



# IWRA UPDATE

Newsletter of the International Water Resources Association

**December 2006 • Volume 19 • Issue 4**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



By the time you receive this news, we are ready to bid farewell to 2006 and start the New Year, 2007. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the season, a happy new year and pray for peace on earth and prosperity for everyone.

This is the last opportunity to address you as President. As you already know, a new Executive Board will take effect as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2007. In reflection of the year we have embarked on a long and strenuous process of renewal of IWRA so that we can celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association in its best. The long process for nominations, elections and installation of the new Executive Board was a major milestone in the renewal process. The second pillar of renewal was searching, selecting and hosting of the Executive Office of IWRA and the Editorial Office of Water International Journal.

The two processes were carried out in parallel with great care and diligence, paying meticulous attention to all details. The help, assistance and collaboration of many IWRA members were crucial

to the successful completion of the tasks associated with these processes. You have effectively responded and participated in the selection of the members and we are proud that all elected candidates were enthusiastic to serve the Association. These fine women and men will ably carry the responsibility of leading the Association in the next three years. We are now have a new Executive Board of energetic persons representing the new face of the Association including the largest number ever of women and active members from the developing countries plus an array of persons drawn from all the six Continents of the World.. These individuals having earned your trust as exercised by your vote, they deserve your support to continue the path of building a strong and leading water Association. We are equally fortunate to have completed our new hosting arrangements with McGill University, one of the premier institutions of higher learning in North America, to provide the home and support to the Executive Office and Editorial Office of our Journal. These two positions are equally staffed by energetic and world class individuals capable of delivering the IWRA message around the world. I am glad to report that the Water International Journal continued to gain popularity with papers lined up for at least one year in the future. Plans are underway to shorten the time required for publishing as well as improving the quality, increasing the number and modernizations of publishing methods. Hundreds of IWRA members volunteered their time to act as peer reviewers: an important component of the publishing process.

The Association expanded externally as well by sponsoring an outstanding event in the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Mexico and the World Water Week in Stockholm. In these events and in many more IWRA earned the reputation as the lead water Association in multidisciplinary approach to water resources in the global scene.

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We moved quickly to activate the organizational structure, selection of the host and topics of the XIIIth World Water Congress to be held in Montpellier, France on September 1-4, 2008. We made headways. The event is now fully synchronized with other major European events in 2008, notably the Expo 2008 in Saragossa, Spain and the Stockholm World Water Week for 2008.

Planning for XIV Congress in Recife, Brazil has its roots well anchored for early start up. These many achievement would not have been possible without the sincere help and assistance of many IWRA devotees within the Executive Board and from the across the larger pool of the membership. I sincerely acknowledge these help and the support given as well as the professionalism and dedication they have displayed over the three years term.

In particular, I was fortunate to have had the privilege to receive the advice and counsel of several past Presidents of IWRA including Asit Biswas, Glen Stout, Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Ben Braga and John Pigarm. Their wisdom and experience were most inspiring in good times and most supportive in difficult times.

It is a great honour to be given the privilege to serve the Association and the public at large. I wish you all the best for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Season's Greetings!

*Aly M. Shady, P. Eng.*  
*President IWRA*

## Message from the Executive Director

I am pleased to have this opportunity to write this message in my capacity as the new Executive Director of IWRA. Firstly, I thank the IWRA Board for having the confidence to ask the Brace Centre for water Resources Management at McGill University to host the IWRA executive office. I am indeed grateful for the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director under this new system of management. Secondly, I wish to congratulate the President Elect and all the new members of the Board who were elected to take office on January 01, 2007. As one of the stalwarts of the IWRA and the international water community, Professor John Pigarm, recently mentioned to me

when he was in Montreal, "we have entered a new era, it is a new dawn, and this is an opportunity to breathe new life into the organization".

I take Professor Pigram's words very seriously, for this is an important beginning not only for IWRA, but for all of us involved in the world's water. I recently read the just released United Nations 2006 Human Development Report. For the first time in its history, the report has focused exclusively on the world water crisis. The report is aptly titled: ***Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the global water crisis.*** An underlying feature of the report is that water security is an integral part of human security. Water security is ensuring that everyone has consistent and continuous access to safe water at an affordable price to lead a healthy and productive life. Unfortunately, this is not the case amongst the world's poor. They are systematically excluded. Water insecurity violates some of the most basic principles of social justice.

