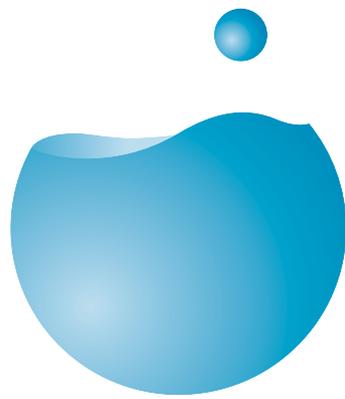


POLITICS GETS INTO WATER

WORLD WATER COUNCIL 2006-2009



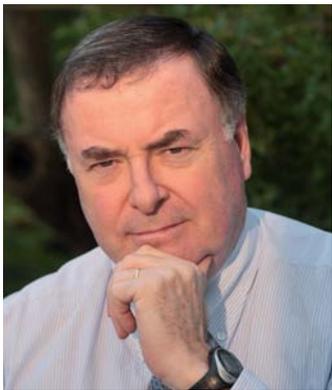


World Water Council

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PREFACE



It's already been three years since our General Assembly met in Mexico City – a short time in the history of water, but we've come a long way in serving the cause. More and more of us have travelled the road together, every day: members and partners of the Council, staff, civil society, politicians, journalists, and many others.

What else can be said of this mandate as it draws to a close, other than to evoke the collective feeling of having worked a lot, in a lively and respectful atmosphere, underscored by transparency and tolerance? I would simply add a few personal remarks to introduce this solid, concise and comprehensible activity report.

- We have evolved within a positive context for water, sanitation, and all environmental subjects during this mandate. Increased awareness has enabled us “to make the voice of water be heard.”
- We now all measure the extent of the risks for water through their linkages with other crucial subjects for humankind's future, like food, energy, the protection of ecosystems, or climate. Water has, thus, become a major societal stake.
- We are witnessing increased involvement of the political sphere within the world of water.
- We have progressively fashioned an evolution in the nature of the Council. From a think-tank, we moved to “ears, brain, voice” and have now become the “Voice of Water.”

The cause of water has, as we wished, become a political question. And, today, our Council is a reference, an entity to which political leaders turn. There have been many political summits on water, and heads of state and governments work closely with us on a regular basis.

- We give many interviews and constantly write articles and columns. Today, water is at the forefront of the media spotlight, and the wider public, and especially children, want to learn more.

- We observe the increasing success of the World Water Fora. Thanks to our friends from Mexico and Turkey, tens of thousands of water stakeholders were able to express their opinion and present their proposals.

The Fora are wonderful federators, and their capacity to unite is recognised and understood also by those who criticise them.

- We have greatly increased, together, the representativeness of the Council. The number of member organizations has doubled over three years, and more than one hundred countries are now around the table. This legitimacy is increased by governance which endows the same rights to the smallest as to the most powerful.
- We are involved and we, members of the Bureau, Governors, Alternates and very many members, have worked with the staff in service of the Council: working groups, delegations, coordinators... everyone's participation was original, active, lasting and beneficial to the Council's activity.

Thanks to all of this, we have left from discourse towards action. All that remains is to take another step towards "Solutions for Water."

Let us remember that in Stockholm in August 2006, I proposed six priorities in the name of the Bureau: strengthening the Council's image; clarifying objectives; strengthening the governing bodies; involving our members; guaranteeing financing; and increasing the effectiveness of the headquarters.

Three years later, the result is particularly positive, as you will see in reading this activity report.

Like the work done together since March 2006, this report is a collective effort for which the headquarters staff, under the successive authority of Daniel Zimmer and Ger Bergkamp, should be particularly thanked. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Bureau members, Arthur Askew, Jerry Delli Priscoli, Mokhtar Bzioui, Hideaki Oda and Paul Reiter, in addition to the wonderful Board of Governors, so often reunited and solicited.

Everyone will understand that I would especially like to thank the Vice President, Benedito Braga, my friend, who has shown such dedication and availability at my side.

To be President of the World Water Council is, every moment, an honour and a pleasure. It is a great responsibility and a heavy task. It is an exciting mission.

This activity report is the illustration of it. It is the fruit of the work of one team that wants to share its enthusiasm and its determination. It is our hope that this activity report serves as a milestone on the road to access to water for all.

Loïc Fauchon
*President of the
World Water Council*

HIGHLIGHTS 2006-2009

2006

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the World Water Council website visited by ca. 30,000 visitors per month; French version also launched
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23rd Board of Governors meeting (<i>Marseille, January</i>) • 24th & 25th Board of Governors meetings (<i>Mexico City, March</i>) • Newly installed Board elects Loïc Fauchon as President of the Council • Turkey, Istanbul chosen as host country and city for the 5th World Water Forum in 2009
Q1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th General Assembly (<i>15-16 March,</i>) decides upon strategic directions and themes for 2006 – 2009
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th World Water Forum (<i>Mexico City, March</i>). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Launch of two new political processes at the Forum: Parliamentarians & Local Authorities > Launch of several publications at the 4th World Water Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Right to Water - From Concept to Implementation;</i> <i>Task Force on Financing Water For All - Report 1. Enhancing Access To Finance For Local Governments - Financing Water For Agriculture;</i> <i>Costing MDG Target 10 on Water Supply and Sanitation: Comparative Analysis, Obstacles and Recommendations;</i> <i>Official Development Assistance for Water from 1990 to 2004 - Figures and trends</i>
Q2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of "Financing Water for All" website with partners, including Global Water Partnership • 26th Board of Governors Meeting (<i>Marseille, June</i>)
Q3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication and launch of the 4th World Water Forum Final report and Synthesis Report (<i>Stockholm, August</i>) • 27th Board of Governors Meeting (<i>Stockholm, August</i>)
Q4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council delegation promotes membership and Council activities (<i>Washington DC</i>) • Council delegation participates in a conference on rare resources organised by the Arab Water Council. President of the Council delivers a speech • Participation of Council delegation in Africités 2006 and speech delivered by the President of the Council (<i>Nairobi</i>)

2007

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final agreement reached with Turkey to host the 5th World Water Forum (<i>Ankara, January</i>)
Q1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loïc Fauchon participates in the conference for a global ecological governance organised by the President of France, Jacques Chirac (<i>Paris</i>) • Kick off meeting for the 5th World Water Forum (<i>Istanbul, March</i>) and International Conference on Basin Management (<i>Antalya, March</i>) • 28th Board of Governors meeting (<i>Antalya, March</i>)
Q2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNN International broadcasts Public Service Announcement "I am Water" to promote the World Water Forum twice over 12 months reaching 200 million households and hotel rooms in over 200 countries • Launch of the World Water Council website in Russian • 1st International Steering Committee meeting for 5th World Water Forum (<i>Istanbul, May</i>) • President of the Council delivers a speech in the OECD-BAfD conference on perspectives for Africa • 29th Board of Governors Meeting (<i>Marseille, June</i>)
Q3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd International Steering Committee meeting for 5th World Water Forum (<i>Stockholm, August</i>)

2007

- Participation in the 2nd Congress of United Cities and Local Governments (*Jeju, South Korea, October*)
- 1st Thematic and Regional Coordination meeting for the 5th World Water Forum (*Istanbul, November*)
- 3rd International Steering Committee meeting for 5th World Water Forum (*Istanbul, November*)
- Council President addresses the French National Assembly on water's place in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean (*Paris*)
- Q4 • Brainstorming Session organised with political stakeholders for the design of the political process for the 5th World Water Forum (*Marseille, November*)
- 1st Asia Pacific Water Summit - President addresses meeting and Heads of State agree upon the Message from Beppu (*Beppu, December*)
- A Council delegation was invited to China for high level meetings in Beijing and to the Yellow River Forum where the President delivered a speech
- 1st meeting for the High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters (*Tokyo*)

