

News Update

Editorial

Asia-Pacific: A Political Forum for Water

Japan has invited 49 countries in the Asia-Pacific region to gather in early December to work together on water and sanitation issues. This meeting will be a first in the history of international relations. We can be proud of it, for this indicates the important place these issues occupy today in the minds of politicians. Heads of State and Ministers will together look for answers to assure water security for future generations in response to threats such as demographic and economic growth, increasing pollution and climate evolution.

The World Water Council will contribute to this exemplary approach in view of preparing the 5th World Water Forum.

To privilege a political process implies, on the one hand, raising awareness among decision-makers so that water is given true priority, and on the other hand, supplying them with keys for action: To prove that financing, governance and transfer of know-how stem from their own initiatives and from their commitment.

LOÏC FAUCHON



Focus on...

An unfortunate anniversary

Once upon a time, very long ago...on 17 October 1987, to be precise, over 100,000 people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris to proclaim the 17th of October **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** (<http://www.un.org/esa/so-cdev/social/intldays/IntlDay/>).

Twenty years later, despite the efforts of many people throughout the world, poverty is still a major enough concern to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of this day, and the struggle is far from over.

As actors in the water sector, we are reminded that we have a key role to play in the eradication of poverty. Water is indeed a key investment of development and a major contribution to the wealth of the people. Without proper water management more of the MDGs cannot be achieved.

The theme of the 2007 Day, "People Living in Poverty as Agents of Change," underlines the idea that all of us, and particularly children, can each do things to combat poverty.

WWC News

A First Step towards China

Upon official invitation extended by the Chinese Government, WWC President Loïc Fauchon was warmly received by the Ministry of Water Resources during his visit to Beijing on 15 October. This visit was a first in the history of the Council and the enthusiastic welcome demonstrated the People's Republic of China's strong desire to reach out to and collaborate with the WWC. The main aim of the visit was not only to strengthen political bonds, but also to contact potential new members and define the Chinese Government's role in the preparatory process of the 5th Forum in Istanbul 2009.

During his visit to the Middle Kingdom, Mr. Fauchon also made a speech during the opening of the 3rd International Yellow River Forum on Sustainable Water Resources Management and Delta Ecosystem Maintenance in Dongying, along with Chinese and Hungarian officials and the Spanish Ministry of Environment. For more information: <http://forum.yellowriver.cn/Eindex.htm>

"Adaptation to climate change: Which strategy for water stakeholders?"

The Cercle français de l'eau, a WWC member serving on the Board of Governors, organised a one-day colloquium on Friday, 19 October in the French Senate, gathering politicians and scientists to exchange on climate evolution and water. The programme included subjects such as impacts in France on climate, hydrology, land management and energy; the extent of the crisis in the coming years; and possible solutions. During his opening speech, Mr. Fauchon reminded those present that this current affair should not, however, make us forget the priorities of the moment, like population growth or access to water and sanitation.

Visit on Spanish Soil

On 4 October, Mr. Fauchon was received in Cortès (Spanish Parliament), by Minister Cristina Narbona of the Spanish Ministry of Environment, a WWC-member since 2006. The purpose of the visit was to discuss several issues such as Spanish participation in the preparatory process for Latin America, follow-up of the Mediterranean process and the "Water and Migrations" theme.

This visit provided the Council's President with the opportunity to meet the Board of Canal Isabel II as well as the Spanish Energy Club. This latter organization shares the WWC's conviction of the necessity to strengthen links between water and energy.

"I am Water"

An initiative from IUCN in partnership with the WWC and the Secretariat of the 5th World Water Forum, the "I am water" PSA (public service announcement - a non-commercial advertisement typically on radio or television, ostensibly broadcast for the public good) is to be screened on the BBC in the coming months, with the objective of impacting public attitudes by raising awareness about the importance of water in life and in the world. www.worldwaterforum5.org.



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The African Country Profile Online

The Water Monitoring Alliance (WMA), a platform implemented by the WWC that brings together organisations involved in the collection, analysis, reporting and dissemination of information on water in all its uses, is currently expanding its website in order to improve access to water-related information and data. The first regional profile – the African Profile - has been edited. Relevant regional water-related information, data, publications & links are provided. The WMA team invites you to browse the African regional profile. Let us know what you think! We would appreciate any feedback and comments that will further improve the content we provide on the regional profiles. Contact: f.rajabali@worldwatercouncil.org

Water in the heart of the Mediterranean Union

During his official visit to Tangiers last week, French President, Nicolas Sarkozy, invited Heads of State and Governments of Mediterranean countries to meet in France in June 2008 in order to develop his "Mediterranean Union" project further. If the Mediterranean Sea is the link among all of these countries, then water should be the main component of this union. This idea incited the President of the Council to report on water in the Mediterranean Region on 26 September to the National Assembly's Commission of Foreign Affairs, proposing a review of water and its stakes in the region.

