



IWRA *Update*

International Water Resources Association

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Editor

It has been a very productive period for IWRA since the Executive Office moved to Montpellier in April earlier this year. Following the IWRA Board Meeting in June, a clear strategy has been set out and members have been busy implementing them.

President Jun Xia and various IWRA members have been particularly active in representing our association at various important water events and strengthening our relations with major water organisations. Highlights include the Singapore and Stockholm Water Weeks, the World Expo in Shanghai, meetings with the World Water Council and the STAHY workshop among other international and national activities.

I am also pleased to announce that IWRA is now an official partner of UN Water since September. UN Water is an inter-agency mechanism that was created to add value to UN initiatives by fostering greater co-operation and information-sharing among existing UN agencies and outside partners. IWRA will seek to make positive contributions to UN Water's mission and 2010-2011 action plan.

Meanwhile the new administrative base is taking shape in Montpellier. Operational management, membership management, communications and other key tasks of the secretariat is being re-vitalised.

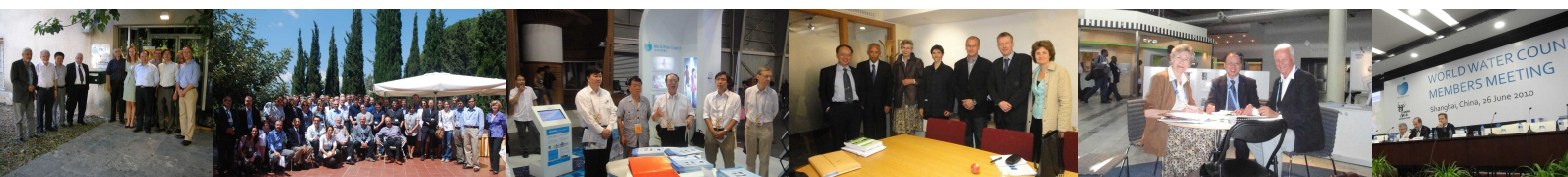
New communications materials about IWRA are now available that you can download from the website. An improved website is currently under construction.

Preparation for IWRA's main triennial event, the World Water Congress is progressing smoothly, as Chris Scott explains in this edition's Congress update. This newsletter also launches the Call for Bids for the 15th World Water Congress to be held in 2014.

IWRA Publications highlights an interesting article on upstream and downstream issues, as well as cooperation with major water organisations such as the CGIAR, IWMI and AMCOW... As a result, the number of issues per year of Water International (WI) will increase from six in 2010 to seven in 2011.

As you can see IWRA has been quite busy! To further our mission to "improve and expand the understanding of water issues among countries and across disciplines" I encourage all members to get active and involved in IWRA. This can be done by various means from helping to expand our memberships, to actively contributing to IWRA projects. Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss!

Warmest regards,
Tom Soo
Executive Director



Latest IWRA activities

1st IWRA Board Meeting

The first new IWRA Board Meeting took place from 5 to 7 June in Montpellier, France. It was the occasion to work out clear strategic and

financial plans of the Association with associated actions for future challenges.

Key strategic orientations were emphasised:

- Engage members and Grow membership numbers
- Grow and diversify finances
- Strengthen international engagement
- Ensure Congress success
- Growing Publications and Water International
- Improve Communications and Marketing
- Setting up an effective Executive Office with a view to long-term commitment.



IWRA Executive Board Meeting participants in front of the IWRA Executive Office in Montpellier, France, 5 June 2010.

STAHY (Statistics in Hydrology) Workshop-2010

The workshop was held in Taormina, Italy from 23 to 25 May 2010. It involved 28 oral contributions and 30 posters and was attended by 80 people from 24 countries.

Several interesting invited lectures were held: by Prof. Vijay Singh and Prof. Jose D. Salas on entropy theory and long memory linear modelling. Particularly interesting was the round table, managed by IWRA Vice President, Prof. G. Rossi, in memory of Prof. V. Yevjevich, father of hydrology.



STAHY 2010. International Workshop "Advances in Statistical Hydrology"

All the participants delivered interesting presentations underlined by a rich discussion.

