

## News Update

### Editorial



#### THE UNITED NATIONS, CLIMATE AND WATER

Last April 17th, for the first time, the United Nations Security Council examined the Secretary General's declaration on the link between climate change, the future of rare resources, energy and security.

Referring to the most recent conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Mr. Ban Ki-moon stressed that "the planet's warming is unequivocal, its impact is clearly noticeable, and it is beyond doubt that human activities have been contributing considerably to it."

There is certainly nothing new in this declaration, but it is made at the heart, at the centre of the global institution that is the United Nations.

In the domain of water, if we are to list some of the consequences of climate change, we must frankly say that we have not yet studied its effects with great precision.

Today, it is the international water community's first duty: to bring clear, precise and locally adapted answers to the Citizens of the Earth. The World Water Council intends to contribute not only through reflection, but also through action. This is how it will justify its mission as the "Voice of Water."

Loïc FAUCHON

### En bref...

#### Strong Mobilisation for the Forum Preparation

In the two months since the 5th World Water Forum kick-off in Istanbul, the Forum preparation has been activated through the strong mobilisation of the members of the International Steering Committee (ISC) and its supporting committees. For the first time the co-organisation of the Forum has been articulated around three working groups: the Programme Committee, the Political Process Committee and the Communications Committee, each of which provide recommendations to the ISC on possible orientations for the Forum. In addition, Japan and Mexico, as previous Forum organisers, have been asked to lend their valuable experience as official advisors to the ISC.

Each committee is composed of an equal number of representatives from the Council and its Turkish partners and forms the Forum's organisational backbone. The leaders for each of these processes are:

##### Programme Committee Co-Chairs:

Dr. Necati Agiralioglu and Mr. Paul Reiter

##### Political Process Committee Co-Chairs:

Mr. Vural Altay and Dr. Andras Szollosi-Nagy

##### Communication Committee Co-Chairs:

Mr. Irfan Aker and Dr. Ger Bergkamp

In addition to the close cooperation among these committees and with the ISC, many organisations, inside and outside of the water sector, have expressed much interest in actively participating in one aspect or another of the Forum preparation. Our objective is for this common effort to give rise to new cooperation and concrete advances for the cause of water.

## 2008 International Year of Sanitation

### First Planning Meeting in New York

Adopting a recommendation made by the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), the United Nations General Assembly declared last December that 2008 would be the **International Year of Sanitation (IYS)**.

The Year was one of the recommendations of the Hashimoto Action Plan ([http://www.unsgab.org/Compendium\\_of\\_Actions\\_en.pdf](http://www.unsgab.org/Compendium_of_Actions_en.pdf)) launched by the UNSGAB in **March 2006 at the 4th World Water Forum**. It aims to stimulate frank dialogue on every level while creating a context for political leadership and governmental commitments to allocate greater resources to sanitation for the poor, stressing the positive impact on health and gender equity.

The **First Planning Meeting on the IYS 2008** was held on 7 May 2007 at the UNICEF House in New York. Representatives of non-governmental organizations, donor agencies, academia, development banks and 29 Governments met on this occasion for a strategic dialogue on how to make the most of the IYS. The World Water Council, represented by Bureau member, Jerry Delli Priscoli, offered to assist in any way it could to promote discussion and action in favour of sanitation issues throughout the year. He also suggested that the IYS and the activities of the groups supporting it could have prominent roles in the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009, which would offer the opportunity to present the overall impact that the IYS had on improving sanitation concretely and to interact with local elected officials.

At the end of deliberations, the working groups meetings were visited by the Secretary General of the UN, who personally affirmed the importance of the IYS to all those present. In addition, the **“Objectives for the IYS”** were endorsed by the participants : <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=2008&L=0%252F>



### Where would you hide... if you didn't have a toilet?

Imagine walking across a prominent public space in a capital city or through the halls of a government building and seeing 35 such figures asking: “Where would you hide?” if you didn't have a toilet. The magnitude of the problem becomes clear and provokes the realisation that “Sanitation is Dignity.”

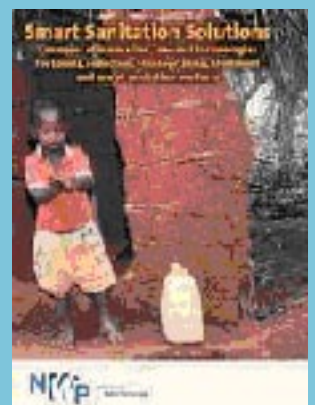
A contribution to the United Nations “International Year of Sanitation 2008”, the “Sanitation is Dignity” exhibition of the German Toilet Organization (GTO) is one of the key world-wide awareness-raising and lobbying campaigns. The Campaign has been successfully tested in Singapore, Berlin, Zurich, Lausanne and Bremen. Actions have also been requested for Australia, Austria, Lesotho, the Philippines, South Africa and Tunisia.