The Human Development Report outlines four foundations of a strategy to tackle the human sufferings of illness, disease, death, child absences from school, and poverty due to water insecurity. These are: making water a human right and implementing it; drawing up national strategies for water and sanitation; supporting national plans with international aid, and; developing a global action plan. The building of these foundations will only be accomplished by each and everyone of us rolling up our sleeves and working together, using our brains and will power to make a difference. We are a well trained and equipped group, blessed with the human and financial capital to make a contribution. Let us all pledge to work collectively, using our resources and intellect, to break down those dark and perilous barriers of poverty, and water and food insecurity plaguing over 2.6 billion people. Let us be remembered as the group of committed and concerned professionals who fought to save the 1.8 million children dying each year from the diseases associated with dirty water and poor sanitation. If IWRA can turn its hearts and minds to these people, the organization would have indeed entered a new dawn.

*Professor Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo, Eng., FCSBE, FASABE*  
*Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, McGill University*





## Executive Board annual meeting– Montreal 2006

During the Board Meeting held on November 19-20, 2006, in Montreal, the following decisions were made:

- Approval of the results of election of new Executive Board for 2007-2009 and closure of the election 2006 files.
- Approval of selection of IWRA hosting and ratification of Memorandum of Agreement with McGill University in this respect.
- Approval of the appointment of Executive Director, General Manager of the Executive Office and an Editor in Chief of Water International Journal.
- Approval of changing the official address and web domain name of the Association.
- Approval of new guidelines for nomination and selection of IWRA fellows.
- Discussing a new strategy for Water International Journal aiming at increasing the impact factor rating, dealing with the paper backlog, reduction of time to publish and cost of publishing. The implementation will be spread over a year or more to insure smooth transition
- Planning and activating a series of web based services under the new domain name to insure faster and reliable services to members
- Pressing SIU to complete the transfer of assets of IWRA to the new host and provide complete financial and auditors reporting on the outstanding accounts.
- Fully synchronize the XIIIth World Water Congress to be held in Montpellier, France on September 1-4, 2008 with other major water events in Europe at that time, mainly: World

Expo 2008, Saragossa, Spain and World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden.

- Next meeting of the Executive Board shall take place in Cairo, Egypt on February 15, 2007.

## IWRA moves to a new home at McGill University

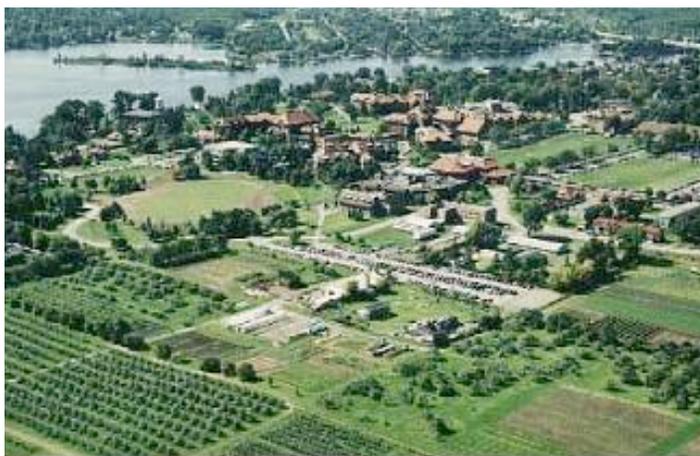
McGill University has been chosen to host the Executive Office and the Editorial Office of Water International Journal, through a competitive process. The Executive Board approved the selection of McGill University to host the Executive Office and Editorial Office of Water International Journal, effective October 25, 2006. The Executive Board also approved the McGill University nomination of candidates and the appointment of the following persons to the positions shown:

### **Executive Director Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo**

Chandra Madramootoo is the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, a James McGill Professor in the Department of Bioresources Engineering and an Associate Vice-Principal of McGill University.

### **General Manager- Executive Office Bano Mehdi**

Bano Mehdi is presently the Scientific Coordinator of the Water Resource Sector of C-CIARN (Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network), hosted by McGill University. Since 2000, Bano Mehdi has been a Professional Associate at the Brace Center for Water Resources Management, where her research has mainly focused on climate change impacts on water.



