

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

N° 10 - December 2002 - English version



**International
Office
for Water**

www.iowater.org

875.000 visitors

in 2002

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"2003: International Year for Water"



**Participate in the 3rd World Water Forum
Kyoto - Japan - March 2003**

322 TRAINING COURSES

"CNFME"

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING: CATALOGUE 2003:

on the management of rivers, municipal water utilities and industrial processes

Each year, changes in professions and techniques are the concerns of the **National Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME)** and the proposed training courses are constantly adapted to the expectations of IOWater's partners, thanks to the experience gained by accommodating 4,000 trainees per year on the average, including 10 % of foreign English or Spanish speaking trainees.

The training course offer for 2003 includes the development of 37 new courses as compared to 2002.

"CNFME" training catalogue has reached 205 training topical programs for the first time since its creation. This represents 322 training courses ! It provides a suited and real response to all the organizations, state corporations and private companies of the water sector, either designers, builders, equipment providers, operators, controllers or managers, etc.

It precisely addresses engineers and executives (30%), team leaders (30%) and technicians, employees and workers (40%).

The technical training courses are based on the concept of training under real working conditions, which is unique in FRANCE and EUROPE. It has been developed for more than twenty five years by the International Office for Water in its centers of Limoges and La Souterraine or on the premises of the sector employers.

The team of **25 permanent trainers**, and the "CNFME" network of specialists, provide their technical and educational skills on **20 topics**.

It is obvious that the operation and maintenance of drinking water production plants, wastewater treatment plants and drinking water supply and sewerage systems of the municipal utilities are at the core of the training proposal with 147 courses, including 21 entirely new modules and 7 with diplomas.



Information

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In addition this new training proposal also includes, in particular:

- **maintenance of rivers and water bodies**, with 7 new modules including legal and normative aspects, techniques, management of community utilities, knowledge of aquatic environments, the use of Water Management and Development Schemes, etc. ;
- **management of community utilities**, with also 7 new courses out of the proposed 24, especially on assessments, the meeting of the new regulatory requirements, performance indicators and management, awarding of public works contracts, relations with the clients and administrative and financial management, quality evaluation, safety, etc. ;
- **water in the industry**, which is an entire part of the catalogue with 22 courses, 2 of which, dealing with "internal quality evaluation" and "water for heating and cooling", are new ones.

Training topics

- 1 Introduction to the profession,
- 2 Regulations,
- 3 Water quality and analyses,
- 4 Production of drinking water,
- 5 Drinking water supply,
- 6 Laying out and rehabilitation of water supply systems,
- 7 Sewerage,
- 8 Wastewater and sludge treatment,
- 9 Boreholes,
- 10 Pumping,
- 11 Maintenance and electrical engineering,
- 12 Automation, remote management and sensors,
- 13 Management of water and sanitation utilities,
- 14 Safety of the personnel,
- 15 Aquatic environments,
- 16 Environmental management and quality assessment,
- 17 Analyses and controls of process water and discharges,
- 18 Production of industrial water,
- 19 Treatment of discharges and sludge removal,
- 20 Surface decontamination.

These courses, classified according to objectives, contents, levels and dates, usually last from 2 to 4 days.



Training curricula are proposed on almost all these topics to enable the trainees to progress in their profession on the multi-year basis of new skills acquisition.

The training courses are carried out on real installations which recreate the daily environment of the participants on about 20.000 m² of educational units: underground network for the laying out of mains and leak detection, units for the production of drinking water and removal of micro-pollutants, biological and physical-chemical units for urban wastewater treatment and the drying out of sludge, plant for effluent decontamination, pumping stations, automated and regulating units, sewerage system and control units, flow metering and sampling, analysis laboratory.

ALL THESE COURSES CAN BE "TAILOR-MADE" IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH AND ORGANIZED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.



We remind that the training courses on the catalogue are certified ISO 9001 by BVQI.



All the training courses can be consulted and downloaded on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.iowater.org/cnfme> where you will find a virtual 3D visit of the installations.

