

News Update

Editorial

SANITATION NEEDS SCIENCE, BUT FIRST, IT NEEDS AWARENESS

2008 is the International Year of Sanitation. This period must be used to attract the world's attention to the fact that one person out of two on the planet still does not have access to sanitation facilities that guarantee both adequate hygiene and privacy. Making sanitation a priority is both a right and a duty, which, in any case, must not be limited to the overly restrictive concept of access to toilets.

For the global increase in population provokes migration and pollution, rendering cities veritable sanitation time bombs. And we must say that cities, all cities, need a global purification policy. It is the very high price to pay for maintaining water resources at a level of quality that restricts the rise of water-related illnesses.

Less expensive and simpler technical solutions remain to be invented to enable maintenance that is adapted to climatic conditions. But especially, we must still persuade national and local decision-makers that water policies cannot be effective and sustainable if we do not dedicate as many resources to sanitation as we do to water.

Such are the stakes for this International Year of Sanitation: to inform, to explain, to convince others of the necessity for greater awareness around sanitation.

Loïc FAUCHON



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Focus on

Development Assistance: From Statistics to Reality

Over the past few years public assistance for development, paid by the 22 members of the CAD (The Development Assistance Committee) has contributed to improving living conditions for the world's poorest populations. According to findings published by the OECD in the 2007 Development Co-operation Report (www.oecd.org/dac), despite efforts carried out to improve both on both quality and efficiency, the amount of aid is still extremely insufficient.

For the first time since 1997, in 2006 the amount of aid fell by 4.5% to 104.4 billion. Furthermore, this sum was comprised, in a large part, by cancelled debts (nearly one-third of the total amount,) as well as funds allocated to catastrophes greatly impacting humans, or to the education fees of foreign students and to funds allocated to housing for refugees in donor countries. To keep their promises, by the year 2010, CAD members should be increasing the amount of actual, annual aid by 12%. Yet another dilemma lies in the difficulty of ascertaining where aid should be allocated on a local scale, in recipient countries.

Assistance in the domain of water distribution and sanitation, which represents approximately 5% of the total aid, was the subject of a report titled, "Official Development Assistance for Water from 1990 to 2004 – Figures and trends," published by the WWC for the World Water Forum in Mexico based on data from OECD.

WWC and World Water Forum News

Congress on Achieving the MDGs for Water and Sanitation in Africa

Numerous experts gathered at the 14th Congress of the African Water Association on 25-28 February in Cotonou to exchange ideas on 34 topics covering water and sanitation in Africa. The African continent remains the most vulnerable in terms of access to water. This is why the Congress organisers asked professionals to propose concrete solutions to these problems.

Alongside Mr. Yayi Boni, the President of the Republic of Benin, Loïc Fauchon delivered an opening speech (available on the WWC website) in which he evoked what was at stake for the continent. The President of the WWC took advantage of the opportunity to meet with political as well as media representatives, and he also presided over a symposium dedicated to the assessment of the MDGs in relation to Africa and made a presentation on the 5th World Water Forum to take place in Istanbul. For more information on the Congress and the AWA, a WWC member, visit <http://www.afwa-hq.org/>



In the framework of the **Strengthening Local Authorities programme**, which is led by the WWC, a map of existing initiatives aimed at strengthening local authorities in the water sector has been realised. Many actions and programmes which focus on strengthening local governments' capacities to better manage water resources and services are being developed and implemented. A list and description of these initiatives is available here, on our website. If you are aware of similar ongoing initiatives we invite you to inform us by sending an e-mail to c.dubreuil@worldwatercouncil.org

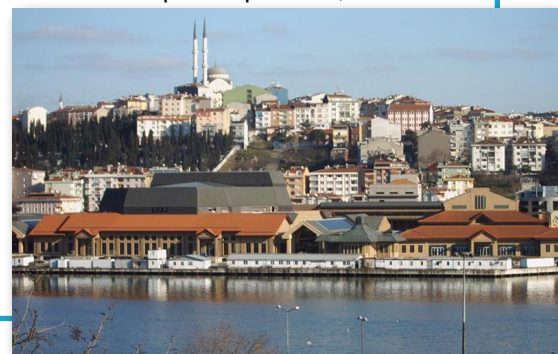
Towards the 5th World Water Forum

From Questions to Sessions: 2nd Thematic and Regional Coordinators Meeting

Enthusiasm, dialogues and involvement: the two-day-meeting on 7-8 February in Istanbul was a great success and marked an important step toward the definition of topics for the next World Water Forum. Some 500 participants, representing 200 organizations and institutions, actively contributed to round table discussions on the "100 Questions". Conceived prior to the meeting by the water community, these questions provided the basis for discussion aiming to establish a list of potential sessions and session organizers for the 5th Forum. A detailed report is available on the 5th World Water Forum website: www.worldwaterforum5.org.

