

World Water Council

Weekly News Update

The Word of the President

TOWARDS THE 4TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Eighteen months ago, the World Water Council decided to organise its 4th Forum in Mexico City. This agreement with the government of Mexico is the recognition of the capability of this country and of its political leaders in the fields of water and sanitation.

The international water community is gathering to prepare this major event, set to take place at the beginning of the decade decreed by the UN as that of water and sanitation. This justifies the cause of access to water, and let's also hope, will allow a general reinforcement of the financial and institutional means devoted to it.

This reminds us of our obligation, that of a perfect collaboration, efficient and convivial, between all of the member organizations of the Council and our Mexican friends and colleagues. It is with this spirit that the next week of work in Mexico will be held.

Loïc FAUCHON

What's new

Meeting of the WWC French members

Around thirty French members met on Monday February 14th around the Acting President and the Executive Director of the World Water Council in the Town Hall of Paris. One year before the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico, the objective was to ensure an active participation of the French members of the Council. This meeting was the opportunity to reflect on the general direction desired for the future of the Council.

Noteworthy were the exchanges between the participants on the subject of the Council being a spokes-organization for the mobilised community to protect water resources and favour access for all to water and sanitation. Convincing decision-making and politicians that water is a key element for development is a priority. Reinforcing the financial, institutional and technical capacity of local authorities and stakeholders is an indispensable condition to guarantee the right to water for all. The programmes that will be implemented by the WWC with the help of its members, its communication strategy and its positions will be used to further these objectives.

The next meeting is planned for mid-May. In particular, the Council's next General Assembly will be discussed on that occasion.

Amendment

In the last issue of Weekly News Update, we reported the conclusions of the 4th Forum European preparatory meeting. We listed the selected themes : The European Union Water Framework Directive, solidarity and Integrated Water Resources Management. A fourth theme must be added to this list, which is risks management.

Loïc Fauchon in Washington

On the way to Mexico City, the Acting President stopped over in the capital of the U.S.A., where he met with Mr. Dennis Flannery, Vice President of the Inter-American Development Bank, and Ms Katherine Sierra and Mr Ian Johnson, both Vice Presidents of the World Bank. He was then received by the head of the US Army Corps of Engineers, General Strock.

The preparation of the Forum, the participation of these organizations for example in the water for development programme or the setting-up of a network of water journalists were amongst the subjects discussed. The organization of the Council, its financial status and its action during the coming year were also on the agenda.

Jerry Delli Priscolli, Charles-Louis de Maud'huy and Loïc Fauchon also met with Ambassador John McDonald, who served as US Coordinator during the previous UN Decade on Drinking Water and Sanitation in the 1980's. They evoked with him the commitment of the Council during this period and the concrete measures that the Council could propose in the months to come.

→ ADB creates a \$600 Million Emergency Fund for Tsunami Affected-Countries

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced the setting up of a multidonor Asian Tsunami Fund, with an initial contribution of US\$600 million, to deliver prompt emergency funding to tsunami-affected countries. The Fund will pool and deliver grants for emergency technical assistance and investment projects to support reconstruction and rehabilitation in India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and now Thailand. ADB will accept contributions to the Fund from bilateral, multilateral, and individual sources, including companies and foundations.

More information : <http://www.adb.org>

Did you know?

A battery contains enough mercury to pollute 500 liters of water, and may generate major consequences on the human nervous system. Thrown in the nature, it pollutes 1m3 of land and 1000 m3 of water during 50 years.

Source : WWF <http://www.wwf.fr/>

Forum of Mexico

Management of risks linked to climate

The fifth theme of the 4th World Water Forum, "risk management", includes the notion of risks linked to the climate. The Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate has been asked by the Forum organisers to prepare, together with the WWC, the World Meteorological Organisation, the Japan Water Forum and the National Meteorological Unit of Mexico, a baseline document on this theme for discussion at this week's meeting in Mexico City.

The baseline document will be available by the end of February 2005 as an input for the regional preparatory process, and once ready, will also be available on the CPWC website. <http://www.waterandclimate.org/home.asp> Your thoughts on this document will be most welcome.

In brief

→ Africa: An Observatory for Environment and Sustainable Development

The European Commission has announced the launch of an Observatory for Environment and Sustainable Development for Africa. The objective is to provide the African continent with relevant information obtained through satellite and computer-mapping technologies.

More information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm

→ Davos: Partnering Against Corruption Initiative

Water-related multinationals are amongst 62 companies at the World Economic Forum who signed up to a zero tolerance campaign against bribery and corruption. The list includes the British multinational Biwater plc, member of the World Water Council. At the Forum in Davos Switzerland on 28 January 2005, they signed up to the Partnering Against Corruption Principles for Countering Bribery (PACI principles).

Web site: WEF -Partnering Against Corruption Initiative - <http://www.weforum.org/paci>

Members corner

UNESCO-IHE is developing a distance-learning approach for its educational programs

Eight water-related courses are proposed by UNESCO-IHE in its new distance-learning programme, which aims to respond to the diverse training needs in the field of water education. The courses are offered in an innovative format, combining the best of traditional and distance-learning programmes. They will target mid-career professionals such as decision-makers, managers of public and private institutions, NGO staff, trainers and members of academic institutions. The courses cover various themes related to water such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Public-Private Partnerships, Wetlands Management, etc...

More information: <http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/ilearning.htm>

Publication

New publication on drinking water and sanitation

This publication allows an overview of all aspects of water and sanitation management, accessible to the majority. It's a mini-water encyclopaedia, written as a learning tool, which is aimed at:

- The elected official or the civil servant in charge of water policy and its control;
- The officer in charge of water services;
- The professional searching for legal, institutional or economic references;
- The water user concerned about his or her rights;
- The citizen wishing to understand the somewhat complex functioning of a sector of which he or she is increasingly aware

More information:
http://www.editions-johanet.com/eau_potable.htm

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

Events

International Conference on Integrated Assessment of Water Resources and Global Change: A North-South Analysis

Bonn, Germany

23-25 February 2005

Co-organisé par l'UNESCO, l'AISH (Association internationale des sciences hydrologiques), CGIAR Challenge Program on Water & Food, etc.

Pour plus d'information : <http://www.zef.de/>



Leading-Edge
Technology

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE

3rd IWA Leading-Edge Conference & Exhibition on Water and Wastewater Treatment Technologies

Royton Hotel Sapporo, Japan

6-8 June 2005

This conference is rapidly becoming the event for all those interested in advances in wastewater and drinking water technologies.

For more information visit
www.let2005.iwa-conferences.org

Agendas

President – Executive Director

February 21

Meeting with M. Angel Gurria, former Minister of finance of Mexico, French Embassy, Mexico

February 22

Preparatory meeting for the International Organising Committee. Meeting with Cristobal Jaime, President of the CNA.

February 23

4th World Water Forum IOC. Meetings with the beacons.

February 24-25

Preparatory technical day for the 4th World Water Forum