2008

- 30th Board of Governors meeting in conjunction with the second meeting of the High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters (*Seoul, January*)
- 2nd Thematic and Regional Coordination meeting (*Istanbul, February*).
Topic scoping papers completed
Topic Coordinators named
- Q1 • 4th International Steering Committee Meeting for the 5th World Water Forum (*Istanbul, February*)
- The President of the Council delivers a speech in the annual conference of the African Association for Water (*Cotonou*)
- Launch of the official regional process in Africa; Council President delivers a speech at the First African Water Week (*Tunisia*)
- Launch of Istanbul Water Consensus (*Istanbul, March*)
- 5th World Water Forum on-line collaborative platform launched hosting dozens of working groups for hundreds of participants
- Council representative addresses the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (*New York, May*)
- Ger Bergkamp assumes the position of Director General of the World Water Council; Daniel Zimmer becomes Associate Director
- A Council delegation participates in the 10th UNSGAB meeting (*Tokyo*)
- The official G8 delegate publication features an article by the President of the Council
- Q2 • 31st Board of Governors meeting in conjunction with the third meeting of the HLEP on Water and Disaster (*Marseille, June*)
- A Council delegation attends the opening of Expo Zaragoza (*Zaragoza, June*)
- Council President officially visits Russia and participates in high level meetings (*Moscow, June*)
- Council President delivers a speech during the Turkish regional process meeting (*Sarajevo, April*)
- OECD Forum 2008 on financing and pricing water; Speech delivered by Loïc Fauchon (*Paris*)
- 5th World Water Forum coordination meeting for Parliamentarians hosted by the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU (*Brussels, June*)
- Media creates greater attention for water financing issues through interviews on Bloomberg television, in the Financial Times, the New York Times, Liberation and Les Echos
- The Director General delivers closing speech during the World Water Week (*August, Stockholm*)
- 5th Forum Side Event and Topic Workshop held: 200 attendees
- Launch of the High Level Panel on Water and Climate
- Q3 • Call for contributions to sessions launched: 700 proposals received (*August-September*)
- Director General delivers opening speech at River Symposium (*Brisbane, September*)
- 5th International Steering Committee Meeting for the 5th World Water Forum (*Paris, September*)
- 1st Ministerial PrepCom meeting hosted by UNESCO (*Paris, September*)
- The Minister for Water in China makes an official visit to the Council headquarters (*Marseille*)
- Participation of the Council in the World Urban Forum for the promotion of the Istanbul Water Consensus (*Nanjing, November*)
- Q4 • Council President participates in the Water for Peace conference organised by La Fondation Chirac (*Paris*)
- 5th World Water Forum preparatory conference for Parliamentarians hosted by the Council of Europe (*Strasbourg, November*)



2008

Q4

- 5th World Water Forum Thematic Programme defines with 112 sessions and 143 lead organisations from scores of countries: session summaries compiled (*December*)
- Forum of the Americas adopts the Message from Foz d'Iguaçu, (*Iguaçu Falls, November*)
32nd Board of Governors Meeting (*Iguaçu Falls, November*)
- Participation of the Council in the Ministers' Euromediterranean conference (*Jordan*)
- 2nd Ministerial PrepCom meeting (*Geneva, November*)

2009

Q1

- 3rd Ministerial PrepCom Meeting (*Rome, January*)
- 4th Ministerial PrepCom meeting (*Paris, February*)
- Ministerial Segment of the 5th World Water Forum and Ministerial Roundtables executed successfully (*Istanbul, March*)
- City Task Force meeting held with 8 Cities and 5 network organisations to mobilise Local Authorities for the programme at the 5th World Water Forum (*Paris, February*)
- Planning meeting held for the 5th World Water Forum Parliamentarian Programme (*Istanbul, January 2009*)
- World Water Council's - Water Media Center launched featuring key stories and resources for journalists, resulting in hundreds of articles and reports. Over 50 journalists contact the Council during the first week of the launch
- Istanbul Water Forum (preparatory meeting for the Regional Process of the Forum)
- 6th International Steering Committee Meeting for the 5th World Water Forum (*Istanbul, February*)
- 33rd Board of Governors Meeting (*Istanbul, March*)
- 5th World Water Forum (*Istanbul, 16-22 March*)
 - > Launch of several World Water Council publications at the 5th World Water Forum
 - OECD-World Water Council report: *Creditor Reporting System on Aid Activities 2008*
 - High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters report: *Prevention and Action to Minimize Death and Destruction: Building Resilience Toward Sustainable Development*
 - Synthesis Report and 16 perspective papers on adaptation to climate change with CPWC, IWA and IUCN:
 - > World Water Council Pavilion attracted much attention from members and partners
- Istanbul Water Consensus attains 400 signatures from Mayors and Local Authorities. Ten Champion Cities commit to lead on themes such as local water governance, flood risk prevention and water and health

Q2

- A delegation from the World Water Council participates in the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (*New York, May*)
- Official visit by the Council President in Uzbekistan
- 34th Board of Governors Meeting (*Madrid, June*)
- France, Marseille chosen as host country and city for the 6th World Water Forum in 2012 (*Madrid, June*)
- Loic Fauchon delivers a speech on disaster prevention in a conference organised by ISDR (*Geneva*)
- OCDE Forum 2009, the Council President addresses the participants on the subject of sustainable growth and water (*Paris*)
- The official G8 delegate publication features an article by the President of the Council
- International Hydropower Congress: Director General facilitates debate and initiates co-operation with the World Energy Council (*Reykjavik, June*)
- European Green Week : Director General delivers a speech on Water and Climate Change (*Brussels, June*)
- Participation of a Council delegation in the International Water Week (*Singapore, June*)
- Memorandum of Understanding with China defining future cooperation and presence at Shanghai World Expo signed in China during a visit by a delegation from the Council

Q3

- 5th World Water Forum synthesis report *Water at a Crossroads* and Istanbul Water Framework published and distributed, in addition to Final Report (*Stockholm, August*)
- 5th World Water Forum and "Lessons Learned" meetings organized (*August, Stockholm*)
Council co-organises High-Level Panel on Climate and Water as an input to the UNFCCC COP-15 (*August, Stockholm*)

Q4

- Agreement reached with France, Marseille on the hosting of the 6th World Water Forum in 2012 for signature at the General Assembly
- 35th Board of Governors Meeting (*Marseille, October*)
- 5th General Assembly and Water Caucus (*Marseille, October*)



POLICY AND PROGRAMME

GAINING UNDERSTANDING AND INSIGHT

At the last General Assembly, World Water Council members provided valuable input into defining the strategic direction of the organisation. From those recommendations, a number of thematic issues were accorded further attention by the Board of Governors. The World Water Council's policy and programmatic work first focused on bringing the Council closer to its members, the media, political leaders and leaders of major economic sectors. Doing so would enable the World Water Council to better define and monitor key issues, produce syntheses of key challenges, trigger action in response and improve communication with target groups.

LOCAL COMMITMENTS AND CAPACITIES

Solutions to water challenges will increasingly be found at the local level. In many countries, decentralisation of water and sanitation service delivery and managing the resource base requires that local authorities develop their capacities in spite of frequently limited resources. This was a key message at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico and the Africities Meeting in 2006.

Recognising the extent of this challenge, the World Water Council assisted cities and towns in developing their capabilities to respond to water and sanitation challenges. With its partners, the World Water Council implemented a number of activities including multi-stakeholder dialogues in Benin and Togo on improving the management of water and sanitation services. These were later taken forward at a national level in both countries.

Members & Partners:

ICLEI, French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (MEDD-MEEDDAT), UCLG, City of Istanbul, Institut de la Gestion Déléguée, Association Nationale des Communes du Bénin, Association des Communes du Togo, Agence de l'Eau Seine Normandie, Agence de l'Eau Rhône Méditerranée et Corse

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=1881>

“The World Water Council has definitely brought water to the highest political level.”

