

Weekly News Update

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Editorial

OUR REASON FOR BEING

Together, let us wish that this new year makes a positive impact on the cause of access to water, producing significant and concrete progress.

Our Council has before it two important deadlines. Each of its members, each of its partners will sincerely honour them.

First, our General Assembly, during which we must objectively ask ourselves about our past actions and results, and especially unearth new perspectives so as to render our action more effective and even more useful: to solidify the foundations of the Council, to broaden its audience, to amplify its voice.

Second, the 4th Forum in Mexico, during which the Water Community must send new messages to international decision-makers and stakeholders at every level: to extend the right to water, to diversify financing, to decentralise jurisdiction.

Herein lie true challenges, vast amounts of work, requiring us to approach next March with the will to be rigorous and imaginative and in a spirit of gathering and tolerance. This is both our responsibility and our reason for being.

I wish you all a happy and excellent New Year.

Loïc FAUCHON
President

Financing Water for All

Too little progress to meet the MDGs

Today, it is well recognized that meeting the Millennium Development Goals urgently requires at least doubling current water investments and expenditures. The Millennium Project's Task Force on Water Supply and Sanitation and the Camdessus Panel in Kyoto both promoted this conclusion.

But despite discourses, despite announced commitments, including at G8 summits, little progress has been observed, especially in the field, where the needs are most urgent!

This is why the Global Water Partnership, the Secretariat of the 4th World Water Forum and the World Water Council have jointly established a Task Force on Financing Water for All, the main goal of which is to keep the issue of financing water high on the global agenda. This Task Force is chaired by Jose Angel Gurria, former Minister of Finance of Mexico, member of the Advisory board on Water Supply and Sanitation to the UN Secretary General and recently elected as Secretary General of the OECD. Members include donor agencies, finance institutions, NGOs and municipality representatives.

The Task Force objectives are to trigger action by promoting successful and innovative initiatives that have been tested in the field and by promoting tools that help to match better supply to demand. The Task Force is especially focusing on the issues of financing at the municipal level and financing water for agriculture.

The Task Force is basing their work on case studies, which will be used to draw conclusions and to formulate recommendations on how to generate more action. The website *Financing Water For All* currently hosted by the WWC website and accessible through www.worldwatercouncil.org is currently being developed and provides information and action cases on financing water issues. If you have interesting experiences to share, please do not hesitate to send them to us!

The first meeting of the Task Force on Financing Water for All was held in Marseilles on November 17th and 18th. A second meeting is scheduled in early February.

What's new

→ WWC Website now available in French

On October 17th, the WWC launched a new website. The interface, as well as the architecture and the design have been completely modified in order to make it more user friendly. One of the objectives of this upgraded version is also to highlight current water-related challenges and provide a clear picture of the WWC programmes.

Thanks to support provided by the Agence inter-gouvernementale de la francophonie, we have also produced a French version of the website, now accessible through our main address: www.worldwatercouncil.org. Among all the available information, we would especially like to draw your attention to the pages related to the 4th World Water Forum and our upcoming General Assembly, which are updated on a regular basis.

If you wish to make comments on the new WWC website, please write to Mélanie Giard at m.giard@worldwatercouncil.org



Condolences

It is with deep regret that the Council learned of the demise of Dr. Mona El-Kady on December 10th.

Dr. El-Kady had been a Governor of the Council since 2000, representing the National Water Research Center in Cairo, Egypt, and one of the few women elected to this position. She was a proponent for gender issues and an active participant in many international meetings and conferences, in particular in the MENA region.

→ Journalist contest to win a free trip to Mexico: deadline extended

The deadline for submitting entries to the Journalist contest, which will provide winners with a free trip to the Forum in Mexico, has been extended to January 16th, 2006. Detailed information, in addition to the announcement and the entry form are available on the WWC's website, through the Water Media Programme section. Contact: Stephanie Porro medianetwork@worldwatercouncil.org.