"RNDE": The French Water Data Network

A REAL NATIONAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEM: THE "RNDE" WIDENS ITS OBJECTIVES

In 1993, the Ministry in charge of the Environment and the Water Agencies created a large system whose aim is to facilitate access to the French water data.

IOWater, gathering the numerous French stakeholders in the water sector, directs this network and, within this general framework, has set up its main shared tools:

- **The "SANDRE"** which has the following assignments: describing data and enabling their comparison, specifying computerized exchange formats and managing common references (national list of parameters, etc.);
- **Large geographical reference systems available to everyone**, such as the "BD Carthage" for watercourses and water bodies, the "BD RHF" for groundwater;
- **A database architecture on the Inte_srnet**, available through portals at the national level and in the basins;
- **Products for data enhancement**, such as the monthly national hydrological bulletin;
- **The French National Water Data Base.**

New information-related requirements appeared with the European Framework Directive: obligation of increased monitoring of the environments, inventories of pressures on the resource, economic data.

The French "RNDE" tasks are to be extended to data production, within a wider system, called French **Water Information System (WIS)**.



The amendment of the protocol, which commits the partners to these new tasks is being finalized.

In addition, a large inventory of data production in the basins, overseas departments included, has now started and will be completed in 2003.

The "RNDE" national portal :
www.rnde.tm.fr
and access to the English version

AN ATLAS OF AREA COVERAGE



The "RNDE" portal has now a new tool: the **Atlas of area coverage**.

It is now available on the Internet (<http://www.rnde.tm.fr/francais/zo/zogen.jsp>). It allows the user to consult and search the coverage of areas in Metropolitan France. This area coverage is divided into six categories: administrative, hydrogeological, hydrographic, inventories and management of aquatic environments, coastal areas, regulations.

In keeping with the principle of the Atlas of monitoring stations, the Atlas of area coverage directs the user towards products located in other databases or portals. It offers the downloading of the geographic location of the areas covered to

feed the users' geographic information systems (GIS).

This atlas is the reference site on the coverage of areas in the French water sector and a portal for accessing additional products and information.

THE "RNDE" PARTNERS:



The Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development



The Ministry of Health



The 6 Water Agencies



The Higher Council for Fisheries



The French Institute for the Environment



IFREMER



METEO-FRANCE



Electricity of France



The Research Center for Geology and Mines



The International Office for Water



Information

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120,000
REFERENCES
IN ENGLISH

Information / Documentation

"EAUDOC®": The memory of water stakeholders on the Internet

<http://eaudoc.iowater.org>

Since four years, "EAUDOC" (and its English access), the water documentation base of the International Office for Water has been disseminated on the Internet and proposes new pages, better readable for easier surfing on the website.

Developed since 1950, with the support of the Ministries of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Health, Agriculture and Fisheries and the six Water Agencies, the "EAUDOC" base has now more than 200,000 French and mainly foreign bibliographical references in the different European languages, 170,000 of them are available online. These documents have been managed since 1991 by the French National Information and Documentation Center on Water ("SNIDE") in Limoges.

60 % OF OUR REFERENCES ARE IN ENGLISH

"EAUDOC" topics:

"TECHN'EAUDOC"
190,000 international scientific, technical and economic references

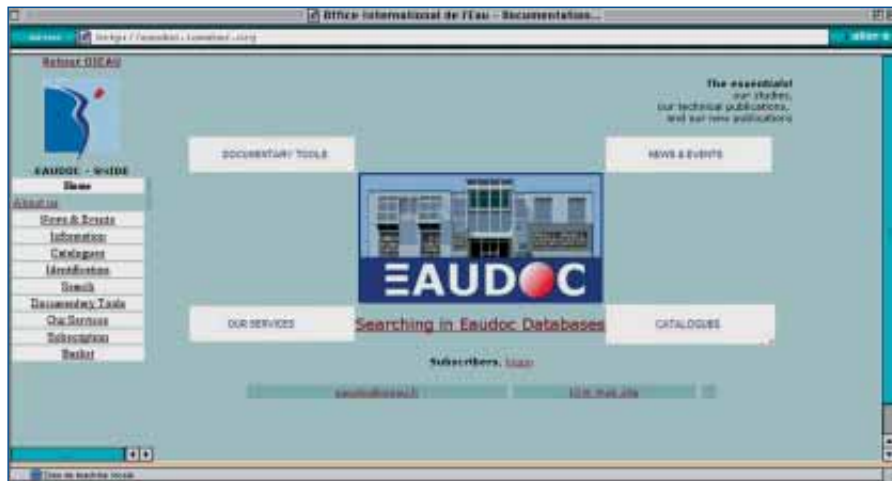
"JURI'EAUDOC"
2,200 references on legal texts on water in France and the European Union, comments and jurisprudence