*Benedito Braga, Director,
National Water Agency of Brazil - ANA*

Members & Partners:

IIWA - International Water Association,
IUCN - The International Union for the Conservation
of Nature, the Foundation on Water and Climate,
Collaborative Programme on Water and Climate,
Ministry of Public Works,
Water Management and Transport - The Netherlands,
SIWI - Stockholm International Water Institute,
Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Denmark

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=2588>

From this initial work, the Istanbul Water Consensus (IWC) process was initiated. This consensus, officially reached at the 5th World Water Forum, cemented the commitments of Local Authorities to overcoming water-related challenges and encouraged them to bring these challenges to the attention of national governments, legislators and the international community. The participatory consensus-building process has already achieved the involvement of over 400 mayors from a diverse range of cities including Entebbe (Uganda), Rotterdam (Netherlands), Buenos Aires (Argentina), and Incheon (South Korea).

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Water is central to development and is the primary medium through which climate change impacts will be felt by societies and economies. Though the global community needs to make a serious effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we must already start to work on adapting to a warmer world. Whether the immediate manifestation is drought, floods, storms, melting ice or sea-level rise, focusing on adapting water management to climate change can and should generate multiple benefits. In past years, many water and climate experts and politicians have emphasized this message. At the same time, some voices also pointed out that climate change is only one of the challenges that water managers are facing, as underlined by the President of the Council in an opinion piece published in *Le Figaro*, in 2007.

To facilitate a deeper understanding of the issues, the World Water Council and a consortium of members and partners produced a synthesis report, *Don't stick your head in the sand*, supported by 16 in-depth studies on adaptation in “hotspot” areas, including mountains and coastal areas and in “sectors” such as agriculture, water supply, energy and environment. The World Water Council used these materials to inform the media, resulting in the publication of more than 50 articles and 20 interviews with, amongst others, the BBC, *Le Monde*, Sky Radio, Bloomberg News, CNN International, *The Australian*, Climate-L.org, *El Pais* and ENDS (Environmental News and Information Service).



Through a series of special events and interactions with high-level and elected officials, the World Water Council worked to gain further political momentum on water and adaptation. Aiming to bridge the gap between the two perspectives of water management and climate adaptation, the World Water Council involved members and partners in placing a particular focus on government preparations for the UNFCCC COP-15* in Copenhagen in December 2009. Ministers and high-level experts met on several occasions – each time reiterating their commitment and the need to ensure that water adaptation issues receives due attention within the climate negotiations.

* United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - 15th Conference of the Parties



TRACKING PROGRESS ON WATER

Progress on reaching the Millennium Development Goals and gaining access to water and sanitation is falling behind the established targets. How much progress are we really making and which countries and regions are on target or falling behind? At present, a range of programmes exist that track access to water supply and sanitation and report on the status of the world's water resources.

Members & Partners:

OECD, EMWIS, African Development Bank, African Water Facility, UN World Water Assessment Programme, UN Water Task Force on "Indicators and Monitoring", French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development (MEDD-MEEDDAT), Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel.

Further information:

[http:// www.watermonitoringalliance.net](http://www.watermonitoringalliance.net)

In an effort to better understand who is monitoring what, where and when, the World Water Council initiated the Water Monitoring Alliance, which provides an online portal in English, French and Spanish. The portal's database is designed to accommodate multi-criteria searches and to present country- and regional-level information, for example on water supply and sanitation coverage, water resource availability and use, and links to monitoring activities by country and region. In 2007, the World Water Council focused on establishing country profiles for African and Mediterranean countries on ongoing water monitoring activities. As a result, over 50 country profiles are now available on the monitoring website.



DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING: WATER POLICY

Bringing a range of views on water policy issues to an international audience is critical to furthering dialogues and understanding on collective responses to global water challenges. The World Water Council has supported the journal Water Policy as a key contributor to this goal. Water Policy publishes a range of scholarly analyses, reviews and debates on themes including the water-energy-food and environment interface, transboundary and groundwater management and the development of water resource institutions. Between 2006 and 2009, Water Policy has garnered increasing interest from an international audience through the publication of 145 articles from more than 400 submitted papers.

Members & Partners:

IWA Publishing, U.S Army Corps of Engineers, GIBB-SERA, School of Oriental and African Studies, DHI Water Environment Health, International Water Management Institute, and many others submitting and reviewing manuscripts

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=31>

AFRICA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Members & Partners:

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
African Development Bank and African Water Facility,
and the Economic Community of West African States
(ECOWAS).

Water is a central factor in Africa's future growth and development. The World Water Council has established a programme of prospective analysis to assess the nature and scope of water development challenges in Africa and how better to inform future planning and policy making. A major part of the programme is aimed at supporting wider dialogue between Africa-based institutions, the donor community and governments.

A coordination meeting organised with partners at the 1st Africa Water Week in Tunis in 2008 led to the development of a draft report outlining elements of a new methodology for analysing water linkages to growth and development. This was followed by a partners meeting

and a Ministerial Roundtable on Africa held at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul. Following these events, a second phase of analysis was launched and will be shared more widely at the 2nd Africa Water Week in late 2009.

A key aim of the programme is to link closely with, and provide support to, global efforts at furthering water resource development in Africa, including those undertaken by international and regional groupings.



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Members & Partners:

OECD, The World Bank, European Investment Bank,
AquaFed

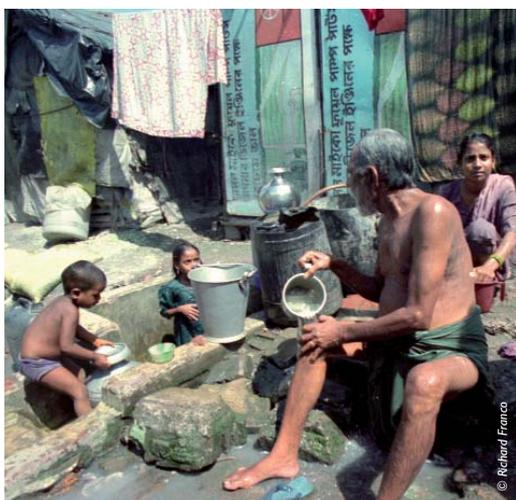
Further information:

<http://www.financingwaterforall.org>

INNOVATING FINANCING WATER FOR ALL

Following the 4th World Water Forum, the Financing Water for All website reported regularly on progress made towards the recommendations of the Camdessus Panel and Gurria Task Force. While it is acknowledged that new financing mechanisms are urgently needed, an important role remains for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) in closing the gap on delivering the Millennium Development Goals. To start addressing this challenge, the World Water Council, together with OECD, produced a report evaluating Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) and aid effectiveness in financing water and sanitation, which was launched at the 5th World Water Forum.

The financial crisis, which hit the global community in 2008, generated considerable media interest in opportunities for water investment to stimulate new economic activity. Media including Bloomberg television, Dow Jones Newswires, the Associated Press and the Financial Times, sought the opinion of the World Water Council on how increased investments could provide economic stimulus and more consistent and steady growth strategies.



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In addition, Libération, published an opinion editorial by Loïc Fauchon, the Council President, on the importance of ensuring that the financial crisis did not hinder investments in water. The issue of water financing has been pursued by many institutions and was identified as one of the 5th World Water Forum's six priority themes.

MAKING PROGRESS ON THE RIGHT TO WATER

“Access to good quality water and sanitation is a basic right for all human beings.” - Istanbul Water Consensus for Local and Regional Authorities.

This statement, which resounded at the 5th Forum, reflects the fact that the right to water is already widely acknowledged. The World Water Council initiated its work on the right to water prior to the 4th World Water Forum through a participatory process aimed at better understanding of the right and its effective implementation. The initiative resulted in the production of a special report released at the 4th World Water Forum which generated global media attention. Today, more than 50 countries have officially incorporated the right to water into their national legislation.

The Council has monitored progress made on the implementation of the right to water. It has maintained up-to-date information on progress in ratification of relevant mechanisms that recognize and promote implementation of the right to water. This has included contributing to a consultation process led by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The Council also followed the adoption of the right to water by individual countries and is regularly requested by the media to explain the concept and how it can be translated into practical gains. ■

Members & Partners:

Green Cross International, Alliance Maghreb-Machrek pour l'eau, International Secretariat for Water, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Académie de l'Eau, Agence Française de Développement

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=1748>



“The World Water Council and its World Water Fora have placed water at the center of human rights.”