Nominations

→ **Angel Gurria, Chair of the Task Force on Financing Water for All**, was elected as new Secretary General of the OECD. He will take over for Donald J. Johnston when the Canadian Secretary General steps down at the end of his five-year term in June. Gurria was Mexico's Foreign Minister between 1994 and 1998, before serving as Finance Minister for two additional years.

→ **Dr Mahmoud Abu-Zeid**, honorary President of the World Water Council, has been renewed in his position as Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation and re-elected to the Egyptian Parliament.

→ Office national de l'eau potable-ONEP was awarded the "Trophée de l'engagement" (Commitment Trophy), presented by Princess Lalla Hasna, President of the Fondation Mohamed VI for protection of the environment. The trophy aimed to reward the success of the "clean beaches" initiative implemented throughout the whole kingdom of Morocco.

→ **Pascal Bertaud**, Water Director at the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, has become President of the EMWIS Steering Committee.

She received a Granted Degree of Honor in 1971 from the Egyptian President Anwar El-Sadat for being the first woman engineer to obtain a PhD in Irrigation and Hydraulic Science in Egypt. As Director of the National Water Research Center, she headed several USAID projects, the Survey Mapping Project, and the Water Quality Monitoring projects. Dr. El-Kady was a member of many international organizations.

Membership

43 new members at the Council

This year, the Council has welcomed 43 new member organisations. Fresh points of view from these newcomers will now be represented, allowing for widened debates, while guaranteeing a better-balanced representation in terms of geographical origin and sector. The full list of new members is provided below. Detailed information on these organisations and their activities is available on our website in the section "Become a member / list of members."

Intergovernmental Organisations

- Consortium for the sustainable Development of the Andean Ecoregion - CONDESAN, Peru

Governments and government authorities

- Ministry of Water Resources, Iraq
- ICLEI - Local governments for sustainability, Canada
- Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon
- Ministère de l'Écologie et du Développement Durable- Direction de l'eau, France
- Service intercommunal de gestion, Switzerland
- Regional Direction for Water Resources Planning - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy
- Ministry of Water Ressources, Algeria

Enterprises and facilities

- Nareva Holding, Morocco
- Régie Intercommunale de distribution de l'eau et de l'électricité de Fès - RADEEF, Morocco
- Bureau d'études, de recherches, d'ingénierie et d'animation - BERIA, Niger
- Régie Autonome de Distribution d'Eau et d'Electricité de Meknes - RADEEM, Morocco
- United Water, USA
- Proactiva Medio Ambiente Mexico - PMAM, Mexico
- Petroleo Brasileiro S.A, Brazil
- OZDEMIR Construction Tourism Energy Industry and Trade Inc., Turkey
- Sell Force International - UAE
- Ahmet Aydeniz Construction Contracting, Turkey
- Ataç inaat ve sanayi A.S, Turkey
- Ceylan Construction and Trade Co. Inc., Turkey
- Ilci Insaat sanayi ve Ticaret A.S, Turkey
- İçkale Group, Turkey
- Kurt Construction Industry Ltd., Turkey
- Age Insaat ve Ticaret A.S, Turkey
- Korea Water Forum, Korea
- Lyonnaise des eaux, group Suez, France
- Degremont, France
- Société des Eaux d'Arles, France
- Nederlandse Waterschapsbank N.V., Netherlands

Civil Society and water users organizations

- Entebbe District Wildlife Association, Uganda
- Centre for Sustainable Environment and Development, Nigeria
- Fondation Amougou, Cameroon
- Asociacion Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento de México, A. C – ANEAS, Mexico
- Association for Social Action and Improvement, Bangladesh
- Sustainable Development and Ecological Education Center - Ukraine
- Fondation Ensemble, France

Professional organizations and academic institutions

- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research – CSIR, South Africa
- Centre for Environment Education – CEE, India
- World Water Institute – WWI, India
- International Center for Biosaline Agriculture – ICBA, UAE
- Water Energy Environment Research Center – WEERC, Lebanon
- Korea Institute of Water and Environment – KIWE, Korea

How to become a member of the WWC

The WWC is a member-driven organization open to any stakeholder involved in water issues. It currently brings together over 340 members from more than 65 countries, from the world's renowned institutions and companies to local authorities and NGOs.