"FONTAINE"
14,000 references on local information produced by the Water Agencies, the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development

"R&D'EAUDOC"
water-related studies and research in France and Europe

"ADMINISTR'EAUDOC"
11,000 administrative references on institutional management and the organization of the water world

"ECO'EAUDOC"
5,300 references on the water economy



A real advanced tool, the "EAUDOC" site proposes direct access to the news related to the water world and indispensable references according to **three different subscription arrangements**.

Bibliographical search is automatic on all the documentation base, yearly enriched with 6,000 new references coming from 380 worldwide periodicals. The "EAUDOC" team selects the relevant articles and our experts write the first analysis which can be consulted online.

A wide range of documentation products:

In order to keep informed of all the news in the water world, "EAUDOC" proposes:

- a daily electronic press review,
- a review of the contents of 50 international reference periodicals. The list of their articles is online as soon as the periodical is published. These articles are available in our center, even when they have not been selected to be entered in our databases,
- a diary of events, a timetable of the future meetings, organized either in France or abroad, for water managers,
- the latest publications of the International Office for Water and its partners and the latest books found in bookstores,
- a personalized watch on your favorite topics; any new reference entered into "EAUDOC" base is notified by an e-mail directly sent to your mailbox,
- the monthly periodical "INFORMATION EAUX".

Specific services:

The "EAUDOC" team can draw up personalized documentary files, from a list of the most relevant bibliographical references up to a complete summary of these articles. It publishes **syntheses** on current topics and **the water thesaurus** drawn up in partnership with the Water Agencies and the Water Directorate.

The outcome of an active collaboration:

In addition to the documents drawn up inside the International Office for Water, issued from our study activities and the examination of periodicals, "EAUDOC" is also the relay of the "FONTAINE" bibliographical base of the French Water Agencies and Water Directorate. We are also associated with "INIST-CNRS" of which we propose their water-related references.

Online order – it is safe and quick!

An online ordering system and payment arrangements suited to each use allow the providing of requested documents as fast as possible: payment by credit card (secure system), check or credit line with unlimited duration.

"EAUDOC" may also be used directly with your English keywords.



Information

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OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS (OSDs)

Local Water Offices

In continental **France**, the creation of Basin Committees and Water Agencies, were the result of the water law of 1964.

The Local Water Offices

Indeed, it was only under the water law of 1992 that Basin Committees were created in the French OSDs and under the orientation law for Overseas Departments of 2000 that associated financial organizations were set up: the Local Water Offices (LWOs). In order to take into account the specificity of each OSD, they will have a potentially wide range of action.

The case of the Reunion Island

In this context, the OSD of the Reunion Island entrusted IOWater with an assistance assignment to define the future Local Water Office's responsibilities. Indeed, this new Office should be integrated into a wealthy institutional environment having many active bodies and take account of the needs expressed by the local stakeholders.

Starting with an inventory of existing actions in the area of responsibility of the LWO, the assignment enabled the drawing up of several pre-scenarios presented to the main partners (Municipalities,

Department, Region, State) gathered in a steering group. They were gradually refined to achieve a consensual scenario which proposes a technical, human and financial sizing of the future Office.

Its work program is already well filled up with the implementation of the Reunion Island's Water Masterplan and of the European Framework-Directive, the integration into the National Data System, the preparation of future taxes or even technical assistance to the municipalities.

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE

Humanitarian water-related activities

In February 2002, the National Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME) received a delegation of the Water and Construction Department of the **International Red Cross Committee (IRCC)** of Geneva.