Bertrand Charrier, Green Cross

THE RIGHT TO WATER: STEPPING STONES TOWARDS WIDER RECOGNITION

March 2006	4 th World Water Forum (Mexico City): The World Water Council launched the report: The Right to Water - From Concept to Implementation and organises press conference and sessions	December 2007	1 st Asia-Pacific Water Summit (Beppu, Japan): Heads of State and other representatives of 36 States of the Asia-Pacific region recognized “the people's right to safe drinking water and basic sanitation as a basic human right and a fundamental aspect of dignity.”
September 2006	Ministers from 116 developing countries at the Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (Havana, Cuba) supported the right to water approach	March 2008	The UN Council on Human Rights, supported by 47 countries, requested a new study on the implementation of the right to drinking water and sanitation
November 2006	Heads of State at the First Summit of Africa-South America (Abuja, Nigeria) declared “We shall promote the right of our citizens to have access to clean and safe water and sanitation within our respective jurisdictions.”	October 2008	Ecuador adopted a new Constitution that includes the right to water and sanitation
November 2006	The United Kingdom officially recognized the human right to water	November 2008	The UN Council on Human Rights appointed Catarina de Albuquerque as the Independent Expert on human rights and water
December 2006	The French Parliament passed a new framework on water stating that “each individual has the right of access to safe water for drinking and personal hygiene in conditions that are economically acceptable to all.”	November 2008	India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the 8 th SACOSAN Summit (Delhi, India) reaffirmed the right to water and sanitation
March 2007	The Netherlands recognized the human right to water as confirmed in a speech given by Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation on the occasion of World Water Day	January 2009	Bolivia adopted a new constitution in which the right to water and sanitation is explicitly guaranteed
		March 2009	5 th World Water Forum: Mayors and parliamentarians supported the right to water while the Ministerial Statement agrees on water as a basic human need



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HIGH-LEVEL PANELS

CREATING POLITICAL MOMENTUM

Following the guidance given by World Water Council members during the 4th General Assembly, the Board of Governors prioritised a number of key issues for which greater political attention should be generated. Based on these priorities, the World Water Council developed a number of High-Level Panels, together with members and partners, to catalyse thinking and political engagement. For each panel, a distinct mechanism and process was established reflecting the capacities and needs of members and partners. For some panels, this implied a number of expert meetings; for others, it meant a series of Ministerial-level dialogues or simply an initial step in placing the issue higher on the international agenda.

WATER TO EXTINGUISH THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC FIRES?

In light of the recent financial crisis and the challenge of reaching the Millennium Development Goal on water and sanitation, the World Water Council initiated a High Level Expert Panel on Finance as part of 5th World Water Forum. Building on previous work including the Camdessus Report and the Gurria Task Force, the panel discussed the need to increase overall funding for the water sector, both at the national and local levels, during a time of growing social, economic and environmental challenges.

To refocus financial commitments on water and sanitation, decision-makers must be reminded of the impacts on efficiency, quality, public health and local economic development that investments in sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure can generate. Indeed, if not countered, panelists concluded that the ongoing financial and economic crisis may reverse the work accomplished in past decades to further sectoral reforms in many countries.

Members & Partners:

The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, OECD, European Investment Bank, FAO, JICA, Government of Turkey, WWF - Turkey, UNSGAB

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=2531&p=39>

The panel recommended that investments in water infrastructure be included in current fiscal stimulus packages being developed to address the economic crisis. Rather more optimistically, the panel also suggested that the water sector can play a significant role in helping to stimulate economic recovery by forcing greater efficiency and innovation in resource management, stimulating growth, generating jobs and yielding high returns against relatively low risk. A number of institutions have expressed their willingness to continue to work on these issues in the future.

Members & Partners:

UNSGAB, Japan Water Forum, UN ISDR, Korea Water Forum, GWP, UNESCAP, WMO, UNESCO, The World Bank, UNICEF, ICHARM, US Army Corps of Engineers, Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute - China, Bangladesh Water Partnership, International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management, Dutch National Advisory Water Management Board, Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs - Republic of Korea, InSTEDD, ICRC, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism - Japan, African Union Commission, Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development - France, Central America Integration System, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Republic of Korea, Ministry of Public Works - Indonesia, Centre for Policy Research - India

Further information:

http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/fileadmin/wwc/World_Water_Forum/WWF5/Water_and_Disaster.pdf

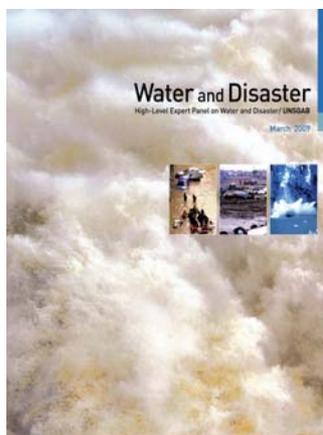
EXPERTS CALL FOR PRO-ACTIVE DISASTER APPROACH

More needs to be done to prepare for disasters in order to significantly reduce their impact and support more effective responses. The 2005 Hyogo Framework for Action emphasized this approach and developed a blueprint to reduce disaster losses by 2015. The Framework pointed to the critical role water plays in reducing disasters and the need to develop concrete actions for disaster reduction and preparedness. To develop further guidance for implementing the Hyogo Framework on water-related aspects, the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) established a High-Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters under the Honorary Chairmanship of Dr. Han Seung Soo, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea. The Council was invited to co-chair the Panel, together with the JWF and ISDR, and play a very active role in subsequent deliberations and the promotion of its recommendations.

The High-Level Expert Panel prepared a specific Action Plan on Water and Disasters, which was launched at the 5th World Water Forum. Six specific priorities figured in the plan, which were to:

- Galvanize and mobilize action before disaster strikes;
- Prioritize systems to forecast, inform, alert and evacuate;
- Incorporate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as integral to development planning;
- Improve disaster response;
- Provide safe water and toilets quickly when disaster or conflict strikes; and
- Support special cross-cutting initiatives.

Furthermore, the panel proposed concrete actions and further guidance to prevent, prepare for, manage and recover from water-related disasters.





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WATER, FOOD AND ENERGY: INCREASING INTERDEPENDENCY AND VOLATILITY

Balancing provision of water for food and water for energy is a key factor in determining the volume and timing of water supply and how it is used. This key issue was actively pursued by the World Water Council through establishment of a High-Level Expert Panel on Water, Food and Energy to address the rising competition between the production of food and fibre on the one hand, and energy on the other. Gathered at the 5th World Water Forum, experts from leading food, water and energy organisations agreed that the food and energy sectors are closely linked through their use and impact on water resources.

Panelists elaborated on how rising demands for food and energy should generate greater cooperation among the sectors, rather than competition. They agreed that sharing water between agriculture and energy sectors and balancing food, fibre and biofuel production would be critical in coming years. They further acknowledged the need to make agriculture more efficient in its use of water and energy, and the need to elaborate on and understand the water footprints of food, fibres and energy production. Panelists expressed their desire to continue to work with the World Water Council on developing further guidance on better coordination across this policy area.

The World Water Council has worked with a range of media-outlets on the question of virtual water and water footprints. In close cooperation with FAO, it issued a joint press release during the 3rd Ministerial PrepCom meeting in Rome (January 2009). As a result, over 40 articles in 5 languages were published in leading journals and on environmental and development newswires.

Members & Partners:

FAO, IHA, IFAP, NAFU, IFAD, GCAD, IWMI, SIWI, AWRA, Action Contre la Faim

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=2531&p=40>

Members & Partners:

International Water Association, Asian Development Bank, Agence de l'Eau Seine Normandie, Office national de l'eau potable - Morocco, UN Habitat, Institut Méditerranéen de l'eau, Secretary of Water - State of Mexico, Secretary of Energy and Sanitation - State of Sao Paulo, WSSCC, Swiss Development Cooperation, Water Aid, ISKI, Ministry of Environment - South Korea

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=2531&p=16>

RIISING TO DIVERSE SANITATION CHALLENGES

The third UN World Water Development Report made clear that while access to water in much of the world has improved, access to safe sanitation has not. In an attempt to assist the international community and national agencies to articulate a coherent and scalable approach to sanitation service provision, the World Water Council established a High-Level Expert Panel on the issue. This initiative was in alignment with the focus on sanitation that the World Water Council's Board of Governors had been progressively developing over the previous year through its working group. The panel was composed of professionals and representatives from local authorities, sanitation experts, NGOs, industry, engineering, banking and community groups.