Fourth ISC and Committees Meetings

Held in Istanbul on 9 and 10 February, the 4th meeting of the 5th Forum's International Steering Committee commenced with a lively presentation of Perl*, the newly contracted professional conference organiser that will be in charge of logistical and communications issues for the 5th Forum. On the agenda: Thematic and Topic Coordination issues and timelines; The upcoming meeting in March in Istanbul designed for launching the Istanbul Urban Consensus development process; The preparation of the 2nd Announcement, to be published this year on World Water Day; The Regional Processes; Facilitation Assistance and Overall Evaluation Processes.



* **Perl PCO** is a new joint-venture made up of 2 Turkish organizations; VIP Tourism & FIGUR Tourism, which formed to organize the 5th World Water Forum and other large events. By joining human resources, knowhow, and capital, they aim at ensuring a successful Forum. <http://perlpco.com/>

Political Process Kick-off Meeting for Local Authorities

Upon the occasion of the World Water Day festivities in Istanbul, on the afternoon of 21 March, Mayor Kadir TOPBAS will convoke some 30 cities from various parts of the world to take part in the political process of the 5th World Water Forum, urging them to get involved in shaping the political agenda at the local level. The participating delegates will have a say in and will contribute to the major issues that concern their cities and regions, as well as to the outline of the political decisions and commitments for the coming years. For more information: <http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=1895>



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World Water Day(s) in Istanbul

The 2008 World Water will be celebrated in Istanbul, with three days of events bridging World Meteorological Day and International Forest Day, with the objective of demonstrating the direct link that exists between water and the other sustainable development sectors. Information on the programme for 21-23 Mars will soon be available on the 5th World Water Forum website.

DHI's Women's Water Fund - Call for applications

Prof. Torkil Jønch Clausen, winner of the 4th World Water Forum King Hassan II Great World Water Prize, donated the prize money to the DHI Women's Water Fund, whose objective it is to support women in developing countries to advance their career opportunities in the development and management of water resources. There is a call for applications for a four week Course in 'Integrated Environment and Water Management' (IEWM), in association with a study visit to Denmark. The application deadline is 15 April 2008. More information on the WWC website: <http://www.worldwater-council.org/index.php?id=2128> : <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=2128>

Water and Film



Verviers International Water Film Festival

The 3rd edition of Verviers' International Water and Film Festival, one of the steps on the road to International Encounters Water and Film, Istanbul 2009 will be held 13-16 March, 2008. In addition to a high-level and feature-length, documentary film competition, the festival will welcome various other events, such as theater, photography, conferences, and more. <http://www.aufilmdeleau.com/>

A Call to Compete in the 3rd Edition of FIFEN

The third edition of the International Environmental Film Festival of Niamey will be held in the Nigerian Capital on 3-8 June, 2008, on the theme of "Africa and its Knowledge: Environment and Sustainable Development." The FIFEN festival is a partner for the pre-selection of the films which will be at the RIEC in Istanbul, 2009. The Deadline for entries is 16 May, 2008 : <http://www.eieretsher.org/spip.php?article2322>



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News from Members and Partners

connect2earth.org: Launching a New Community for Young People

“Create, connect, change the world” is the message that is launching the worldwide community website ‘connect2earth.org’ on 3 March. IUCN, WWF and Nokia are giving young people a platform to share their ideas about environmental issues and solutions. People under 35 years of age will be able to contribute by uploading their own videos, images and texts. To find out more: <http://www.connect2earth.org/>

