



# IWRA UPDATE

August 2006 • Volume xx • Issue 3

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



*President Aly Shady (third from left) with IWRA members in Stockholm for the World Water Week*

IWRA is moving in strides with the help of many of its dedicated members to make headways in the water world and continues its process of renewal.

At the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico, IWRA took the lead to organize a session and stir the discussion regarding water infrastructures. At the Stockholm World Water Week, IWRA co-sponsored two workshops; one on water storage, and one on economic instruments in the water sector. These topics are still subject to further debates, research and discussions reflecting the high importance for water and sustainable development.

These are a few of the priority areas in which IWRA is taking the lead to develop and bring to the forefront. Such lead is recognized through the selection of many IWRA members for positions of influence at the world stage, in particular the drafting of the forthcoming Human Development Report, the election of several IWRA members to the Board of Governors of the World Water Council and the election of IWRA as Vice-Chair of the IWALC.

IWRA members continued to score high marks on the list of “Who’s who” among a rare list of honoured persons in the water field. This was capped by receiving the top prize: the Stockholm Water Prize for 2006. These honors and recognition further emphasize the quality and credibility that IWRA members bring to their profession world- wide.

In its quest for continued leadership, progress was made organizing the XIII World Water Congress scheduled to take place in Montpellier in August 2008. Arrangements are underway to coordinate and synchronize the Congress with other water events taking place in Europe during that period.

Our new website is taking its shape slowly but surely reflecting the new IWRA image and entry in a big way into the web based information technology to serve members effectively and efficiently.

The election of the new Executive Board is also progressing very well with notices and ballots sent to all eligible members. We seek your participation to contribute to the selection of a new Board to lead the Association for the next three years. This is your right and it is your duty, so get to it promptly.

This is the first edition of the electronic version of IWRA update. We appreciate receiving your comments and your contribution. We strive to make improvements and make it a dynamic tool to reflect on IWRA activities and its members.

**Aly M. Shady, P. Eng.**  
**President**  
**e-mail : [president-2@iwra.net](mailto:president-2@iwra.net)**

## **Elections for the IWRA Executive Board 2007–2009**

IWRA has continued the process of renewal and announced the Election of the new Executive Board for 2007-2009. The announcement and ballots were mailed to all eligible members of the Association. It is your turn now to participate in the process and exercise your democratic rights by voting and returning the ballot duly filled in accordance with the voting instruction. Please note the deadline to receive your ballot is October 13, 2006.

On behalf of IWRA, we would like to express our gratitude to the Chair and members of the Nominating Committee for their diligence and dedication on the important matter of electing a new

Executive Board for our Association. Our thanks go to the Nominating Committee Chair Dr. Lilian del Castillo-Laborde, Members: John Pigram (Australia), Weizhen Zhang (China), Yutaka Takahasi (Japan), Recep Yurtal (Turkey), and Vadim I.Sokolov (Uzbekistan), and Zebediah Phiri (Zambia). The work and collaboration of the members of the Executive Board is also appreciated

The following is the list of nominees for the 2007–2009 Executive Board The Association is grateful that these outstanding individuals who are willing to serve as Executive Board members, and are willing to commit to a three year term of service if elected to their respective positions on the Executive Board.

### **List of Nominees for 2007-2009 Executive Board**

#### **President**

Cecilia Tortajada (Mexico)

Jun Xia (China)

#### **Vice-Presidents**

Dogan Altinbilek (Turkey)

Hussam Fahmy (Egypt)

Olli Varis (Finland)

#### **Secretary General**

Lilian del Castillo-Laborde ( Argentina)

#### **Treasurer**

Ben Dziegielewski (USA)

Evan Vlachos (USA)

#### **Chair, Awards Committee**

Ismail Najjar (Canada)

#### **Chair, Membership Committee**

Gunilla Bjorklund (Sweden)

Antonio Embid Irujo (Spain)

#### **Chair, Publication Committee**

Nestor Correa (Argentina)

James Nickum (Japan)

#### **Directors**

Undala Alam (UK)

Rui Carlos da Silva (Brazil)

Victor Dukhovny (Uzbekistan)

Eran Feitelson (Israel)

M. Gopalakrishnan (India)

Shaofeng Jia (China)

Atef Kassem (Canada)

Jennifer McKay (Australia)

Mikiyasu Nakayama (Japan)

Zebediah Phiri (Zambia)

Alexandra Pres (Germany)

Salman Salman (Sudan)

Christopher Scott (USA)

Kaoru Takara (Japan)

Anthony Turton (South Africa)

As a Member of the Association, it is now your turn to participate effectively in the renewal process. Your prompt response and vote will determine the

leadership that will take the Association to the next heights and continue the tradition of excellence in water resources set forth by its founders.