*Macdonald Campus, McGill University*



*Brace Centre for Water Resources Management, Macdonald Campus, on a windy November day.*

**Editor in Chief – Water International Journal  
Dr. Raja Sengupta**

Raja Sengupta is an Assistant Professor of Geography/Environment at McGill University. He served IWRA as Book Editor for Water International from 2001, helped review abstracts for the XII World Water Congress held in New Delhi, and is a member of the IWRA awards committee.

Additional appointments were also made to join the new Executive Board ushering in a spirit of renewal and the addition of new talents, expertise and vigor to serve the Association. The New Executive Office and staff are currently in the midst of setting up the office to be fully functional, and though yet still in a transition phase are serving the needs of you, the members. The offices are preparing to be fully operational by the start of the New Year 2007.

The Macdonald Campus of McGill University is situated on the western tip of the Island of Montreal, in the town of Ste Anne de Bellevue. It is dubbed the “green campus” as it houses the Faculty of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences. The Campus has several physical facilities which contribute to its “greenness”; such as a functional farm; its own arboretum; several orchards; fields of crops; an ecomuseum for native animals; a bird sanctuary; etc... In addition, the campus is surrounded by the Lac St-Louis to its south, the Rivière des Prairies on the north and the St-Lawrence flowing towards Montreal, on the east of the campus.

**IWRA Elected New Executive Board, will assume duties on January 1, 2007**

**New Executive Board of IWRA to assume duties on the first of January, 2007**

A new Executive Board of IWRA for 2007-2009 has been elected. Ballots for election were sent to all members on August 2, 2006 and returned on October 13, 2006. The ballots were counted under the supervision of the Executive Board and the election results were approved on November 20, 2006.

The New Executive Office and staff took effect as of October 25, 2006 and the New Executive Board shall assume office on January 1, 2007 for a three-year period to terminate on December 31, 2009.

This team of fine women and men from 19 countries representing all the six continents of the world are truly reflecting the international nature of the Association



with delicate balance of gender, discipline and breadth of specialization. This is the team that will lead the Association in the next three years. We wish them the best and they deserve all support of the members of the Association to fulfill their mandate.

The composition of the new Board is as follows:

	<p><b>President</b>  <b>Dr. Cecilia Tortajada (Mexico)</b>  Vice-President of the Third World Center for Water Management in Atizapan, Mexico. Director of the International Water Centre in Zaragoza, Spain</p>	<p><b>Past President</b>  <b>Aly M. Shady, P. Eng. (Canada).</b>  Sr. Water Advisor  Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).  President (Hon.) ICID.  Co-Founder the World Water Council (WWC).  Gatineau, QC, Canada</p>	
	<p><b>Vice-President</b>  <b>Dr. Olli Varis (Finland)</b>  Senior Researcher and lecturer, Helsinki University of Technology, Finland</p>	<p><b>Vice-President</b>  <b>Dr. Hussam Fahmy (Egypt)</b>  Director of Drainage Research Institute, National Water Research Center (NWRC). Cairo, Egypt.</p>	
	<p><b>Vice-President</b>  <b>Dr. Dogan Altinbilek (Turkey)</b>  Civil Engineering Department of Middle East Technical University. President of International Hydropower Association (IHA). Chairman of Board of Ictas Energy Company in Turkey.  Ankara, Turkey</p>	<p><b>Secretary General</b>  <b>Dr. Lilian del Castillo-Laborde (Argentina)</b>  Chair Public International Law at the Buenos Aires University School of Law. Member of the staff of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Coordinator of the Plata Basin Department. Buenos Aires, Argentina.</p>	
	<p><b>Treasurer</b>  <b>Dr. Benedykt Dziegielewski (USA)</b>  Professor of Water Resources Department of Geography and Environmental Resources, Southern Illinois University -Carbondale, Illinois, USA</p>	<p><b>Chair, Awards Committee</b>  <b>Ismail Najjar (Canada)</b>  Founder and President of Hydrosult, consulting firm based in Montreal, Canada. Governor of the World Water Council.  Montreal, QC, Canada</p>	
	<p><b>Chair, Membership Committee</b>  <b>Dr. Gunilla Björklund (Sweden)</b>  Consultant on international water policy.  Director GeWa Consulting  Uppsala, Sweden</p>	<p><b>Chair, Publication Committee</b>  <b>Dr. James E. Nickum (Japan)</b>  Institutional Economist. Professor Tokyo Jogakkan College, Tokyo, Japan</p>	
	<p><b>Director</b>  <b>Dr. Jennifer McKay (Australia)</b>  Professor of Business Law and Director of the Center for Comparative Water Policies and Laws, University of South Australia in Adelaide, Australia</p>	<p><b>Director</b>  <b>Dr. Anthony Turton (South Africa)</b>  Research Group Leader in the Water Resource Governance Group, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).  Pretoria, Republic of South Africa</p>	