Benedito Braga, WWC Vice-President, took office as new chairperson of UNESCO-IHP on Tuesday 23 October. We wish him all the best in his new position.

Towards the 5th World Water Forum

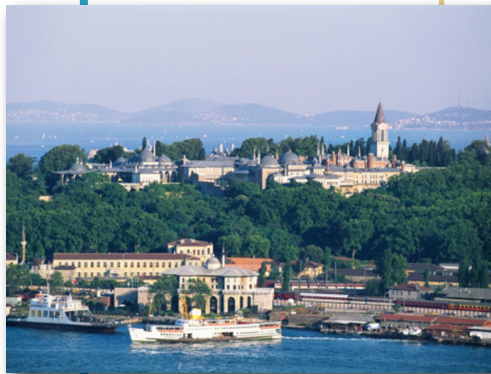
What's up on the Forum side?

The new Turkish government officially renewed its commitment for the 5th World Water Forum when Prime Minister Erdogan invited all his peers to attend the Istanbul Forum during the last UN General Assembly in New York.

Regarding the Forum's organisation, the Political Committee agreed to the principle of establishing a Focus Group of politicians willing to contribute to the elaboration of the Forum's political process. A preliminary brainstorming session involving a small group of politicians is being organised in mid-November in order to prepare the framework for the process, including objectives, tentative outputs and a related timeline. On the programme side, a limited core group of organisations will convene on 5-6 November in Istanbul to discuss how efficient coordination of the Forum themes may be achieved. A larger meeting will be organised at the beginning of 2008 in order to bring together a wider range of stakeholders interested in specific topics. In addition, the WWC and the 5th Forum Secretariat are working closely together to bring forth inputs to the 5th Forum from UCLG's Second World Congress in October in Korea and from the Asia-Pacific Water Summit in December in Japan, where side events are planned.

First Announcement now available to download

The First Announcement of the 5th World Water Forum is available online on the 5th Forum website (www.worldwaterforum5.org) and on the WWC website (www.worldwater-council.org). For your convenience, a lighter, text-only, version has also been published. For a concise overview, a 1-page summary is further available to you in English, French, Spanish and soon in Russian.



3rd ISC and Committee Meetings

The International Steering Committee of the 5th World Water Forum and the Programme, Political Process and Communication Committees will hold their third series of meetings in Istanbul on 4-6 November. This will also be the occasion to gather the thematic and regional coordinators for the first time in order to determine how to involve a wider constituency of organisations to represent contrasting perspectives.

In brief...

Real Life Behind Statistics

Shocking statistics of the world's water crisis is the force behind a new photography exhibit by the World Press-winning photographer Brent Stirton. "Water Stories: A Focus on Mexico" offers glimpses of the lives of the one billion people living without access to safe drinking water and the 2.6 billion who do not have basic sanitation. In collaboration with Circle Blue, the exhibition is being held at The Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington. For more information please visit www.wilsoncenter.org/water.

Mexico in Marseilles to prepare Istanbul

Dr. Korenfeld, Secretary of Water and Public Works for the Government of the State of Mexico, was received by WWC President Loïc Fauchon on 10 October to discuss water issues in Mexico and the preparation of the coming World Water Forum. He explained the importance of the recent creation of CONAGO (Mexican Governors Conference) in uniting 33 decentralised governments to have an impact on national policy-making processes in particular domains, and evoked certain new legislation in Mexico that would require municipalities to budget their water allocations to the public.

Dr. Korenfeld reiterated the State's support for the creation of a Mexican Water Prize. Dr. Korenfled, also a representative of ANEAS, reported that the first Mexican Water Forum is planned to be held during the course of 2008 and that ANEAS anticipates being very active in the Americas Regional preparatory process for the Forum, as well as in the political process.

News from Members & Partners



Jon Lane Appointed New Executive Director of WSSCC

After having served as Interim Executive Director of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), former director of WaterAid, Jon Lane, has now been appointed Executive Director. Mr. Lane, a British civil engineer, has been an active member of WSSCC since its founding in 1990 and has carried out specific tasks as well as providing leadership and direction during his latest position. He succeeds Dr. Gourisankar Ghosh who held the position from 2001 to 2006. Read press release <http://www.wsscc.org/en/news/nbsp/archive/2007/october/article/-992943b11f/index.htm>

Be part of a multi-stakeholder and multi-sector network, and contribute to the World Water Council's activities for a water-secure world: **Become a Council member!**

For more information, please contact our Membership Officer, Sabrina André, at s.andre@worldwatercouncil.org or visit our website at www.worldwatercouncil.org