## **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 in this web site while migrating 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:

<p><i>President:</i> <a href="mailto:president@iwra.net">president@iwra.net</a> <i>Webmaster:</i> <a href="mailto:webmaster@iwra.net">webmaster@iwra.net</a> <i>Executive Director:</i> <a href="mailto:execDirector@iwra.net">execDirector@iwra.net</a> <i>Executive Editor:</i> <a href="mailto:editor@iwra.net">editor@iwra.net</a> <i>Membership and IWRA Update:</i> <a href="mailto:iwra@iwra.net">iwra@iwra.net</a></p>
--

---

## **IWRA makes a splash at the Stockholm World Water Week 2006**

For the third year in a row IWRA is expanding its presence at the Stockholm annual World Water Week. On the top of the list was the Awarding of the Stockholm Water Prize to IWRA Fellow

and Past President Prof. Asit K. Biswas, next, the sponsorship of two out of nine workshops, and finally releasing of the First Announcement and the convening of the International Steering Committee of XIII World Water Congress and Co-convening of the IWALC meeting. Details can be found in this e-express.

*Some pictures from the Stockholm World Water Week meeting:*





## Member News

**Cecilia Tortajada** is acting as a principal researcher for the 2006 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme. The theme of the report will be “Water for Human Development.” It will explore the political economy of water shortages and water insecurity, and will set out an agenda for change. Water interacts with wider structural factors underpinning poverty and transmitting cycles of deprivation across generations. Efficient

allocation of water and development of public policies that reflect its value are needed to enhance economic efficiency and achieve ecological sustainability. Progress in these areas will require a new approach to governance. Dr. Tortajada is responsible for preparing and coordinating 20 case studies from all over the world. Among her collaborators from IWRA are **Asit K. Biswas, Benedito P. F. Braga, Antonio Embid, James E. Nickum, Christopher Scott**

and **Olli Varis**. The full report will be released publicly in the autumn 2006.

**John Pigram**, Past President and Fellow of IWRA has completed his long awaited book on water resources in Australia: "Australia's Water Resources: From Use to Management". *Australia's Water Resources* seeks to explore the circumstances underpinning the profound reorientation of attitudes and relationships to water that has taken place in Australia in recent decades. The changing emphasis from development to management of water resources continues to evolve and is reflected in a series of public policy initiatives directed towards rational, efficient and sustainable use of the nation's water. Australia is now recognized as a pacesetter in water reform. Administrative restructuring, water pricing, water markets and trade, integrated water resources management, and the emergence of the private sector, are features of a more economically sound and environmentally compatible water industry. It is important that these changes are documented and their rationale and effectiveness explained. This timely work provides an important synthesis of these issues.

ISBN: 0643093370,  
[www.publish.csiro.au/pid/5366.htm](http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/5366.htm)

Five eminent members of IWRA are now serving as Governors of the World Water Council for the next three years: **Dogan Altinbilek (Turkey)**, **Benedito Braga (Brazil)**, **Victor Dukhovny (Uzbekistan)**, **Ismail Najjar (Canada)** and **Andras Szollosi-Nagy (UNESCO)**. IWRA was the institution that spawned the World Water Council when by the decision of its General Assembly in Cairo in November 1994, it gave the

mandate to the then President of IWRA - **Dr Mahmoud Abu-Zeid** - to take the necessary steps to set up the World Water Council.

**Prof. Asit K. Biswas**, Fellow and Past President of IWRA, received the prestigious Aragon Environment Prize from the Spanish authorities on the World Environment Day, 5 June. In paying homage to Prof. Biswas, "al Nobel del Agua", President Marcelino Iglesias noted that "his work has been the most decisive and authoritative on transfer of water from the Ebro River, and was instrumental in the cancellation of the National Hydrological Plan by the Spanish Parliament". The Spanish Environment Minister, Cristina Narbona, said that "his work for nearly 40 years has very significantly enriched our knowledge of water sciences, and all the people of the planet have benefited from his work". Environment Minister Alfredo Bone of Aragon said that "Prof. Biswas has been a true light and it is true luxury for Aragon to have him as an advisor". Prof. Antonio Embid noted that "he has always been objective, constructive and scientifically correct". On 10 June, 2006 the Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper awarded Prof. Biswas "Man of the Year Award" at a special gala dinner in Toronto, Canada.

