WRA Update

Newsletter of the International Water Resources Association

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE p.1 | NEWS p.2 | PERSPECTIVE p.3 LATEST ACTIVITIES p.4 | UPCOMING EVENTS p.5 | PUBLICATIONS p.6

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Dear IWRA Members, Colleagues and Friends of Water,

As I write, the United Nations is convening the high level plenary meeting of its General Assembly to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). By all accounts this should mean the emergence of a dedicated water goal that is more wide ranging than that of its pre-

decessor from the Millennium Development Goals which focussed primarily on access to safe drinking water and to sanitation. As all water professionals know, water is a crosscutting development vector that is an essential part of many sectors. The SDG's shall extend the focus to six additional targets: improving water quality; increasing water-use efficiency and ensuring sustainable withdrawals; implementing integrated water resources management; protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems; expanding international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries; and supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities. The SDG's will undoubtedly be a major influence on the development scene over the next 15 years. IWRA is pleased to have worked with the world's water community to see the consolidation of a dedicated water goal and related indicators - and we must strive to continue linking good science to policy in these areas. Indeed in late May this year, IWRA held the XVth World Water Congress, with the theme "Global Water, a resource for development".

The COP 21 shall be convened in Paris in November and has the ambitious goal of reaching an "international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C". Water, as one of the most vulnerable natural resources due to climate change should be a prominent area of discussion, especially regarding adaptation. In this newsletter, we invite Philippe Guettier, Director General of the French Water Partnership to share his views on the COP 21 process.

On publications, I wish Water International (WI) a very happy 40th anniversary. To celebrate the occasion, the latest issue of WI invites editors past and present to share views and anecdotes. I am glad to say that the publication and its multi-disciplinary focus remains as pertinent as ever and is continuing strongly - moving beyond paper to online access, and related webinars and policy briefs.

I'm pleased to announce the exact dates and location of the XVIth World Water Congress, which shall be held at the Cancun International Conference Centre, Mexico from 29 May to 2 June 2017. I encourage you to block out those dates in your agenda!

On a final but very important note, I would like to remind IWRA members that voting is open until 5 November for the elections of the IWRA Executive Board (2016-2018). Please contribute to the good governance of our association by getting online and voting.

With best wishes, Tom Soo



NEWS news news news news



XVITH WORLD WATER CONGRESS IN MEXICO

IWRA will organise the XVIth World Water Congress in partnership with ANEAS (the National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities of

Mexico). This major event will be held from 29 May to 2 June 2017 in Cancun, Mexico. Save the date!

The Congress on social media:

Twitter: @WWCongress

Facebook: World Water Congress



EMERGING PROFESSIONAL WG BLOG

The IWRA Emerging Professional Working Group has launched a blog covering news about the group, events involving youth, and interviews with

water experts. You are invited to consult it at: iwraemergingprofessionals.wordpress.com



WATER INTERNATIONAL BEST PAPER 2014

The Water International Best Paper Award winner for 2014 is Marian J. Neal (Patrick) for the article «The cycles and spirals of justice in water-alloca-

tion decision making».

You can read and download this article at:

www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02508060.2013.863646

An honourable mention is awarded to Katie M. Meehan and Anna W. Moore for «Downspout politics, upstream conflict: formalizing rainwater harvesting in the United States».

You can read and download it at:

www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02508060.2014.921849



ELECTIONS FOR THE 15TH IWRA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Voting is currently open to members and shall remain open until 5 November. We encourage you to become a member or renew your membership and

cast your vote to contribute to the good governance of the association! View the candidates and their profiles here:

 $www.iwra.org/doc/IWRA_Executive_Board_Election_Candidates_2016_2018.pdf$

LAUNCH OF THE IWRA OCEANIA COMMITTEE

Welcome to the new IWRA Oceania Committee which was officially launched during the XVth World Water Congress in Edinburgh!