By becoming a member of the Council, one becomes an integral part of a unique global network comprised of hundreds of thousands of eminent experts, government officials and high-ranking personalities, and benefits from the support and recognition of the international community.

This enables our members to actively influence decision- and policy-makers, and gain worldwide exposure while benefiting from the exchange of experiences and resources within the network.

Detailed information on membership advantages and membership fees can be found on our website at: www.worldwatercouncil.org. Our Membership Officer can also be contacted at +33 (0)4 91 99 41 00 or s.andre@worldwatercouncil.org

In brief

→ The website of the UNESCO-IGCP Project 523 GROWNET (Ground Water Network for Best Practices in Ground Water Development in Low-Income Countries) has recently been launched. It can be visited at www.igcp-grownet.org

→ The Rain Catcher, CSE's latest film, is a clear and comprehensive resource guide, answering all kinds of questions about rainwater harvesting, including policy dimensions, products, technologies and maintenance issues across India. <http://csestore.cse.org.in>. For questions contact films@cseindia.org

→ The Asian Development Bank released an e-paper on dams and development, the main purpose of which is to provide structured and easy access to a range of papers, case studies, and websites that deal with planning and implementation of dam projects. To access the paper, go to: <http://www.adb.org/Water/Topics/Dams/default.asp>

→ The Right Livelihood prize, considered as the alternative Nobel Prize, was given, on December 9th, to Tony Clarke, Director of the Polaris Institute and Maude Barlow, President of the Council of Canadians, both Canadian activists defending social justice and the right to water.

→ Launch of the second EU Water Facility call for proposals

The second EU Water Facility call for proposals should be launched in March 2006. It will most likely be a one-step process only, meaning that there would be a 4-month deadline for directly submitting a detailed proposal.

The European Commission unit responsible for the EU Water Facility organized a meeting on December 9th in Brussels, to which representatives of local authorities and NGOs from Europe and Africa were invited. Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi made a presentation on decentralized co-operation and the possibilities for African local authorities to respond to the call for proposals. All the participants in the meeting agreed that there is a need for greater involvement of African local authorities in the proposals.

More information on the EUWF website

<http://europa.eu.int/waterfacility>

Contact :E-mail : europaaid-water-facility@cec.eu.int

Fax : (+32) 2 299 86 22

Forum of Mexico

→ A "Workshop for Session Conveners" will take place in Mexico City on January 26th and 27th, 2006. The purpose of this meeting is to further define the precise details, format and objectives of the sessions, in order to create and conclude the final program of the Forum.

→ The Terms of Reference for session conveners are now available and may be found on the 4th World Water Forum website on www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx/files/termsref.doc. A Spanish version will also be online shortly.

Publications

The following IWA Publishing publications are now available and can be bought online at: <http://www.iwapublishing.com>

Preventing Legionellosis by William F McCoy, ISBN: 1843390949 · November 2005 · 152 pages

Integrated River Basin Governance - Learning from International Experience, by Bruce Hooper, ISBN: 1843390884 · September 2005 · 320 pages

Biological Wastewater Treatment in Warm Climate Regions, by M Von Sperling, CA de Lemos Chernicharo, ISBN: 1843390027 · October 2005 · 1496 pages · Hardback · Two Volumes

Urban Stormwater Management in Developing Countries, Authors: J Parkinson, O Mark, ISBN: 1843390574 · October 2005 · 240 pages · Paperback

Please feel free to send your press releases, publication & event announcements, etc. to be published in the Weekly News Update to : Stéphanie Porro
Ph.: +33 (0)4 91 99 41 00 - Fax: +33 (0)4 91 99 41 01
s.porro@worldwatercouncil.org