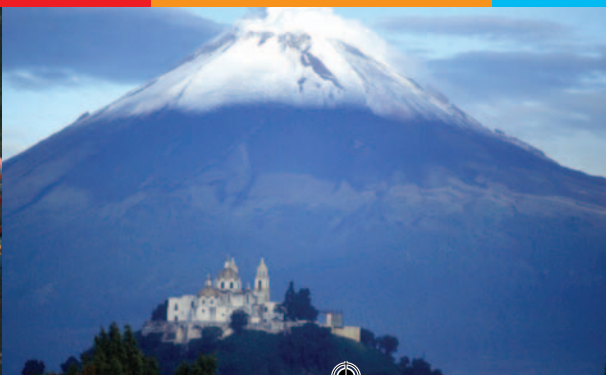




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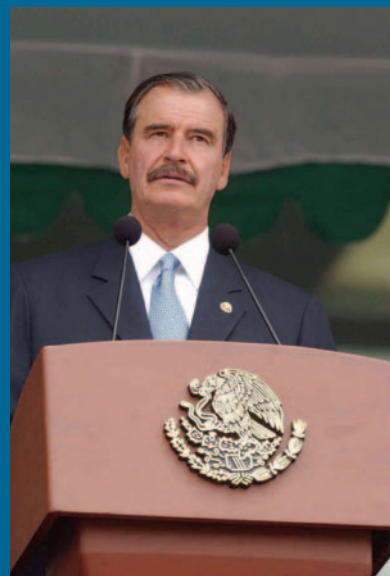
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Message from the President of Mexico

Water: a strategic resource of national security



During 2005, the United Nations has begun to vigorously work on two initiatives: The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the International Decade of Action, Water for Life. In reference to these initiatives, we, the members of the international community reinforce our desire and commitment to accomplish the objectives expressed through the Millennium Development Goals.

Water, life and development are concepts that cannot be separated from one another. Our present and future depend on the measures that we take today; on the concrete actions that we take to preserve water, forests and other natural resources.

Achieving tangible results requires not only political commitment at the highest level, but also, and most importantly, coordination between different sectors of society, the scientific and technological community and both national, international and governmental organizations.

In Mexico, we recognize the importance of water and the powerful impact it has on the well-being of our people and

the economic development of our nation. That is why we consider it a strategic resource of national security.

With the international community we share the need to develop policies, strategies and programs to confront the challenges of an efficient and sustainable management of our natural resources that can translate into concrete measures at the local level. For this reason, we are proud to host the 4th World Water Forum to be held in March 2006, under the slogan, "Local Action for a Global Challenge".

Mexico invites you to participate in the 4th World Water Forum, to share experiences and learn from one another; to listen to the local actors speak of the measures they have taken and their results; to analyze various plans that have provided the solution to problems similar to our own; to discuss the impact of different public policies; to propel the expansion of water and sanitation services as driving forces to promote development and end poverty and to learn of the main challenges and measures taken by the different regions of the world.

Let's work together with the responsibility to bequeath a better future for humanity.

Vicente Fox Quesada
President of Mexico



Message from the President of the World Water Council

So the Voice of Water may be heard



Water is our common future. It is not only an essential element of our planet's heritage, but an indispensable element for sustaining life, growth and development. It is the World Water Council's role and responsibility to gain acceptance of the idea that water and sanitation are one of the main priorities for the decades to come, a priority that must be expressed in actions and no longer just in speeches. The international water community, gathered since 1996 within the Council, makes this voice heard: the Voice of Water.

This is one of the reasons behind the existence of the World Water Forums that have taken place in Marrakech, The Hague, Kyoto and soon in Mexico City in March 2006, with the help and support of the highest Mexican authorities. These are both places and moments for reflection, exchanges and proposals to make concrete progress on the cause of water.

Based on the idea that there is no human development without control over the water cycle, four major themes are at the heart of current concerns:

- Financing water, which requires clear choices at every decision-making level so that once and for all, "taps come before rifles";
- The right to access to water, the principle of which is unambiguous, but for which methods must now be worked out according to national specificities;

- The institutional organization of water, with increased decentralization and maintenance of a necessary balance between the regulating role of the State and the increasing of responsibilities of local stakeholders;
- Adapting water knowledge, so that the transfer of knowledge and research programs may finally be adapted to the particularities and needs of each community.

With the participation of all, excluding no-one, with your participation and with that of the groups that you represent, this is the challenge of Mexico City in March 2006. It is our duty, it is your duty, to contribute to it and to bring to the neediest, to the poorest, to the weakest, the hope of a life where the search for clean and abundant water is no longer a constant obsession.

To do that, we must together establish clear and concrete messages addressed to the public-at-large through relays of opinions and through the media, messages that each of us will then pass on to all those with financial, legislative, institutional or scientific decision-making power.

Come and bring these messages to Mexico City in March 2006. You are invited. You are welcome.



World Water Council
4th World Water Forum

Loïc Fauchon

Co-Chair of the International Organizing Committee
of the 4th World Water Forum
President of the World Water Council



Message from the Director General of the National Water Commission of Mexico

The Forum in Mexico, a space to find local solutions of global scope



Mexico, like many other countries in the world, faces grave challenges derived from the need to foster economic growth and social development within an environmentally sustainable framework. For example, our country experiences regional levels of water availability that vary significantly between the northern and southern regions of the country. In some cases, industrial localization and urbanization have taken part in places where water stress was not an issue some decades ago, but now is becoming a hindering factor for future development and environmental sustainability. Also increasing urbanization trends and a historical legacy of scattered urban settlements represent a huge challenge in terms of water supply and sanitation. Until very recently water withdrawals for agriculture remained unchecked and rampant, producing important water allocation competition between water-uses. Mexico is also subject to extreme environmental events such as hurricanes, floods and droughts, which unfortunately still have very crippling impacts amongst the poorest.

Our country faces great development challenges, and furthermore, water resource management and development is playing a crucial role in poverty alleviation, economic growth, regional income distribution and environmental conservation. We are committed and we are making efforts in many fronts in our pursuit to achieve sustainable development. In our path to learn and reform our water policy sector, we would like to share our experience and gain knowledge from others.

Mexico is also changing in many ways as it adapts and attunes to a globalizing world. For Mexico, being the host country of the 4th World Water Forum and contributing with the World Water Council, as partners in the preparation of this event, represents a historical opportunity to participate actively in building global multilateralism. Mexico is concerned about driving humanity's quest to address global development challenges, as laid out in the Millennium Development Goals and the Decade of Action, Water for Life.

The 4th World Water Forum in Mexico will be an inclusive and multi-stakeholder event. It will offer an opportunity to debate and share experiences from all over the world. It will seek to generate concrete proposals to find ways to support local action at a global scale. This is why we believe that your involvement is paramount for a successful Forum. We invite you to participate actively in the preparatory process and in Mexico. Your contribution will enrich us. It will make a big difference and it will help to turn challenges into opportunities.



Cristobal Jaime Jaquez
Co-Chair of the International Organizing Committee
of the 4th World Water Forum
Director General of the National Water Commission
of Mexico

What to expect at the 4th World Water Forum

Participants at the 4th World Water Forum can expect an exciting week in which several opportunities will be provided through which they can share their own experiences with others – peers and other stakeholders alike – to come away enriched and invigorated to meet the challenges back home.

Following the pattern of previous Fora, the 4th World Water Forum will focus on local actions. The local level is critical since water is managed locally and concrete solutions are only locally applicable. One can, however, learn from successful examples from other sectors and regions. A platform such as the Forum is an ideal instrument for exchanging relevant and useful practices, fostering agreements on local approaches and concluding political support for action.

Given the global challenges for water (the Millennium Development Goals, the International Decade for Action, Water for Life, etc.) there is a need to scale up and enhance what is happening locally. There also a World Water Forum can assist, hence the overarching theme of the 4th World Water Forum: "Local Actions for a Global Challenge".

The preparatory process will lead to a number of relevant local actions being presented, discussed and decided upon for follow-up action. Sessions will be designed around such local approaches where stakeholders from all sectors will participate. Emphasis will be on exchanges between various stakeholders rather than unilateral views and presentations.

Conveners will be chosen on the basis of their session designs integrating this approach.

Example: Mayors debate

Mayors of cities from different regions around the world will be brought together in one panel discussing various ways of coping with their particular water issues. Participants will be given the opportunity to debate with the panelists and exchange ideas and experiences.

The guiding principles of the Forum are therefore:

- Emphasis on local knowledge and experience as a key factor
- Aim for concrete and policy oriented outputs to support local actions worldwide
- Water problems are complex and crosscutting, thus the Forum will create dialogue between policy sectors
- Policy commitments will mainly be regionally oriented



Participants can therefore expect that they:

- Can bring in their own experience and learn from others
- Present their own local action to have others learn from them
- Find like-minded water managers and water experts or others to support policy changes
- Meet stakeholders from other sectors with different views on their issues

Sessions will be organized in such a way that the above objectives can be met as much as possible. Innovative ways of session designs will be privileged with regard to session program as well as physical settings.

Example: expert panel with moderator
An experienced moderator from outside the water sector will be added to an expert panel to intensify the debate and ensure the inclusion of participants of that session.

Results of sessions will be fed into the Ministerial Conference and key issues will be debated with ministers at a round table with representatives from the Forum, on the last day. Influencing policy makers from the local as well as the national level is one of the key elements to be expected at the Forum.

The Forum will also bring – apart from action oriented sessions – such events as cultural performances

from around the world showing the relationship between mankind and water. The World Water Fair will complement the session program by offering permanent pavilions from different international organizations and bodies with their own specific programs.

Example: Learning centre
The Forum will feature a week long learning centre where water managers can learn from their peers. In order to meet the development goals, the capacity in terms of able water managers has also to be multiplied. Knowledge exchange will be based on practical experiences from recognized individuals such as CEO's from the water industry on privatization in a masterclass setting.

Overall, the total of sessions and their synthesis aim to remove obstacles as much as possible that prevent the achievement of the goals and targets set for our planet. Through scaling-up of relevant experiences and enhancing results from other local situations the Forum can make an important step in the right direction i.e. reaching the Millennium Development Goals in time.





Outline of the Forum Program

The program of the 4th World Water Forum and parallel events, such as the Ministerial Conference, World Water Expo and Fair, have many components each of which will be given below and explained more in detail in the present document.

Basic theme structure

A preparatory process precedes the Forum, of which 5 framework themes and 5 crosscutting perspectives and a regional approach are the basic elements.

The program is designed around these elements. Each element has a different organizing body with a coordinator, who are named in this document. The framework themes refer to major global challenges, namely:

- Water for Growth and Development
- Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Water Supply and Sanitation for All
- Water Management for Food and the Environment
- Risk Management

Sessions within these themes will also reflect five major crosscutting perspectives, namely:

- New Models for Financing Local Water Initiatives
- Institutional Development and Political Processes
- Capacity Building and Social Learning
- Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge
- Targeting, Monitoring and Implementation Assessment

Each day will be built around one of the above themes with baseline documents as a starting point. These baseline documents are compiled during the preparatory process.

Framework themes (pages 17-30) and crosscutting perspectives (pages 12-13) will be explained below.

Preparation Process through regions

During the recent past a great number of people have been involved in regional meetings discussing regional

issues. Regional Committees at various instances and locations have been set up to bring together, specialists, politicians, scientists, operators and others to further the water agenda at the local level. The program of the Forum aims to bring the results of this aspect of the preparatory process together (see pages 14-15 for more details).

A typical day

Departing from a basis of 30 topic sessions per day organized within five framework themes and crosscutting perspectives and a regional orientation a typical day at the Forum will be structured as follows. Keynote speeches will be included in sessions as well as special keynotes by high levels officials such as heads of state and presidents of world organizations.

Morning

- Regional meeting (plenary session)
- Keynote speech (plenary session)
- Thematic plenary session
- Thematic parallel sessions

Afternoon

- Thematic parallel sessions
- Cultural events

This announcement gives examples of parallel topic sessions to illustrate the character and background of the program based on the proposals submitted. More session proposals will be made in the coming months to arrive at a final program by the end of the year.