Several cooperation topics were discussed during this visit such as technical assistance and evaluation of water-related technical projects of IRCC, training of IRCC staff, training of trainers and providing of educational kits, preparation of guides for good practice regarding the design and operation of water infrastructures, documentation services, development of water treatment processes suited for developing countries, etc.

The first projects already applied this cooperation in 2002

In April, the "CNFME" accompanied the IRCC during an assignment dealing with the wastewater treatment plant of the hospital complex of Mossul (IRAQ), a plant using low loaded activated sludge with a theoretical capacity of 7,500 population-equivalents. This assignment will be followed by on-site training courses for the operators in Mossul.

The "CNFME" trained about fifteen IRCC project managers based all over the world during a 15-day training course in July on the evaluation of drinking water treatment plants and drinking water supply systems.

DRINKING WATER IS CLOSELY WATCHED

Hundred executives in charge of French water utilities were trained in Limoges

These last years, drinking water has become a major concern of the public administrations in Europe (State, departments, municipalities, etc.) and an important topic in the news and in discussions with consumers.

In November 1998, the European Commission adopted a **Directive relative to "water intended for human consumption"**, based on the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and on the precautionary approach and France has transposed this Directive into national law.

In this context of regulation changes, the **National Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME)**, organized, on 29 and 30 April 2002 in the town of Limoges, two intensive **Information Days**, addressing **technical managers and attended by more than a hundred executives who wished to comprehend the impacts of this new decree.**

"BD-RHF"

The French hydrogeological reference set

As concerns geo-referenced Geographical Information Systems in France, there had already been a **national and specific set of cartographic references for surface water** for many years, the **"BD-CARTHAGE"**, but there was none for groundwater. This gap is now filled by the new database on the **French Hydrogeological Reference set ("BD-RHF")**, first spatial set of references on groundwater in France. It has just been finalized through cooperation between the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, the International Office for Water, the Water Agencies and "BRGM".

The "BD-RHF" includes:

- a two-dimension national map of the hydrogeological units on a scale of 1/50 000 (scale of the geological maps and of the "BD-CARTHAGE"),
- a summary description sheet for each hydrogeological unit, prepared according to "SANDRE" national standards.

The "BD-RHF" can be seen and downloaded from the site of the National Water Data Network (RNDE): www.rnde.tm.fr, section "atlas des zonages". This set is public and free of charge.

A second version is already under way.



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INBO GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED



1994 – 2004 : all our Presidents are gathered

186 representatives of governmental administrations in charge of water management, of basin organizations, already existing or being created, coming from 57 countries, and from interested bi- and multilateral cooperation agencies, met in Quebec (Canada), from 28 to 30 May 2002, during the **fifth General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)**, to study all together the most suitable means for achieving the sound, balanced and integrated and participatory governance of inland surface and ground water resources.

The delegates outlined that all problems can no longer be tackled on a sectoral or local basis, or indeed separately. In fact, the search for solutions must pass through an integrated and holistic approach, organized at the relevant level of river basins, and respecting the resources and natural environments. Indeed, river basins are the natural territories in

which water runs on the soil or in the sub soil, whatever are the national or administrative boundaries or limits crossed.

For preparing the United Nations Conference of Johannesburg (Rio + 10) of August 2002 and the 3rd World Water Forum of Kyoto (March 2003), the delegates recommended that, in order to achieve these objectives, the following procedures should be used all over the world:

- **Water resource policy must be a long-term one:** passing legislation and applying it, modernizing structures, studying, financing and implementing projects, all this often

requires one or even several decades to achieve tangible results, others than punctual ones;

- **The part and responsibilities of each stakeholder, as well as his rights and obligations, the methods used for his participation and dialogue with counterparts, must be strictly defined in a modernized and consistent legal framework.** The Public Authorities must have the means to control the implementation of this legislation in the field;
- In addition to the relevant governmental Administrations, **the representatives of the local Authorities concerned, of the different categories of users of water and aquatic ecosystems, and associations of collective interest of the civil society must participate in river basin committees or councils;**

The building of the information capacity of these partners' representatives is required for them to fully assume their responsibilities and assignments within the framework of the basin policy.