Please contact Prof. Gary Jones: gary.jones@ewater.com.au or Ellia Guy at: ellia.guy@uqconnect.edu.au

More information at: www.iwra.org/index.php?mainpage=1 84&page=276&subpage=



MINISTERS BACK OECD PRINCIPLES ON WATER GOVERNANCE

During the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, on 14 June, Ministers from OECD's 34 member countries welcomed the OECD Principles on Water Governance, which set standards for more

effective, efficient and inclusive design and implementation of water policies, and encouraged governments to put them into action. IWRA as a member of the OECD Water Governance Initiative participated to the elaboration of this document. The 12 Water Governance Principles provide a framework for governments to put in place better water policies and they will be used to develop a broader OECD perspective on water management over the coming years.

The Principles were developed using a multi-stakeholder approach and were endorsed by a large number of public, private and non-profit organisations at the 7th World Water Forum in April in Korea through the Daegu Declaration.

Next steps will include identifying and scaling up best practices and developing water governance indicators to support the implementation of the Principles.

You can download the document at:

www.oecd.org/gov/regional-policy/OECD-Principles-on-Water-Governance-brochure.pdf

2015 IAH PRESIDENT'S AWARD - JOINT NOMINATION



The 2015 IAH President's Award recipient was announced on 13 September, during AQUA2015, the 42nd Congress of IAH which was held in Rome.

The President's Award is presented to a

member who has made outstanding international contributions to groundwater science and to furthering IAH's mission to promote understanding and management of groundwater resources for the benefit of humankind and the environment. This year, Mr Ken Howard, IAH President, announced that the joint recipients are Ms Alice Aureli and Mr Shaminder Puri, in particular for their work related to transboundary aquifers. Both experts expressed their gratitude for considering them for the prize and shared with other colleagues their commitment to continue, with additional forces, the work on the understanding and management of groundwater resources and the scientific contribution to their sustainable and peaceful sharing.

Ms Aureli works since 1989 in the UNESCO Water Division. Receiving this award during the year of the celebration of 70 years of UNESCO and the 50 years of the UNESCO's water programmes makes this event a milestone that will serve to strengthen the links that already exist and guide the joint work of the IAH and UNESCO towards the wise use and protection of the groundwater resources.



■ MEMBER PERSPECTIVE



Interview with Philippe Guettier, Executive Director of the French Water Partnership (FWP)

IWRA takes a few moments to speak with Philippe Guettier, Director General of the French Water Partnership (FWP) who will lead some water related actions during the COP21. The 21st Session of

the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11), will take place from 30 November to 11 December. COP21 will be a crucial conference, as it aims to achieve a new international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.

The French Water Partnership (FWP) is a French platform for discussing and exchanging ideas that helps to place water at the top of the global political agenda. It also helps to share the collective know-how of French stakeholders throughout the world. The FWP now counts more than 120 members from the public and private water sector. Learn more about the French Water Partnership here: www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/en

IWRA: Which activities will the FWP organise during the Climate Change COP21?

Philippe Guettier: We will have two main activities. The first one will focus on the organisation of an international campaign to promote water and climate during the COP 21. This is important because this relationship is not today enough taken into account in the COP 21 process when we know that water is one of the first victims of climate change. The aim is then, to establish organise a Water and Climate day gathering some concrete actions and initiatives from both governments and civil society. The second action will focus on the promotion the french know-how and expertise regarding water and climate based on the expertise of the French Water Partnership's members. We have compiled a few of these case studies in our publication "water and climate" which you can check out here: www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/04/Water-and-climate-acting-for-the-future-BD.pdf

IWRA: French President, François Hollande, has said that the COP21 shall be a negotiation that will be «decisive for the future of the planet». What are the key challenges for the water community in this negotiation?