Side events

Apart from the sessions organised around themes a number of side events will also be organized. Although most of the contributions will be included in sessions to foster debate and in-depth exchanges between participants, some activities will be organized in parallel to and separately from the ordinary sessions. Such events will be either subjects not directly related to the themes



– such as discussions by special interests groups – or demonstrations of new and innovative developments and activities that need a particular environment. Side events can be organized as parallel sessions to the regular program or staged as week-long activities within the World Water Expo or Fair or even outside the venue. Proposals for side events have to be addressed to the Forum secretariat.

Action oriented

The 4th World Water Forum will be action-oriented. This means that session conveners have committed themselves to a session where the objective is discussion and debate as well as exchange of experiences rather than lectures and presentations. Sessions focus on concrete local solutions to global water challenges, rather than the opposite. Participants are stimulated to bring in their views and the agenda of each session takes active participation into account. The setting of the rooms will also be such that active participation is stimulated.

Session conveners will also see to it that in their sessions concrete output will be realized. In the preparatory process they work on the launching of initiatives that serve as a basis for the aforementioned discussions and illustrate the importance of involvement of relevant stakeholders.

Guide to the second announcement

The program on a daily basis will be outlined in pages 16-31. The Forum has a special set-up since preparations start long before March 2006 in meetings all around the globe. Preparations are still ongoing at the time of going to press. Therefore only some examples of proposed topic-sessions can be reflected at this moment in time.

A high level Task Force on financing issues is given special emphasis on page 32.

The Forum organizers find it of particular importance that representatives of the civil society can also give their views on the issues at hand. It is neither a prerogative of politicians nor of scientists to monopolize discussions. All stakeholders involved, such as NGOs, women, youth and indigenous peoples, should therefore participate. Why and how that is done is explained on page 33.

The Ministerial Conference is a special event linked to the Forum. The Conference itself is the responsibility of the Government of Mexico. The Forum will make use of the presence of ministers to organize joint discussions. This is explained on page 34.

Two important water prizes, the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize and the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize, are bestowed on excellent individuals or groups. The program and background are described on page 36.

Parallel activities like the Water Fair and the World Water Expo are outlined on pages 37-41. The Expo concentrates on hardware, where innovative technologies are displayed with hands-on examples of water solutions. The Water Fair forms the link between the Forum and the Expo. It consists of many pavilions where more artistic activities and demonstrations from around the world are scheduled.

Information on hotel accommodation, transport and the registration process are given on pages 42-44.



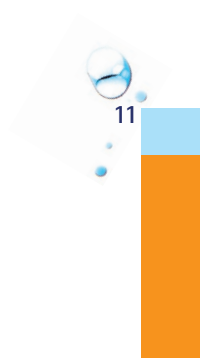
Program Overview

		Thursday 16	Friday 17	Saturday 18	Sunday 19	Monday 20
		National Auditorium	Banamex Exhibition Center			
Morning			Regional Presentation: Americas	Regional Presentation: Europe	Regional Presentation: Africa	Regional Presentation: Middle East
			Keynote Speakers	Keynote Speakers	Keynote Speakers	Keynote Speakers
			WATER FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT Topic Sessions I	IMPLEMENTING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT Topic Sessions I	WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION FOR ALL Topic Sessions I	WATER MANAGEMENT FOR FOOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT Topic Sessions I
Afternoon	Opening Ceremony King Hassan II Prize Ceremony From the 3rd to the 4th Forum Thematic Beacons Roundtable Cultural Activity		II	II	II	II
			III	III	III	III
		Water Expo and Water Fair Inauguration				
		WATER FAIR				
		WORLD WATER EXPO				





Tuesday 21		Wednesday 22	
Banamex Exhibition Center			
Regional Presentation: Asia-Pacific	<p>Welcome to the Ministers Private visit of the Ministers to the Water Expo Ministerial Dialogue</p> <p>Multi Stakeholder Dialogue (Senior Officials Level)</p>	WORLD WATER DAY	<p>Simultaneous Ministerial Roundtables Presentation of the Portfolio of Water Actions Presentation of the Ministerial Declaration and of the Results of the Ministerial Roundtables</p> <p>Closing Ceremony Kyoto Prize Ceremony Handover of the 5th World Water Forum Presentation of the results of the Forum</p>
Keynote Speakers		<p>UN World Water Development Report Portfolio of Water Actions Ministerial Presentation Presentation of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board</p>	
RISK MANAGEMENT			
Topic Sessions I			
II			
III			
MINISTERIAL PROGRAM			



Crosscutting Perspectives in the Program

The five crosscutting perspectives below represent some of the processes and factors that have been considered by many to affect the unfolding of local actions worldwide. Along with the five framework themes, they constitute a thematic framework, and ensure that these themes are analyzed from the local perspectives essential to the success in solving these global challenges. Topic-sessions should fit into this thematic framework, dealing with one framework theme and one or several crosscutting perspectives, which will therefore be presented throughout the week.

Crosscutting perspective A: New Models for Financing Local Water Initiatives

Creating opportunities for successful local processes and enhancing the capacities of different types of local stakeholders (e.g. local governments, user associations, community based organizations, etc.) requires not only channeling more financial resources to them, it also requires creative thinking regarding the necessary regulatory frameworks and alternative decentralized financial mechanisms to secure funds (i.e. local capital markets, financial risk mitigation facilities, micro finance facilities, pay back guarantees, etc.). These have to be in place in order to build trust between local actors and donors, financial agents, development banks and private capital.

Beacons: [Global Water Partnership and the World Water Council](#). **Coordinator:** Alan Hall, Alan.Hall@gwpforum.org

Crosscutting perspective B: Institutional Development and Political Processes

Political processes are a crucial explanatory factor of the "water crisis" facing the international community, whether we refer to the gap in water and sanitation services (WSS) targeted by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the widespread degradation and depletion of aquatic ecosystems, or to the threats and hazards connected with water use and management in different areas of activity. Water institutions are both the result and the vehicle of such political processes, which include the design and implementation of decentralization policies, the democratization of decision making processes, and the promotion of active citizenship including the empowerment of local actors, among other issues. However, it is crucial to understand that political processes are essentially about exercising power, which in practice is often expressed in the existence of rival political projects in relation to water issues. For instance, the lack of consensus in the international community about the universal entitlement to essential WSS as a human right, about the role of the private and the public sectors in the provision of WSS, or about the need to implement the precautionary principle in water resources management are good examples of the existence of such rival, often irreconcilable political projects.

Achieving consensus and fostering cooperation about the political decisions and the institutional arrangements needed to face the challenges posed by the "water crisis" cannot be done if these confrontations are ignored. Therefore, successfully developing sustainable institutional arrangements in relation to water (e.g. truly democratic, participatory and efficient governance systems to run transboundary water bodies, river basin organizations, urban water and sanitation systems, etc.) requires significant transformations based on open dialogue, political commitment, and transparency. This crosscutting perspective aims at promoting the necessary debate on these issues across the different thematic areas of the forum. The aim is to explore the challenges and opportunities facing institutional development in the water sector, learning from existing experiences of success and failure, and fostering the development of viable democratic institutions for water governance and citizenship.



Beacons: Newcastle University, Development Planning Unit of UCL, Latin-American Faculty of Social Sciences, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, National Water Commission of Mexico. **Coordinator:** Esteban Castro, J.E.Castro@newcastle.ac.uk

Crosscutting perspective C: Capacity-Building and Social Learning

To succeed in implementing efficient and sustainable water management practices in the light of the MDGs, there is an urgent need to develop capacities of local actors. Capacity building efforts must go beyond training human resources or crafting institutions tailored to specific conditions and responsibilities. In addition to these stepped up ambitions, the water sector is also facing new challenges such as decentralization, urbanization, partnership development and climate change. These new challenges require not only new capabilities but also a change in attitudes. In that sense, the systems to build and develop capacities and social learning, as long-term processes, need to be prone to adaptation caused by these ever-increasing changes. A virtuous cycle of social learning can only be triggered when knowledge and opportunities to influence decision-making are vested among stakeholders increasing their capacity to engage in successful local actions.

Beacons: UNESCO-IHE, IRC, STREAMS of Knowledge, CapNet, Cooperative Programme on Water and Climate, World Water Council, Water Advisory Council. **Coordinator:** Richard Meganck, r.meganck@unesco-ihe.org

Crosscutting perspective D: Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge

Scientific and technological innovation plays a critical role in both addressing the water challenge and moreover in driving economic growth and development. The ability of nations to create, utilize and distribute knowledge is strongly correlated to that nation's competitiveness – hence, the theme of science and technology application is increasingly politically important in reducing the widening gap between rich and poor countries. The international community has recently recognized the role that science and technology can play, and the theme is increasingly cited in international Fora, yet remains at the

periphery in terms of implementation programmes and policy priorities.

This perspective of the 4th World Water Forum will explain the tangible impact that S&T has made on policy and practice, illustrated through practical cases and projects.

The framework for discussion at the Forum will focus on three key issues:

- A selection of typical cases, spanning across different milieu (dry, wet, urban, rural) or themes (Water for food, development, people, etc) which identify a range of development problems faced in each case and how S&T contributed to their solution, or lead to change / impact.
- Sessions that outline the way in which local case studies illustrates the impact and change that S&T had achieved in each context.
- Sessions that focus on priority actions and mechanisms for establishing a firmer policy footing for S&T issues.

Beacons: International Water Association, Mexican Institute for Water Technology, European Technology Application Platform, International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research, International Association of Hydrological Sciences. **Coordinator:** Darren Saywell, darren.saywell@iwahq.org.uk

Crosscutting perspective E: Targeting, Monitoring and Implementation Assessment

Targets for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should be established by governments nationally and locally. Establishing and revising targets (e.g. MDGs, IWRM plan making, etc.) in order to make them coherent with the challenges faced should be part of a constant, directed effort. Monitoring and assessment of progress toward meeting these targets should be carried out with the aid of robust, ad hoc frameworks to measure local processes in a transparent manner.

Beacons: United Nations' World Water Assessment Programme, World Water Council. **Coordinator:** Gordon Young, g.young@unesco.org



Regional component of the Forum

With the purpose of facilitating the organization of the Forum, the world has been divided into the following five regions:

- Africa
- Americas
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Middle-East

Each region is working on different actions aiming to:

- Identify successful experiences and local actions that could be presented during the Forum.
- Integrate a document that shows the main water related problems in the region, that explains the progress made so far in solving them and that evaluates the future perspectives.
- Produce a brief paper that will be considered as an input for the Ministerial Declaration.
- Encourage the registration on the 4th Forum website of the organizations and institutions interested in being session conveners.

In order to achieve these objectives, a Regional Committee has been set up in each of the five regions.

Several meetings are being held in each region with the purpose of identifying successful experiences and local actions that have been implemented so far, pointing out the challenges that had to be overcome. Within the framework of the themes and crosscutting perspectives,

topics of concern for the region related to water issues are also evaluated, as well as the progress reached towards solving them and the perspectives that are foreseen in the future. This analysis will be a key part of the Regional Document that will be presented by the region during the Forum.

Organizations or institutions interested in registering an event as a part of the preparatory process of the region should contact the Regional Coordinator. On the Forum website, you can consult the meetings that have been carried out so far, with their results, as well as the future meetings for each region.

The regions have been working in a very intense and dynamic way. In the case of the Americas, they have held various meetings in several countries of the region, presenting successful experiences and actions that they would like to share with the rest of the world. The activities carried out in the region are coordinated through an Operative Committee which keeps the different organizations and institutions that form part of the network working towards the Forum well informed. The chair of the Operative Committee is currently under the Organization of the American States.

In the case of Asia-Pacific, the Japan Water Forum has the overall coordination of the activities in the region towards the Forum. Due to its size and characteristics, this region has been divided into five sub-regions:



Northeast, Southeast, South, Central and Oceania and Pacific. Each sub-region is coordinated by an organization that works jointly with the Japan Water Forum. The region has registered on the Forum website several local actions and actively promotes through its network of organizations their registration as potential session conveners.

The Middle East region has been working in a very intense way under the coordination of the Arab Water Council; their enthusiasm and a very well set strategy has allowed them to carry out different actions in a very short time. Among other results, the region has identified its most important water issues and is working very hard on their analysis. In addition, the region has identified a set of successful local experiences and actions that they would like to share with the rest of the world.