More information is available on the GTO website: <http://www.germantoilet.org/index.php?id=63&L=1>

### Smart Sanitation Solutions

The Netherland Water Partnership, in collaboration with IRC, WASTE, PRACTICA and supported by SIMAVI and Partners for Water, presented a booklet entitled «Smart Sanitation Solutions: Examples of innovative, low-cost technologies for toilets, collection, transportation, treatment and use of sanitation products.»

Download the book from the NWP <http://www.nwp.nl/index.cfm/> or IRC <http://www.irc.nl/page/28448> Websites



## WWC News

### ISC members converge in Istanbul

On 19 and 20 May, the inaugural meeting of the 5th Forum International Steering Committee (ISC) was convened by Prof. Veysel Eroglu and Mr. Loïc Fauchon in facilities overlooking the Marmara Sea, kindly made available by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. In addition to the ISC members, representatives from the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and the World Water Council gathered to discuss issues related to the organisation of the 5th Forum over the coming two years. Much progress was made in the domain of defining thematic elements for the next Forum, keeping in mind the overall “bridging divides for water” concept and the outcomes of the kick-off meeting. The Secretariats also presented the essential organisational tasks to be carried out, noting that time is of the essence. The ISC reviewed a number of logo proposals and an outline for the First Announcement. The ISC, which received recommendations from its three supporting committees (Programme Committee, Political Process Committee and Communication Committee), agreed that presentations would be prepared for the next Board of Governors meeting in Marseille at the end of June.



For more information, feel free to visit the 5th Forum website ([www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org)) or contact Dani Gaillard-Picher ([d.gaillard@worldwatercouncil.org](mailto:d.gaillard@worldwatercouncil.org)).

## Right to Water

### “The Road to 2050: Iraq Waters”

The first international water conference on Iraq Waters, organized by UNDP Iraq in collaboration with ESCWA and UNESCO, took place on 15-17 May 2007, in Amman, Jordan. It sought to foster better understanding of the current situation for water resources in Iraq and to share regional and international experiences and lessons learnt in integrated water resources management (IWRM), in the aim of developing a vision and a sustainable strategy framework for water resources planning and development. The participants contributed to formulating an immediate plan of action for better managing Iraqi institutional and human resources and for adequately allocating water resources amongst the various sectors of the economy. Mr Bzioui, WWC Treasurer, participated in the conference and delivered a message on behalf of the Council's President, Mr Fauchon.

His address can be read on the [WWC website](#).

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is currently conducting a study upon request from the UN Human Rights Council on the scope and content of human rights obligations related to equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation. This study will be presented at the sixth session of the UN Human Rights Council in September 2007.

The World Water Council (WWC) attended the [consultation day](#) for this issue organised in Geneva on 11 May and contributed its report entitled “[Right to Water: From Concept to Implementation](#).” The WWC is also invited to participate in the International Expert Seminar on 5-6 June 2007 in Berlin. In receiving expert advice on the form, outline and practical implications on international human rights obligations related to safe drinking water and sanitation, this seminar will help the OHCHR to fulfil the mandate assigned by the Human Rights Council.

Further information on:

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/water/index.htm>

1. Human Rights Council Decision 2/104 – Human Rights and Access to Water, in English, French and Spanish
2. By the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
3. Organised by the German Institute for Human Rights

### 1st Ministerial Meeting of the Friends of the United Nations Environment Organization

As a follow-up to the «Citizens of the Earth» conference convened by former French President Jacques Chirac in Paris in February 2007, the first ministerial meeting of the Friends of the United Nations Environment Organization (UNEO) was held in Agadir, Morocco, on 12 and 13 April of this year. Having particular expertise with regard to water issues, the World Water Council, represented by its Treasurer, Mokhtar Bzioui, was invited to attend this meeting as an observer. The report (in French) can be read on the WWC website: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=1805&L=1>

## Africa Programme

The World Water Council is the beneficiary of funding from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop a work programme in Africa. This programme should involve African members and partners of the Council, integrate African priorities and those of the Council, and contribute to the African preparatory process for the next Forum.

Based on the priorities defined during the 4th Forum of Mexico, this programme should help strengthen the role of water as a tool for development and prevention of future crises (linked to climate change, unchecked urban growth, etc.). Initial discussions have recently been carried out with potential partners, in particular, the Water Resources Coordination Unit of CEDEAO during a meeting on the preparation of the regional policy for water resources; the General Directorate for Water Resources (DGRE) in Burkina Faso to exchange on various subjects where water impacts population dynamics; the CREPA to discuss their involvement in the 5th World Water Forum preparatory process; and finally, AMCOW, concerning their expectations for this project and the conditions for their participation.

