

News Update

Editorial

Energy for Water: It is of the utmost urgency...

For several weeks the barrel of oil has exceeded 100 dollars on the international market. This sudden rise in the price of crude oil, especially in poor and isolated countries, is depriving a portion of the world's population access to this resource.

Energy is indispensable for water: without energy, and in particular, without electricity, there can be no pumping, no storage and no treatment. Take, for example, the populations of Benin or Mali, who, due to the increase in the price of gas-oil required for the pumping centre, had to reduce the amount of time for pumping water from 8 to 4 hours a day.

This basic need for human development, to which we must bring concrete and adapted solutions, is a matter of utmost urgency.

First of all, by inventing new technological solutions involving alternative forms of energy, and by using less energy, we will be able to have greater access to water in the near future.

But this isn't enough... We must, first and foremost, see to it that part of the energy which is necessary for the access to water be sold at a reduced price for those who are most in need.

To do this, might we imagine a certain form of moratorium be placed on price increases? This solution would neutralise part of the current price, recent price increases, or an upcoming price increase.

Might we also contemplate access to a "water-fuel?" This mixture, a form of diesel oil, is similar to that which existed, or which still exists, in several European countries, to the benefits of farmers, fishermen and taxi-drivers.

Finally, why not reflect on establishing a specific tax on petroleum products? This would result in the possibility of creating a fund dedicated to water, to be discussed with oil producing countries.

The World Water Council is working on responding to these questions. Thank you for joining in this reflection.

LOÏC FAUCHON



6th World Water Forum

Host the 6th World Water Forum!

Does your country wish to host the next World Water Forum in March 2012? Express your interest now! The bidding process was launched this month by the WWC.

For the next edition of the World Water Forum, the Government of any country, in collaboration with a city, is invited to demonstrate its capacity to organise such an important event. In order to be considered for the next steps in the bidding procedure, a preliminary expression of interest should be received by the WWC Headquarters in Marseille by 1 June 2008 and must be presented or endorsed by a representative of the central Government of the country concerned, at the highest possible level.

The Forum is not just an international conference. It is a three-year process involving a great deal of preparatory work on specific subjects, taking into account the perspectives of multiple stakeholders from different regions. The thematic and regional preparatory processes help to propose concrete solutions to the main water-related challenges that the world faces today.

The full announcement is available on the Council's website: www.worldwatercouncil.org. For further information on the 6th Forum, contact [Danielle Gaillard](#), Forum Coordinator.

WWC News

1st African Water Week in Tunis

With Tunisia's Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, the President of the African Development Bank and the Prince of Orange at his side, Loïc Fauchon opened the First African Water Week, which was held 25-29 March. This important event was organised on the initiative of AMCOW (African Ministers' Water Council) in the framework of preparing for the next Summit of the African Union. This was an occasion for the President of the World Water Council to speak with numerous political personalities from the region, such as Tunisia's Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, as well as the Minister of Environment, and to plead the cause of water before a number of journalists who were present. Access Mr Fauchon's opening speech on the WWC website: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=890>.

The advancements in preparation of the 5th World Water Forum were presented during a plenary session, and insisted on the necessity of increasing African participation. The WWC also co-organised two side-events with the AfDB to present the framework for a new platform for Water for Development, launched in partnership with several African Council members.



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Meeting the "Banker to the Poor"

On 31 March in Paris, upon invitation from WWC member Veolia Water, Loïc Fauchon met with Muhammed Yunus, Nobel Prize Winner in 2006 and the pioneer of micro-credits. The discussion focused on the preparation of the 5th World Water Forum within the framework the theme, 'Financing' as well as a potential partnership for water. Mr. Yunus also met with Nicolas Sarkozy at the Presidential Palace to advocate the development of microfinancing and to highlight the commitments made by the planet's wealthiest countries to increase their aid to Africa.

Partnership MEEDDAT-WWC

In partnership with the Minister of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land, the World Water Council signed an agreement this week, which aims to: 1.) contribute to the establishment of a worldwide mechanism for the observation of water, which will assure better management of water resources and services and, 2.) to contribute to the reinforcement of the role of local authorities in the politics of access to water and sanitation, taking the lead on the International agenda by organizing and facilitating a constructive dialog between local authorities and central governments. This dialogue is an integral part of the 5th World Water Forum's Political Process.