Europe developed its strategy towards the Forum at the beginning of this year and has intensely promoted the involvement of the water actors in the region towards the Forum.

Africa, coordinated by the African Development Bank, has been working on the preparatory actions since June and has carried out various meetings where they have evaluated the main water problems in the region and the strategies to move forward. All of these will be key elements in the preparatory actions to be performed later in the region.

It is important to point out that one of the main components of the Forum will be the presentation of local experiences and actions which have been carried out throughout the world. The most representative experiences and actions will be presented in topic-sessions or through posters during the Forum. The experiences and local actions that are registered before November 15th, 2005 in the online application will be evaluated.

In the case of the Regional Document, it will be presented by the Region during the Forum itself. The document will show the main water related problems in the region, will explain the progress made so far in their solution, will present successful actions and experiences and will evaluate the future perspectives. Based on the regional document, the region will produce a brief paper that will be used as an input to the Ministerial Conference.

We kindly invite you to participate in the actions that are carried out in the regions of the world towards the 4th World Water Forum.

For further information, please contact Jose Antonio Rodriguez, Regional Process Coordinator within the Forum Secretariat, at josea.rodriguez@worldwaterforum4.org.mx





Daily program

Day 1: March 16, 2006

Opening day

The opening day of the 4th World Water Forum will set the tone for the coming days of debate and commitment, mixing high-level political participation with an introduction to the themes and central issues of the Forum.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony will be attended by the President of the United Mexican States, Vicente Fox Quesada, as well as a number of high-level personalities, heads of state, Ministers, Presidents of private companies, representatives of the NGO community, and anyone with an interest in water issues from around the world.

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize Ceremony

After initial welcoming speeches, the ceremony will take in the presentation of the trophy, certificate and check to the winner of the second edition of the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize, a joint initiative of the government of Morocco and the World Water Council (see page 31 for more details).

From the 3rd to the 4th Forum

The link between the 3rd and the 4th World Water Fora will be reinforced through a special presentation, showing the continuity between Fora and between cultures.

Thematic Roundtable

The five framework themes and crosscutting perspectives of the Forum will be presented through a high-level multistakeholder debate, the aim of which is to illustrate to participants the importance of each of these issues to solving the global water challenge, thus providing the backdrop for the following days' debates.

Cultural activities

The day will end with a cultural event, with various artistic activities to welcome participants to Mexico, and to allow the organizers to show off their legendary hospitality.

Daily program Day 2: March 17, 2006

THEME 1: WATER FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Regional presentation: Americas

In over 50 years the Americas region has experienced a great population growth, with the number of its inhabitants duplicated. Accelerated urbanization leads to a demand on water which is greater than available resources, which creates the obligation to transfer water from one basin to another. In addition, total figures on water and sanitation supply services usually hide deep disparities that occur between urban and rural areas.

Furthermore, one of the main environmental-related issues is surface water pollution. As far as food production is concerned, considerable resources have been invested in irrigation infrastructure with scarce incentives to encourage an efficient water use, and therefore serious problems on overexploitation of aquifers, land salinity and deficient drainage may be observed.

One of the biggest challenges that the countries of the region will have to face is to obtain the necessary resources and investments to solve the problems of the water sector.

At the beginning of the day, the American Operative Committee will present the Regional Document that highlights some of the aforementioned water-related problems and explains the progress made so far in solving them. This will be illustrated with a set of successful local actions and experiences that have already been implemented. In addition, the region will evaluate its future perspectives in relation to water issues.

Convener: Americas Operative Committee.
Contact person: Scott Vaughan, SVaughan@oas.org



Theme 1: Water for Growth and Development

Since the origins of human society, there has been a constant struggle to reduce the destructive impacts of water and increase its productive impacts. Many of the earliest civilizations, and particularly those on the floodplains of the world's great rivers, succeeded by harnessing and managing water, thereby increasing production and reducing the risk of destruction. Today, water resources development and management remain at the heart of the struggle for sustainable development, growth, and poverty reduction. This has been the case in all industrial countries, most of which invested early and heavily in water infrastructure, institutions and human capacity – and it is the case today in developing countries, many of which do not yet have adequate capacity to manage the destructive impacts of water, sustain their aquatic ecosystems and deliver the water-related services essential for growth. A "minimum platform" of water security – the right combination of infrastructure investments, sound institutional governance and management – is essential if the poorest countries are to use water resources effectively and achieve rapid economic growth to benefit vast numbers of their populations. In some developing countries, this unmet challenge of managing their water legacy is almost without precedent, yet, unless they are able to do so, sustainable growth and poverty eradication cannot be achieved.

The goal of this Theme is to provoke discussion and strengthen understanding and recognition of the



importance of water institutions and investments in enabling and sustaining growth. As we explore the role of water in growth, development and poverty alleviation, lessons emerge that can guide us in designing better institutions and infrastructure to meet multiple economic, social and environmental objectives, and may provide insights for developing countries to "leap frog" their water resource investments and institutions. In the Forum we aim to explore historical and current dynamics in communities, sectors and countries at various points of development. These lessons may lead to new development paths, which will reflect the changing values of societies as their economies grow.

Beacon: [The World Bank](#). **Coordinators:** [David Grey, *dgrey@worldbank.org*](#); [Claudia Sadoff, *csadoff@worldbank.org*](#)
Co-beacons: [World Water Council](#), [COLMEX](#)

Illustrative examples of topic sessions:

The following is illustrative of the proposals submitted under this theme:

A. The Dynamics of Water and Growth: Issues and Political Reflections

(Crosscutting perspectives: New Models for Financing Local Water Initiatives, Institutional Development and Political Processes, Capacity-Building and Social Learning, Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge, and Targeting, Monitoring and Implementation Assessment)

This session will present the main findings of the Water for Growth and Development Theme Document. Following the presentation of the paper, a panel of high-level decision makers will comment on the dynamics of water resource development and management in their country's past, present and future development.

The objectives are:

- To provoke discussion and strengthen understanding and recognition of the importance of water institutions and investments in enabling and sustaining growth.
- To explore experiences and distill lessons that can: (i) guide the water community in designing better institutions and infrastructure to meet multiple economic, social and environmental objectives, and (ii)

provide insights for developing countries to "leap frog" their water resource investments and institutions.

- To consider new development paths, which will reflect the changing values of societies as their economies grow.

Convener: [The World Bank](#). **Coordinators:** [David Grey, *dgrey@worldbank.org*](#) and [Claudia Sadoff, *csadoff@worldbank.org*](#)

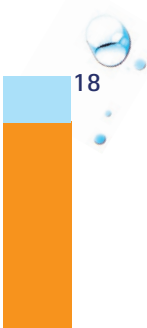
B. Water security for sustainable urban and regional development in developing countries

(Crosscutting perspectives: Capacity-building and Social Learning and Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge)

In 1950, 39% of the world's total urban population – 286 million people – lived in developing countries. By 1980, the figure had risen to over half of the total (958 million people). In 1990 one third of the world's entire population lived in urban areas in developing countries. It has now been projected that this will increase to an incredible 50% by 2025. Global trends suggest that Africa and Asia will have the highest share of the world's urban growth in the next 25 years.

Over the next generation the greatest increases in population, production and poverty will therefore occur in cities, leading to social, economic, financial, organizational, and operational challenges in urban water management and regional socio-economic development. In this context, issues such as the role of local governments in the supply of water services, good governance, information systems, scientific and technological innovations, financing and management arrangements, and environmental management should be examined for their impacts on the delivery, quality and cost of water services to end users and the potential opportunities and incentives this might create for growth and poverty alleviation in urban areas.

The objective of this session is to facilitate a dialogue around issues related to water security in the context of broader urban and regional growth and development. Discussion will include inputs from a variety of stakeholder perspectives, including local government, civil society, public-private partnerships, and social institutions.





Convener: Institute for Sustainable Development and Research (ISDR), India. **Coordinator:** Lalitkumar P. Chaudhari, clkp123@yahoo.com

C. Achieving Water Security: Innovative Solutions for System Resilience

(Crosscutting perspective: Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge)

Harnessing the positive potential of water resources, while also mitigating the risk of hydrologic hazards, like droughts and floods, is imperative for economic development in the least developed countries. Achieving "water security" requires significant investment in infrastructure and institutions. Industrialized nations have invested trillions of dollars and as a result, gained safe water supplies for growing cities and have achieved resilience to climate variability and hydrologic extremes. Many of the least developed countries face greater obstacles to water security, including greater climate variability and the concentration of rainfall in single seasons, as well as demographic and institutional challenges. In an environment of constrained public funding, a framework is required to evaluate and identify the most promising investments in water systems that offer the best hope for realizing water security and assisting in achieving development and reducing poverty.

This topic-session will present demonstrations of resilience systems in water and economic development that improve the reliability and quality of water supplies, reduce the vulnerability of economies and people to climate shocks and mitigate the impact of climate

variability and strong seasonality on development. Water systems and policies at local levels that are most promising for meeting the global challenge of increased resilience in the water and economic systems of the least developed countries will be highlighted. In so doing, the conveners will illuminate a decision framework for infrastructure and institutional choices that is illustrative for policy makers seeking an investment path to water security.

Convener: International Research Institute for Climate Prediction.

Coordinator: Roberto Lenton, rlenton@iri.columbia.edu

D. Water and Transport

(Crosscutting perspective: Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge)

The development and maintenance of inland waterway transport systems creates opportunities for commerce and trade, and hence prospects for growth. Presentation and discussion in this topic-session will explore the role of navigation in growth and development, uncovering good practice and lessons learned with an eye not only to commerce but also to environmental risk and preservation, recreation, tourism, and transportation for emergency response use. Ideas and experiences from developing and developed countries will be presented, exchanged and discussed.

Convener: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan, **Contact person :** Masaru Kunitomo, kunitomo-m82ac@mlit.go.jp

Daily program Day 3: March 18, 2006

THEME 2: IMPLEMENTING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM)

Regional presentation: Europe

Few Europeans suffer from important shortage of water and poor water quality experienced by people in many other parts of the world. However, although many parts of Europe are currently well-provided with freshwater, the water resources are unevenly distributed between and within countries. Over 90% of European citizens are provided with piped water supply. In Northern and Central Europe 80 to 90% of the population is connected to wastewater treatment plants; in the South and in new member States this percentage is 30 to 50%. Many parts of Europe's water supply and sanitation systems are over one hundred years old. This infrastructure is deteriorating faster than it is rehabilitated. Pressures resulting from human activities affect the quality of water resources in many areas of Europe, and thus drinking water quality is still of concern. About 30% of the abstracted freshwater is used for agricultural purposes, and up to 75% in Southern Europe. Water stress exists in many places of Europe, resulting in serious water shortages, flooding, pollution and ecosystem damage. Climate change may also play a role, especially in coastal areas where flooding may disrupt sanitation infrastructure and thereby contaminate watercourses. There has been little progress in the integrated management of water resources. Important changes are however expected in the coming years, following implementation of recent directives. Needed economic and ecological improvement will only be achieved by combining innovative, leading-edge technology with good governance and participation of local communities—particularly the women—in the decision making process.

Convener: European Regional Committee. **Contact person:** Elisabeth Catton, e.catton@worldwatercouncil.org.

