



## Onema: The French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments



Established in April 2007, Onema is a national agency active in the field of environmental French public service. Created by the Law on water and aquatic environments, dated 30 December 2006, and the implementation decree dated 25 March 2007, it operates under the supervision of the ministry in charge of ecology and sustainable development.

Onema organises and produces high-level science and technology advice to assist in formulating, implementing and evaluating public water policy. Its mission is to contribute to overall and sustainable management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems, with a view to restoring water quality and reaching the good chemical and ecological status by 2015 set by the European Water framework directive, adopted on 23 October 2000.

More information: [www.onema.fr](http://www.onema.fr)



# Water Information System



## A tool to support knowledge and management of water resources, aquatic environments and their uses

**Diner-buffet:**

**Wednesday 18 March 2009**

**7pm-9pm**

**French Pavillon**



## OIEau : International Office for Water



Established in 1991 as an association for water-related actions of public interest, OIEau is an organisation of reference in the field of water both nationally and internationally. It participates in data and information management through:

- An in depth involvement to develop a sustainable data sharing system between producers and users in France. In charge of technical secretariat for standardizing data and administrating common references (Sandre) and networks operator (gesteau, iwrm-net, eaudanslaville, etc).
- International cooperation missions, studies and training for water information system engineering worldwide (Web portal on water, metadata catalogue, etc).
- Initiatives for creation of regional Networks : EMWIS (Mediterranean) and AWIS (African).

More information: [www.oieau.fr](http://www.oieau.fr)

[www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr](http://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr)

ENGAGÉS POUR L'EAU DU MONDE.

The recommendations of the side-event will be presented on 20 March 2009 as part of the introduction to session 6.4.1



## Context



Moving towards sustainable management of water resources requires that Water Information Systems are established to allow a wide access to reliable and up-to-date information for decision-makers, practitioners and citizens.

It provides a unique opportunity to improve our overview of quantitative, qualitative and ecological status of water systems, of pressures and causes of water stress, and of water uses. It is a tool to identify trends and evaluate measures implemented.

Developing high-quality water information systems is not an easy process and raises several challenges (technical, organizational, political...).

This side-event proposes to share experiences among different countries and regions on approaches for monitoring and access to water information.

## Programme

**7:00- 7:05 pm:** Welcome

**7:05 - 7:15 pm:** Introduction by chair

**7:15 – 8:30 pm:** Selected examples of Water Information Systems at National, Regional and Global levels

**8:30 – 8:50 pm:** Debate with audience

**8:50–9 pm:** Synthesis and recommendation



## Participants



- **André Flajolet – Chairman –**  
Member of Parliament, Nord-Pas-de-Calais,  
President of the French National  
Committee for Water  
*Major stakes for water information systems*
- **Patrick Lavarde**  
General Director of the French National  
Agency for water and Aquatic  
Environments – ONEMA –  
*Establishing a national framework for  
water data supporting water policies*
- **Beate Werner**  
European Environment Agency – EEA –  
*The Water Information System for Europe –  
(WISE)*
- **Walter Mazzitti**  
President of the Euro-  
Mediterranean Information System  
on know-how in the Water sector –  
EMWIS –  
*Water information systems in the  
South and East Mediterranean  
countries*
- **Mauricio Cezar Rebello  
Cordeiro**  
Deputy Division Chief  
National Water Agency of Brazil  
*Brazilian National Water  
Information System (SNIRH)*
- **Tamsir Ndiaye**  
Organisation pour la mise en valeur du  
fleuve Sénégal – OMVS – Secrétaire  
technique permanent du réseau africain  
des organismes de bassin  
*Towards a pan-African Water Information  
System – SADIEau*
- **Stéphane Simonet**  
World Water Council – WWC –  
*Making water monitoring work for  
development: lessons and perspectives  
from the Global Water Monitoring Alliance*
- **Arthur Askew - Moderator**  
International Association of Hydrological  
Sciences  
*Synthesis and Recommendations*