- **Laws, regulations and standards must precisely define:**
 - ◆ the conditions under which all the users of resources and ecosystems of a basin may withdraw raw water, discharge wastewater, implement developments or works that may change run off or the natural environments,
 - ◆ the means for conformity control, available to the Public Authorities,
 - ◆ prosecutions and convictions that the offenders can incur.
- **Masterplans, prepared with dialogue and transparency, must set the objectives to be achieved in the long and medium term in each large river basin;**

- **Reliable, representative and easily accessible integrated information and monitoring systems must be organized in each river basin** to get information on the status of the resources and environments and on the uses and pollution, and to monitor their evolution over time in order to evaluate the efficiency of the programs implemented and their conformity with the objectives set by the masterplans.

3RD WORLD WATER FORUM KYOTO (Japan) -2003

INBO Workshop – 20 March 2003 - SHIGA



The Organization Committee of the 3rd **World Water Forum of Kyoto** has retained INBO's proposal to convene a **workshop on "Progress made over the world regarding integrated water resource management at the river basin level"** on **Thursday 20 March 2003, from 12:30 to 15:15, in Shiga - Ohtu Prince Hotel – Ohmi room.**



This INBO workshop will contribute to the great topic "Integrated Water Resource and Basin Management". It will take place during two days (20 and 21 March 2003) and is jointly organized by GWP, INBO, UNEP, Shiga Prefecture and the International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC).

All our partners are, of course, invited to attend the entire workshop and the plenary sessions on the main topic on 20 March, from 10:00 to 11:30, at the Biwako Hall, and on 21 March, from 16:30 to 18:00, at the Prince Hall of Ohtu Hotel in Shiga.

INBO enables debates on the "Virtual Water Forum" website:

www.worldwaterforum.org/for/en/fshow.1333

then use the topical keywords:

"Integrated water resource management" or
"Rivers/river basin management" or
"Transboundary water issues".

Any information on Shiga workshop and other activities of our Network and Regional Networks is available on: **www.inbo-news.org**

SEATS ARE LIMITED, PLEASE REGISTER NOW!!

Basin Organizations

THE "DECLARATION OF QUEBEC"

These systems must be standardized to allow syntheses and comparisons between basins, at the national level in each country and at the international level.

The studies and documents relative to each river basin must be inventoried, gathered and accessible to all.

- **The setting-up of specific financing systems, at least partly based on the participation and solidarity of the users and polluters, is needed to implement the successive priority action plans, required to achieve the objectives set by the master-plans of each basin.**

INBO delegates recommend the use of basin water charges (based on the "user-pays" and "polluter-pays" principles), which have shown their high efficiency everywhere they have been really applied.

Such basin water charges enable the mobilization of significant funds to finance the sector, while ensuring solidarity between the upstream and downstream parts of basins and between the categories of users, with an incentive effect on consumption reduction and pollution control.

INBO recommends that basin water charges be progressive in order to adapt these modern financing systems to the proper situation of each country.

It is advisable that these water charges be set by consensus in river basin committees and managed at the level of the basin by a specialized organization (i.e. Water Agency).

- **Agreements and strategies, programs, financial support and monitoring should be designed at river basin level and cooperation agreements should be signed between the riparian countries of large transboundary or shared rivers, lakes or aquifers.**

The creation of **international commissions**, meeting regularly and which would involve all the administrations concerned, local authorities and users of the riparian countries in integrated and sustainable management should allow better dialogue, the exchange of useful information and the strengthening of transboundary cooperation.

Official bi- and multilateral development aid should be especially mobilized to support projects for creating basin organizations.



Quebec General Assembly

Strong mobilization for INBO/GWP Associated Program

The General Assembly was pleased with the outstanding mobilization of INBO members to achieve the objectives of the Associated Program "**assistance with the creation and development of basin organizations over the world**" jointly prepared by GWP and INBO.