SUBMIT YOUR NEWS TO :  
[execDirector@iwra.net](mailto:execDirector@iwra.net)

## Stockholm Water Prize for 2006 goes to IWRA Fellow and Past President Prof Asit K. Biswas



*H.R.H. Princess Victoria of Sweden (right) awards the citation for the 2006 Stockholm World Water Prize to Professor Biswas (left). The associated trophy is pictured below:*



Professor Biswas is an Indian-born Canadian citizen and president of the Mexico City-based Third World Centre for Water Management. The Stockholm Water Prize is a global award founded in 1990 and presented annually to an individual, organisation or institution for outstanding water-related activities. The activities can be within fields such as education and awareness-raising, human and international relations, research, water management and water-related aid. The Stockholm Water Prize Laureate receives US \$ 150,000 along with a glass sculpture. HM King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden is the Patron of the Stockholm Water Prize. The Award was presented this year by H.R.H. Princess Victoria, the Crown Princess of Sweden. At the ceremony in the Stockholm City Hall attended by some

800 persons, **Dr. Akissa Bahri** of the independent international Nominating Committee Read the following citation:

"Professor Biswas is awarded the Stockholm Water Prize for his outstanding and multi-faceted contributions to global water resource issues, including research, education and awareness, water management, human and international relations in both developed and developing countries. While many highly-qualified experts in aquatic disciplines distinguish themselves as academicians, others as practitioners, others as government advisors, and others as writers and lecturers, Professor Biswas with his wide knowledge is highly recognised in all of these areas and, most importantly, has over a broad front applied his skills

internationally, thereby adding new dimensions to the wise use and management of the global water



*Dr. Akissa Bahri of the International Nominating Committee, 2006 World Water Prize*

resources. While many water experts have through the years contributed highly effective methodologies to the rational use and management of water resources, Professor Asit K. Biswas – as a science-driven water advocate – fostered a new "socio-economic and political climate" which enabled the effective translation of scientific (both natural and social) and technical advances into meaningful measures. Four of his many achievements exemplify his role as a global facilitator of international platforms where organisations and individuals can take concrete action on water:

As the main scientific advisor to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Water Conference in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1977, Professor Biswas helped to formulate and promote the International Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. After approval of this

initiative by the UN General Assembly, Professor Biswas advised international and national institutions on how the Decade could be implemented. By all accounts, the Decade significantly improved the lives of millions of people in the developing world. During it, big strides were made in finding affordable technologies and participatory approaches to help serve those without access to improved water and sanitation services. The Decade also demonstrated conclusively that "business as usual" would never bring improvements quickly enough to cope with the backlog and provide access to growing populations. While conventional wisdom holds that water problems are similar in the developed and developing worlds, and that the same solutions apply, Professor Biswas has always argued otherwise.

Many of his additional activities have also resulted in outstanding contributions to solve international and regional water problems. In his multi-faceted roles as a scientist and educator, he has acted as an advisor and confidant to policymakers in water and environmental management in 17 countries, to six heads of the United Nations agencies and to other intergovernmental and international organisations. The Third World Centre for Water Management, a "think tank" initially set up by Professor Biswas to give independent and authoritative policy and knowledge support to developing countries, also regularly advises many industrialised countries. ...”

The citation continued to list the myriad of other achievements and contributions of Prof Biswas to the water sector over the last half a century.



## XIII<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER CONGRESS MONTPELLIER

### **The XIII World Water Congress releases its first Announcement in Stockholm**

The XIII World Water Congress of IWRA (13<sup>th</sup> WWC) is scheduled to take place on 25-28 August 2008 in Montpellier, France.

The First Announcement and call for papers was released at the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006. It has been re-launched at the World Water Week in Stockholm in August 2006. It is your turn to submit your abstract pertaining to the Congress Theme and the various topics outlined below:

Theme: GLOBAL CHANGES and WATER RESOURCES: Confronting the expanding and diversifying pressures

### **Topics:**

#### **1. WATER AVAILABILITY, USE AND MANAGEMENT**

- Integrated water resources management
- Water quality management: surface and ground water
- Hydrological diagnosis and forecasting
- Regional sessions (Africa, Mediterranean Basin, North America, Latin America, Asia, Australia and Pacific Islands, Europe; water management for monsoon countries)