Gathering Young Water Professionals

On 28 October, young water professionals will have a chance to participate in a day of workshops organized by the IWA Young Water Professional Programme in collaboration with 2nd IWA Asia-Pacific Regional Group Conference & Exhibition (ASPIRE). The event, taking place in Perth, Australia, will provide an opportunity to discover careers in the water sector as well as to discuss the challenges that the water industry will face in the future. The activities and initiatives of the Young Water Professionals' program create opportunities for young members to become more involved in the association providing a platform for them on an international scale. For more information about the event: http://www.iwahq.org/templates/ld_templates/layout_633184.aspx?ObjectId=656348



Concurso de videos

The 2007 Latin American Sanitation Conference (LatinoSan), to be held in Colombia on 12-16 November, will involve diverse activities around the theme of hygiene and sanitation. The Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) is one of the organizers of this major international conference around the U.N.'s International Year of Sanitation. One important event is the film competition, in which audiovisual material should reflect the theme of sanitation and hygiene or document experiences from the field. The winner of the competition will be invited to present the film in the African Sanitation Conference. For more information on the competition, visit the web site: <http://www.wsp.org/>

Brown News

Official Launching of the IYS 2008

The global launch of the International Year of Sanitation will be held on 21 Nov 2007 in the UN headquarters in New York, USA. The event will include the unveiling of the IYS logo, a screening of the public service announcement and a presentation of a UN publication on sanitation. The goal of the IYS is to raise awareness and to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goal target: to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation. <http://esa.un.org/iys/>

Poo Productions: Making a Difference through Media

Films, music tours and a record label are the productions of this innovative media company that strives to make a difference for Africans living without clean water and adequate sanitation. Since the project's birth in 2004, these media tools have served as a platform to draw attention to the issues of poor sanitation being at the root of disease and poverty in developing nations. For more information about their projects, please visit their website: <http://www.pooproductions.org/>

WTA Inaugural General Assembly

The World Toilet Association will be holding its Inaugural General Assembly on 21-25 November 2007. Everyone interested in toilet and sanitation issues are welcome to register. Participants will get the opportunity to share international development concerns with representatives of participating countries as well as to network with experienced experts from the fields of sanitation, water, public policy management and technology development related to toilets. For more information: www.wtaa.or.kr

Capacity Building

Program to Master Water-related Risks

The International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management has launched a new Master's Degree Program on the occasion of this year's International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. The Master is called "**Water-related Risk Management Course of Disaster Management Policy Program**" and is a one year course that aims to respond to an urgent need for a community of experts and professionals. For more information: http://www.icharm.pwri.go.jp/html/news/20071005_e.html

Agenda

HELP Symposium - Local Solutions to Global Water Problems : Lessons from the South

4-9 November 2007 - Pretoria, South Africa

Organisers: Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAFF) of South Africa, IWMI and UNESCO/HP HELP
Information: http://www.unesco.org/water/water_events/Detailed/1427.shtml

3rd EWA Brussels Conference - European Water Management & Climate Change

5 November 2007 - Brussels, Belgium

Organized by: EWA - European Water Association
Information: <http://www.ewaonline.de/>

2nd African Regional Conference - ICID - CIID

6-9 November 2007 - Johannesburg, South Africa

Organized by: ICID-CIID; SANCID; SARIA
Information: <http://www.sancid.org.za/>

EUROPE INBO 2007 International Conference on the Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive

8-10 November 2007 - Rome, Italy

Organized by: International Network of Basin Organizations
Information: <http://www.inbo-news.org/>

LatinoSan 2007 - The Latin American Conference on Sanitation

12-16 November 2007 - Cali, Colombia

Organized by: Colombia's Ministry of Environment
Information: <http://www.latinosan2007.net/2007/home.htm>

43rd AWRA Annual Water Resources Conference

12-15 November 2007 - Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

Organized by: American Water Resources Association
Information: <http://www.awra.org/meetings/New>

Blue News

National Water Week in Australia

During the third week in October, Australians are encouraged to take action to protect and conserve water resources and habitats. This initiative, called the 'National Water Week' (NWW), is a yearly event that has galvanized the actions of current and future decision makers since its start in 1993. This year, the NWW ran from 21-27 October and provided focus on water in the media through community, regional and national events. For more information <http://www.nationalwaterweek.org.au>

Publications

The most recent publication in the World Health Organization series 'Environmental Burden of Diseases', is called "**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene - Quantifying the health impact at national and local levels in countries with incomplete water supply and sanitation coverage.**" This guide describes how to estimate the disease burden caused by water, sanitation and hygiene, on a national and regional level. To download the guide: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241595759_eng.pdf

MIRAGE - Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S. is the title of American author Cynthia Barrett's recent publication on the steady disappearance of freshwater in the American East. For more information on how to purchase the book: bisbeeb@umich.edu

NGO Diplomacy - The Influence of Nongovernmental Organizations in International Environmental Negotiations. How NGO influenced negotiations, such as the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol negotiations on global climate change, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. <http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp?ttype=2&tid=11364>

Please feel free to send your press releases, publication & event announcements, etc. to be published in the WWC News Update to:
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