The panel recommended that development agencies move beyond the traditional paradigm of water-borne sewage and latrines. They need to explore creative approaches that employ diverse, appropriate technologies and policies. It was also argued that small investments in preventative measures can generate massive returns in health and prosperity. The panel further suggested that subsequent political dialogue would be conducted in areas where the political momentum around sanitation is growing, including the Mediterranean, China, Southern Africa, and South America, in order to formulate further recommendations.

During the 5th World Water Forum, the High-Level Panel attracted media attention from both the trade press and major news wires. Featured in a World Water Council press release, the argument that investments in sanitation are relatively low-cost—yet reap major benefits—received a positive media response and was repeated throughout various online magazines and news portals. In light of these outcomes, the Council has recognized the need to continue efforts to clarify the debate, assert the right to sanitation, and raise awareness amongst decision makers.

“Following the International Year of Sanitation, the challenge remains of continuing to promote the right to sanitation and generate financial support.”

*Samir Bensaid, Director General,
Office National de l'Eau Potable - ONEP*





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MINISTERS JOIN FORCES IN ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

To adapt water management to climate change, we need not only to define technically sound priorities, but to have these translated into priorities and commitments from political leaders. To address this issue, the World Water Council established a process at the highest political level including a series of three High-Level Panels with the participation of Ministers of Water, Environment and Climate from the Netherlands, France, Denmark, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Turkey, Tanzania, Lesotho, South Africa, Bangladesh and Indonesia, as well as leaders from intergovernmental organizations, local government and civil society groups.

The panels confirmed the high priority that needs to be given to adapting water management to climate change, particularly in vulnerable areas. New governance arrangements and planning approaches are needed, as well as the availability of additional financing. Panelists further expressed the need for greater cooperation and dialogue between the climate and water communities. Under these panels, several ministers confirmed their commitment to bring water and adaptation issues to the attention of negotiators preparing for the UNFCCC COP15 in December 2009.

The collaborative effort among partners, coupled with the generally strong media interest in climate change, resulted in high media attention at the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009 including national media coverage of the different ministerial involvement in the panel. In August 2009, Ministers met again to reiterate their commitments and to further discussions leading to renewed media attention from environmental newswires, Swedish, Danish, Irish and French media, as well as from United Nations radio. ■

Members & Partners:

Ministry of Public Works, Water Management and Transport - The Netherlands, Collaborative Programme on Water and Climate, IWA - International Water Association, IUCN - The International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the Netherland Foundation on Water and Climate, Ministry of Environment and Forestry - Turkey, Ministry of Water Affairs and Forestry - South Africa, Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Planning - France, Ministry of Environment - Czech Republic, and GEF

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=2588>

“To adapt to climate change, you have to look at water and the lessons the water community brings.”

Mark Smith, Head, Water Programme, IUCN



© IUCN / Taco Anama



WORLD WATER FORUM

BRIDGING DIVIDES FOR WATER

In March 2006, the World Water Council's Board of Governors selected Turkey and Istanbul as the host country and host city for the 5th World Water Forum. Based on the detailed Forum organisation guidelines, the Council and the Government of Turkey established an agreement on hosting and co-organising the 5th World Water Forum process and event. On this basis, a Forum governance structure was created including an International Steering Committee and Working Committees on the Thematic Programme, the Political Process and on Communications. All committees benefited from equal representation of Turkey and the World Water Council. A Forum Secretariat was established in Istanbul (Turkey) responsible for organising the event and supporting the preparatory process.

In close collaboration with our Turkish partners, this extensive preparatory processes was carefully designed to ensure that everyone's voice could be heard. Over three years, the Bureau, Governors and members of the Council all greatly contributed to the success of the Forum through their active participation in the kick-off, thematic and regional coordination meetings, workshops, committees, session development, prepcoms, political process meetings and regional summits. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making the 5th Forum a great success.

Members & Partners:

International Water Association, Istanbul Technical University, International Hydropower Association, United Water, Green Cross International, Gazi University, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Marmara University, Directorate for State Hydraulic Works - Turkey, Collaborative Programme on Water and Climate, UNEP, WMO, UN Water, American Water Resources Association, The Nature Conservancy, UN Habitat, The World Bank, OECD, Aquafed, UNESCO, TURKAD, and hundreds more.

Further information:

<http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=1897>



“Through its strategic focus, the thematic programme created true multi-stakeholder actions for both organisers and participants.”

Paul Reiter, Executive Director, International Water Association

Members & Partners:

Asia Pacific Water Forum, AMCOW, the African Development Bank, Agencia Nacional de Aguas of Brazil, ANEAS, European Water Partnership, Directorate for State Hydraulic Works of Turkey, Mediterranean Water Institute, Arab Water Council

Further information:

<http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=1896&L=opjultovfauavi>



BROADENING AND DEEPENING THE DIALOGUE

The kick-off in March 2007 in Istanbul was the starting point for engaging hundreds of organisations and thousands of individuals in the preparation of the 5th World Water Forum. Using a participatory approach, a focused Thematic Framework was designed as the basis for organisations to put forward ideas for approximately 100 sessions, organised under 23 topics and six main themes. Sessions were developed by consortia of organisations that, together, represented a range of views on a particular issue. Deliberate efforts were made to ensure wide stakeholder representation in each session. Over 500 organisations were actively involved in the preparation of the Thematic Programme and utilised a newly developed on-line “Virtual Meeting Space” to facilitate their collaborative effort.

FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE 5th WORLD WATER FORUM

Representatives of national and local Governments, UN Agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia, water operators, business & industry, professional associations, indigenous groups, youth and media came to the Forum: approximately 16 000 engaged participants and over 30 000 total participants including the Fair/Expo.

An estimated 5000 organisations; 182 countries represented; 1300 political process participants: 165 delegations, 90 ministers and 19 undersecretaries, over 250 parliamentarians, over 300 mayors and local officials; 106 sessions prepared by more than 400 organizations; 5 high level panels; 7 regional processes; 1000 press representatives producing 2000 international articles/features; 1000 sponsored participants; 5 Prizes

FOCUSING ON REGIONAL WATER DIMENSIONS

In the run-up to the 5th World Water Forum, a range of regional high-level meetings were organised in collaboration with the World Water Council. These meetings resulted in important declarations including the Sharm El Sheikh Commitments (Africa), the Message from Beppu (Asia-Pacific), the Message of Foz do Iguassu (Americas), and Water for a Sustainable Europe, among others. The regional engagement, proved to be instrumental in mobilizing stakeholders, promoting cooperation and impacting political decision-making in regions and at the country level. The regional panel presentations provided rich contributions to both the political and thematic outcomes of the Forum. Nevertheless, greater coordination and clarity between different regional processes and strengthening the regional engagement would enhance the value of these processes even further in future.



MAYORS' COMPACT TO TACKLE WATER CHALLENGES

To engage local authorities and other elected officials more actively in the Forum, the World Water Council organised an initial brainstorming session with key parties (Marseille, November 2007). A side event was also organized at the 2nd Congress of United Cities and Local Governments (Jeju, South Korea, October 2007) to generate interest in the process. Based on these consultations, the World Water Council and its partners established a new process to create a common action agenda on water and sanitation for local authorities: the Istanbul Water Consensus (IWC). The IWC forms a new compact for Local and Regional Authorities willing to commit to adapting their water infrastructure and services to the emerging challenges they face including climate change, rapid urban growth, depletion and pollution of water resources and aging infrastructure. The final Consensus document, to which the Mayor of Istanbul lent his full support, was agreed upon during the 5th World Water Forum.