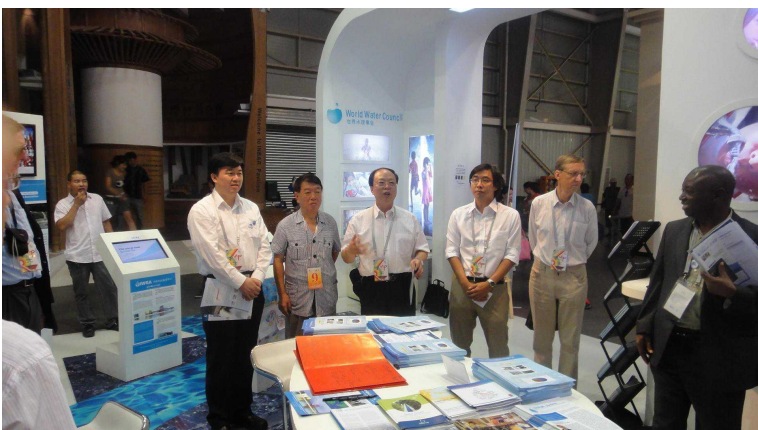
Following the oral session, a discussion was stimulated with the aim to identify future topics to potentially include in the next STAHY initiatives: time series analysis, long range dependence, linear and non linear modelling, uncertainty analysis, and regionalisation procedures.

www.stahy.org

IWRA at the 2010 World Exposition, Shanghai, China

From 13-20 September 2010, IWRA and the International Commission for Large Dams (ICOLD) co-organised the pavilion of the World Water Council. It was an ideal occasion for sharing with the general public and to create closer ties with international and national organisations.

<http://en.expo2010.cn>



IWRA hosts the World Water Council Pavilion in partnership with ICOLD, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other distinguished water experts.

International Workshop on Water Vulnerability & Adaptive Governance under Climate Change & Development

Sponsored by: IWRA; the InterAcademy Council (IAC) for Water Programme; InterAcademy Panel (IAP) for Water Programme; and the Asia Network of Scientific Office for Global Water System Programme (GWSP-ANSO).

An international workshop was held in Beijing, China on 17-18 September 2010 to present and ex-

change climate change and water scenarios. IWRA also participated in a working session with IAC, IAP and GWSP-ANSO on the role of science and technology for a sustainable water future.



International Workshop in Beijing.

Seminar on “International Law and Transboundary Aquifers”

The Seminar on “Transboundary Aquifers and International Law: The Experience of the Guarani Aquifer System” was held in University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom on 31st August 2010. It brought together an interdisciplinary group of international water experts to discuss the experience gained by in the sustainable management of the Guarani Aquifer System in the light of the current developments on international law of transboundary aquifers.

www2.surrey.ac.uk/errg/events/transboundary_aquifers.htm

Stockholm Water Week

Jun Xia, Cecilia Tortajada, Asit K. Biswas and Gabriel Eckstein participated on behalf of IWRA in the Stockholm Water Week from 5-11 September, under the theme “The Water Quality Challenge”. The World Water Week Niche for 2009-2012 is “Water - Responding to Global Changes”. It looks at the potential and necessary responses in water policy, management and development to address pervasive and increasingly impacting global changes.

Several leading actions were led during the Week, such as Stockholm Water Prize Laureates Seminar in the Presence and Honour of H. M. the King of Sweden: *Water Future Challenges - How Can Science Contribute?*



Meeting with Cecilia Tortajada, Jun Xia and Prof. Malin Falkenmark.

Some important IWRA actions were planned:

- Strengthening cooperation relationship between IWRA and SIWS
- Strengthening cooperation between IWRA and WWAP. IWRA President met Prof. Olcay Unver, Director, UNESCO Programme Office for Global Water Assessment, and Coordinator, United Nations World Water Assessment Programme
- Attending a WWC Board meeting on the 6 WWF Programme.

www.worldwaterweek.org

Singapore International Water Week 28 June - 2 July



Meeting with Prof. Jan Lundqvist, Chair of Senior Scientific Advisor, Stockholm International Water Institute, and Prof. Malin Falkenmark

The Singapore International Water Week is the global platform for water solutions that brings policymakers, industry leaders, experts and practitioners together to address challenges, showcase technologies, discover opportunities and celebrate achievements in the water world.

