

Weekly News Update

A Word from the President

Marseilles – Next General Assembly

The 4th General Assembly of the World Water Council will take place next November 14th to 16th. It is an important event to which each Council member should contribute. Important, because, like every three years, the governing bodies will be renewed through election of the Board of Governors, the Bureau and the President. Important, because it is the opportunity for a friendly and rigorous confrontation on the subjects that touch the global water community. Important, because, four months from the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico, concrete, clear and precise messages must be chosen and addressed to decision-makers, to the media, and, through them, to the public at large to make water, indeed, a priority and to convince everyone around the world that water is the basis for human development.

Loïc FAUCHON

Welcome to Valérie Bistagne, the WWC's new Administrative and Financial Director

Ms. Valérie Bistagne has joined the WWC this month and will assume the responsibilities of Administrative and Financial Director, after having worked for the City of Marseilles where she managed the General Secretary's office and directed the magazine, *Marseille, la revue culturelle*. We welcome Valérie to the Council and look forward to a productive future collaboration with her.

Events

The WWC General Assembly scheduled for November 14th through 16th

The World Water Council General Assembly meeting provides members with a unique opportunity to meet and discuss the Council's strategies, management, programmes, and the Forum preparation with other members, elected representatives of the Council, Headquarters staff and representatives of the Secretariat of the 4th World Water Forum.

The next meeting will take place on November 14th-16th, in Marseilles, France. The agenda of the meeting features:

- The election of the new Board of Governors;
- The ratification of the new By-Laws;
- The ratification of the triennial budget;
- The adoption of the work-plan for the next three years.
- A day of thematic workshops

The Council is also seeking candidatures to the Board of Governors. For more detailed information on the General Assembly and elections, please refer to the WWC's website: www.worldwatercouncil.org/GA.4

Board of Governors meeting to take place in Stockholm on August 20th and 21st

The next meeting of the Board of Governors has been arranged to dovetail with the Stockholm World Water Week, the weekend prior to this event. The Board will concentrate on issues related to the General Assembly, the 4th World Water Forum and the 5th World Water Forum.

The World Water Council will also be present at events during the World Water Week, in particular "Local Actions for a Global Challenge" and "Finance for Water Solutions" on August 25th.

What's new

■ **Megalopolises will share their experiences in Mexico**

Elisabeth Catton represented the World Water Council at the Water Committee meeting of the Megalopolis Convention that was held in Berlin on May 13th.

The stakes for the large urban centres that have developed over the past 20 years are considerable, since 18 cities now contain more than 10 million inhabitants, 900 million of which live in shantytowns. More than half of the people living in those areas do not have access to clean water and even less to sanitation.

Among the subjects that received great attention were water resource management and in particular, conservation, re-use and recycling of water, maintenance of water networks, education for economising drinking water, the lack of sanitation systems and promises of new technology, development of research and public-private partnerships, and the difficult question of water access in shantytowns, among many other topics. So many issues for which Melbourne, Montreal, Guahgzhou, Abidjan and Berlin, shared constructive answers.

A number of speakers, in particular la Comisión Nacional del Agua (CNA) and the representative from Chili, emphasised a sustainable development approach to these problems where the impact of each action is analysed in economic, social and environmental terms according to a consultation process among cities and their representatives. At the end of the day, the President of the committee, Arturo Montiel Roja, Governor of Mexico, indicated that large cities would be, of course, represented at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico.

■ **INBO prepares its participation in the 4th World Water Forum**

The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) invited the World Water Council to present its Preparatory Process for the 4th World Water Forum during its international technical seminar on Integrated Water Resources Management in Mediterranean regions and North Africa, which was held in Marrakech from May 23rd to 26th. Elisabeth Catton from the Council Headquarters, Mokhtar Bzioui, Council Treasurer and Governor and Olivier Bommelaer, Alternate Governor from the Seine-Normandy Water Agency were able to engage many representatives from the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations and the African Network of Basin Organizations present at these meetings and also present for their annual General Assemblies.

These networks possess a long and rich experience in the areas of participative management of basins. Jean-François DONZIER, Permanent Technical Secretary for INBO, suggested that the International Water Office be associated with establishing these practices within the framework of the preparation of the 4th World Water Forum.

The next meetings for the European basin group in Namur (September 29th to October 1st) and the General Assembly for ANBO in Niamey in November will provide the opportunity to carry out analyses of these actions and to ask the questions: What lessons can be learned to reinforce efficiency? How can these actions be used to solve similar problems in other places and contexts?

It is on this basis that INBO is preparing a day-long session at the Forum in Mexico on the theme of multi-partner participation (the public at large, users, local municipalities, NGO's) in the management of hydrographical basins.

Also of note, the next INBO newsletter will be entirely consecrated to the preparation of the Forum in Mexico.

■ **Water and You: Give your opinion!**

The French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, in cooperation with the French Water Agencies, has launched a public consultation on water and aquatic environments, which will last through November 2nd, 2005. Prior to 2015, France must ensure proper ecological conditions for its waterways, lakes, underground sources and coastlines, in compliance with the European Water Framework.

Between June 6th and 18th, short programmes entitled "The Water Minute" were broadcast on both public and satellite television stations in France, transmitting a simple message: "Let's respect water. You too, can get involved."

Browse these sources for more information:

www.ecologie.gouv.fr/html/consulteau/cp2agence..htm
www.touspourleau.fr

On the member side

■ Mainstreaming climate impacts into sustainable water management

During the last Commission on Sustainable Development, the Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate of UNESCO-IHE, the World Meteorological Organization and the Japan Water Forum organized a side event on mainstreaming climate impacts into sustainable water management.