Philippe Guettier: The key messages for the international water community will be to make sure that this COP and the following COPs integrate water into the discussion (which has today mainly focused on carbon emissions). Water is a crosscutting

issue and therefore is mentioned in some of the programs of the COP21 such as the Nairobi Work Program focusing on adaptation. However, it should be more visible as 80% of adaptation projects concern water and 90% of natural disasters are water related. Water has a role to play in mitigation issues (hydropower, reducing energy needs for water and sanitation infrastructure etc) but mainly in adaptation issues. Developing countries are going to be the first hit by climate change impacts on water resources (Jordany, Palestine, Ethiopia etc). It is thus essential that the funds envisioned for the Green Fund should target water as a specific subject. The key challenge for the water community in the negotiation is to show that water professionals can hydrate the COP with some concrete case studies and solutions that can push for further action both regarding mitigation and adaptation issues. From the local to the global, it is important to show that we can take action.

IWRA: IWRA is an international and multi-disciplinary knowledge network related to water, what is the importance for this scientific community to integrate their research into improving adaptation and mitigation of Climate Change?

Philippe Guettier: Decision-makers have great difficulties in making decisions linked to water and climate change issues because there is a lot of uncertainties. It is very important to have scientific points of views to clarify and aid this process, by providing further scientific information

Scientific information is required in terms of hard sciences but also in terms of economics and social sciences. It is important to target the scientific input by looking at what are the needs of decision makers. Building a dialogue between scientists and policy makers is essential.

The French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments (ONEMA) has for example been particularly active in France and in Europe in engaging such a dialogue and providing some good practices. In link to the World Water Forum in Marseille in March 2012, IWRA has launched an action on science / policy applied to water and climate issues, backed by ONEMA. IWRA could take the opportunity of the COP 21 and the next COPs to go further.

As I said previously, during the COP 21 in Paris, the international water community will organize a Water Day to have a very high visibility of water and climate. This event will be organized under a common umbrella and a common message; IWRA could be one of the partners involved in this event, bringing in the importance of building scientific and decision makers interfaces. The French Water Partnership, one of the institutions members of IWRA, is interested to discuss with IWRA on that issue.

For more information about the COP 21, you can consult the official website: www.cop21.gouv.fr/en



■ LATEST ACTIVITIES

XVth World Water Congress

25-29 MAY, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, UK



«IWRA held the XVth edition of its triennial World Water Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland in late May this year. IWRA thanks the International Scientific Committee, the National Organising Committee and most importantly all of the participants for making such a successful event. You can consult the abstract of the presentations to this page: www5.shocklogic.com/scripts/jmevent/programme.php?client_ld=SPEAK&project_ld=WWC2015

A selection of photo of the congress is accessible at: www.dropbox.com/sh/6nhjhdydmvef99m/AABiNb8kY4T-KmPe2wMQC77Ca?dl=0

You can read the article by Dr. Cecilia Tortajada entitled «Papers arising from the XVth World Water Congress», which has just been published on Water International at:

www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02508060.2015.1084076

IWRA Executive Board meeting

24 MAY, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, UK



The IWRA Executive Board held the 9th meeting in Edinburgh the day before the XVth World Water Congress.



5th Meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI)

26 MAY, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, UK

The OECD WGI held its 5th meeting in parallel with the XVth World Water Congress. The participants held discussions on the outcomes of the 7th World Water Forum and shared experiences regarding water governance and indicators.



You can access the full agenda and the presentations of this meeting on the OECD website at:

www.oecd.org/gov/regional-policy/water-governance-initiative-meeting-5.htm



China World Water Council Board of Governors Meeting

16-17 JULY, HANGZHOU, CHINA



IWRA President, Dogan Altinbilek, Past President Jun Xia and Tom Soo attended the two-day meeting, World Water Council Governors worked on a wide ranging agenda including, arrangements for the forthcoming General Assembly, the update of the Council Strategy, future work programs, and the outcomes of the 7th World Water Forum which took place in Daegu & Gyeongbuk, in the Republic of Korea last April. The meeting was followed by two roundtable discussions with local experts comparing Chinese and international perspectives on such critical issues as urban, rural, and coastal water management.