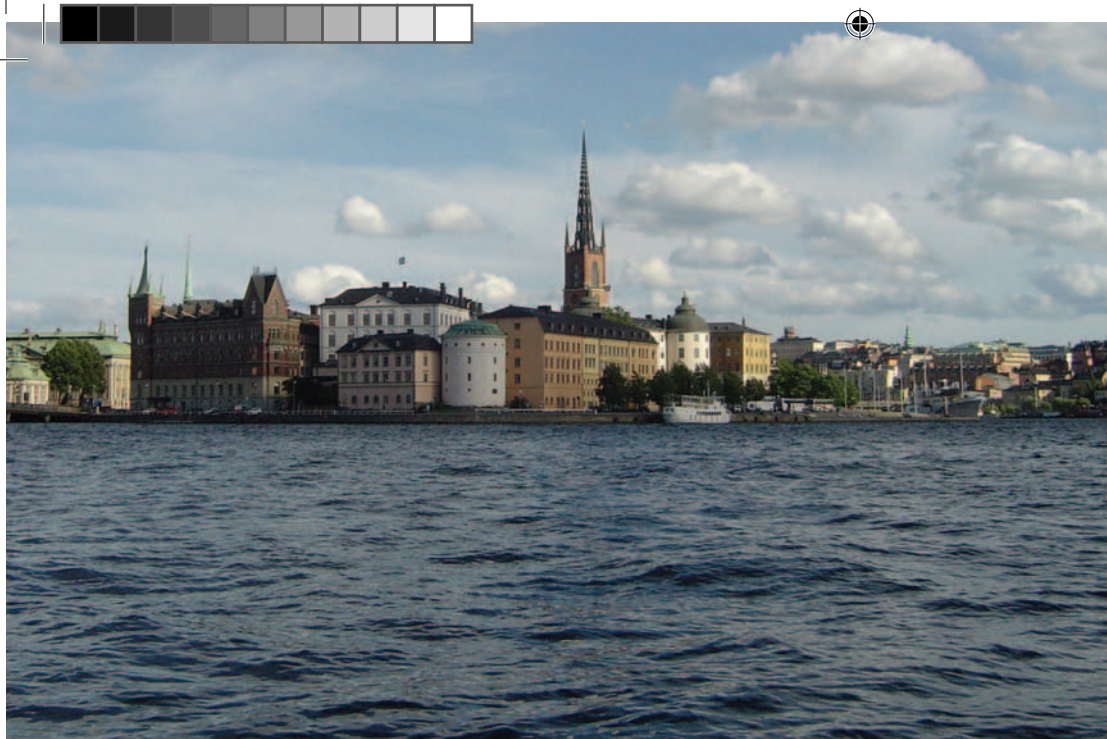
Sources: UNEP Publications Freshwater in Europe/WSS Technology Platform



Theme 2: Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is a process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems. It addresses water governance in a broad societal context and provides an approach to building compromises between competing demands for water among societal sectors and stakeholders at all levels. As such it is an important instrument for many developing countries to address poverty reduction and work towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), all of which depend on good water governance for their achievement. For more developed countries it is a mechanism to ensure sustainable development and management of their waters with the primary focus on their ecological status. For most of the countries of the world, rich or poor, IWRM approaches are required to ensure reasonable and equitable water sharing between countries.

However, IWRM may be easy to talk about, but it is often very difficult to put into practice. The aim of the theme "implementing IWRM" is to focus on local actions which illustrate both successes and the difficulties in trying to develop and manage water in a sustainable way, and to discuss lesson from these actions with panels of people from different backgrounds. The outcome of the IWRM



Day, and all the preparations going into it, will be an assessment of 'IWRM in practice', and hopefully a set of useful recommendations on how to move forward.

Beacon: Global Water Partnership. **Co-beacon:** UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Coordinator: Torkil Jønch-Clausen, tjc@dhi.dk

Illustrative examples of topic sessions:

The following is illustrative of the proposals submitted under this theme:

A. Stakeholder-oriented water valuation for local water resources management

(Crosscutting perspectives: New Models for Financing Local Water Initiatives and Institutional Development and Political Processes)

IWRM requires stakeholders to make choices on the use and allocation of water resources. Assessing and communicating the values associated with different water-related goods and services can support stakeholders in reaching a well-informed decision. Existing methods for water valuation are quite complicated and demanding in terms of the required expertise and data, which hinders widespread application, especially in developing countries. Furthermore, water valuation methods have mainly focused on the economic value of water, ignoring social and environmental values. The proposed topic session takes stock of recent

experiences with the emerging stakeholder-oriented approach to water valuation, using local cases from Africa and Asia.

Conveners: Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and Imperial College in London.

B. Water and the Millennium Development Goals – the role of local IWRM actions

(Crosscutting perspectives: Institutional Development and Political Processes and Targeting. Monitoring and Implementation Assessment)

Water is critical to the achievement of most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), not only the "water target" (reducing the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation), but also the MDGs relating to poverty, hunger, health and environmental degradation. In addressing the plight of the poorest, water is a critical factor of production in agriculture, industry and other economic activities, and as such a catalyst for local and regional development. Reduced vulnerability to water-related hazards reduces risks in investments and production; reduction of water related diseases increases productive capacities and reduces burden on those who care for the sick; and reduced ecosystems degradation makes livelihood systems of the poor more secure.





IWRM approaches – from the local to the national level – provide a basis for harmonizing the different demands on scarce water resources that will be required to implement the MDGs. Through cases from Africa, Asia and Latin America the role of water in achieving the MDGs will be illustrated and discussed.

Conveners: Regional and country level networks of the Global Water Partnership.

Coordinator: Torkil Jøneh-Clausen, tjc@dhi.dk

C. Use of Integrated Water Resources Management to achieve socio-economic goals

(Crosscutting perspectives: Institutional Development and Political Processes and Capacity Building and Social Learning)

Much of the current perception about IWRM in the North is centered on the idea that it will help safeguard or improve ecological conditions in river basins, often at the expense of social and economic development in those basins. North American experience in water resource management does not support the environmentalist notion of IWRM; rather, it illustrates that combinations of regional socio-economic development, site specific environmental protection, local participation in management and cost-sharing, and governmental support can result in a sustainable, robust and resilient, albeit somewhat chaotic, system of water management. Many water professionals, government officials, and stakeholders from around the world are unaware of this rich history and experience in IWRM, and through this proposed session, could benefit from exposure to

the results, processes and lessons learned from North American legacy and recent developments.

Presentations of 'local actions' in the US will cover diverse water-resources contexts: urban, agricultural, transboundary, or a combination of these, seeking to achieve the highest degree of intersection among technical proficiency, water-resources relevance, and portability to water-resources applications outside North America.

Convener: North American Alliance for Civil Engineering.
Coordinator: Daene C. McKinney, daene@aol.com

D. Implementation of IWRM in national plans

(Crosscutting perspectives: Institutional Development and Political Processes and Monitoring and Implementation Assessment)

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg in 2002, the international community took an important step towards more sustainable patterns of water management by including, in the WSSD Plan of Implementation, a call for all countries to "develop integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans by 2005, with support to developing countries." These "plans" are in fact milestones in cyclic and long-term national water strategy processes. They take time, and all countries of the world are somewhere in that process, from the very advanced to those that have hardly begun.

In this session an assessment of the status of implementation of IWRM plans will be made, based on surveys and assessment undertaken by several groups, including the Global Water Partnership and the Japan Water Forum, and with examples provided by a number of countries of the World. The output of the session will be a status report on inclusion of IWRM in national plans.

Conveners: The World Water Assessment Program (UN-WWAP) in co-operation with the Global Water Partnership, Japan Water Forum and a number of countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America.
Coordinator: Gordon Young, g.young@unesco.org

Daily program Day 4: March 19, 2006

THEME 3: WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Regional presentation: Africa

Deficient cost recovery policies and other inadequate financing mechanisms for management and infrastructure development in the water sector are not the only factors responsible for the lack of progress in Africa. Africa, and particularly its poor, is especially vulnerable to climate variability and water-related disasters such as droughts, floods and desertification. These are likely to be aggravated by the impact of climatic changes. The problems arising from insufficient water management capacities, fragmented institutional structures, environmental and ecological problems arising from lack of human settlement planning, and limited public awareness are further compounded by higher water development and distribution costs and weak technical and institutional capacities.

The presentation of the Regional Document by the African Regional Committee, in which the African Ministers Council On Water plays a prominent role, will give a strong political element to the analysis of some of the above water-related issues. The document will explain the progress made so far in solving these issues, backed up by a set of local actions that have already been implemented. In addition, the region will evaluate the future perspectives in relation to water issues.

Convener: African Regional Committee.

Contact person: Tefera Woudeneh, t.woudeneh@afdb.org



Theme 3: Water Supply and Sanitation for All

In spite of their importance for well-being and human development, and of the efforts developed by countries around the world, in the year 2000, one billion people still did not have access to drinkable water, and only 3000 million had water in their homes. An astonishing 2.6 billion people – more than four in every ten people – do not have access to even a simple latrine. Of course, the majority of these deficiencies happen in countries with a low GDP, in the poor neighborhoods of the cities, and in the peri-urban and rural areas.

Target 10 of the Millennium Development Goals is to cut in half, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The Secretary General of the United Nations has brought attention to the serious consequences of not reaching this goal: the persistence and diffusion of deadly illnesses, greater damage to the environment, threats to food security and even to stability.

The challenges to reach this goal are of all types, and they include political, financial, regulatory, institutional, cultural, environmental and technological challenges. It is indispensable to innovate by means of new strategies that eliminate the barriers that today impede the supply of water and sanitation, and to diffuse and to adapt those examples of success from one region to another of the world.

In this context the framework theme on Water Supply and Sanitation for All will be focused on the search and/or diffusion of new methodologies, policies, technologies



and financial and regulatory mechanisms, amongst other, to solve this complex problem and to advance towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Especially, the sessions will be focused on successful local actions that have brought obvious benefits to the communities of the poorest people in the urban slums, suburban and rural areas.

Beacon: United Nations Development Program.
Co-beacon: UN-Habitat and the National Water Commission of Mexico. **Coordinator:** Roberto Lenton, rlenton@iri.columbia.edu

Illustrative examples of topic sessions:

The following is illustrative of the proposals submitted under this theme:

A. Challenges and perspectives of water in megacities
(Crosscutting perspectives: Capacity-building and Social Learning and Targeting, Monitoring and Implementation Assessment)

Mega cities have water problems that have reached scales of such a magnitude that they require ad-hoc solutions. In some cases the supply has been ensured by transferring water from distant basins with high costs, in others, the drainage has been solved by means of large, deep tunnels to avoid floods, or large treatment plants may be necessary to reclaim wastewater for other activities.

The experiences of mega cities are lessons for others that are in full growth, on what should be done and what should be avoided. For this reason, it is of great interest to know the solutions that have been implemented in a sample of some of the largest cities of the world. This session will allow participants to exchange experiences and opinions about the various actions being carried out to solve the problem of water supply, sanitation and sewerage in megacities.

Convener: National Water Commission of Mexico.
Coordinator: Felipe I. Arreguin Cortes, ruben.chavez@cna.gob.mx

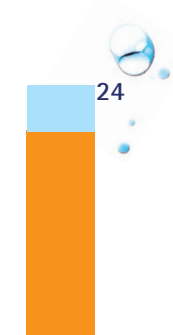
B. Women's role in Water and Sanitation for Development in Latin-America

(Crosscutting perspective: Capacity-building and social Learning, application of Science, Technology and Knowledge)

The session will share experience on the development of water and sanitation in Latin-America, from a Women's perspective. Women and men have different roles and different needs, and have different perspectives on what makes a water or sanitation program successful. The Latin-American countries have in the past learned a lot about what does and does not work for access to water and sanitation to all, and as such their experience is an important example for other regions in the world.

The session will include a panel debate on what lessons may be learned for development and water/ sanitation policies and the participation of women in shaping policies, will analyze local actions that contribute to reducing conflicts, creating more efficient systems, eliminating poverty, and reaching Millennium Development Goal 7. Obstacles to up-scaling the best practices presented in the session will also be discussed.

Convener: Women for Water Partnership. **Coordinator:** Monica Diaz, monica.diaz@wecf.org





C. Post-Tsunami response to sanitation needs –turning disaster into opportunity

(Crosscutting perspective: Capacity Building and Social Learning)

The aim of the session is to present 1) activities undertaken post tsunami in Sri Lanka to provide emergency cost-effective and sanitary toilets for displaced coastal communities 2) to present the linking of long term efforts building sanitation awareness along with livelihood support programs 3) Enhance Water literacy through improved water quality awareness for schools 3) disaster sanitation related capacity building for water professionals and 4) mobilizing support for making sanitation affordable by decrease of levy of sanitary ware.