**Director**  
**Dr. Rui Carlos Vieira da Silva (Brazil)**  
 Professor, Fluvial Hydraulics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Founder and President the Brazilian Water Resources Association. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**Director**  
**Dr. Undala Alam (United Kingdom)**  
 Postdoctoral Research Officer at Cranfield University, Cranfield, Beds, United Kingdom



**Director**  
**Dr. Shaofeng Jia (China)**  
 Professor, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences Beijing, China

**Director**  
**Dr. Victor Dukhovny (Uzbekistan)**  
 Director of Scientific Information Center of this Commission (SIC ICWC) in Tashkent. Governor of World Water Council. And Vice- President (Hon.) of ICID. Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan



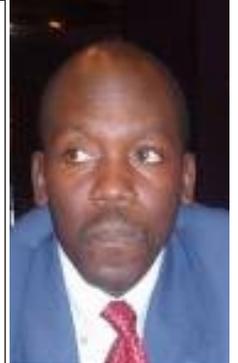
**Director**  
**Dr. Salman M. A. Salman (Sudan)**  
 Lead Counsel, Legal Vice Presidency, the World Bank, Washington, DC, USA. (Bank adviser on water law).

**Director**  
**Atef Kassem, P.Eng., Ph.D (Canada)**  
 Senior Technical Advisor Sustainable Water Management Division, Environmental Stewardship Branch. Environment Canada, Gatineau, QC, Canada



**Director**  
**Alexandra Pres (Germany)**  
 Senior Project Manager, Head of water portfolio, InWent - Capacity Building International, Germany Division Environment, Energy and Water. Berlin, Germany

**Director**  
**Dr. Zebediah Phiri (Zambia)**  
 Programme Manager of Zambia's Water Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Project Manager of the Zambezi River Action Plan Project (ZACPRO 6.2). Lusaka, Zambia



**Honorary Director**  
**G.N. Mathur (India)**  
 Secretary Central Board for Irrigation and Power (CBIP), New Delhi, India

**Executive Director**  
**Dr. Chandra A. Madramootoo**  
 Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Associate Vice Principal of McGill University. Montreal, QC, Canada



**General Manager- Executive Office**  
**Bano Mehdi**  
 Professional Associate at the Brace Center for Water Resources Management, at McGill University. Ste Anne de Bellevue, QC, Canada

**Editor in Chief – Water International Journal**  
**Dr. Raja Sengupta**  
 Dr. Raja Sengupta is an Assistant Professor of Geography/ Environment at McGill University. Montreal, QC, Canada



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## Human Development Report 2006

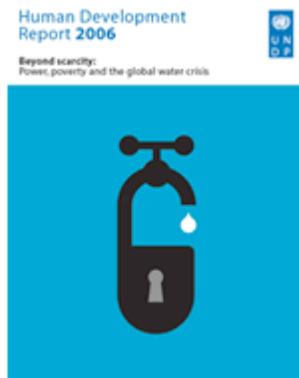
The United Nations Development Programme issued its Human Development Report for 2006. The focus of the report was “Beyond scarcity: power, poverty and global water crisis”.

Dr. Cecilia Tortajada acted as a principal research advisor and was responsible for preparing and coordinating 20 Background Papers and Issue Notes from all over the world; 28 researchers and practitioners collaborated. Among the contributors from IWRA were Asit K. Biswas, Benedito P.F. Braga, Antonio Embid, James E. Nickum, Christopher Scott and Olli Varis.