More information on the world water council can be found at: www.worldwatercouncil.org



■ LATEST ACTIVITIES



World Water Week

23-28 AUGUST, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

This major yearly event was hosted and organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and celebrates its 25th anniversary. This year, the Stoc-

kholm Water Prize was given to Rajendra Singh:

www.siwi.org/prizes/stockholmwaterprize/laureates/2015-2

In addition, the theme of the event was «Water for Development» in synergy with the UN SDG's (Sustainable Development Goals) which was adopted in September and with our Congress theme «Global Water: a resource for development». IWRA was represented during the week by President Dogan Altinbilek and Tom Soo.

Read more at:

www.worldwaterweek.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/2015_ Call_for_abstracts_event_proposals-Thematic-Scope.pdf



ANEAS celebrates its anniversary with the Sustainable Management Forum

14 AUGUST, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

The National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities of Mexico (ANEAS) celebrated its 35th anniversary with the "Forum Sustainable management of water and sanitation services", with the participation of the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), the International Office for Water, (OIEAU), the International Water Association (IWA), the Latin American Association of Water and Sanitation Operators (ALOAS), among other representatives of the water sector, gathering the directors of utilities in the country, national and international specialists and academics.

More information is available at:

www.aneas.com.mx/contenido/robaplanas foro eng.pdf

.....



International River Symposium

21-24 SEPTEMBER, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The year theme of this event "Healthy Rivers – Healthy Economies" is a wonderful opportunity to engage with the multitude of businesses and organisations who contribute to and benefit from the wise management of rivers and their catchments. Water has risen high on the business agenda and a decline in freshwater quality and quantity was judged the greatest risk facing the globe at the 2015 World Economic Forum. The contribution that healthy rivers make to our economies and wellbeing is extraordinary, but often taken for granted.

More information is available on the event website at:

riversymposium.com

■ UPCOMING EVENTS



Livable Cities Forum: Building Flood Resilient Communities?

28-30 SEPTEMBER, CALGARY, CANADA

This Forum is organised by The City of Calgary, ICLEI Canada, and the Canadian Water Resources Association. The Forum will be the ideal place for municipal representatives, water management professionals, elected officials, and other stakeholders to work together on solutions to build more flood resilient communities.

Visit the event website for more information:

www.livablecitiesforum.com



«Innovate to improve irrigation performance» Conference ICID

11-17 OCTOBER, MONTPELLIER, FRANCE

This event is organised by AFEID, the

french chapter of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) and brings together several events mobilising the wide diversity of experts in irrigation worldwide. IWRA is a supporting partner and a member of the National Organising Committee and the ISC.

More information at:

icid2015.sciencesconf.org/resource/page/id/19



Eighth International Workshop on Hydro-Hegemony:

Law and Hydro-Hegemony

24-25 OCTOBER, LONDON, UK

The London Water Research Group has been organising workshops around themes of water resources, distribution, power, and politics since 2005. These International Workshops on Hydro-Hegemony have been essential in advancing theories around the Framework of Hydro-Hegemony and considering the ways that power over water influences realities and experiences on the ground. The Eighth International Workshop on Hydro-Hegemony (HH8) seeks to further that tradition by addressing issues identified through conversations at HH6: 'Transboundary Water Justice' and HH7: 'Contesting Hegemony' regarding the role of international law in hydro-hegemonic arrangements.

For more information visit:

lwrg.wordpress.com/news/events/hh8



UPCOMING EVENTS



World Water Council 7th General Assembly

13-14 NOVEMBER, MARSEILLE, FRANCE

IWRA, as members of the Board of Governors of the World Water Council will participate in the General Assembly. During this event, strategic programmes of the organisation will be discussed; and the new representatives of the Board of Governors will be elected for a term of three years.

IWRA is a candidate for the new Board and if your organisation is a member of the World Water Council, we hope to receive your vote!

More information at:

www.worldwatercouncil.org/about-us/general-assembly



COP 21

30 NOVEMBER-11 DECEMBER, PARIS, FRANCE

The 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11), will take place from 30 November to 11 December. More information, in the «Member Perspective» column of this newsletter.



7th ICWRER

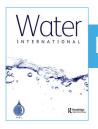
5-9 JUNE 2016, KYOTO, JAPAN

The main theme of this Symposium is «Water Security in Geo, Eco and Socio-Systems».