61 projects, meeting the conditions set by the Associated Program and coming from all the regions of the world were studied after the call for proposals sent by INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat, in close collaboration with the LANBO and CEENBO secretariats and with the regional TACs of GWP.

www.inbo-news.org

A Virtual Discussion Forum

- *Participate in the discussions,*
- *Exchange your ideas,*
- *Disseminate your experience,*
- *Propose your projects,*
- *Ask your questions !*

Eight topics to be enhanced

- Management of transboundary rivers
- Relations between basin organizations and administrations
- Users' participation and populations' involvement
- Economy and the financing of water
- Formulation of masterplans and river basin planning
- Integrated systems for monitoring resources, uses and the environments
- Prevention of natural and accidental hazards
- Protection of wetlands and groundwater

Visit the "Virtual Forum", You will find there :

- summary notes of INBO meetings
- papers on the experiments of member-organizations
- up-to-date information
- a "room for public debate"

INBO Virtual Forum has to prepare the Network's participation in the 3rd World Water Forum of Kyoto in March 2003.

INBO next General Assembly will take place in the Martinique in Spring 2004 at the invitation of the Basin Committee and Local Authorities of the Martinique, in liaison with the French Loire-Brittany Water Agency.



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CONSTITUTIVE MEETING OF THE NETWORK OF TRANSBOUNDARY BASIN ORGANIZATIONS

THONON-LES-BAINS (France) - 25 / 26 NOVEMBER 2002

FINAL RESOLUTIONS

"FOR RIVERS WITHOUT BORDERS"

123 delegates of governmental administrations responsible for managing water resources, and of the basin organizations coming from Algeria, Belgium (Walloon and Brussels-Capital Regions), Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Congo, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, Niger, Panama, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, United States and Venezuela, and from the **International Commissions or Transboundary Organizations** for the Danube, Lake Chad, "Léman Lake", Mekong, Niger, Orange, Rhine, Scheldt, Senegal, and the International Joint Commission, met in Thonon-les-Bains, on 25 and 26 November 2002, under the auspices of the **International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)** and at the invitation of the International Commission for the Protection of the "Léman" lake ("CIPEL"), of the Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Water Agency, and the Water Academy, and in the presence of the main bi and multilateral cooperation organizations and large Non Governmental Organizations involved.

Preamble

There are 261 transboundary rivers over the world, the basins of which are shared by at least two countries and cover an area of about two-thirds of the continents and host two-fifths of the world population.

15% of the Countries depend on more than 50% of the water resources of upstream countries.

For instance, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Egypt, Paraguay, Niger, Congo, Gambia, Botswana or Mauritania, Luxembourg, Romania, the Netherlands, Bulgaria or Hungary have more than 2/3 of their resources coming from bordering countries.

It is estimated that 48% of the world population will live in highly degraded river basins in 2025.

Although many agreements have been signed between riparian countries to ensure free navigation on transboundary rivers in the past centuries, and, since the end of the 19th century, to build hydropower dams, today, there are still too few agreements, conventions or treaties dealing with pollution control, aquifer management and a fortiori the integrated management of shared river basins.

But water has no boundary!

Appropriate integrated management of rivers, lakes or aquifers, shared by several riparian countries, is now of strategic significance.

For these large transboundary rivers and aquifers, inland or international seas, cooperation agreements between the riparian countries should thus be considered.

In cooperation with international organizations and programs, several countries have however already established a real basin organization and a large number are considering doing so.

An exchange and cooperation network is still lacking at the level of transboundary river basins and aquifers, involving the managers, decision-makers and the main users' organizations concerned with sustainable water resource use.

It is the reason why the 5th General Assembly of INBO, which took place in Quebec in May 2002, proposed, in

liaison with all the institutions concerned, **the creation of a specialized Network of International Commissions or Transboundary Basin Organizations to enrich this approach.**

Basic principles

To ensure the quality of life on our planet, and the sustainable socio-economic development of our societies, **water resource management needs now to be both sound and balanced.**

The questions raised by these problems are complex.