#### **2. TOWARDS THE FUTURE: WATER RESOURCES AND GLOBAL CHANGES**

- Implications of assuring water, energy and food security
- Impacts of trade and globalisation on the water sector
- Technological development (biotechnology, desalination, etc.)
- Population growth, urbanisation and economic development
- Information and communication revolution
- Human development, economic changes and water
- Urbanisation, megacities, towns and rural areas
- Expanding slums and informal sectors

#### **3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS**

- Post-2007 IPCC Report: implications for the water sector
- Linking climatology, hydrology and water resources management
- How good is our knowledge base?
- How to manage water under increasing climatic fluctuations
- Earthquakes, cyclones, hurricanes and tsunamis
- Forced migration

#### **4. DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Food security, irrigation, food trade and markets
- Urban infrastructure
- Data, monitoring and information technology



- Risk management: linking structural and non-structural approaches for flood and drought management
- Environmental investments

#### 5. WATER GOVERNANCE AND WATER SECURITY: 30 YEARS AFTER THE *UN MAR DEL PLATA* CONFERENCE OF 1977

- Water governance: best practices
- Managing water under conflicts and cooperation: Security threat implications
- Multiple and multisectoral uses
- Transboundary river basins and shared aquifers
- Instruments for water quality management
- Water access as a human right
- Improving legal and institutional frameworks
- Role of local authorities and civil society
- Roles of bilateral, multilateral and professional global institutions

#### 6. WATER CONSERVATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT

- Economic instruments and water pricing
- The social aspect of water
- Water reuse and conservation technologies
- Roles of the private sector
- Education and public awareness

#### 7. FINANCING WATER DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

- Private-Public Partnerships
- Use of economic instruments
- Roles of bilateral and multilateral institutions and donors
- Innovative financial approaches
- Role of micro-credit and local financing mechanism

#### 8. CAPACITY BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- South-South knowledge and experience transfer
- New and innovative ways to build capacity at all levels

**Submit your abstracts now online by visiting the website: [wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr](http://wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr)**

The **International Steering Committee (ISC)** of the **13<sup>th</sup> WWC** met in Stockholm under the Chairmanship of Olli Varis to discuss the XIIIth WWC. Pierre Chevalier represented the National Organizing Committee (NOC) of the Congress. Here is a brief summary of the meeting:

The **13<sup>th</sup> WWC** will be hosted by IWRA and *Verseau*. The most recent new partner in the congress includes *Enjoy Montpellier* (a public company in charge of promoting the city of Montpellier and managing the conference Hall).

The dates of the next WWW in Stockholm will try to be arranged so that these two events do not have any overlap or a long gap, so as to ensure maximum participation for these events - especially for those attending from outside Europe.

The website for the **13<sup>th</sup> WWC** is up and running at [wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr](http://wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr). Abstracts of 500 words in length can now be submitted via the website. The authors may choose between an oral and a poster presentation, and they may choose which theme to present under. An intranet site is available to committee members only where the abstracts submitted can be reviewed and graded according to their topic.

- High-profile keynote speakers are being recruited, your suggestions will be appreciated
- Special sessions and side events are being organized. If you have plausible proposal send it in at your earliest to get due consideration

Promotion activities of the **13<sup>th</sup> WWC** include the distribution of Congress information to:

- UNESCO for inclusion in their weekly, electronic newsletter.
- IISD newsletter
- International Association of Hydrological Sciences
- Netherlands Water Partnership
- C-CIARN newsletter

The **13<sup>th</sup> WWC** will also be mentioned at the following events:

- September 2006: Beijing, IWA meeting
- September 2006: ICID in Kuala Lumpur
- October 2006; Moscow meeting for Aral Sea Basin
- November 2006; FRIEND-UNESCO meeting in Havana Cuba
- December 2006; Arab Water Council

## **Stockholm World Water Week 2006, IWRA Co-sponsors two workshops**

The World Water Week took place in Stockholm from August 19-26, 2006 under the theme **BEYOND THE RIVER: Towards loyal sharing and reasonable control**. IWRA has been one of the cosponsors of this event for a third year in row. Many IWRA members took an active role in various activities of the week.

**Prof Malin Falkenmark**, IWRA Fellow and Co-founder and the Laureate of the Crystal Drop Award for 2005 summed up her reflection of the week in three main areas:

- 1) Water-related phenomena in the landscape: interactions with forests, depletion of rivers, salinization and pollution.
- 2) The challenges following from continuous change with time: rising population and urbanization, social and environmental changes.
- 3) The need to strike trade offs and achieve reasonable control: water storage, governance and governance of rainwater and transboundary waters, securing compatibility.