The background papers and issue notes Dr. Tortajada prepared were on

- Water Governance with Equity: is Decentralization the Answer?
- Who Has Access to Water? Case Study of Mexico City Metropolitan Area
- Marginalizing the Poorest: Case of Badowita, Sri Lanka
- Reaching the Poorest: Rural Water Supply in Morocco
- Singapore: an Exemplary Case for Urban Water Management
- Private Versus Public in Water Provision: Encouraging Case of Sri Lanka
- San Francisco Water Transfer;
- Water Transfer for the Ebro River

The issue notes on valuing water as a resource included the following contributions:



- Tension Between Agricultural Growth and Sustainability: El Bajio Case, Mexico
- Water Conflict Between the US and Mexico: Lining of the All-American Canal
- Wastewater as a Controversial, Contaminated yet Coveted Resource in South Asia
- Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia: Nature's Affluence Meets Human Poverty
- Dams and Large Scale Irrigation on the Senegal River: Impacts on Man and the Environment
- The Senegal River Case; The Case of the Water Framework Directive and Irrigation in Mediterranean Agriculture
- Water Resources at Stake: A Case Study of the Mountain Aquifer Beneath the Occupied West Bank, Palestine.

The issue notes on “River diversion, a solution to scarcity?” included the following contributions:

- The Status of the South to North Water Transfer Plans in China
- Inter-basin Water Transfer for Augmentation of Water Resources in India: Review of Needs, Plans, Status and Prospects.

Anyone interested in these background papers and issue notes should contact Dr. Cecilia Tortajada at [ctortajada@thirdworldcentre.org](mailto:ctortajada@thirdworldcentre.org)

## IWRA has a new web site domain name

IWRA has a new domain name that is easier to remember [www.iwra.net](http://www.iwra.net). More improvements are being carried out to this site, while continuing to migrate the databases from the old site to the new one. We apologize for any temporary interruption of service and any inconvenience encountered. This change is accompanied by a number of changes in e-mail

addresses designed to serve members better. The list of new e-mail addresses is provided below:

President: [president@iwra.net](mailto:president@iwra.net)  
Webmaster: [webmaster@iwra.net](mailto:webmaster@iwra.net)  
Executive Director: [execDirector@iwra.net](mailto:execDirector@iwra.net)  
Executive Editor: [editor@iwra.net](mailto:editor@iwra.net)  
Membership and IWRA Update: [iwra@iwra.net](mailto:iwra@iwra.net)

## Members News

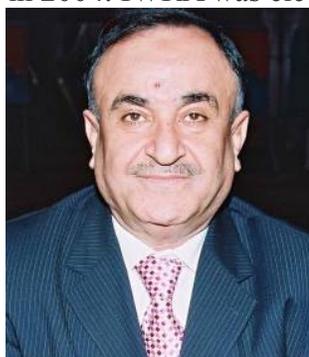
### The Arab Water Council was officially launched in Cairo on December 8, 2006

The Arab Water Council (AWC) held its first meeting of the General Assembly in Cairo, Egypt, from December 7-8, 2006. The General Assembly approved the proposed draft Constitution, triennial work plan and budget and elected its Governing Board.

The Governing Board elected Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, (to the right) fellow IWRA and Past President of IWRA, as the first President of the Arab Water Council.



IWRA is a founding member of this nascent regional water organization and a supporter from the outset of its founding in 2004. IWRA was elected to the Governing



Board of AWC represented by President Aly Shady. Several other prominent IWRA members were also elected for the Governing Board, including Dr Walid Abderrahman (to the left) and Ismail Najjar (Chair-elect of IWRA Awards Committee). In Attendance

at the General Assembly were Dr. Hussam Fahmy and Ms. Alexandra Pres (both are elected members of the IWRA Executive Board of IWRA for 2007-2009 as vice-President and Director, respectively) and Dr Shaden Abdel-Gawad member of the International Steering Committee for the XIII World Water Congress. For more information consult the AWC website at: <http://www.arabwatercouncil.org>

## Forthcoming Events

*INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON RESERVOIR INUNDATION RELATED ISSUES*  
*Cairo, Egypt*  
*12–13 February, 2007*

The international workshop on reservoir inundation related issues is being sponsored by the Third World Centre for Water Management and the International Hydropower Association, in Cairo, Egypt, 12–13 February 2007. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, International Water Resources Association and International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage are co-sponsoring this workshop. Participation to the workshop will be by invitation only, and will be restricted to about 25 leading international experts.