The answers must at one and the same time make it possible:

- to reliably and equitably meet the current and future needs of urban and rural populations for good quality drinking water, in order to improve hygiene and health, and to prevent large-scale epidemics,
- to ensure sufficient food by improving agricultural land use and irrigation while respecting the sustainable management of water resources, soils and ecosystems,
- to enable an harmonious use of water for industry, energy production, recreational activities and, in some sectors, the development of tourism and waterways transport,
- to prevent and control pollution of all kinds and origins in order to preserve health and the aquatic ecosystems,
- to protect fauna and flora and optimize fish farming,

The African panel chaired by Mr. OULD MERZOUG ("OMVS")



Basin Organizations



123 Delegates coming from 41 countries

- to meet the requirements of different uses and ensure appropriate land use planning of river basins,
- to prevent and manage, in an integrated manner, the risks of erosion, flooding or drought.

Integrated water resource management is needed.

From now on, agreements and strategies, programs, financing and control should be designed at the river basin level.

Objectives of the network

The objectives of this Network are to assist with the creation and strengthening of basin organizations over the world, and in particular:

- to strengthen cooperation between the countries bordering transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers;
- to participate in the local, national and international discussions on integrated management of water resources and sound and sustainable development of river basins and aquifers and to make a concerted effort towards international cooperation in these areas,
- to develop exchanges of information, experiences and expertise between the Countries, Provinces or Regions and Organizations interested in the integrated management of a transboundary river basin or aquifer,
- to evaluate the activities undertaken and to disseminate their results, especially through publications and appropriate training programs,
- to design and promote programs for achieving these objectives,
- to facilitate the development of tools for institutional and financial management, program planning, database organization and of models for integrated management of water resources, river basins and aquifers,

- to promote the exchange of information and data essential for knowledge of the resources, uses and pollution and required for forecasting natural hazards and accidents, for defining multi-year plans for joint and consistent actions and for evaluating the common policies implemented,
- to assist with the establishment of systems, based on the "user-polluter-pays" principles and on common cause in the basin, for financing their implementation,
- to promote training programs for the managers, executives and technicians of the member organizations and, more generally, for all stakeholders in water management,
- to promote the participation of the populations concerned in planning processes and sustainable water resource management.

The Network partners

The Network is open to:

- **International Commissions and to organizations responsible** for promoting and implementing integrated management of transboundary river basins and aquifers,
- **Governmental administrations** in charge of integrated water resource management in the countries involved in transboundary basins and aquifers and interested in setting up basin organizations,
- **Bi or multilateral cooperation organizations** supporting activities to establish institutional structures at the level of large transboundary river basin or aquifer.

Non Governmental Organizations may participate in the Network activities as Observers.

Procedures for creating the Network

All the interested partner organizations agreed to meet again within 18 months.

Romania and the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River proposed to host the next two plenary meetings and will jointly choose the places and dates during the first meeting of the Provisional Liaison Committee in March 2003.

Up to then, this Provisional Liaison Committee will make, under the transitory chairmanship of the representative of the International Commission for the Protection of the "Léman" Lake (CIPEL) and vice chairmanship of the Right Honorable E. GRAY (International Joint Commission – Canada/USA) and of Messrs. OULD MERZOUG (Organization for the Development of the Senegal River) and STADIU (Romanian Ministry of the Environment) all the contacts necessary to define the procedures for the constitution and running of the Network and to examine all the new membership applications from partners not represented in the Thonon-les-Bains Assembly.

INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat will handle the secretariat of the Provisional Liaison Committee.

The delegates expressed their interest in **international cooperation programs relative to the management of transboundary river basins**, either ongoing or being elaborated, and affirmed their willingness in becoming stakeholders and partners, whenever possible, especially in the **INBO/GWP Associated Program** for the "Creation and strengthening of basin organizations over the world", in the **European Initiative on Water Management, especially in Africa and the New Independent States**, and in the other parts of the world where it could be extended, in the projects of GEF or United Nations Agencies, such as IW-LEARN, HELP, PCCP, HYCOS, etc., as well as in the projects initiated by the Water Academy or NGOs, such as Green Cross International, the WWF's or the "River Initiative" for instance.

The participants of the Thonon-les-Bains meeting wished that their resolutions be presented at the next World Water Forum of Kyoto in March 2003.