Most coastal areas affected by the Asian tsunami in December 2004 had OAD and poor sanitation coverage. Available toilets discharged raw sewage into lagoons and river mouths. The NetWwater local action program to be presented includes capacity building among communities, design and provision of disaster toilets, capacity building for engineering undergraduates, building linkages with national women's groups and mobilizing political will to reduce hardware costs. It is also linked with livelihood recovery efforts – without which it is not possible to discuss sanitation issues. The disaster toilets piloted for use in post-tsunami camps can be used in emergency situations such as floods, landslides and earthquakes, where large scale displacement calls for sanitary toilets to curb spread of diseases.

Convener: NetWwater.

Coordinator: Kusum Athukorala, kusum@itmin.net

D. Capacity development and empowerment

(Crosscutting perspective: Capacity Building and Social Learning)

The objective of the session is to raise awareness and identify critical points for empowerment as a crucial part of capacity development, in particular, community participation and representation with special attention to the inclusion of marginalised groups.

The methodology used will be that of the "devil's advocate". A knowledgeable person will be asked to play the role of the devil's advocate and interview sharply and intensively the two key note speakers on their cases, namely the chairman of Aquacol, an association of water committees in Colombia, and a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of Jordan, on behalf of Empowers, a programme to improve local integrated water resource management in the Middle East. A set up will be made where the two "opponents" will have exactly 20 minutes each to do the interrogation. They sit opposite each other and the audience cannot intervene. They start with a handshake and they conclude with a handshake. A facilitator will make sure that no dirty tricks are used. After the interrogation the audience is asked to write recommendations for the two initiatives: Aquacol and Empowers.

Convener: CINARA and IRC.

Coordinator: Mariela García, magarcia@univalle.edu.co, Erma Uytewaal, uytewaal@irc.nl, Peter Laban, laban@carewbg.org and Fadi Shraideh, fadi@care.org.jo

Daily program
Day 5: March 20, 2006

THEME 4: WATER MANAGEMENT FOR FOOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Regional presentation: Middle East

The Middle East region shares common agro-climate conditions. The area is the most water scarce region in the world with more than 85% classified as arid and hyper-arid, receiving an average annual rainfall of less than 250 mm. Since the onset of the third millennium, almost the whole region is suffering from water scarcity, and a water barrier is liable to prevent any further socio-economic development. Countries of the region are home to 5 percent of the world's population but have less than 1 percent of the world's renewable freshwater. The region's per capita supply for example, stands at only one-third of its 1960 level, and water availability is expected to halve over the next 25 years if the present pattern of use continues.

At the beginning of the day, the Middle East Committee will present the Regional Document that shows the main water related problems in the region and explains the progress made in solving them. The document will present a range of local actions that have already been implemented to solve these issues. In addition, the region will evaluate its future perspectives in relation to water issues.

Convener: Middle East Regional Committee.

Coordinator: Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, abu-zeid@mwri.gov.eg



Theme 4: Water Management for Food and the Environment

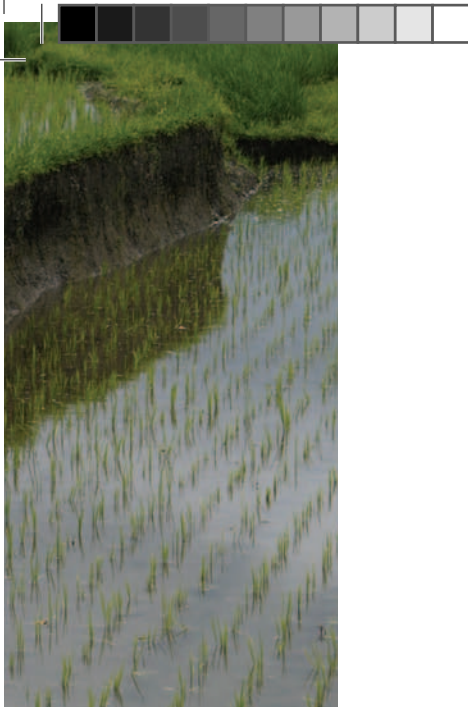
Freshwater withdrawals for agriculture and other human demands are having serious ecosystem impacts in river basins around the world, yet food production to meet the needs of growing populations will continue to rely heavily on irrigated agriculture. A comprehensive approach to sustain food production and support rural livelihoods while safeguarding the environment will be based on increasing water productivity in both irrigated and rainfed agriculture as well as livestock, fisheries and related sectors. Important techniques include irrigation efficiency improvements that result in real water savings. Assessment of environmental flow requirements for river, wetland, and estuarine ecosystems must be coupled with projections of freshwater withdrawals. Synergies between water, agricultural, and environmental policies need to be reinforced in order to enhance food supply and ensure access of the poor to water for productive purposes while maintaining ecosystem functions and protecting environmental quality.

Beacon: International Water Management Institute (IWMI). **Co-beacon:** National Water Commission

of Mexico. **Coordinator:** Frank Rijsberman
f.rijsberman@cgiar.org

Illustrative examples of topic sessions:

The following is illustrative of the proposals submitted under this theme:



A. Tri-National Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture and Water Quality

(Crosscutting perspectives: Institutional Development and Political Processes and Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge)

Tri-National Initiative on Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture and Water Quality is an outcome of an agreement among the Deputy Ministers of Agriculture of Canada, Mexico and the United States to conduct collaborative work that was originally discussed at a Tri-National Workshop held in Banff, Canada, in October, 2003. Following the Workshop, three Tri-National Working Groups were established to carry out work in three areas relative to environmentally sustainable agriculture and water quality: policy instruments, program delivery, and research and information.

This would be the first time the Working Groups would present the results of their tri-national collaboration in the areas of: (1) policy instruments, (2) program delivery, and (3) research and information, relative to environmentally sustainable agriculture and water quality.

Conveners: Agri-Environmental Policy Bureau, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; also on behalf of SAGARPA and USDA, coordinator: Mushtaq Ahmed, ahmedm@agr.gc.ca

B. Management of Wastewater for Urban Food Production

(Crosscutting perspectives: New Models for Financing

Local Water Initiatives, Institutional Development and Political Processes, Capacity-building and social Learning and Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge)

The objective is to focus on local actions to integrate wastewater in water resources management, to develop indigenous system for resource recovery and to provide food and jobs, to improve urban environment, to develop urban agriculture including recycling of wastewater for aqua culture in the periphery of cities and to encourage participatory development of fishermen and farmers, independently or in collaboration with local governments.

Conveners: Centre for Built Environment and Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority. **Coordinator:** Sumta Gupta Gangopadhyay, sghoshcbe@rediffmail.com

C International Network for Water and Ecosystem in Paddy Fields (INWEPF)

(cross cutting theme: Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge)

An open platform is provided for promoting dialogue, exchanging information and experiences, strengthening capacity building, developing good practices and formulating ideas for innovative policy and management options in the field of sustainable paddy water use, conservation of environment and better governance.



Convener: The INWEPF (Secretariat: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan)

Coordinator: Mitsuhiro Ito, mitsuhiro_ito@nm.maff.go.jp

D. Capacity Building in the MENA

Region: Ministerial Panel

(Crosscutting perspective: Capacity-building and Social Learning)

InWEnt-Capacity Building International, acting on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, in collaboration with the Arab Water Council has formulated a four-year Programme on Capacity Building in the Water Sector for the MENA Region, focusing in eight countries: Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. This four-year programme will be carried out through the organisation of four annual Partner Fora. The topic of the first forum will be "Water Governance in the MENA Region: Current Situation", in Amman, Jordan, 27 November – 1 December 2005.

The topic session on "Capacity Building in the MENA Region: Ministerial Panel" will include a presentation by InWEnt on the overall capacity building programme for the MENA region, as well as the conclusions and recommendations of the Amman Forum. Some five to eight ministers from the MENA countries will form a panel, which will be requested to provide feedback on the programme and the results of the Amman meeting, as well as to address other capacity building-related issues. Following this Ministerial presentations, there will be interactions with the session participants. This session

will be chaired by Dr. Abu-Zeid, Minister of Water and Irrigation, Egypt.

Conveners: InWEnt-Capacity Building International and the Arab Water Council. **Coordinators:** Juergen Richter, juergen.richter@inwent.org and Hesham Kandil, kandil@mwri.gov.eg

E. Biosaline Agriculture Technology

(Crosscutting perspective: Application of Science, Technology, and Knowledge)

The International Center for Biosaline Agriculture has the objective of developing and promoting the use of sustainable agricultural systems that use saline and low-quality water to grow forages, field crops, vegetables, fruits and trees. Since its establishment, the ICBA has managed to generate new knowledge and technology in saline irrigated agriculture as well as to gather, synthesize and disseminate information in this field. Bringing in this knowledge and making it available to the poor farmers who rely on saline water to grow their crops will contribute to increased food and feed production from their farms as well as improving their living conditions.

The session will start with a review of the saline water potential for use in agriculture purposes followed by presentations on several cases of success from around the world.

Conveners: Islamic Development Bank, International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), and Arab Water Council. **Coordinator:** Faisal Taha, icba@biosaline.org.ae

Daily program
Day 6: March 21, 2006

THEME 5: RISK MANAGEMENT

Regional presentation: Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific is a vast and diverse region, and water resources management is an increasingly challenging task. One third of the population in the region does not have access to basic water sanitation. Poverty reduction while securing sustainable development through use of valuable water resources is also a critical issue. In fast growing cities water scarcity looms and water quality issues abound, and much of the region is stressed by frequent natural disasters. On the other hand, the region has experienced immense social and economic development over the past few years, and much effort is made to advance progress in the water sector. Various activities focusing on awareness-raising, information sharing and creation of partnerships are undertaken in the region, and more integrated water resources management practices, reflecting the needs of local communities and the basins, are adopted at national and local levels.

The results of the preparatory process in the region will be presented in a plenary session where the participants will see the progress and the challenges ahead for the region in addressing diverse water issues including those of meeting Millennium Development Goals.

Convener: Regional Committee for Asia-Pacific.
Contact person: Taeko Yokota, ap@waterforum.jp



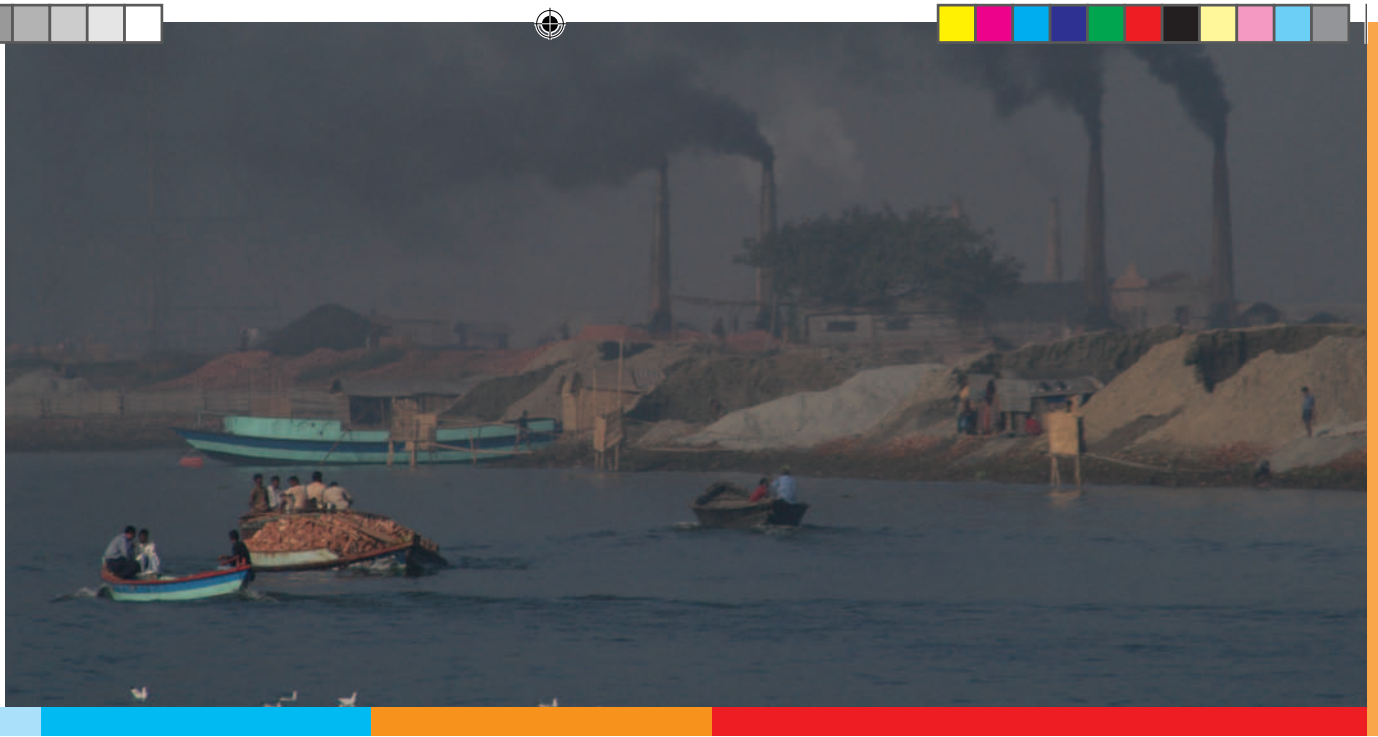
Theme 5: Risk Management

Risk is an integral part of social and economic processes and is often increased by human interference with natural hydro-meteorological processes. Virtually every aspect of water management involves taking decisions about appropriate levels of risk. These decisions may be divided into the five broad categories of variation in supply compared to demand, water quality, conflicting demands for water, failure of water infrastructure and the effects of extreme climatic events.