The workshop will focus on three inundations related issues:

Resettlement, production of greenhouse gases from reservoirs and preservation of archeological treasures. Leading experts from countries, like Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, India, Japan, South Africa, Turkey, U.K. and USA will participate.

The objectives of the workshop will be to assess objectively and dispassionately the experiences from different parts of the world on inundation-related issues to learn the lessons from the past, in terms of what were the strengths and weaknesses of the various processes and practices, and what were the constraints faced and how these were overcome. The participants will also discuss possible road maps for future progress in these areas.

The workshop will be held at the Regional Centre for Training for Water Systems of the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Government of Egypt, at 6 October City, near Cairo. Following the workshop, the papers discussed at the workshop will be peer-reviewed, and the selected papers will be published through a major international publisher. Additional Information can be obtained from Dr. Cecilia Tortajada

E-mail: [ctortajada@thirdworldcentre.org](mailto:ctortajada@thirdworldcentre.org), or fax: 52-55-53795439.

## Upcoming Events



**XIIIth World Water Congress**  
(DEADLINE FOR ON-  
LINE SUBMISSION OF  
ABSTRACTS: 31 March 2007)

Theme of the Congress is: “Global Change and Water Resources – confronting the expanding and diversifying pressures”

Note that the deadline to submit an abstract is 31 March 2007. Oral or poster presentations will be reviewed and selected by the International Steering Committee. Decisions will be communicated on 30 June 2007. The final date for complete text submission is 31 January 2008.

The submission of abstracts is now possible “on-line” and requires you to register by creating an account at the above web address. In case of difficulty, please send us an email at: [wwc2008@msem.univ-montp2.fr](mailto:wwc2008@msem.univ-montp2.fr)

For complete information, please visit our new web site at : [www.worldwatercongress2008.org](http://www.worldwatercongress2008.org)

XIII IWRA World Water Congress  
Montpellier, France  
1-4, September, 2008  
[www.worldwatercongress2008.org](http://www.worldwatercongress2008.org)  
<http://wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr>

International Groundwater Conference on Water,  
Environment and Agriculture  
Coimbatore, India  
7-10 February, 2007  
E-mail: [palanisamik@snl.net](mailto:palanisamik@snl.net)

Aquaterra 2007: World Forum on Delta and Coastal  
Development  
Amsterdam, Netherlands  
7-9 February, 2007  
[www.aquaterraforum.com](http://www.aquaterraforum.com)

International Conference on Water and Flood

Management  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  
12-14 March, 2007  
[www.buet.ac.bd/icwfm](http://www.buet.ac.bd/icwfm)

US Hydropower Association’s 2007 Annual  
Conference, HydroPOWER: The power of moving  
water  
Washington, USA  
15-18 March, 2007  
[www.hydro.org/conference2007/index.html](http://www.hydro.org/conference2007/index.html)

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Water  
Resources Management  
Kos, Greece  
21-23 May, 2007  
[www.wessex.ac.uk](http://www.wessex.ac.uk)

IWHA 5<sup>th</sup> Conference: Pasts and Futures of Water  
13-17 June, 2007  
Tampere, Finland  
[www.iwha.net/2007/index.htm](http://www.iwha.net/2007/index.htm)

IAHS Session at XXIV<sup>th</sup> IUGG Conference  
Freshwater: Ever Changing and Yet a Cause for  
Change  
Perugia, Italy  
2-13 July, 2007  
[www.cig.ensmp.fr/~iahs/](http://www.cig.ensmp.fr/~iahs/)

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Irrigation and Drainage  
Sacramento, California  
30 Sept -5 Oct, 2007  
[www.uscid.org](http://www.uscid.org)

5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum  
Istanbul, Turkey  
March 2009  
XIV<sup>th</sup> World Water Congress

### CONTACT US:

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Membership & IWRA Update: [iwra@iwra.net](mailto:iwra@iwra.net)  
Congress Web Site: [www.worldwatercongress2008.org](http://www.worldwatercongress2008.org)