A number of overarching concerns were also identified:

1. Fundamental components in tomorrow's governance system must be flexibility to retain reasonable control and to secure compatibility between different water-related needs and phenomena in a river basin.
2. Education is necessary in order to secure competence and proper understanding for the next generation, and communication is pertinent to secure

adequate understanding of the phenomena linked to natural laws among policy makers and politicians. Social learning will have to be a core component of IWRM and negotiations between different stakeholder categories

3. The very slow response typical for large lakes is a tremendous challenge for policy makers because the issues transcend generations, and therefore complicates planning. Policy makers have difficulties responding to predicted phenomena. This brings into focus the need for intergenerational conservation of knowledge
4. Particular challenges for the scientific and expert communities will be to develop the ability to merge the partial realities that form their thinking so that an integrated, holistic approach will be possible

### **Work Shop 3: Economic Instruments**

**Convenor:** Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

**Co-convenors:** Third World Centre for Water Management, International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and the Water and Sanitation Programme-South Asia (WSP-SA)

**Chair:** A. Shady

**Co-chair:** A. Jonsson

**Rapporteur:** Olli. Varis

### **Has everything been said on economic instruments?**

With the unremitting spread of the market mechanisms in most parts of the world, water management witnesses an increasing application of a mounting selection of economic instruments for various tasks, partly in order to eliminate subsidies. Whereas water services and water access have largely been viewed as a public responsibility, the tendency

these days is to require cost recovery from municipal water utilities, irrigation water suppliers and other water service providers. Determination and charging of water tariffs are issues that are prone to political conflicts and causing tensions between various stakeholders. On the other hand, the adoption of economic instruments often clarifies responsibilities, increases efficiency and allows the cost recovery for the operation and maintenance of the water service and related infrastructure.

- Subsidies are the most widely used economic instrument in the water sector. Whereas subsidies have brought various social benefits, the side effects as inefficient water use and resource depletion have become a major concern.
- The concept of economic instruments has become increasingly diversified and sophisticated and experience grows rapidly. Encouragement of water service providers and water users to develop water supply and manage consumption in an effective way is the core of applying economic instruments in water management. Parallel to the emergence of new types of economic instruments are also the development of a number of academic tools/approaches for analysis of effects of economic policies, such as multi-stakeholder cost-benefit analysis, hydro-economic models and more.
- A special concern is due to various social challenges in introducing economic

instruments to traditional livelihoods which are used to consider water as a common property resource. In this context, introduction of monetary tariffs is a very fragile and often controversial concept. On the other hand development of financial mechanisms such as microcredits, insurance systems etc provide much potential. Another challenge comes from the need of securing sufficient water to ecosystems.

- Implementation of economic instruments has been proven to be institutionally highly demanding and politically problematic—in many case excessively—and consequently discussion of economic instruments in isolation of these issues is misfunt.

Therefore, to answer the question in the title, by far not everything has been said on economic instruments. Instead, the field is in rapid evolution and it is expected to undergo plenty of progress with trials, errors and successes in coming years.

### **Workshop 9: Safe water storage and regulation during floods and droughts**

**Convenor:** Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)

**Co-Convenors:** International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAEHR), International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), International Hydropower Association (IHA), International Water Resources Association (IWRA), Third World Centre for Water Management

**Chair:** Dr. Cecilia Tortajada – Third World Centre for Water Management

**Co-Chair:** Dr. Arthur J. Askew – International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)

**Commentator:** Prof. Benedito Braga – Agência Nacional d’Agua (ANA)

**Rapporteurs:** Prof. Klas Cederwall, The Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden and Alexandra Pres, InWent - Capacity Building International, Germany

### **Water Management in a Context of Change**

This workshop emphasised the importance of hydraulic infrastructure to provide water security; the need for good planning to decide on appropriate structural and non-structural options; and requiring the pre-existence of a comprehensive river basin management plan in the context of multiple water users. Furthermore, the need for transparent and balanced regulation as well as the appropriateness of storage infrastructure was highlighted.

Proper water management was identified as a key issue for improvement. It was emphasized that a strong interest and will from government is needed to overcome the highly ideological discussions brought on by inappropriate policy decisions, as well as to transparently guide the political process towards a more sensitive development path. Multi-dimensional and harmonised cooperation for efficient water resources management was identified as one essential solution to significantly reduce the impacts of flood and droughts.