The first three categories are associated with normal uncertainty and are the focus of integrated water resources management. These topics will be discussed at the Forum under other thematic areas. Failure of water infrastructure, due to natural or man-made conditions, and the effects of extreme climatic events, such as flooding and drought, will be discussed within this thematic area

Beacons: Japan Water Forum, World Meteorological Organization, Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, National Water Commission of Mexico.

Contact: riskmanagement@worldwaterforum4.org.mx.



Illustrative examples of topic sessions:

The following is illustrative of the proposals submitted under this theme:

A. The importance of Risk Management and the need for a UN Target for risk reduction.

(Crosscutting perspective: Institutional Development and Political Processes)

Extreme situations such as floods, storms and droughts are expected to become more frequent in future. Already the number of recorded hydrological disasters have doubled over the last decade. And the cost of the resultant damages has gone beyond US \$ 50 billion per annum. Adequate coping actions to reduce the related risks are essential.

The need for a UN target on risk reduction will be presented, and its relevance will be debated by high level policy makers.

B. Local Government and Risk Management

(Crosscutting perspective: Institutional Development and Political Processes)

To effectively cope with water related risks water managers will have to cooperate effectively with other disciplines and organizations. These include spatial planners, weather and climate forecasters, insurance companies, relief organizations etc.

The session will be a dialogue among local government councillors on visionary approaches to manage water

related risks (floods and droughts) in relation to spatial and development planning

C. Building coping partnerships at community level (Crosscutting perspective: Capacity Building and Social Learning)

The development of local actions for adaptation is time consuming and complicated. Issues to be overcome include disciplinary and institutional divides as well as bureaucratic processes.

Examples of coping partnerships having overcome these divides will be presented from the Mekong, Bangladesh, and West Africa

D. Tsunami 15 months later

Rehabilitation efforts in the affected countries e.g. Indonesia, Thailand and India will be presented and discussed, and progress toward the development of early warning systems utilizing a multi-hazard approach will be evaluated.

E. Capacity development

Dealing with extreme events is a new challenge for the water sector. This new challenge requires not only new capabilities but also change in attitudes. Water professionals are ill prepared to cope with such situations.

Examples of capacity development and social learning initiatives, models and packages in dealing with risk management will be presented and discussed.



Daily program

Day 7: Closing Day, March 22, 2006

Closing Day

March 22 will be the closing day both of the 4th World Water Forum and of the Ministerial Conference. This date has been chosen to coincide with UN World Water Day, the theme of which in 2006 will be "Water and Culture".

UN World Water Day

To mark this event, the day will commence with a plenary session presenting the second edition of the UN's World Water Development Report.

Portfolio of Water Actions

A presentation will be made of the follow-up to the Portfolio of Water Actions (PWA), an initiative of the Japanese government at the 3rd World Water Forum which gathered the commitments made by the governments and international organizations present at that event. The various commitments made by the actors involved in the Forum and the launching of initiatives will be announced during this session, and subsequently brought together in the PWA.

Ministerial presentation

The results of the Ministerial roundtable discussions will be presented to all Forum participants, along with the Ministerial Declaration, which will have been adopted by the governments of the participating countries.

Presentation of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board

The UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, chaired by Ryutaro Hashimoto, former Prime Minister of Japan, will announce its first recommendations to Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN.

Kyoto World Water Grand Prize Ceremony

A presentation will be made of the trophy, certificate and check to the winner of the first edition of the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize, who will be selected during the Forum (see page 36 for more details).

Handover to the organizers of the 5th World Water Forum

A ceremony to hand over the organization of the 4th World Water Forum to the host country of the 5th Forum will then be organized.

Final summary session

A final summary of the week and its outcomes will be made to all participants, highlighting the most important events and their consequences on the future of world water management.

Task Force on Financing Water for All

In March 2003, the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure produced a report, "Financing Water for All" (FWA), which made a large number of recommendations aimed at increasing the amount of finance going into the international water sector. The World Panel disbanded on the completion of its work. Since the launch of the report, considerable activity has been taken by many organizations to follow up the report's recommendations. In particular, the G8 Heads of State in Evian, France, highlighted several of the recommendations and requested the World Bank to coordinate action with the regional development banks. It therefore became obvious that further work was needed to look in more detail at the special issues concerning financing water for agriculture, and local governments and financing water services, as recommended in the first FWA report.

After analysing these needs, the World Water Council, the Secretariat of the 4th World Water Forum and the Global Water Partnership, decided to jointly sponsor a Task Force composed of high-level personalities to consider solutions to the future global financial needs of the water sector. The Task Force is expected to present its report to the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City. Angel Gurria, a former Minister of Finance of Mexico, will chair the Panel, which will be composed of 12-15 members, drawn from the international financing community, central and local governments and other public bodies involved in funding and formulating demand for funding in the sector.

The Task Force will provide recommendations on innovative financing mechanisms for governments and government agencies, local and international financiers, credit agencies and investors, professional and water user associations, and other local, national and international organizations and concrete proposals for immediate action. It will raise awareness amongst municipal decision makers on the spectrum of possibilities on how local government can finance investments in water supply and sanitation. It will enhance financial resources and access to finance for investments and recurrent costs for large and small-scale infrastructure in agricultural water management. It will prepare proposals for concrete actions that can be followed up by the target institutions. Finally, it will facilitate monitoring of the implementation and impact of the recommendations of the FWA Panel and inform those who are interested on the possibilities and experiences for financing water infrastructure.

Two working groups are established on "access to financing for local governments" and "financing water for agriculture". The Task Force will guide these working groups, review their findings, crosscheck in multi-stakeholder Fora and bring the findings to the attention of governments and politicians. To do so, it will hold three meetings during 2005 and 2006, with regular reports on each working group consultation being circulated to Panel Members and observers. Based on this input, the Task Force will prepare its findings and cross check these with a multi-stakeholder reference group to ensure inclusiveness and representativeness. During the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico a final draft of the report will be presented for debate, the outcome of which will be formulated into a Forum statement and incorporated in the final version of the Panel document.

For more information, please contact Daniel Zimmer, d.zimmer@worldwatercouncil.org



Participation of Civil Society

With the theme Local Actions for a Global Challenge, one of the Forum's priorities is to build a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform in order that stakeholders from different sectors around the world may share their knowledge and experience regarding concrete actions and projects aimed at facing their particular water challenges.

In this sense, participation of NGOs and civil society organizations is essential both in the preparatory process and in the Forum itself. For this reason, the Forum Secretariat will also seek to include several major groups, namely youth and children, women and indigenous people dealing with water management throughout the world.

Our purpose is to see that the most prominent organizations within each of these categories worldwide will be identified and activated to take part in the Preparatory Process as well as to be present at the Forum.

Civil society is invited to participate in the Thematic Forum; the Fair; the Expo and the Ministerial Process, through:

- Becoming a session convener
- Presenting a local action
- Becoming a panelist in some sessions
- Having a stand or pavilion in the Fair
- Giving their input to beacons and regional committees
- Preparing position papers with their particular perspective on the themes of the Forum
- Participating in a dialogue with Ministers

Facilitating the participation of a regionally representative range of NGOs and civil society organizations from local and national levels, capable of contributing to the thematic content and be present at the Forum, will guarantee the presence of the voice of civil society. Their particular experiences and perspectives with local actions developed to face water problems in each of their regions will be of great value to the Forum.

The Secretariat will benefit from the Mexican experience with some of the Major Groups by inviting the Mexican Institute for Water Technology, the National Women Institute of Mexico, the Mexican Youth Institute, the Mexican Commission for the Development of Indigenous People and the Mexican Water Advisory Council to participate in the involvement of the different networks and organizations of these important groups. At the same time, these organizations will help to build a link between Mexican and international organizations related to water issues.

For more information please contact:
civil.society@worldwaterforum4.org.mx

An illustration of a proposed form of participation of the youth and children major group is:

The 2nd Children's World Water Forum.

The new vision for children in the 21st century foresees a world where children survive and grow to their full human potential, capable of living a long and healthy life, with opportunities for learning, earning and participating in social, cultural and civic endeavors.

Since the 1st Children's World Water Forum in Kyoto at the 3rd World Water Forum, there have been many follow up activities conducted in the world. Three follow up meetings have been held in Japan by the children whose awareness was highly raised through the exchanges of opinions with children from other countries in Kyoto. A children's session was also organized by UNICEF at the International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Transboundary River Basins in Tajikistan in May 2005.

At the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City, Japan Water Forum, in cooperation with other organizations will hold the 2nd Children's World Water Forum, through which it is expected that children will exchange their opinions for better management of water resources. An ambitious dialogue between policy-makers and the children will be organized. To meet the MDGs is a children's mission, since they are responsible for delivering a water-secure world to their future generation. "Additional initiatives for the Children's Program will be lead by the Mexican Institute for Water Technology".

Contact: Taeko Yokota, children@waterforum.jp

Ministerial Conference



The 4th World Water Forum is oriented towards local actions in order to face a global challenge. In this sense, the Ministerial Conference will allow a dialogue between Ministers and stakeholders participating in the Forum, with the purpose of confirming the commitments acquired on water matters in international conferences, validating projects and actions that are carried out in this area, as well as in those where non-governmental stakeholders are involved, as well as local and national governments or international agencies and organizations.

Links with the Thematic Forum

In order to solve water issues, the participation of all stakeholders is required, who day after day are confronted with this problem, including of course the governmental authorities. The link between the ministerial segment and the Thematic Forum is of great relevance in order to join efforts that will contribute to creating commitments between the different stakeholders so as to be able to move forward towards the solution of water problems, as well as to create awareness about the seriousness of the consequences of not acting in due time.

This linkage can be carried out in two ways:

- In the regional preparatory process, where the realization of various activities are foreseen, aimed at obtaining the participation of multiple stakeholders and where the main goal is to gradually develop the Forum's thematic content, originating from the knowledge and real experiences of the local stakeholders. It is very important for that process to be accompanied by a participation at the highest political level, in order to situate the water theme in the political agenda of every region, and for that reason the interchange of ideas, information and experiences between the different sectors, including at the governmental level, is of particular importance in order to have an integrated vision of water problems.

- At the work tables programmed at the Ministerial Conference, where the Ministers will exchange their points of view on specific themes, which will be open to the participation of representatives of organizations and institutions, including representatives of the major groups and of civil society.

Expectations

The 4th Forum will be an event of projects and actions; therefore we will be talking about implementation, results and interchange of experiences in this matter. The Ministerial reunion of the 4th World Water Forum will take place between March 21 and 22, 2006, and we expect a participation of more than one hundred Ministers from all over the world, who will adopt a Declaration with a clear political message on the importance of the matter and where they will confirm the willingness of their countries to work on finding solutions regarding water challenges.