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"European Crisis Cooperation 2008: Flood Response"

The first in this series of conferences which examined the developments of a transboundary system for the management of natural disasters was organized 13-14 March in Aix-en-Provence, with the purpose of debating the challenges and the success, as well as the failures, that occur at the time of major crises at the European level. Daniel Zimmer, Director of the World Water Council, gave a presentation on the world's risks and specifically on flooding in Europe and climate evolution. Information : <http://www.pole-risques.com/index.php?Agendadesmanifestations>

WWC in Morocco

Last Tuesday Mr. Zahoud, State Secretary in charge of water for the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment in Morocco, received the President of the World Water Council. The meeting was held in the Moroccan capital city of Rabat, and discussion took place on the King Hassan Great World Water Prize for which an appeal for candidature will soon be launched.

Mr. Fauchon also took the opportunity to visit Mr. Fassi Firhi, Director General of ONEP, and Mr. Ben-Saïd, his Alternate Representative on the WWC Board of Governors, to work on the question of sanitation within the framework of the preparations for the 5th World Water Forum.

5th World Water Forum

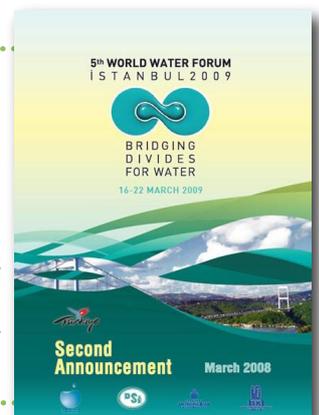
Dünya Su Günü (World Water Day) 2008: The Istanbul Urban Water Consensus

More than 400 water experts and local elected officials participated in the ceremonies organized for World Water Day in Istanbul, where the WWC was represented by Board member Jerry Delli Priscoli at the opening ceremony. One of the prominent events included the launch of the Istanbul Urban Water Consensus by Mayor Topbas of Istanbul, in the presence of 38 delegations from cities all over the world, including Rotterdam, Sarajevo and Zaragoza. Mayor Topbas launched an appeal to the leaders of the world's cities for improved management of their water resources, and for the facilitation of access to water and sanitation for all citizens. The Istanbul Urban Water Consensus consists of a series of commitments to which cities are requested to adhere in order to improve water management. The document has been released as a draft for comments, and after being finalised it will be sent for signing by October 2008. For more information, or to download the Consensus, visit the 5th World Water Forum website: www.worldwaterforum5.org.



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The **2nd Announcement for the 5th World Water Forum**, which presents the Forum's thematic development and serves to launch a call for contribution, is now available on the WWC website (www.worldwatercouncil.org) as well as on the Forum website (www.worldwaterforum5.org)



First Workshop for the preparation of the 5th World Water Forum's "MENA- Arab Region" regional process

Represented by Mr. Mokhtar Bzioui, a member of the Council's Board of Governors, The World Water Council participated in the workshop organized by the Arab Water Council on 13-15 March in Cairo which aimed at identifying which of the Forum sessions' themes would hold the most importance for the region. The participants established an agenda for the preparation of their participation in the Forum in Istanbul; the First Arab Water Forum will take place 16-19 November in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Launch of the Turkish Sub-Regional Process

The conference on Water Management Strategies and Practices in Arid and Semi-Arid regions, organized in Amman, Jordan in February, marked the opening of the Turkish sub-regional process for the preparation of the 5th World Water Forum. M Hachmi Kennou, Executive Director of the Mediterranean Institute for Water (IME) and a Governor of the WWC, represented the Council during the conference. He also gave a speech at the opening ceremony in the name of Loïc Fauchon. To download the speech: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=890&L=1>

News from Members and Partners

A Global Sanitation Fund

Last March 14th the WSSCC (Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council) launched the Global Sanitation Fund, which aims to boost sanitation funding for people-centered, community-managed and demand-driven work programmes, thus contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal sanitation target by 2015. The Global Sanitation Fund is the first global mechanism for the financing of sanitation, and its launch is one of the major initiatives of the International Year of Sanitation 2008. <http://www.wsscc.org/en/what-we-do/global-sanitation-fund/index.htm>



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ICID WatSave Awards 2008: invitation for nominations – Since 1997, WatSave Awards have been presented to professionals around the world in recognition of their outstanding contributions to water saving/ conservation in agriculture. The deadlines for this year's nominations is 30 June: <http://www.icid.org/awards.html>

The First Forum of the Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean will be held 22-23 June 2008 in Marseille. Organized by the Mediterranean Commission as well as United Cities and Local Governments, this Forum will serve as an occasion for the Mediterranean region's participating local and regional authorities to express their expectations in regards to the populations being represented and to participate in elaborating on a strategy for the Mediterranean to bring a new dynamic to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/uclg/upload/newTempDoc/EN_385_medforum.pdf