Information was mentioned as being a further crucial component for strategic

planning and improved management: often, reliable data and precise information on resources and hazards assessments are lacking. If these exist, their sensitive and strategic quality complicates the access to data and information. Furthermore, the different perspectives of data analyses, the multitude of its interpretations and underlying parameters hinder effective planning. The lack of real time information and the dissemination data were identified as further bottlenecks for proper storage and regulation.

Increasingly occurring severe climate phenomena were identified as a possible driving force for the need for communication. The need for a structured exchange of experience was also expressed. Stakeholder dialogues were mentioned as a possible option to improve communication within a country as well as on a transboundary level. It was highlighted that IT-based systems could be helpful too, but would have to be processed carefully to ensure the valid generation of knowledge. To share experiences more effectively, conferences on a regional level were emphasised to promote the exchange of similar concerns and experiences of phenomena occurring under similar conditions (climatological and regional). Such conferences should be accompanied by a balanced exchange between developing regions and developed regions. Based on this conclusion, the common consent was expressed that sharing experience creates great benefits, thus preventing the reinvention of the wheel.

## **IWRA awarded post of Vice Chair of IWALC**

The International Water Association Liaison Committee (IWALC) was established in Cairo (Egypt) in 1994 as a result of the dissociation of the joint ICSU / UATI Committee on Water Research (COWAR), and the continuing need for an internal liaison function for international Water-related Associations.

IWALC is an association composed of the following members:

1. International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR)
2. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)
3. International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
4. International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD)
5. International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)
6. International Water Association (IWA)
7. Permanent Association of Navigation Congresses (PIANC)
8. International Hydropower Association (IHA)
9. International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)
10. International Water History Association (IWHA)
11. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

In addition, IWALC has the following observers:

12. Societas Internationalis Limnologiae (SIL) – [member or observer?]

13. IGU Commission for Water Sustainability
14. International Hydrological Programme IHP - UNESCO

The Bureau officers of IWALC are comprised of a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary as per a decision in the meeting that was held in November 1994. During the Stockholm meeting, it was decided that the position of Chair continued to be filled by IAHR; that the position of **Vice Chairman go to IWRA**; and finally, that the position of Secretary continues to be filled by ICID.

During the IWALC annual meeting, one of the issues on the agenda was to come up with a better definition of IWALC's role and its contribution.

A round-table discussion ensued, and one proposition for IWALC's contribution was to produce a scientifically based report on the state of the water sector globally by tackling a specific complex scientific issue of current interest (e.g. climate change) and looking at it from several different perspectives (hydropower, agriculture, etc.) It was mentioned how "good science makes good policy" and that IWALC is plugged into both of these themes, which makes it occupy a unique position. This resulted in a proposal for IWALC to become involved in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Istanbul, Turkey.

The goal of this proposal was: To enhance and promote the role of science and technology in water management, from policy to planning to implementation.

The modalities of cooperation would be as follows:

The IWALC will focus its attention on key science and technology issues related to the theme of the Forum. IWALC will bring about the state-of-the-art of knowledge related to the various aspects of the theme in a well-documented, peer reviewed publication and follow-up presentations. Furthermore, IWALC will take the lead in organizing sessions to present the basic content of the subject matter resulting from the outcome and to debate and discuss with the concerned stakeholders and with the public at large participating in the Forum process.

IWALC members will organize a working group made up of its members to define the topics and distribute the task of compiling, reviewing and editing the various components of the above undertaking. This will be conducted through a participatory process relying

on the comparative advantage and the vast knowledge resident in each of the members to identify and quantify the science-based knowledge related to each topic (and each sub-topic), and to the application in the global context so as to address key issues pertaining to the theme of the Forum.

This working group will liaise with a counterpart sub-group from each member of IWALC, which will further elaborate on the content of each part of the documentation in accordance with agreed-to time lines, milestones and a Table of Content. The main working group will further review and consolidate the contribution into a final product which might be further reviewed by a panel of experts (from within the association or from outside) and be released to the public, either partially through the preparatory process. The final product will be released at the Forum.

---

## **Forthcoming Events**

5th International Water History Association (IWHA) Conference, "Past and Futures of Water", 13-17 June 2007  
Tampere, Finland

XIIIth IWRA World Water Congress  
Montpellier, France  
25-28 August, 2008  
<http://wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr>

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

XIVth World Water Congress  
Recife, Brazil  
2011

### **CONTACT US:**

*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 & IWRA Update:* [iwra@iwra.net](mailto:iwra@iwra.net)