



WATER WEEK NEWS

No. 1

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CONAGUA
COMISION NACIONAL DEL AGUA

PRINCIPAL NEW

EXPERTS FROM 32 NATIONS GATHERED AROUND WATER SAFETY

Experts gathered together in Water Week Latin America held on 23-27 June in Mexico City, in order to strengthen the technical capacity, further cooperation on water management and improve water infrastructure aimed at a comprehensive management for human well being, development, ecological balance and water security.

During his Opening Address, Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council, recognised Mexico has implemented strategic water policies that have impacted positively; a sign of this leadership is the RECENT election of David Korenfeld, General Director of the National Water Commission, to chair the Intergovernmental Council of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO.

These fora allow for the exchange of experiences, capacities, human resources and best practices to face challenges, discuss and find possible solutions to water-related issues such as natural disasters and the lack of the resource, Benedito Braga said, noting that social participation is essential to achieve a change in water management.



Dr. David Korenfeld, Conagua's General Director inaugurates Water Week Latin America 2014.

Dr. David Korenfeld thanked the Latin American countries for their support to Chair the Intergovernmental Council of the IHP-UNESCO and emphasised that the coming years work will be focused to generate a water sustainability vision, facilitate the exchange of information and the regionalisation of common projects.

Being water a bond of unity, peace and development, cooperation and the sum of international efforts are essential to preserve it, he said.

Water Week Latin America is part of the preparatory process of the Americas towards the 7th World Water Forum, the most important event of the sector worldwide to be held in Korea in 2015.

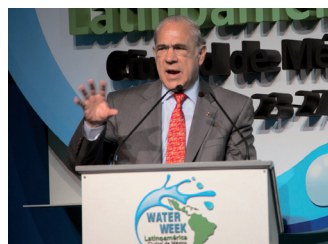
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A PACT FOR WATER SECURITY BY DR. BENEDITO BRAGA

Dr. Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council, inaugurated the conferences of Water Week Latin America stressing the importance of finding solutions to water problems and on the resource being the engine for development in the poorest countries of the world, for which not only topics such as infrastructure should be included but also governance, concluding that water, its use and management are highly a political issue. In the "Water for Development and Prosperity" panel, Victor Yamanaka, coordinator of Hydraulics, Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA), emphasised the establishment of policies with watershed management and

legislation initiatives to improve water conditions in the country. Dr. José Luis Fernández Zayas (WEC) stated that the main problem of water is primarily economic and secondly social, recommending that in order to advance on the energy factor, cooperation and innovation for increased efficiency are needed, besides facing complex social problems, they should be recognised in the Global Agendas.



MEXICO, CHINA AND INDIA COUNTRIES INVESTING MORE IN SUBSIDIES: OECD

"2015 glimpses important statistics in Latin America where 36.8 million people lack access to safe drinking water and 70 million people have no sanitation services": José Angel Gurría Treviño.

Dr. Jose Angel Gurria Trevino closed the activities of the first day of Water Week Latin America stressing the need for Latin America to strengthen the regulatory framework on water and sanitation services, focusing on rates, taxes and "transfers" or sharing experiences, projects and statistics with the least developed countries of the region through governance and water management. He indicated that the work carried out by the OECD would serve as recommendations for the Americas region on themes such as water coverage. "We value México's government efforts, however, for the OECD the subsidies for water and energy are counterproductive to their country and the world". Today, more is spent on subsidies than on the budget for education in various parts of the world, the poorest countries invest more in water and fossil energy consumption subsidies, making it necessary to regulate them and which society does not value. Talking about rates has been a conflict for years but it is important to pin point this for a broader discussion and to place it in the Global Agenda.



CONAGUA AND INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES MEET UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF WATER WEEK LATIN AMERICA

Dr. David Korenfeld, General Director of Conagua met with the Ministers: Ney Maranhão, Secretary of Urban Water Resources and Environment of Brazil; Dr. Luis Angel Montenegro, Minister-Director of the National Water Authority of Nicaragua; José Alarcón Mella, Deputy Minister of Soils and Water, Dominican Republic, Carlos Ortuño, Deputy Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Bolivia and Milton Machado, Chair of OSE, Water and Sanitation Works, Uruguay.

For more information: www.conagua.gob.mx