Over 300 Local and Regional Authorities from 43 countries attended the 5th World Water Forum and over 400 authorities have signed the Consensus, which is now translated into 8 languages. In addition, 10 cities, including Buenos Aires, Vienna, Incheon and Marseille, will continue to build on the momentum generated in their capacity as “Champion Cities” of the IWC.

“This new focus on local governments is a paradigm shift, and full of dynamic possibilities.”

Margaret Pageler, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability



Members & Partners:

ICLEI, UCLG, Greater Istanbul Municipality, ISKI, Cities of Baguio, Brisbane, Buenos Aires, Incheon, Lyon, Marseille, Paris, Rotterdam and Vienna.

Further information:

<http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=2126>

PARLIAMENTARIANS UNITED ON WATER

Building on interest expressed by Parliamentarians during the 4th World Water Forum, a new political process was designed for the 5th World Water Forum that addressed their concerns and interests. Assisted by members of the Turkish National Parliament, the World Water Council organised a fruitful preparatory process, which included presence at the Congress of the International Parliamentarian Union (Cape Town, April 2008), a coordination meeting hosted by the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU (Brussels, June 2008), a preparatory conference hosted by the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, November 2008), and a planning meeting (Istanbul, January 2009).

The 5th World Water Forum assembled together 263 Parliamentarians from 57 countries to debate issues including decentralisation, global changes, governance and transboundary cooperation as well as providing a space for dialogue and exchanges between Local Authorities. In conclusion, the Parliamentarians present requested that the World Water Council establish a permanent international parliamentary “Helpdesk” to aid the development and implementation of water legislation. The Council is now working with its members and partners on development of this helpdesk.

Members & Partners:

Cercle français de l'eau, UNESCO, IUCN, Turkish National Parliament, European Union, Council of Europe

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=2531&p=17>





Members & Partners:

Turkey, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Turkey),
Governments of Morocco, The Netherlands, Iraq,
Monaco, Japan, Turkey, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan,
Kyrgyzstan, South Korea, United Nations,
OECD, UNESCO

Further information:

[http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=2175
&L=0target%25253D_blank](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=2175&L=0target%25253D_blank)

WORLD LEADERS PLEDGE TO CREATE A WATER-SAFE WORLD

During the 5th World Water Forum, Heads of State from a number of selected countries met and launched a broad-based appeal for action. This call seeks water security, climate adaptability and international solidarity through a more strategic use of the world's most precious resource: water. Each Head of State shared his or her views on why water has become a top priority, before discussing water resources management in the context of the global financial crisis, climate change and fluctuating food and energy prices.

Members & Partners:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Turkey), UNESCO,
US Army Corps of Engineers,
Directorate of State Hydraulic Works - Turkey,
Delegations of Japan, Portugal, Bangladesh,
The Netherlands, United States, Spain, Switzerland,
Uruguay, France, South Africa, Egypt.

Further information:

[http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=2176
&L=0target%25253D_blank](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=2176&L=0target%25253D_blank)

MINISTERS RECONFIRM COMMITMENTS

Distilled from one year of discussions and negotiations, the Ministerial Statement and accompanying Water Guide came into existence through a negotiated multi-stakeholder process. A list of 140 recommendations for concrete action to improve water security and water management at all levels was compiled from about 30 international declarations and additional input was received from Thematic and Regional Coordinators. The initial documents were then discussed with representatives of more than 100 governments, international organizations, Thematic and Regional Coordinators and Major Group representatives during the course of 4 Prep Com meetings hosted by UN institutions (Paris - September 2008; Geneva - November 2008; Rome - January 2009; Paris - February 2009).

Over 100 Ministers and Heads of Delegations assembled in Istanbul on 20-22 March 2009 to adopt the Ministerial Statement and Water Guide, which addressed the global challenges related to water within the context of sustainable development and global changes. For the first time in the Forum's history, the Ministerial documents were based on thematic input and elaborated by approximately 165 delegations. Moreover, eight ministerial roundtable discussions encouraged innovative thinking on a selected number of priority issues.

GETTING THE FORUM MESSAGES OUT

Water at a Crossroads contains a cross-cutting analysis of the key decisions and major themes addressed at the 5th World Water Forum. From climate change adaptation to the energy and food crunch, from the MDGs to the Right to Water, this illustrated magazine from the Forum pinpoints the key issues that were discussed in Istanbul and different perspectives taken in addressing those issues, including the interweaving of technical solutions, social considerations and political commitments.

A companion publication, the Global Water Framework - Istanbul 2009, provides a compilation of all official documents and outcomes from the 5th World Water Forum. It includes the Declaration of Heads of States, the results of the Ministerial component, as well as statements from Parliamentarians and Local and Regional Authorities. It also covers the thematic and regional outcomes of the Forum, as well as the Children's and Youth declarations. This document serves as a quick reference guide, sketching an outline of the collective effort that characterised the 5th World Water Forum and providing a springboard to develop follow-up initiatives. A final report of the 5th World Water Forum is also available. ■

Further information:

www.worldwatercouncil.org/fileadmin/wwc/World_Water_Forum/WWF5/Water_at_a_Crossroad.pdf

www.worldwatercouncil.org/fileadmin/wwc/World_Water_Forum/WWF5/global_water_framework.pdf



“The 5th World Water Forum was a golden chance for Turkey to share its expertise on water.”

Dogan Altinbilek, International Hydropower Association





MEMBERSHIP

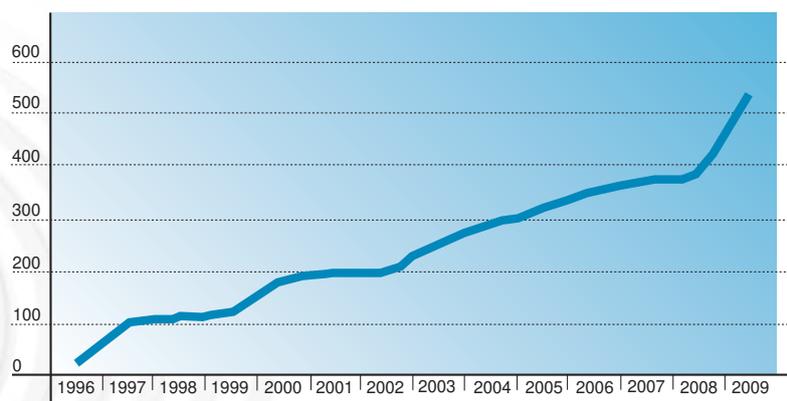
STRENGTHENING AND ENGAGING THE NETWORK

The World Water Council is an international member-based organisation, open to governments, enterprises, civil society, international organisations, professional associations and research institutions. The challenge is to connect this very diverse group of actors and find new ways of collaborating together to make progress and communicate widely on water.

A VIBRANT, HIGHLY CONNECTED NETWORK

The World Water Council has implemented a strategy to increase its membership base by retaining existing members based on service and engagement in the World Water Forum, while recruiting new members interested in future contributions to the “water cause”. As a result, the membership has increased by 64% since 2006. The increase was distributed among all colleges of the Council, with a more significant increase in College 2 – Governments and Government Authorities and College 4 - Civil Society and Water Users. Furthermore, a number of important organisations and networks have joined the Council including, for example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Finland, the Ministry of Water Resources – China, UN Habitat, FAO, AFRE – Spain, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF - International), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC - International). A significant number of organisations from South Korea have also become members.

Growth in Membership



During the 2006-2009 period, meetings were organised on a regular basis with the Council's members during the annual World Water Week in Stockholm and at national and regional levels in the Arab region, China, Eastern Europe, France, Japan, Korea, Portugal, Turkey, Spain, and the US, during which the Council further extended its collaboration with members and partners. Agreements were signed with the Arab Water Council, ICID – International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, the African Water Association, the Scientific Information Center-Uzbekistan, Interstate Commission for Water Coordination of Central Asia and the Ministry of Water Resources of China. The World Water Council has further maintained excellent relationships with the United Nations through its UN members, UN Water, and UN-ECOSOC.