The Ministerial Conference includes a dialogue amongst Ministers, as well as simultaneous work tables divided into themes based on the results of the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which approached the theme of Water and Sanitation as well as the subjects of the Forum's Crosscutting Perspectives. Likewise, we have programmed a dialogue session between governmental authorities and the different stakeholders taking part in the Forum.

The Ministerial Conference of the 4th World Water Forum will be of use in the follow-up and the practical application of the commitments agreed to, both in the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in other international conferences, like the Millennium Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, among others.

Coordinator: Ernesto Cespedes, Director General of Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
mrosas@sre.gob.mx

Press and Media

In preparation and during the 4th World Water Forum, the Forum's website is the focal point of information for media requests. In the virtual press room there will be press releases, press kits, interviews, press information etc. available. Please visit the Forum's virtual press room at www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx

To make the 4th World Water Forum a platform for world wide media there is a close contact with national and international journalists during the preparatory process, during the 4th World Water Forum itself and during the post-Forum period on the website, in direct contact with the information officers of the 4th World Water Forum (please see contact details below) and via the Water Media Network, that is free to join for all water interested and water professional journalists.

The Water Media Network was implemented by the World Bank Institute from Johannesburg 2002 through to Kyoto 2003. It provides the following benefits:

- receive updated information about the water sector,
- be informed about upcoming training workshops in the region,
- have access to colleagues contact details throughout the world or within your region and share ideas with them,
- contribute to opportunities aiming to report and write articles on water issues and have them published on special occasions,
- compete for a free trip to Mexico to attend the 4th World Water Forum in March 2006.

For further information regarding the Water Media Network please contact Ms. Stephanie Porro, World Water Council, at s.porro@worldwatercouncil.org

Journalist Accreditation for the 4th World Water Forum

Registration for journalist accreditation during the 4th World Water Forum is open and available in the virtual press room on the Forum's website: www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx

Logistics for Media during the 4th World Water Forum

A press room will be inside the venue for free use for all registered journalists with working places providing all necessary facilities.

In the press room there will be all facilities for interviews as well as for getting in touch with the desired interview partners.

Our Press Room Team will be pleased to help you with any enquiry. For special requirements please contact us in advance.

Graphic Identity

The institutional image of the 4th World Water Forum is in sequence with that of previous World Water Fora, at the same time as giving the 4th Forum its own personality, which can be seen in the original design of "Local Actions for a Global Challenge". To use the images of the 4th World Water Forum, please fill out the form on our website www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx

Media Contact

For further information please do not hesitate to contact:

Ms. Carolina Vazquez
National Press Coordinator
carolina.vazquez@worldwaterforum4.org.mx

Ms. Ulrike Kelm
International Communications Officer
ulrike.kelm@worldwaterforum4.org.mx



Prizes and Prize Ceremonies



During the Forum two international prizes will be awarded, namely the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize and the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize.

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize

On the opening day of the 4th World Water Forum, March 16, 2006, the second edition of the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize will be presented. The Prize is an international award jointly established by the Government of Morocco and the World Water Council, in memory of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco's distinguished leadership and encouragement of cooperation and sound management of water resources.

The award was created in March 2000, and is awarded every three years at the World Water Forum to an institution, organization, individual or group of individuals in honor of outstanding achievements in any aspects of water resources such as scientific, economic, technical, environmental, social, institutional, cultural or political. The theme of the Prize is "Cooperation and solidarity in the fields of management and development in water resources". The prize winner receives a sum of US\$ 100,000, a trophy and a certificate. The deadline for applications for this second edition is September 30th, 2005.

Kyoto World Water Grand Prize

On the final day of the Forum, March 22, 2006, the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize will be presented for the first time. Created in March 2003, during the 3rd World Water Forum in Japan, the Prize is organized by Kyoto City, "Sorooptimist International of Kyoto" and the World Water Council, and will be presented every three years at the World Water Forum.

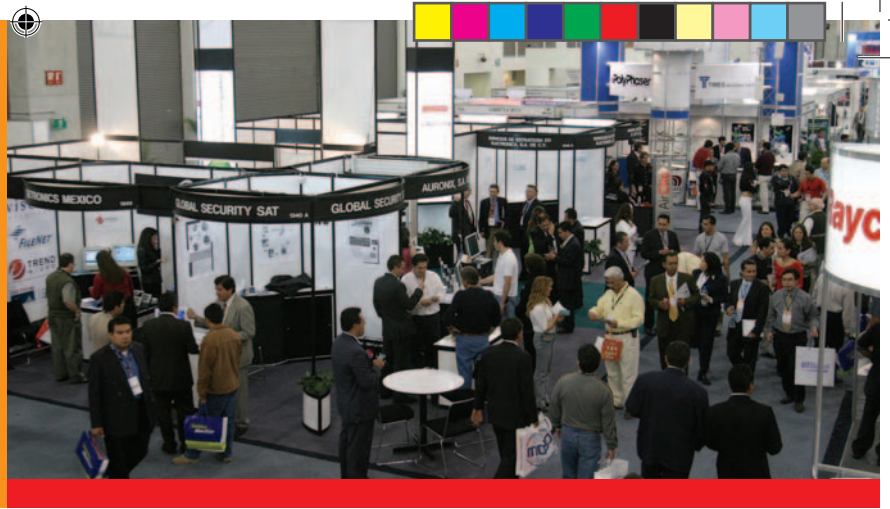
The Prize aims to honor a distinguished individual or organization whose grassroot-level activities work towards addressing critical water needs of communities and regions. The value of the Prize is 5 million Japanese Yen (approximately US\$ 45,000), to be used to continue the recipient's activities in line with the object of the Prize or related purposes.

The aim of the Prize is to honor and stimulate local water initiatives. Through this Prize, at least thirty individuals or organizations will be invited to attend the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City to present their activities to the world, including ten finalists who will make a presentation to the International Panel of Judges, with a view to winning the Prize. Depending on funding possibilities, other pre-selected individuals or organizations may also be invited to the Forum. The candidature process is open from the end of June to October 31st, 2005.

For more information, please visit www.worldwatercouncil.org/hassan_II_prize or write to Stephanie Porro at hassan_II_prize@worldwatercouncil.org

For more information, please visit www.worldwatercouncil.org/kyoto_prize or write to kyoto_prize@worldwatercouncil.org or Kyoto-waterprize@worldwaterforum4.org.mx

World Water Expo



The World Water Expo will be a major international exhibition showing technical solutions to water issues. Its goal is to present and promote better methods, as well as equipment and technological solutions, to contribute to solving world water problems.

It will achieve this objective through the participation of a number of companies from different countries that offer innovative solutions of interest for water-sector governmental representatives, business people, industrial buyers and national and international researchers.

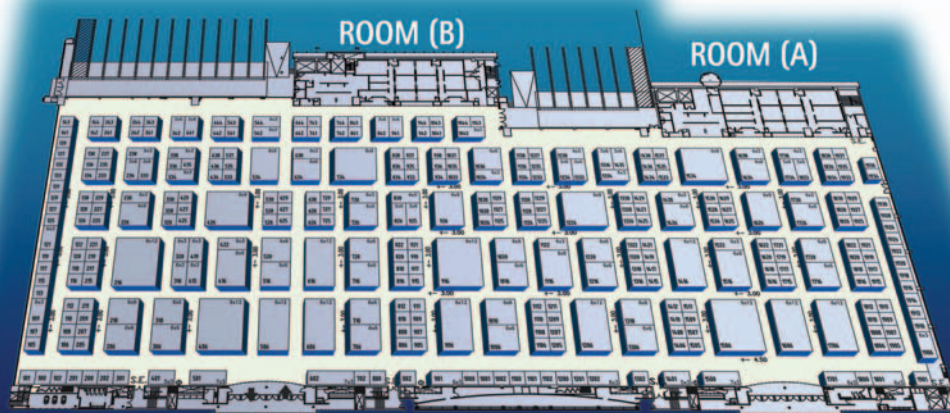
The companies that will participate in this exhibition are specialists in wastewater treatment, water purification and distribution systems, irrigation control systems, filtration, chemical and hydraulic engineering, generation of electricity, and water pumping, amongst other fields of expertise.

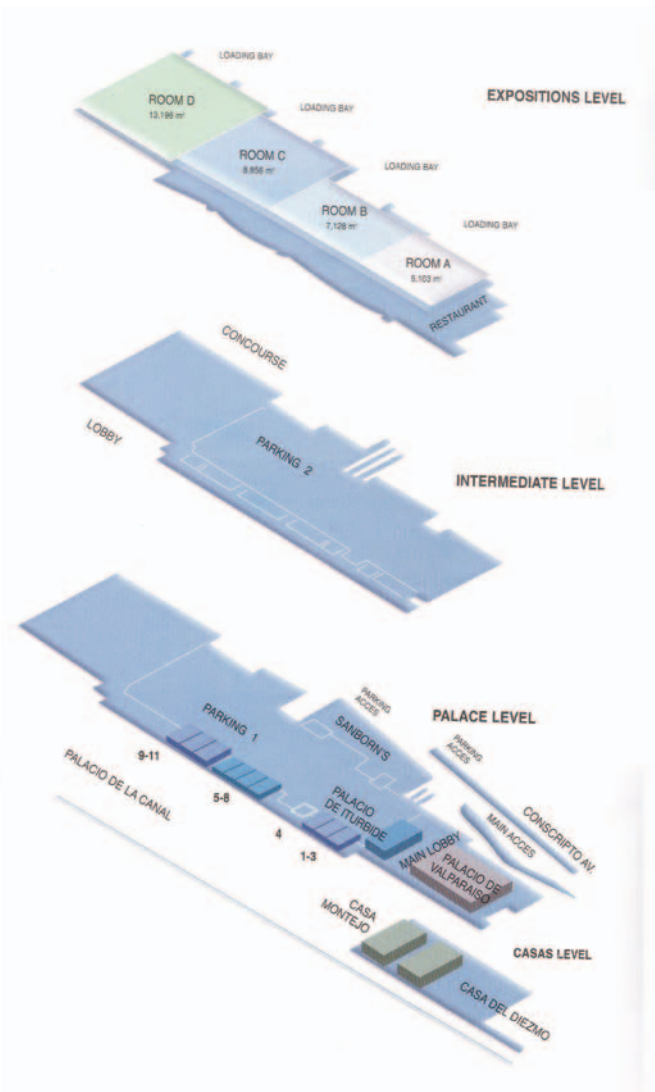
The World Water Expo will be a key ingredient for the thousands of visitors who will come to Mexico in order

to learn, invest and make decisions regarding this vital issue for development and the preservation of life on the planet.

The Centro Banamex offers nearly 35,000 m² of useable space, of which 12,000 m² will be dedicated to the Expo, which will take place from March 17 to 21. This space will be open to the general public through limited access. In order to participate in other Forum activities, they must register as participants. Those registered as Forum participants will have free access to the World Water Expo. The number of people expected to visit the Expo is approximately between 12,000 and 15,000.

Stands will be available as packages (US\$ 3,200 for a 9 m² stand with basic equipment, plus tax) or simply by square meter (US\$ 299 per square meter with a minimum of 18 m², plus tax). For further information, please visit www.worldwaterexpo.com, or contact Laura Barrera or Adrian Morales on expo@worldwaterforum4.org.mx, or visit www.worldwaterexpo.com





Forum venue

The 4th World Water Forum will take place at the leading Congress and Conference Center installations in Latin America, the Centro Banamex, which possesses the capacity and vanguard technology necessary to the successful outcomes of the Forum. This area is designed as a multifunctional space that offers high quality services, where expositions, fairs, congresses and conventions can take place. We have the advantage that the whole Forum is going to be in the same place. It has the capacity for 50,000 people, in a constructed area of 185,000 m². For more information on the Centro Banamex, please visit www.centrobanamex.com

General information on Mexico

General information on Mexico

Basic Country Data

Official name: Estados Unidos Mexicanos (United Mexican States)
Surface: 1,972,552 km² (1,225,949 miles)
Government: Democratic republic
Capital: Mexico City
Population: 106,451,679 inhabitants (2005)
Language: Spanish
Currency: Peso (Symbol: \$ 0.00, 1 USD=10.77 pesos approximately)
Metric system: Metric
Voltage: The electrical current in Mexico is 110V AC 60Hz.