First Water Week in Africa

The main objective for the first African Water Week in Tunis on 26-28 March, 2008 is to create a forum for all African water sector professionals, stakeholders and partners.. Hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB), this event also aims at formulating concrete policies, strategies and actions, in order to accelerate water resources development and the provision of water services. WWC President Loïc Fauchon will give a speech at the opening ceremony of the conference. For more information please visit: http://www.afdb.org/portal/page?_pageid=473.969995&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools

WASH in Schools Initiative Launch on March 12, 2008 - On Wednesday, March 12, 2008 in Washington D.C, you can join Water Advocates and numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations, corporations, and schools to launch a U.S. Initiative for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools . <http://www.wateradvocates.org/forschools.htm>

www.watmed4.org - More than 20 countries have confirmed their participation at the International Conference in Alger, which is being organised by RMEI (Mediterranean network of engineering schools) on 22-24 March 2008. 150 presentations on the Mediterranean, African, American, European and Asian basins will be presented. The recommendations will be published on the World Water Council website: <http://www.watmed4.org>

WWDR-3 Table of Contents open for public comment

The WWAP Secretariat announced that the Table of Contents for the Third World Water Development Report, “Water in a Changing World,” is open for public comment. WWAP invites you to learn about the WWDR-3 and share your remarks and comments on the draft ToC through the on-line comment form, open until March 16, 2008. <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/wwdr3/>



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In brief

Launch of Caribbean Desalination Association

The official launch of CaribDA, a recently founded association that promotes, supports and informs on desalination technology and water re-use in the Caribbean, will be celebrated in Curaçao on 4-6 June 2008 marking the 80th anniversary Caribbean commercial desalination operations. Visit their website: <http://www.caribda.com/>



Norway Contributes NOK60M for Water, Energy

The Norwegian Government has contributed NOK30 million to both the ADB Water Financing Partnership Facility and the Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility for 2007-2009. ADB Director General Xianbin Yao says, “The contribution will be used to promote clean energy and to fund projects in the water sector that will ensure stable sanitation and water supply, especially for the poor and disadvantaged.” <http://adb.org/media/Articles/2008/12359-asian-water-clean-energies/>

Where to meet...

World Water Day in Istanbul

21 to 23 March, Istanbul, Turkey

Information : <http://www.worldwaterday.org>

Céline Dubreuil, Daniel Zimmer

African Water Week

26 to 28 March, Tunis, Tunisia

Daniel Zimmer, Loïc Fauchon

Agenda

Hydropowers Africa 2008

4-6 March

Johannesburg, South Africa

More information: <http://www.spintelligent-events.com/hydropower/en/index.php>

Water China 2008

4-7 March

Guangzhou, Canton, China

More information: <http://www.waterchina.merebo.com/>

ASIA 2008

10-11 March

Organizers: Hydropower and Dams with EVN

Danang, Vietnam

More information: www.hydropower-dams.com

International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

10-12 March

Organizers: Water Research Commission (WRC), UNESCO

HIP; DWAF; WISA

Cape Town, South Africa

More Information : <http://www.irc.nl/page/38485>

International Groundwater Conference on Groundwater Dynamics & Global Change

11-14 March

Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Organizers: University of Rajasthan, Jaipur and Association of Geo-environmentalists

More information: <http://www.irc.nl/page/38267>

Spring Speciality Conference: GIS & Water Resources

11-14 March

San Mateo, California, USA

Organizers: International Water resources Association

More information : http://www.awra.org/meetings/San_Mateo2008/

World Water Day

22 March

More information: <http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/flashindex.html>

Publication

WaterAlternatives

The first edition of this free, online journal will come out on June 1st. Le premier numéro de ce nouveau journal électronique gratuit et accessible en ligne sortira le 1er Juin. You can already visit the website and submit articles at: www.water-alternatives.org

Prize

Call for Submissions to the SEED Awards 2008

The SEED Initiative is seeking submissions for «The 2008 SEED Awards for Entrepreneurship in Sustainable Development». They welcome innovative ideas from any group in a developing country, which is working in partnership with others to generate environmental and social benefits in an entrepreneurial way. The call is open until the 16th March 2008. More details are available at www.seedinit.org

A few acronyms

OECD : Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

RIEC : International Water and Film Encounters

IUCN : International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

WWF : World Wide Fund

MDG : Millenium Development Goal

UNEP : United Nations Environment Programme

PNUD : United Nations Development Programme

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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