Singapore International Water Week 2010 hit a new high when the event came to a successful close on 2 July 2010. Held together with the World Cities Summit, Singapore International

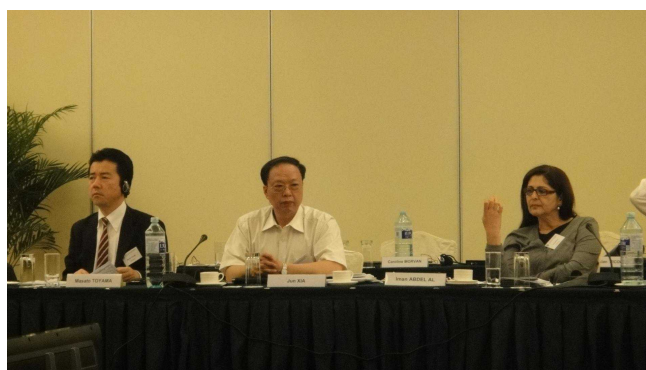
Water Week 2010 saw a record increase in the number of trade attendees to over 14,000 from 112 countries and regions. Key members of IWRA's Executive Board participated during the week.

www.siww.com.sg

39th WWC Board Meeting

The 39th WWC Board Meeting was held in Beijing from 23 to 27 June and was a very successful event with a lot of discussions and decisions on WWC Strategies and the 6th WWF.

The IWRA continues to play an important role on special focus areas of WWC Strategies tasks and WWF contributions: WSM & WDM, Trans-boundary cooperation. Two speakers were invited to give reports during the Board Meeting by WWC President, Jun Xia and Victor Dukhovny, both IWRA Board Members. Jun Xia also gave a presentation on WWC strategies (WDM & WSM) during the WWC member meeting, which got a very good response from WWC Bureau and governors.



WWC Member Meeting in Shanghai.



WWC Board Meeting in Beijing.

Upcoming Events

IWRA - Cosponsored Workshop in Granada, 2011

Third World Centre for Water Management and the University of Granada are organising a workshop on water pricing and public-private partnership in May 2011 in Granada, Spain. IWRA will co-organise this workshop.

<http://www.ugr.es/~congresowwp/eng/index.html>



IAC Water Programme

IAC Convenes an Organizing Group to Plan New IAC Study on Science and Technology for a Sustainable Water Future.

The InterAcademy Council (IAC) Board has agreed to undertake an independent, evidence-based advisory study project with resulting recommendations for ensuring sustainable water systems and water resources. The project would be conducted by a Study Panel of international experts, with consultation and input from scientific academies from over 100 nations. The results of the project will be of importance to decision makers around the world within national and local governments, the United Nations and other international agencies with programs in hydrology and water resources, academic/educational communities, and multinational agencies with missions related to global and especially regional changes in water systems and water resources.



UNESCO International Conference on Transboundary Aquifers: *Challenges and New Directions (ISARM2010)*

The International Conference ISARM 2010 (International Shared Aquifer Resources Management), co-convened with IAH and the UNEP, will be held 6-8 December 2010, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

This event marks the end of the first phase of the UNESCO-IHP ISARM Project (2000-2008) and the start of its second phase. The Conference will give the opportunity to present the status of the inventory of the transboundary aquifers of the world undertaken under the IHP-VI programme (2000-2007).

It will bring together leading international transboundary aquifer management experts to discuss new concepts, approaches and technologies for dealing with transboundary aquifer problems under various settings, covering both developed and developing countries. Exchange of ideas should provide indications for new directions in transboundary aquifer management, as well as drawing recommendations for the formulation of new policies and implementation elements such as guidelines and educational tools.

The Conference will also include a High level Panel that will present the UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the “Law of transboundary aquifers” and will discuss the steps to be taken from the adoption of such policies to their implementation into practical operational actions.



International Workshop of IWRA: Improving Water Governance to Adopt the Environmental Change

International Workshop of IWRA will be held on 19 November at Hohai University in Nanjing, China. The main topics will be: climate change impacts, adoption and mitigation; water demand and supply management; water policies, law and administration; social, economic and migration aspects in water resources development and management. It will be combined with two other Conferences sponsored by IWRA:

5th International Symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management

The 5th International Symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is one of regular symposia organized by the International Commission on Water Resources Systems (ICWRS) of IAHS, focusing on the topic *Water Resources Sustainability in a Changing Environment*. The objective is to bring together experts from different disciplines to present research results on describing hydrological cycle in a changing environment and discriminating among impacts caused by various factors, to exchange experiences about quantitative methodology for water resources assessment in a changing environment and eco-hydrological approach to water resources sustainability by balancing water for humans and nature, so that we ensure water security in a changing background.