Mexico City

Mexico City is situated in a valley surrounded by mountains, and is located at an altitude of 2,400 meters (7,874.4 feet) above sea level.

Climate

During the dates in which the 4th World Water Forum will be held the temperatures will range from 9°C (48 °F) and 26°C (78 °F). Wearing a light jacket during the morning and evening when the temperature tends to cool is recommended.

Currency and Exchange

Currency can be exchanged in exchange stands and banks located in the airport and malls during standard office hours. Currently, the most comfortable and recommended form of payment is an internationally accepted credit card which can be used in most commercial establishments. If cash is needed, all major banking institutions have ATM's located throughout the city, available 24 hours a day. Banks are open Monday through Friday. Most banks are open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Food

Traditional Mexican food is generally very heavily seasoned, so it is best to eat it moderately. The majority of restaurants offer service from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and those serving alcohol are usually open until 2:00 a.m.

Gratuities

In airports as well as hotels, it might be necessary to request help in carrying luggage. Typically, it is custom to tip one dollar for each large suitcase. Regarding food and drink, gratuities are generally not included in the listed prices unless explicitly stated. Generally, it is appropriate in Mexico to tip waiters 10% to 15% of the total bill before taxes.

Transportation

When arriving at any Mexican airport, only use authorized taxi services. The larger hotels have taxi services specifically for tourists with bilingual and specially trained drivers.

Security

As in all large cities around the world, tourist areas and points of interest are usually well guarded and safe. However, it is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a safe stay. In particular, security will be enforced around the Forum venue.



Water Fair and Cultural Events



The Water Fair is to be a space with an innovative design, creative and educational. The main goal of the Fair is to create a unique environment in order to develop or expand stakeholder networks. The Fair will be held in the huge corridor area of the Forum venue. There will be ample space for pavilions and stands for non commercial activities. Different organizations will have the opportunity to express in front of the participants their vision and the different actions they are carrying out in order to achieve a better use of their resources.

Pavilions will also be an ad-hoc area to present cultural expressions from the different participating countries and international organizations. These expressions may include typical garments, paintings, sculptures and handicrafts. Also in several dedicated spots in the venue exhibitions of pictures, photos and other water related artistic impressions will be shown.

For more info on the Water Fair, please visit www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx or contact Orlando Jaimes at orlando.jaimes@worldwaterforum4.org.mx

Cultural events

Mexico has a wide diversity of typical cultural expressions from different regions of the nation. One of the purposes of the Forum is to offer participants a mosaic of cultural activities that allow them to best know our country through its national museums, music, dance and handicrafts. Those activities are coordinated by the National Council for Culture and Arts of Mexico.

Within this framework, special events will be held during the opening and closing official ceremonies, including contemporary dance groups with water-themed performances. Likewise, a Mexican music concert will be

staged at the end of the opening ceremony. A dance or music show will be performed each night of the Forum week, and lunches will be elaborated with traditional Mexican music played by groups coming from different Mexican regions.

All participating nations and international bodies are welcome to contribute to these cultural performances and experiences with the presence of groups or artists from their own region or background.

Proposals to that extent can be sent to the Forum Secretariat, contact: Orlando Jaimes at orlando.jaimes@worldwaterforum4.org.mx

A special film festival 'Water and Films' will take place during the Forum week, where documentary, educational and fiction movies, as well as short adverts will be shown. We will count on the contribution of an international group of artists and producers who start from the idea of emphasizing the importance of water from an innovative, educative and entertaining point of view. The International Secretariat for Water is coordinating this together with its Mexican counterpart.

Events outside the venue

Also outside the Forum venue parts of the above film festival will show theme movies. Next to the festival a contest will be held. The following summarizes the main characteristics of the film contest

A photo contest will be held the main theme of which will be 'Water and Culture'. The exhibition of the photos will add to informing and educating the general public in better managing water resources. The contest will be organized by the Water Advisory Council of Mexico.



For more information please contact: Eduardo Vazquez at e.vazquez@aguas.org.mx

Guided tours to most significant museums located in Mexico City will be carried out during the week of the Forum, also including visits to ceremonial sites of ancient cultures as well as colonial buildings. Furthermore, arrangements will be made for participants to be able to

get tickets to attend other cultural events not included in the Forum program. This will be specified in detail in the final program.

For more information concerning the Water Fair, please visit the Forum website: www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx

Water and Films

The world of cinema and the water community are invited to participate in the First International Water and Films Encounter, divided into four different categories.

1. Full-length fiction films. Outside competition.
2. Documentaries. Outside competition.
3. Awareness-raising shorts (max 15 min). Competing.
4. Video spots. Competing.

The 1st and 2nd categories are participating outside competition and the water theme should be freely dealt with in its main stretches. Two criteria will be followed for their selection. The depth with which the water issue is raised for human beings as well as a geographical balance showing the richness of the theme in the different continents of the world. Priority will be given to works produced after 2000.

The 3rd and 4th categories will be submitted to a pre-selection that will be determined by a Competent Official Section. An International Jury will grant the awards.

The 3rd category work themes (short films of 15 min. maximum) should centre on one of the 5 Framework Themes of the 4th Forum, to which we will add one more:

- Water as a source of culture, tradition, art and education.

All works describing local actions within the Framework Themes and that are produced by individual initiatives, local and national collectivities, the private sector, public associations and international institutions may participate.

The 4th Category's Theme (video spots of 2 min. maximum) is: For a New Culture of Water. Examples:

- The Right to Water. An Inalienable Universal Right?
- Democratic and sustainable Water Management.
- Ethical and cultural aspects of a new Water Culture.

Works produced by Film-Making Students from schools all over the world may participate. The film director should be 29 years old maximum on March 16, 2006.

Due dates for inscriptions:

- Category 1, 2 and 4, December 15, 2005.
- 3rd category: January 15, 2006.

For more information and to apply, please consult our website: www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx or contact Salvador Aguirre, Coordinator of the First International Water and Films Encounter: salvador.aguirre@worldwaterforum4.org.mx or Raymond Jost at the International Secretariat for Water: r.jost@isw.org



Hotel Accommodation and Transport details

Mexico City and its Metropolitan Area have various hotels offering a wide range of prices and services, catering to all tastes and budgets. The ones that are offering special rates for the event will be published shortly on www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx

How to make a hotel reservation

Hotel reservations will be made directly by the participant giving the discount code for the Forum, which will be available on the Forum website. The deadline to guarantee the hotel reservation is January, 2006. Reservations made after this date will not be guaranteed; neither will the prices. Participants need a credit card to book a room, assuming the conditions established by the hotel in case of cancellations.

Transport

If flying to Mexico City, participants will arrive at Benito Juarez International Airport, with direct flights from more than 20 airlines in different countries. Agreements are being sought with major international airlines for reductions on flight prices to Mexico City for Forum participants.

Information booths will be placed at the International Airport of Mexico City, at National and International arrivals. Transportation from the airport to the hotels will be the responsibility of the participants. We recommend you to buy authorized taxi tickets inside the airport.

There will be a shuttle bus service from hotels to the venue at specific schedules, which will be shown at the hotels and venue.

For more information, please visit the Forum website: www.worldwaterforum4.org.mx



Registration process



To register for the 4th World Water Forum, please fill in the form which will be available on the Forum website in the section on "How to Participate". Registration will be online only. Only registrations received before March 3, 2006 will be confirmed. After this date, registration will be processed directly at the Forum. You are kindly reminded that the fees will increase after December 31, 2005.

Registration fees in U.S. Dollars

Category	Before Dec-31-05	Jan-01-06
Full registration 7 days (March 16 – 22, 2006)	480	600
3 days registration (continuous)	300	300
1 day registration	120	120

The registration packages include the following:

Full registration for 7 days

- Documents of the Forum
- Admission to all the Forum sessions
- Admission to the Water Fair and to related events
- Admission to the Water Expo
- Daily lunches
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Registration for 3 days (benefits are only for 3 days)

- Documents of the Forum
- Admission to the Forum sessions (for those 3 days)
- Admission to the Water Fair and to related events (for those 3 days)
- Admission to the Water Expo (for those 3 days)
- Daily lunches (for those 3 days)

Registration for 1 day (benefits are only for 1 day)

- Admission to the Forum sessions (for that day)
- Admission to the Water Fair and to related events (for that day)
- Admission to the Water Expo (for that day)
- Lunch (for that day)

Payments

All payments will be made in advance and in U.S Dollars, no amount will be due to the organizers or to anybody in charge of the registration. Payments may be made as follows:

- Credit Card - Payments may be made by MasterCard, Visa or American Express. Please, do not forget to write down your Credit Card number and expiration date on your payment form, in the web.
- Bank transfer- Information is available on the registration website
- Cashier's check- Information is available on the registration website

Cancellations

Cancellation requests are made by sending a letter to the 4th World Water Forum Secretariat. Payments already made will be refunded as long as cancellations are received before January 31, 2006, with a deduction of administrative expenses for procedures already carried out. After this date, there will be no refunding of payments made. All refunds requested before January 31, 2006, will be made after the closing date of the 4th World Water Forum.

Invitation Letter

The Forum Secretariat will be in charge of the elaboration and the sending of invitations to participate in the 4th World Water Forum. This invitation will only grant the recipient the benefit of increasing his possibilities to attend the Forum, but does not commit the Secretariat or the registration officer to provide any financial support. To request an invitation letter, please write to invitation@worldwaterforum4.org.mx.

Passports and Visas

To enter Mexico you will need a valid passport; to obtain a visa, in the case of persons coming from countries not exempt from this procedure, they will have to go directly to the Mexican Embassy, Consulate or Mexican Diplomatic Representation in their respective countries, or visit the Mexican Foreign Affairs website page: www.sre.gob.mx/english. Also the website of the Immigration office can be checked for visa conditions. www.migracion.gob.mx

Participants from the following countries will need a visa to enter Mexico:

Afghanistan	Kampuchea	Syria
Albania	Kazakhstan	Taiwan
Algiers	Kenya	Thailand
Angola	Kyrgyzstan	The Bahamas
Antigua and Barbuda	Kiribati	Tajikistan
Armenia	Kuwait	Tonga
Azerbaijan	Laos	Togo
Bahrain	Lesotho	Trinidad and Tobago
Bangladesh	Lebanon	Tunisia
Barbados	Liberia	Turks and Caicos Islands
Belarus	Libya	Turkmenistan
Belize	Macedonia	Turkey
Benin	Madagascar	Tuvalu
Bhutan	Malaysia	Ukraine
Bolivia	Malawi	United Arab Emirates
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Maldives	Uganda
Botswana	Mali	Uzbekistan
Brunei	Malta	Vanuatu
Bulgaria	Morocco	Vietnam
Burkina Faso	Marshall Islands	Yemen
Burundi	Martinique	Zaire
Cambodia	Mauritius	Zambia
Cameroon	Mauritania	Zimbabwe
Cape Verde	Micronesia	
Cayman Islands	Moldova	
Central African Rep.	Mongolia	
Chad	Mozambique	
China	Myanmar	
Colombia	Namibia	
Comoros	Nauru Nepal	
Congo	Neth. Antilles	
Cyprus	Nicaragua	
Croatia	Niger	
Cuba	Nigeria	
Djibouti	North Korea	
Dominica	Oman	
Dominican Rep.	Pakistan	
Ecuador	Panama	
Egypt	Palestinian Territory	
El Salvador	Papua New Guinea	
Eritrea	Paraguay	
Ethiopia	Peru	
Equatorial Guinea	Philippines	
Fiji Islands	Qatar	
Gabon	Romania	
The Gambia	Russian Fed.	
Georgia	Rwanda	
Ghana	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Grenada	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Guadeloupe	St Tome and Principe	
Guatemala	Salomon Islands	
French Guyana	Saint Lucia	
Guinea-Bissau	Sahrawi Arab	
Guinea	Saudi Arabia	
Guyana	Senegal	
Haiti	Serbia and Montenegro	
Honduras	Seychelles Isl.	
India	Sierra Leone	
Indonesia	Somalia	
Iran	Sri Lanka	
Iraq	Sudan	
Ivory Coast	Suriname	
Jamaica	Swaziland	
Jordan		