in Paris, a programme specialising in environmental education under a joint UNESCO-UNEP effort. She is Vice-Chair of the World Resources Institute and is on the Board of Directors of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), a founding member of the China Council for Environment and Development.

Her full biography is available on [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org).

### → A special day devoted to monitoring the state of the world's water

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006, tens of thousands of people in more than 50 countries will celebrate World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD). The event, which is organized jointly by the Water Environment Federation ([www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org)) and the International Water Association ([www.iwahq.org](http://www.iwahq.org)), aims to bring public attention to the role that the world's citizens must play in ensuring a sustainable supply of clean, usable water in each and every country.

Participants will test the quality of rivers, lakes and other bodies of water using a simple monitoring kit. All the water quality data from around the world is collected in the WWMD database, which provides a unique snapshot of the state of the world's water. Visit [www.worldwatermonitoringday.org](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org).

## In brief

### → A Water Resources Minister in Australia

To face the severe water crisis affecting Australia, Prime Minister John Howard has decided to create a federal ministry in charge of the subject. In this way, a new Office of Water Resources will coordinate plans for federal services on recycling, cleaning and marketing water in order to incite the States to act. At first, this Office will be linked to the Department of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, but a ministry should be created later in the year.

Rural areas are currently experiencing extreme drought and more drastic water restrictions are being applied in the capitols of the country with the arrival of summer. Several weeks ago, the Prime Minister declared that he was ready to spend fortunes on water projects. Criticising the States' lack of reactivity, he sees the creation of this new Office of Water Resources as a means of increasing pressure on them to encourage them to act.

Source : The Australian, 25 September 2006



### → New President for the Japan Water Forum

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, former Prime Minister of Japan, was appointed President of the Japan Water Forum, as successor to the late Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto. The full announcement and Mr. Yoshiro Mori's biography are available at [www.waterforum.jp](http://www.waterforum.jp)

## Publications

### IWA Publishing: For better scientific communication

«Communicating Science Effectively, A Practical Handbook for Integrating Visual Elements» by J. Thomas, A. Jones, T. Saxky, T. Carruthers, E. Abal and W. Dennison, is a book published by IWA Publishing that proposes simple and concrete solutions for optimising the use of various media in order to communicate science effectively while benefiting from new technologies to facilitate clear and efficient reporting.

It instructs the reader on how to present information to improve understanding of the contents and how to draft in simple and concise language without using jargon or acronyms. General principles relating to all science communication include providing synthesis, visualisation, and context, and assembling self-contained visual elements. Internet links also give access to useful resources, including interactive software tutorials for programmes commonly used in communication, discussion forums on science communication subjects, and links to other websites of interest. Finally, a case study is presented to illustrate how effective science communication has become an integral part of a successful environmental science, monitoring, planning, and implementation programme.

For more information or to purchase a copy online, follow this link: [www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391252](http://www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=isbn1843391252)

## Events

### AWRA 2006 Annual Water Resource Conference

6-9 November

Baltimore, Maryland, United States - Organized by: American Water Resources Association (AWRA)

[www.unesco.org/water/water\\_events/Detailed/1342.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/water/water_events/Detailed/1342.shtml)

Contact: [terry@awra.org](mailto:terry@awra.org)

### The International Forum on Water and Food

12-17 November

Vientiane, Lao PDR - Organized by: CGIAR Program on Water and Food

More information: [www.waterandfood.org](http://www.waterandfood.org)

### The European Water Congress

20-23 November

Millenium Mayfair London, United Kingdom - Organized by: CEO

More information: [www.terrapinn.com/2006/water](http://www.terrapinn.com/2006/water)

Contact: [adam.johnson@terrapinn.com](mailto:adam.johnson@terrapinn.com)

### International Symposium on Water Resources and Renewable Energy Development in Asia

30 November – 1<sup>st</sup> December

Bangkok, Thailand - The International Journal on Hydropower and Dams & Network Events Ltd - EGAT

More information: [www.hydropower-dams.com](http://www.hydropower-dams.com)

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