Population growth, economic development, flood prone land use and climate change all have impacts on the frequency and severity of extreme events, which require comprehensive responses to improve management of risks.

The meeting concluded that:

- The impending impacts of climate change upon hydrological systems threaten the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal 7 and suggested that **a new target be established to halve the loss of life associated with natural disasters, meteorological and climatic in origin;**
- Forecasting systems, early warning systems and public awareness campaigns are indispensable elements for effective risk management and encouraged investments in meteorological and hydrological warning systems;
- Climate change impacts should be included in the national plans for sustainable development, while calling for harmonization between the National Adaptation Plans of Action and the Integrated Water Resources Management plans;
- Capacity-building is of great importance in this process.

For more information, please refer to:

www.waterandclimate.org/News/index.html

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

Water Prizes

■ Kyoto World Water Grand Prize Open for Candidatures

The World Water Council together with the City of Kyoto, Soroptimist International of Kyoto and the 4th World Water Forum are pleased to invite individuals and organizations to submit their candidatures for the first Kyoto World Water Grand Prize, as of Monday, June 28th.

An award of JP¥5,000,000 (or approximately US\$45,000) will be given to the selected individual or organisation whose grassroot-level activities address critical water needs of communities and regions, corresponding to the overall theme of the 4th World Water Forum, "Local Actions for a Global Challenge." Ten finalists will also be invited to attend the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City in March 2006 to present their activities to the International Panel of Judges and to share their experiences with the Forum participants, in view of generating interest in these activities and reproducing them in other contexts.

In order to be considered for the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize, applicants must first register their local actions in a database and indicate their candidature for the Kyoto World Water Prize. The application form is available only through the Prize's web pages:

www.worldwatercouncil.org/kyoto_prize

Electronic submissions will be accepted through October 31st, 2005.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Secretariat of the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize:

Tel.: (+52) 55 5174 4480 or (+33) 4 91 99 41 00

E-mail: Kyoto_prize@worldwaterforum4.org.mx

■ King Hassan II Great World Water Prize

Candidatures for the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize will be accepted through September 30th, which will be awarded at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico. This prize, in the amount of US\$100,000 rewards the distinguished work of a person or an organisation for their cooperation and solidarity in the field of management and development of water resources.

For more information or to download the candidature form please visit the WWC's website at:

www.worldwatercouncil.org/hassan_II_prize

or contact Mélanie Girard at +33 4 91 99 41 00 or m.giard@worldwatercouncil.org

Press

■ First workshop of WWC programme for journalists taking place this month

Within the framework of its Journalist Training Programme, the WWC, with the Secretariat for the 4th World Water Forum, organized a workshop addressing water issues in Latin America in Ciudad Valles, Mexico from June 22nd to 24th. In this city in the region of San Luis Potosi, northeast of Mexico City, a regional conference on local management of water resources (a conference included in the American Regional Preparatory Process) was held, co-organized by the Global Environment Citizenship Project (GEC), UNEP, IUCN and the City of Valles. The two events took place at the same time, offering many chances for the conference participants, mostly journalists and mayors from Latin American cities, to interact. There were approximately thirty journalists from various Mexican states, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador, representing all sorts of media: press, TV, radio and Internet. This training workshop was supported by partners including the Inter-American Development Bank, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, UNEP, IUCN and the City of Valles.

The main objective of this Journalist Training Programme is to supply support to media professionals on various water issues, while emphasizing dialogue and exchanges of experiences. During the workshops, water experts are invited to explain and discuss particular water issues with the participants, field trips are organized and participants are encouraged to share and exchange experiences and situations that they encounter in their work.

This first meeting since the Council took over the programme initially set up and administered by the World Bank Institute under the name of *Water Media Network*, will be followed by other workshops in the coming months in various regions around the world.

For more information or to find out how to participate, please contact Stephanie Porro, co-ordinator of the programme at the World Water Council, at +33 (0)4.91.99.41.00 or s.porro@worldwatercouncil.org.

■ World Bank: Briefing Center for Journalists

The World Bank's Online Media Briefing Center is a password-protected site for registered journalists that offers advance access to Bank information, as well as opportunities to submit questions through online press conferences. A registration form is available on line.

For more information, please consult:

<http://media.worldbank.org>

Source: *World Bank Weekly Update - June 6, 2005*

On the member side

■ Roberto Lenton succeeds Richard Jolly at the head of WSSCC

Roberto L. Lenton, a citizen of Argentina and an internationally renowned water resources expert was designated as the new Chair of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) on May 13th. He succeeds Sir Richard Jolly, who served as Council Chair for almost eight years. Roberto L. Lenton is the co-coordinator of the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation, Chair of the Technical Committee of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and Senior Advisor for International Development at Columbia's International Research Institute for Climate Prediction. He is also co-leader of the theme Water Supply and Sanitation for All for the 4th Forum.

Congratulations to Roberto Lenton and best wishes from the WWC Headquarters team!

For more information, please contact Sören Bauer, Communications & External Relations Officer, WSSCC, Tel. +41 22 917 8674, Email: bauers@who.int

ATTENTION: The Council is moving

Please note that as of June 27th, the World Water Council will have a new address:

**Espace Gaymard
2-4 Place d'Arvieux
13002 Marseilles
France**

Our telephone and fax numbers will remain unchanged. Thank you in advance for your patience during this hectic week.

Agenda

Executive Director

June 24: Meetings in Nairobi, Kenya with the Water and Sanitation Programme, the United Nations Environment Program and the African Reference Group on Water.

June 25: African Regional Process meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

June 26: Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya with UN-Habitat.

June 28-July 1: Regional Process meeting for the Americas and Beacons meeting in Tabasco, Mexico with Loïc Fauchon.