For more information, please contact:

gshi@hhu.edu.cn or IWRM5@yahoo.com.cn

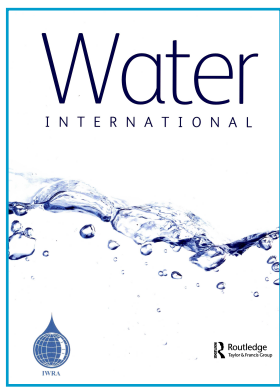
3rd International Symposium on Methodology in Hydrology

International Symposium on Methodology in Hydrology is a series organized by Hohai University regularly, designed to document up-to-date activities in the development of new methodologies in hydrology. The objective of the Symposium is to exchange the knowledge and technology in hydrological sciences and relevant fields, to analyze the limitations and problems of current methods, and to propose innovative strategies, novel techniques and methodologies for hydrology. The 3rd International Symposium on Methodology in Hydrology will focus on the methods for hydrological information retrieval and application of multi-source information in hydrological modelling.

The joint meeting will be held under one roof providing ample opportunity for hydrology researchers from all over the world to interact, share and discuss their experiences, issues of common interest and also initiate joint research programs to address varied hydrological problems of local and global importance.

Next Board Meeting of the Executive Board

It will take place from 20-21 November in Hohai, China.



IWRA Publications News from the Editorial Office

A highlight article, “Downstream Riparians Can Also Harm Upstream Riparians: The Concept of Foreclosure of Future Uses” by Salman Salman in the July 2010 issue of *Water International* is available on the Routledge (Taylor & Francis) website for free download to all. The link is: <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g926643996>

Gabriel Eckstein, IWRA Treasurer, posted this review (slightly abbreviated here) of Salman’s article on the International Water Law Project blog: (<http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/blog>)

You may have heard the old adage that water will flow uphill toward money. It comes from the cynical political perspective that believes physics and gravity irrelevant in the management and allocation of fresh water resources. Putting that cynicism aside, water and all of its benefits and impacts have long been accepted to be at the total mercy of gravity and topography. In other words, absent artificial inducement, water will always descend to the lowest possible elevation. In an upstream-downstream relationship, this suggests that the upstream riparian always holds all of the cards and has effective control of the water. It also suggests that harm on the river could only be caused by an upstream riparian to a lower riparian. If it were only so clear-cut...

Dr. Salman M.A. Salman, formerly a legal advisor to The World Bank, just published a fascinating analysis on the harm that downstream riparians can inflict on their upstream neighbors through the concept of foreclosure of future uses. In short, by claiming and enforcing water rights secured prior to those claimed by upper riparians, the downstream riparian can attempt to legally foreclose all possible future uses by its upstream neighbors. According to Dr. Salman, however, such foreclosure can constitute harm in violation of the “no significant harm” rule widely recognized as a cornerstone principle of international water law (and, more broadly, of international environmental law).

Dr. Salman’s article is likely to be highly controversial. Downstream riparians – such as Egypt, India, and Pakistan – have long championed the “no significant harm” rule and used it as their bulwark against claims by upstream neighbors aspiring to develop and exploit their riparian character. Now, such advocacy could become a two-edged sword. Nevertheless, Dr. Salman’s argument is straight-forward and erudite and is supported by pertinent case studies and scholarly pronouncements, including examples from the Nile and Ganges Rivers, the 1997 Gabčíkovo – Nagymaros case (International Court of Justice), and the Baardhere Dam and Water Infrastructure Project on the Juba River in Somalia. Hence, there is no need to rehash his argument here. It merely suffices to say: downstream riparians, beware.

A review essay by James E. Nickum reviewing three recently published books was published in the September-October 2010 issue of *Foreign Affairs*. It is available with open access at:

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66578/james-e-nickum/hydraulic-pressures>

Covers to the three books, together with links for purchase, are included on the web link. The books are (in alphabetical order): Peter H. Gleick, *Bottled and Sold*; Peter Rogers and Susan Leal, *Running Out of Water*; and Steven Solomon, *Water*.

The book by Gleick is also reviewed by Mike Young in the July issue of *Water International*.

The September issue of *Water International*, a special theme issue on “Water, food, and poverty in river basins,” is the second to come out of the CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food’s Basin Focal projects. It presents the results of the program’s studies for nine river basins, and promises to become a standard reference on the topic. As before, guest editors are Myles Fisher and Simon Cook.

Road to the Congress 2011

Update on Planning for the 2011 IWRA World Water Congress



“Adaptive Water Management: Looking to the Future”

It is my pleasure to update you on preparations for the Association’s triennial meeting, the World Water Congress, which are progressing rapidly. The XIVth Congress will be held September 25-29, 2011 in Porto de Galinhas, near Recife, Brazil, and will be hosted by the Secretariat of Water and Energy Resources of the State of



Pernambuco. Additional organizations that are supporting or co-sponsoring components of the Congress include the International Development Research Centre, the International Association for Water Law (AIDA), the University of Arizona, VERSeau Développement, the Brazilian Water Resources Association, the Portuguese Water Resources Association, and the Federal University of Pernambuco.