The objective of the ICWRER conference is to bring together physical, biological, chemical, statistical and technical expertise in order to better understand natural systems related to water resources from all around the world.

You can consult the event website at: wrrc.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/icwrer2016





■ PUBLICATIONS

WATER INTERNATIONAL VOLUME 40, ISSUE 3

Original Articles

- Transboundary groundwater governance in the Guarani Aquifer System: reflections from a survey of global and regional experts. *Zachary P. Sugg, Robert G. Varady, Andrea* K. Gerlak & Rafael de Grenade - PAGES 377-400
- Evolution of water management in coastal Bangladesh: from temporary earthen embankments to depoliticized community-managed polders. *Camelia Dewan, Aditi Mukherji & Marie-Charlotte Buisson* PAGES 401-416
- Drought, distress, and a conditional cash transfer programme to mitigate the impact of drought in Bihar, India. *Avinash Kishore, P.K. Joshi & Divya Pandey* PAGES 417-431
- Performing the success of an innovation: the case of smallholder drip irrigation in Burkina Faso.

 Jonas Wanvoeke, Jean-Philippe Venot, Margreet Zwarteveen & Charlotte de Fraiture PAGES 432-445
- Using backcasting to explore ways to improve the national water department's contribution to good groundwater governance in South Africa. *P. Seward, Y. Xu & A. Turton* PAGES 446-462
- Firms' willingness to invest in a water fund to improve water-related ecosystem services in the Lake Naivasha basin, Kenya.

Dawit W. Mulatu, Pieter R. van Oel & Anne van der Veen PAGES 463-482

- Bilateral virtual water trade in agricultural products: a case study of Germany and China. *Wei Jiang & Rainer Marggraf* PAGES 483-498
- The relation between water pollution and economic growth using the environmental Kuznets curve: a case study in South Korea. *Jaesung Choi, Robert Hearne, Kihoon Lee & David Roberts* PAGES 499-512
- Pollution of inland waters in Brazil: the case for goaloriented initiatives. *Paulo Augusto Cunha Libanio* PAGES 513-533

Corrigendum



■ PUBLICATIONS



XVth World Water Congress Special Series

In order to mark the occasion of the XVth World Water Congress, IWRA Update, the official this newsletter has, over the years 2014 and 2015, invited international experts to contribute to a special series of publications on the various sub-themes of the congress. The result of this is the publica-

tion of a fine collection of essays available online: www.iwra.org/doc/XV_World_Water_Congress_Special_Series.pdf



Book: Frontiers of Land and Water management in Urban Regions

Edited by Thomas Hartmann and Tejo Spit (2015)

«A society that intensifies and expands the use of land and water in urban areas needs to search for solutions to manage the frontiers between these two essential elements for urban living. Sustainable governance of

land and water is one of the major challenges of our times. Managing retention areas for floods and droughts, designing resilient urban waterfronts, implementing floating homes, or managing wastewater in shrinking cities are just a few examples where spatial planning steps into the governance arena of water management and vice versa. However, water management and spatial planning pursue different modes of governance, and therefore the frontiers between the two disciplines require developing approaches for setting up governance schemes for sustainable cities of the future. What are the particularities of the governance of land and water? What is the role of regional and local spatial planning? What institutional barriers may arise? This book focuses on questions such as these, and covers groundwater governance, water supply and wastewater treatment, urban riverscapes, urban flooding, flood risk management, and concepts of resilience. The project resulted from a Summer School by the German Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL) organized by the editors at Utrecht University in 2013.»

More information at:

www.tandf.net/books/details/9781138911154/

This book was published as a special issue of *Water International*.

LOST AND FOUND?