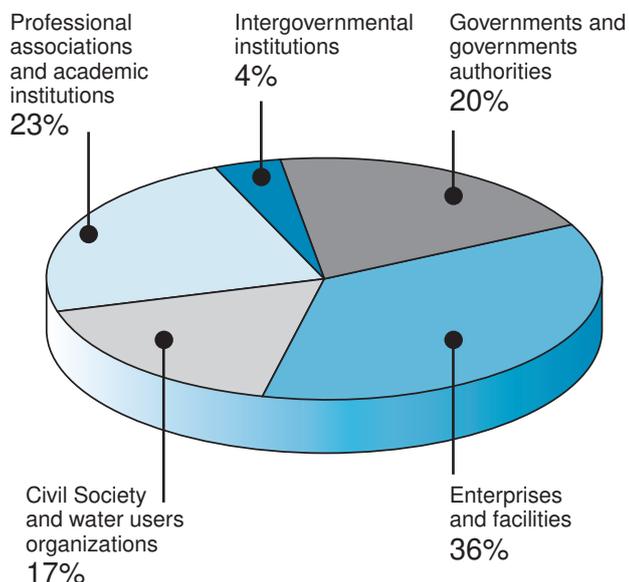
A SUM THAT IS BIGGER THAN ITS PARTS

The World Water Council counts amongst its members some of the most well-known and pro-active organisations engaged in water issues at a global level. Together, they represent huge capacity for action and innovation in addressing water challenges. To harness this potential, the World Water Council seeks to actively involve its members in its activities. Members, therefore, play a key role in the development of the Council's policy and programme work, as well as in its engagement in major policy events.

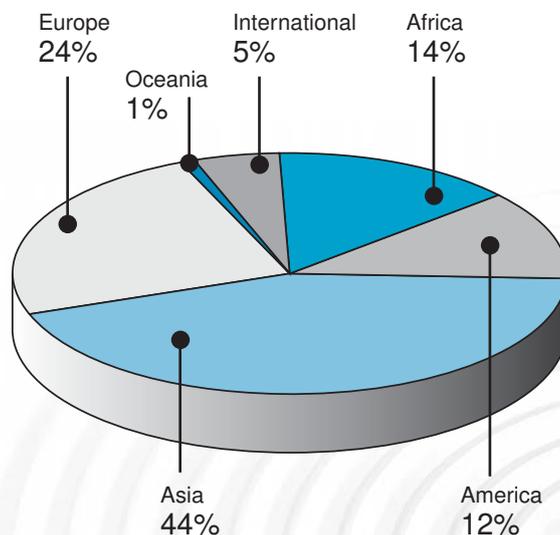
During the 2-year preparatory process of the 5th World Water Forum, all active members were invited and encouraged to participate in the Forum consultative and preparatory processes, including the kick-off meeting. As a result, 15 World Water Council members were Thematic or Regional coordinators, 23 members were Topic co-coordinators, and 83 sessions were co-convened by members. Many more members contributed to the Forum by organising special events, such as the Water and Film Encounter, presented by the International Secretariat for Water, or the Global Water Education Village set up by Project WET.

Membership Statistics

Members per College



Members per Continent



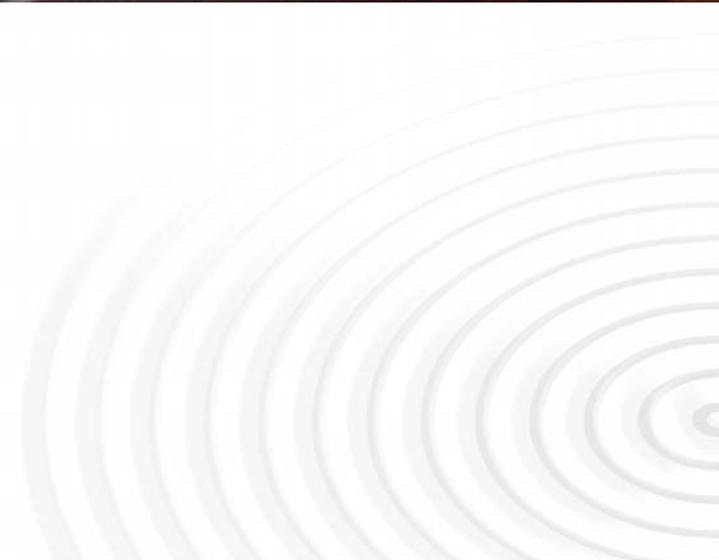


OFFERS AN EAR AND GIVES VOICE TO MEMBERS

The World Water Council Presidency and Secretariat have intensified their communication with members in recent years. On average, a newsletter or news e-mail has been communicated once a month, highlighting, in particular opportunities for involvement in the 5th World Water Forum or to meet with the Council's President, Governors and members. They also mentioned the messages that the World Water Council wishes to emphasise.

Members were further consulted on their expectations and levels of satisfaction regarding membership. A survey was carried out amongst members concerning their experience of the 5th World Water Forum and their ideas on World Water Council priorities for coming years. The responses to these inquiries form an important input into the design of the next World Water Forum and the World Water Council strategy for the 2010–2012 period.

The World Water Council has regularly offered its members the opportunity to actively engage in outreach activities. During the 5th World Water Forum, the World Water Council pavilion provided an excellent opportunity for members to meet and greet each other and the Council's Governors and secretariat staff. Members used the lively pavilion area to distribute information and organise activities as part of the pavilion programme. For many, this helped increase their visibility at the Forum, in addition to fostering new networking opportunities and the exchange of ideas. ■



MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

REACHING THE HEADLINES

RESOURCES FOR REPORTERS: THE WATER MEDIA CENTER

With environmental and development news only taking up 2% of worldwide news reporting, water has to fight for media space. Reporters need to find new stories, have verifiable information, access to experts, sources to quote and suitable photos with which to illustrate stories. In response to this demand, the World Water Council launched the Water Media Center, an on-line information hub supporting journalists and press officers in finding the water information and news they need. The Water Media Center provides direct access to the foremost water expertise amongst the World Water Council's membership and features background information, photos and media coverage of water-related issues and of the World Water Council.

Over 2,000 journalists have been informed about the Water Media Center and over 8,000 visitors use the Center regularly. Today, the expert and sources section is used on a daily basis by both international media such as CNN-International, the BBC, China Daily, Al Jazeera and United Nations Radio, and by national and alternative media such as RTL, Radio France Internationale, The Irish Times, New Europe, and Yemen Times. Thanks to the center's design, journalists can easily contact their interviewees. By helping journalists in their work, the World Water Council can also obtain greater media exposure for water issues.

Members & Partners:

SEM, ANA, IWA, UNESCO, AWRA, Seine-Normandy Water Agency, IUCN, VEOLIA, ANEAS, FAO, SIMAPAG, Azerbaijan Amelioration and Water, Farm Open Joint Stock Company, The Library of Alexandria, NWRC, TCA, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, IOW, ICID, FWP, Palestinian Water Authority, MEDDAD, National Center for Resource Management in Iraq, Cercle francais de l'eau, CEMAGREF, Water Agency Rhône-Méditerranée Corse, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, AquaFed, WSSCC, WBCSD, GWA, CPWC, Project Wet, Action contre la faim, TNC, GWP

Further information:

<http://www.watermediacenter.org>



BUILDING JOURNALISTS' CAPACITIES: WATER MEDIA NETWORKS

Members & Partners:

The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Media 21, Water Advocates, WSSCC, International Year of Sanitation, Path, Internews, UNESCO

Further information:

<http://worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=527>
and
<http://media21.geneva.org/>



Reports on water issues sometimes suffer from stereotypical portrayal or over-simplification. Many journalists are confronted by the complexity of water management issues and face the challenge of translating these into easily understandable news items or background stories. Many journalists in developing countries have additional issues to contend with, including little professional training, limited access to information and a lack of resources for travel and reporting.

In response to these challenges, the World Water Council collaborated with partners to create the Water Media Network which seeks to increase journalists' understanding of complex water issues and enhance their capacity to report. In 2006, the Water Media Network had approximately 1,500 member journalists from more than 100 countries spanning seven regions of the world. Approximately 2,000 stories were directly linked to and inspired by the training and technical support offered, the usefulness of which was rated 4.5 on a scale of 5 by 82% of the journalists sampled.