The VidéEau Festival

Organized by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW), the VidéEau Festival is an international competition for video clips. It is also part of a project titled "Celebration of Lakes and Rivers" which is a process aimed at raising awareness and involving young people in international citizenship and cooperation for water, both in Quebec and around the world. The 2008 edition invites young people from the ages of 17 to 30 to submit video clips on the theme "Water, People and Sustainable Development" before 15 June 2008. The winners of the competition will be automatically entered into The International Water and Film Events, organized in Istanbul in March 2009 during the 5th World Water Forum. For more information: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/>



Consultation of Public Comment on the Table of Contents for the WWDR-3 is closed

On March 16th the WWAP secretariat stopped accepting public contribution to the report's table of contents on la Mise en Valeur des Ressources en Eau (WWDR-3), entitled, "Water in a Changing World." For more information on the 3rd WWDR and the results of the public comment period, consult the WWAP website: http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/wwdr/wwdr3/index_fr.shtml

Nomination - Mr. Martin Walshe has been selected to serve as the new Deputy Executive Secretary of GWP, starting 1 April 2008. A Senior Water Advisor in the Policy Division of DFID, he was recently on secondment to the Directorate General for the development of the European Commission.

Small Grant Funds

After 3 years in operation, the Fondation Ensemble, a member of the WWC, is creating a grant dedicated to small and medium-sized organizations that are looking for short-term financial support. Facilities are welcome to present their projects throughout the year. The maximum amount that can be received is 30,000 € for projects presenting a budget which does not exceed 60,000 €. For more information, visit the Fondation Ensemble website: <http://www.fondationensemble.org/index.php/en>

Where to meet

Biovision

12-16 April 2008 - Alexandria, Egypt

<http://www.bibalex.org/bva08/home/home.aspx>

Daniel Zimmer

CSD 16 Review Session

5-16 May 2008 - New York, USA

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/review.htm>

Loïc Fauchon, Daniel Zimmer

3rd Joint Specialty Conference "Sustainable Water Management in response to 21st century pressures"

5-9 May - Munich, Germany

Organisation : EWA, JSWA, WEF

http://www.ewaonline.de/downloads/IFAT2008_Programme.pdf

Loïc Fauchon (6 mai, opening)

Agenda

Water Down Under 2008

15-18 April - Adelaide, Australia

Organisation : IAHR, UNESCO-IHP, ICWRS...

Information : <http://www.waterdownunder2008.com/>

Second MEDA Water Regional Event on Local Water Management

28-30 April - Marrakech, Morocco

Organisation : MEDA Water Programme

http://www.medawater-rmsu.org/meetings/2nd_MWP_conference.htm

6th European Ramsar Regional Meeting

3-7 May - Stockholm, Sweden

Organisation : Ramsar Secretariat - Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

http://www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_reg_europe2008_index.htm

7th World Wide Workshop for Young Environmental Scientists -- WWW-YES 2008

12-16 May - Paris, France

Organisation : CERERE ENPC France - Université Paris 12 - UFMG EHR Brésil - Association H2o Paris

Information : <http://www.enpc.fr/cereve/www-yes/>

World Environmental and Water Resources Congress

13-16 May - Honolulu, Hawaiï

Organisation : ASCE & EWRI

<http://content.asce.org/conferences/ewri2008/>

In Brief...

The UN Human Rights Council Moves Forward on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation

Governments are bound by human-rights obligations which ensure water and sanitation. This was clearly indicated in a statement made by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva last week. Germany and Spain were among the 40 co-sponsors who, by a consensus, adopted a new resolution that also established an Independent Expert on Human Rights obligations, related to ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

http://www.cohre.org/view_page.php?page_id=214

Wallonia Creates a «Social Fund for Water»

Last month the Ministry of the Environment presented the government of Wallonia with information related to the creation of an International Solidarity Fund for Water. To be financed by a tax on Belgian consumers' water bills, € 2M will be collected each year. <http://www.irc.nl/page/32651>



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Turkey, Syria and Iraq Establish Water Institute

In order to resolve their differences in the field of water, the three nations decided to create a hydraulic institute composed of 18 experts from each country. These experts, who arrived in Turkey at the end of March, are responsible for elaborating on projects aimed at the equitable and efficient use of transboundary water resources. <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=136183>

Japan puts Water & Sanitation Firmly on the G8 Agenda

Last February 27th, during the session of the University of the United Nations in Tokyo, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared that Japan, chair of the next G8 Summit, intended to firmly place the questions of water and sanitation on the agenda of the discussions to be held at the Summit. http://www.wateraid.org/australia/about_us/newsroom/6477.asp?dm_i=241178415

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