The Congress website is up and running at www.worldwatercongress.com, thanks to excellent support from Acqua Consultoria on this and other logistical arrangements. After the June 2010 first call, and September 2010 second call for the Congress were distributed via email listservs and other media, there has been heightened interest in the Congress with the International Scientific Committee (ISC) and Local Organizing Committee (LOC) now receiving numerous enquiries, proposals for special sessions, and abstracts for papers and posters.

The ISC and LOC have finalized a list of high-profile keynote and plenary speakers, and while it is early to confirm and announce their names, suffice it to say that the response has been very positive so far. Additionally, the ISC has designed a set of 36 sessions under four main themes under the overall Congress theme of “Adaptive Water Management: Looking to the Future”.

These themes are:

- **Adaptive water management**
- **Water resources and global change**
- **Governance and water law (co-convened by IWRA and AIDA)**
- **Knowledge systems**

For further details including detailed session descriptions, see:

www.worldwatercongress.com/en/themes.php.

Please be aware of the following upcoming dates:

- **October 15, 2010:** Deadline for special session proposals
- **November 15, 2010:** Deadline for submission of abstracts
- **December 2010:** Inform authors of accepted presentations/ posters

Prepare yourself to come to Brazil to participate in the XIVth World Water Congress!

Christopher Scott

Chair of the International Scientific Committee

Member perspectives



**Interview with Jose Almir Cirilo,
Chair of the Local Organising
Committee Executive Secretary of
Water Resources and Energy of the
State of Pernambuco.**

Could you describe the context of water resources management in Brazil and particularly in Pernambuco State?

J.A. C: *Although Brazil has one of the largest freshwater reserves in the world, we have serious problems of water availability for the several uses due to factors such as water pollution and non uniform spatial and temporal distribution of water resources. The Northeast region of Brazil, where the state of Pernambuco is located, is predominantly semi-arid in the interior and with serious pollution problems on the coast. In addition to investment in infrastructure for storage and water transportation, there is nowadays a major effort to improve water resources management, seeking to reduce waste, to monitor water reserves and to involve the public in the process of shared management.*

How will the Congress contribute to this issue? What are your expectations?

J.A. C: *We hope that the technical discussions that will occur during the XIVth World Water Congress will help with significant contributions to the technicians of our institutions, that will learn with professionals from different regions of the world, the most appropriate ways to deal with problems related to water, and hopefully our professionals also will contribute to global knowledge on the subject.*

How are the preparations of the Congress coming along?

J.A. C: *The Scientific Committee and the Local Committee are working hard for the success of the event. The central themes of the congress were published in July, we are awaiting the submission of abstracts by the participants. The lineup of keynote speakers and special sessions is almost ready, the technical and tourist visits are defined. We look forward to welcoming all participants to make a great conference with us, whilst also getting to know one of the most beautiful regions of the world, the coast of Pernambuco in Porto de Galinhas.*

Call for candidatures to welcome the XVth IWRA World Water Congress in 2014

IWRA is pleased to invite all interested organisations to propose candidatures to organise and host the XVth IWRA World Water Congress which shall be held in 2014. To do so, please send a "Letter of intent to host and organise the XVth IWRA World Water Congress" to the IWRA Executive Office **by post:**

IWRA Executive Office - Domaine de Lavalette
859 rue Jean-François Breton
34093 Montpellier Cedex 5 - France
and **by email:**

iwra@verseaudeveloppement.com

The letter must be produced on the bidding organisation's letterhead and signed by the President (or equivalent authority). This letter shall be short and concise as it is not meant to constitute the full bid. It should provide a very brief description of the bid including at a minimum the following information:

- Estimated dates;
- Congress location and facilities;
- Scientific expertise and logistical capacity;
- Proposed central theme(s); and
- Lead organisation and Partners involved.

An electronic or paper version of the letter must be received by the IWRA Executive Office by the end of 31 December 2010 (GMT). Accepted candidates will then be invited to submit full bids. Full bid procedures shall be placed online in the coming weeks.

Important Reminder Membership Registration 2011

We are fast approaching the end of 2010. IWRA thanks all members for your continuing support.

A promising programme of activities is envisaged for 2011 with an accent on engaging our members actively.

Please renew your IWRA membership by connecting to the registration page on the IWRA website at **www.iwrahome.org** or by contacting the Executive Office.