IWRA and Taylor&Francis are looking for a printed copy of *Water International* Volume 22, issue 4 (year 1997). If you have a copy of this issue, please contact us by email at: office@iwra.org

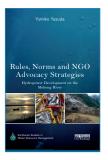
Publications by members

Seminar on Water Security, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Conference Report, Gujarat, India - 12 January 2015

This Seminar focuses on the interrelationships between water security and climate change in terms of sustainable development which would contribute to poverty alleviation, employment generation and better quality of life of the people. You can read the full report online at:

www.iwra.org/doc/Conference_Report_Gujarat.pdf



Rules, Norms and NGO Advocacy Strategies: Hydropower Development on the Mekong River

by Yumiko Yasuda

To be published in September 2015 from Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. Earthscan Studies in Water Resources Management Series.

«There is much controversy over the de-

velopment of new dams for hydropower, where concerns for environmental protection and the livelihoods of local people may conflict with the goals of economic development. This book analyses the opportunities and barriers that NGOs and civil society actors face when conducting advocacy campaigns against such developments. The book compares the strategies of two NGO coalitions advocating against the Xayaburi hydropower dam on the Mekong River, namely Vietnam Rivers Network and the Rivers Coalition in Cambodia, and establishes how formal and informal rules and norms influence these strategies.»

20% discount is available when directly purchased from the Routledge web site. Enter the discount code FLR40 at checkout from the following web site:

www.routledge.com/products/9781138920293



■ PUBLICATIONS



OECD Water Governance

Following the recent adoption of OECD Principles on Water Governance, the OECD is currently working towards the development of Water Governance Indicators, with the objective to identify and scale up best practices and to provide a systemic framework to evaluate the effectiveness of water-related

institutions and governance arrangements.

A first step to this three-year project consisted in taking stock of what exists through a detailed Inventory of Water Governance Indicators and Measurement Frameworks, which maps more than 60 sets of indicators, databases, guidelines, maps, and assessment frameworks that can feed discussions on measuring water governance.

This Inventory was designed as an evolutionary tool to be complemented and updated on a regular basis.

For more information, you can contact:

Aziza Akhmouch at: Aziza.Akhmouch@oecd.org and Oriana Romano at: Oriana.Romano@oecd.org
More OECD work on Water Governance, visit
www.oecd.org/gov/water

Water-Energy-Food (WEF)

By Prof. Naim Haie

Loïc Fauchon, Honorary President, World Water Council was the Keynote speaker at the Opening Plenary of the XVth IWRA World Water Congress in Edinburgh, May 2015. One of his important remarks that was lost to most of those present was about the word 'nexus' commonly used in Water-Energy-Food Nexus. He presented the reasons for abandoning the use of this word while suggesting others, such as, alliance.

The idea of abandoning 'nexus' also became clear to the author of this column in 2014, shared it with others and was received with enthusiasm. One of the outcomes was a paper recently published in the International Journal of Water Resources Development entitled "Sefficiency (sustainable efficiency) of water–energy–food entangled systems" (sites. google.com/site/naimhaie5). Here the word 'entangled' is sug-

gested instead of 'nexus'. The inspiration for the use of the alternative word came from quantum physics which also advances the concepts of locality and separability (more in the paper). Presenting a common entangled WEF system and employing Sefficiency, the author presents, among other ideas, a quantitatively comprehensive and scientific methodology that reveals flaws in various policy conversations and adoptions in the area of WEF.

Worldwide debate on water emerging

World-renowned magazine Science turns its attention to the worldwide debate on water. This week's issue of the scientific weekly launches a greater platform for debate on water issues. One of the key players in the debate is Arjen Hoekstra, Professor in Water Management at the University of Twente. He argues that fresh water has become a global resource. His opinion receives a lot of public and scientific praise. However, authors of a second article challenge that thought by arguing that water has always been and should remain treated as a local resource.

Read the article at:

www.utwente.nl/en/news/!/2015/7/411524/worldwide-debate-on-water-emerging

Equity and benefit sharing in international water law reflections on the 2015 World Water Congress.

This opinion piece was written by Ruby Moynihan who is a Scottish Government Hydro Nation PhD Scholar at the University of Edinburgh, School of Law, UK, and Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany.

You can read it at:

www.benelexblog.law.ed.ac.uk/2015/08/03/equity-and-benefit-sharing-in-international-water-law-reflections-on-the-2015-world-water-congress