## News from Members & Partners

### 15th Anniversary of SIC-ICWC

Water institutions, representatives of the civil society and non-governmental environmental organizations gathered in the city of Almaty for the Central Asian International Practical Conference, dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia, a WWC member since 2000. The WWC President, Mr. Fauchon, expressed his appreciation and interest for this organisation's work in a message delivered by his colleague and SIC President, Mr. Viktor Dukhovny - <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=890>

### ICID & WWC sign a Letter of Agreement on Partnership

In Istanbul, Turkey, on 22 March 2007, the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and the WWC signed a Letter of Agreement on Partnership. This Agreement will enable the organizations to work together in addressing issues concerning the management of water for agriculture in general, and more specifically on food and the environment. The Agreement was signed by Mr. Loïc Fauchon, President of the WWC and Mr. Peter S. Lee, President of ICID.

## Point of View

### “Corruption is draining the water sector”

By Jens Berggren, Programme Manager, Water Integrity Network c/o Transparency International (TI)

The current crisis in the water sector is a crisis of governance, rather than one of scarce resources. The problem at the core of this crisis is corruption. Bribes are paid to divert allocations meant for poverty reduction to the pockets of the elites; corrupt institutions turn a blind eye to blatant abuse of water, transaction costs and inefficiencies are allowed to increase. The costs of corruption in the water sector shall not be measured only in financial terms, but also in lost lives and additional agony. Considering the importance of water for the well-being of everyone, urgent action is needed to increase the integrity. The Water Integrity Network (WIN) was founded in 2006 with the aim of building a global coalition for increasing integrity in the sector. WIN works with governments, civil society and private sector actors in joint actions for curing corruption.

More information: [www.waterintegritynetwork.net](http://www.waterintegritynetwork.net)

### 2nd European Solidarity Week for Water in preparation

An initiative of Solidarité Eau Europe, the International Secretariat for Water (a WWC member) and many other partners, the 2nd European Solidarity Week for Water will be held in Moldavia on 1-5 October 2007. With respect to pursuing the Millennium Development Goals, the participants will attempt to define together the different bridges to build between local, regional, national and international stakeholders in order to facilitate decision-making related to integrated water resource management. The week offers an open platform to countries from Central and Eastern Europe and Caucasia, to encourage reflection on the actions to carry out or reinforce so that sanitation, hygiene and health may become an effective political and financial priority.

## Publications

### African Economic Outlook 2007

The African Economic Outlook combines the expertise of the OECD with the knowledge of the African Development Bank on African economies. The objective is to review annually the recent economic situation and the likely short-term evolution of selected African countries. The 2007 focus is on Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation.

More information:

[http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,2340,fr\\_2649\\_33731\\_38573719\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,2340,fr_2649_33731_38573719_1_1_1_1,00.html)

## Where to meet

### 7th International Forum on African Perspectives

«Access to Drinking Water and Sanitation: Can Africa reach the Millenium Development Goals?»

**5 june 2007 - Paris, France**

Organiser : OECD

Informations: [http://www.oecd.org/site/0,2865,en\\_21571361\\_38469764\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/site/0,2865,en_21571361_38469764_1_1_1_1_1,00.html)

*Loïc Fauchon*

### Symposium - Water for a Changing World: Enhancing Local Knowledge and Capacity

**13-15 june 2007- Delft, Netherlands**

Organiser: UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

Informations: <http://www.unesco-ihe.org/vmp/articles/News/NEW-20070508-15-55-52.html>

*Loïc Fauchon ; Paul Van Hofwegen*

## Other Events

### 7th General Assembly of the International Network for Basin Organizations

**7-9 june 2007 - Debrecen, Hungary**

Organiser: INBO

Informations: [http://www.tikovizig.hu/inbo/eng/i\\_en.html](http://www.tikovizig.hu/inbo/eng/i_en.html)

### Water Stewardship Forum

**14 june 2007 - Melbourne, Australia**

Organizers: Landcare Australia ; the National Water Commission and partners

Informations: <http://www.waterstewardshipconcept.com/>

### Hydrotop 2007

**26-28 june 2007 - Marseille, France**

Informations: <http://www.hydrotop.com/>

## Blue News

### A new Water Information System for Europe (WISE)

The WISE project started in 2002 to cope with the reporting requirements of the Water Framework Directive. Its web portal was launched with preliminary information on 23 March 2007 during the EU Water Conference held in Brussels. WISE provides the public with a wealth of information on water and water-related topics, such as bathing, and other water quality data and information on urban wastewater treatment sites. The portal is available in 6 different languages: English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Polish, and will be fully operational in 2010. WISE is a collaborative effort between the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Commission (Environment, Joint Research Centre and Eurostat).

More information:

[www.watermonitoringalliance.org](http://www.watermonitoringalliance.org) & <http://water.europa.eu/>

### 2007 PLACA Water Prize

The Latin American and Caribbean Water Prizes (PLACA) is a joint initiative intended to promote the International Decade for Action "Water for Life" 2005 – 2015. It seeks to gain recognition for and to disseminate information on innovative solutions to some of the greatest challenges related to water management and conservation in the region. Nominations for the 2007 PLACA Water Prizes are open until 31 July 2007.

Visit the PLACA website for more information:

[www.cathalac.org/placa](http://www.cathalac.org/placa)

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

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