In addition, journalists were given opportunities to attend the World Water Fora. More than 25 journalists from 14 countries attended workshops and fieldtrips at both the 4th and 5th World Water Forum. This enabled them to write more informed stories for their media. During the 5th World Water Forum, 25 journalists took part in dedicated training and published over 50 articles in both international and national media.





GAINING THE MEDIA'S ATTENTION

Over the past three years, the presence of the World Water Council in the media has increased steadily. Thanks to an external communications mix based on press, online, TV, print and public relations, the World Water Council has positioned itself as the source of choice for many journalists covering development and environmental issues. In 2008, Council spokespersons gave on average one interview per week and over a thousand articles or other reports mentioned the World Water Council. In addition, during the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009, 75 interviews were conducted with Council spokespersons. During that one week, more than 2000 articles on water issues were published. Some of the television highlights included reports on the BBC's Newsnight programme, ARTE French Public Television, RAI Italian Public Television, Swedish Public Television, Reuters TV, and Bloomberg Television.

On numerous occasions, the World Water Council was asked to comment on water issues for global events. In July 2009, the official G8 publication included for the second time an article by the Council's President, Loïc Fauchon. Other publications included opinion pieces for national newspapers such as El Pais, Le Monde, and Le Figaro or for specialised media such as Climate-L.org, The Banker, Water and Wastewater International and New Economy. As a popular source for water-related information, the World Water Council is also frequently asked to comment on or explain issues for the New York Times, CNN International and Al Jazeera. The World Water Council often recommends its members for interviews with leading media. ■

Members and partners involved:

Seine-Normandie Water Agency, FAO, Palestinian Water Authority, The Library of Alexandria, National Center for Resource Management in Iraq, SEM, ANA, IWA, UNESCO, WSSCC, Project Wet, The World Bank, OECD, DSI, Rainwater Harvesting Alliance, GWA, IUCN, Water Footprint Network, CPWC

Further information:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=2528>



ORGANISATION AND FINANCES

BUILDING SOLID FOUNDATIONS

GOVERNORS ACTIVELY ENGAGED TO DELIVER RESULTS

The Board of Governors was elected by the Council members during the 4th General Assembly on 14-15th March 2006 (Mexico City, Mexico). The President was elected by the Board at that time, and the nomination of the Bureau of the Council followed subsequently. During the period 2006-2009, the 36 Governors met 11 times to discuss water policy issues, track progress on the Council's policy and programme work and make decisions on matters pertaining to the Council. Individual Governors took on specific assignments with respect to water policy, the World Water Forum, membership, representation, governance, administration and financial matters.

The Board of Governors as a whole was actively involved in:

- Engaging in water policy matters and effectively building linkages with elected officials;
- Setting up and successfully conducting 5 High-Level Panels on major water policy issues;
- Representing the Council at national, regional and global events;
- Interacting with national and international media on water issues;
- Developing a membership engagement programme to retain and recruit members;
- Selecting the host country and city for the 5th and 6th World Water Fora;
- Engaging with members at the regional level to organise Forum preparatory meetings;
- Co-organising the 5th World Water Forum with Turkey and Istanbul;
- Participating on behalf of the Council in the Ministerial Roundtables at the Forum;
- Effectively overseeing the administration and financial management of the Council;
- Reviewing the Constitution and By-laws and creating a Code of Conduct for Board members.

A SECRETARIAT DELIVERING SUPPORT AND SERVICES

The Secretariat of the World Water Council provides services to the members and supports the Board, Bureau and President in the preparation and implementation of decisions. Based in Marseille (France), the Secretariat is also instrumental in facilitating the development of programmatic, policy- and Forum-related activities.

During 2006-2009, the Secretariat was re-organised to align the secretariat structure and staffing with priorities and budget considerations. It currently contains four areas of activity, including: policy & programme; media & communications; administration & finance; and World Water Fora. The Secretariat is comprised of an enthusiastic and competent group of 14 staff members. This group enlisted the services of third parties, interns and secondments to support the organisation of the 5th World Water Forum. Since June 2008, Ger Bergkamp has been managing the Secretariat as Director General. Alan Nicol joined the Secretariat as Director of Policy and Programme in June 2009. Daniel Zimmer, Associate Director, left the Secretariat in August 2009.

World Water Council Financial Statement 2006 - 2008

REVENUES	2006 Results	2007 Results	2008 Results	2009 Budget
Subsidies	1,261,788	809,746	972,808	925,000
Projects	326,199	155,000	581,000	990,000
Membership fees	158,701	174,463	162,429	181,000
Forum host country participation	203,540	450,000	554,000	525,000
Income for services	20,027	0	12,763	0
Financial and exceptional income	41,516	51,525	59,598	10,000
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUES	2,011,772	1,640,734	2,342,598	2,631,000
including in-kind revenue	408,168	395,225	414,503	335,000
EXPENSES	2006 Results	2007 Results	2008 Results	2009 Budget
Human resources	983,917	706,537	983,366	1,164,000
Administration	320,020	340,109	358,677	361,300
PR and communications	95,776	57,451	37,905	152,400
Meetings and travel	245,702	158,550	338,873	461,800
Services by third parties	250,703	207,353	462,881	429,000
Financial and exceptional costs	16,375	12,426	7,229	11,500
Depreciation and provisions	28,849	36,553	44,131	20,000
President's office	0	0	0	31,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,941,342	1,518,979	2,233,062	2,631,000
including in-kind expenses	408,168	395,225	414,503	335,000
BALANCE	70,430	121,755	109,536	0

FINANCES PRUDENTLY MANAGED

The World Water Council is an international, non-profit organisation incorporated as a French 1901 association in Marseille, France. The World Water Council thanks its members and partners who, through their long-standing support and personal commitment, have helped to promote the cause of water.

The World Water Council has continued to manage its finances prudently and has maintained an annual budgetary surplus of approximately 100,000€, on average. It has benefited from the continued support of the City of Marseille in the form of both annual subsidies and seconded personnel and office space. The World Water Council also received substantial contributions from the 5th World Water Forum – Host Country (Turkey) in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. In addition, the World Water Council received voluntary contributions from the Société des Eaux de Marseille (France) in 2006, 2008 and 2009. Additional resources were provided for the implementation of specific programmes on monitoring, local authorities, Africa and climate change by the French, Dutch and Swiss Governments for the period 2006-2009. Contributions from Council members over this three-year period allowed to the Council to continue its work on raising the profile of water internationally with elected officials and the public at large.

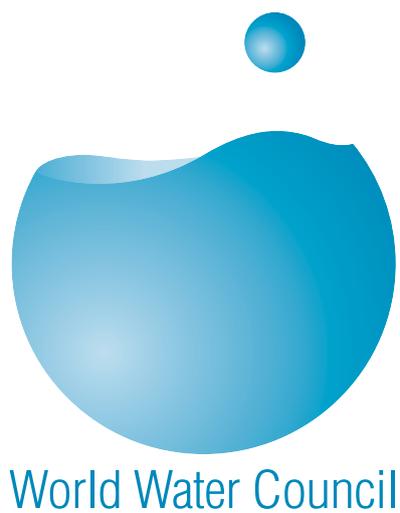
To continue to support its members and implement its water policy and programme work, the World Water Council dedicated a majority of its available resources to maintaining its secretariat with dedicated staff. Additional support was provided through services by third parties. To support the organisation of the 5th World Water Forum and to implement its policy and programme work with its network of members and partners, the World Water Council further invested in public relations, communications, meetings and travel.

The World Water Council is committed to the highest standards of accountability. The full annual financial statements and auditor's reports are made available on-line, following approval of the accounts by the members during the 5th General Assembly. ■

“2006 to 2008 have been characterized by clear improvement of the Council’s financial situation.”

Mokhtar Bzioui, Treasurer





WORLD WATER COUNCIL - CONSEIL MONDIAL DE L'EAU - CONSEJO MUNDIAL DEL AGUA

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