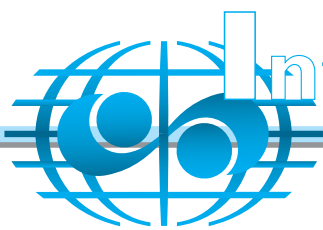
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International Network of AFRICAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS (ANBO)

Dakar Declaration

The Constitutive General Assembly of the African Network of Basin Organizations (ANBO) took place in Dakar (Senegal) on 10 and 11 July 2002.

This assembly was initiated by the group of basin organizations of West Africa and Lake Chad with the support of the Regional Water Partnership of West Africa (GWP/WAWP) and the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

It gathered delegates from the Administrations in charge of water management and the Basin Organizations of the Region.

The delegates approved the statutes of the African Network of Basin Organizations, according to the rules of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), with the legal statute of an association under the legislation of Senegal.

According to the new statutes, the delegates elected Mr. Oumar OULD-ALY, as President of the Network for a 2-year mandate and appointed the other members of the Bureau. The General Assembly has chosen the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) to be in charge of the Permanent Technical Secretariat for a renewable 4-year term.

The delegates, gathered in Dakar, appealed to all the Ministries in charge of water and to all the existing (or being created) basin organizations, in Africa, to join this new continental Network with an open mind for strengthening cooperation at the level of the Region.

They wished that a coordinated multi-year program be established to support the creation and reinforcement of basin organizations in Africa, based on the principles of integrated water resource management organized at the level of catchment areas of rivers and aquifers of the continent, either national or transboundary with the participation of all categories of water users.

The delegates strongly reminded that freshwater is a regional public asset at the scale of each basin and that its good governance is essential to fight against poverty and improve health and hygiene and to the sustainable socioeconomic development of mankind.

They stressed the importance of sharing African information and documentation on water inside an African Water Information and Documentation System ("AWIS") whose preliminary studies have proven its feasibility.

The delegates wished that the initiatives of bi and multilateral cooperation institutions and of non governmental organizations be coordinated with the projects of the member organizations of the Network within a multi-year program of the African Network. This coordination on a continental scale would aim at supporting the creation and strengthening of basin organiza-

tions in Africa. This objective is itself included in the Associated Program jointly initiated by INBO and GWP.

They also appealed to the bi and multi-lateral donors to prioritize the financing of projects initiated and approved within the framework of this Associated Program.

They mandated the Network President and the Permanent Technical Secretary to present this "Dakar Declaration" to the World Conference on Sustainable Development of Johannesburg and to the 3rd World Water Forum of Tokyo.



INBO IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MED-INBO) was created in Madrid on 3 November 2002, according to Clause eleven of the statutes of INBO (International Network of Basin Organizations).

Its main objective is to promote the undertaking of any Mediterranean initiative towards the implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) at the level of the catchment areas of national or shared rivers, lakes or aquifers, while reconciling economic growth, social equity, environmental and water resource protection and the participation of the Civil Society.

This Regional Network aims to:

- develop lasting relations between the organizations in charge of such an integrated management in the Mediterranean Region and promote exchanges of experiences and expertise among them;
- facilitate the design of adapted instruments for institutional and

financial management, tools for information and follow up of water resources, for the organization of databases, the concerted preparation of masterplans and of medium and long-term action plans;

- develop the information and training of local elected officials, of the representatives of users and various stakeholders involved in water management, and the executives and staff of basin organizations;
- encourage the education of populations on these issues;
- promote these river basin management principles in international cooperation programs;
- evaluate the actions initiated by member organizations and disseminate their results.

The Jucar Hydrographic Confederation of Valencia (Spain) is in charge of the secretariat of this new Regional Network.

Basin Organizations

CEENBO

General Assembly of the Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations



Delegates of organizations and administrations of Central and Eastern European countries gathered in Sinaia - Romania - on 1 and 2 February 2002, within the framework of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).

In accordance with the INBO statutes approved during the Zakopane General Assembly (Poland, October 2000), and in particular with clause 11 of the statutes and the provision of the **Warsaw Declaration (22 - 23 June, 2001)**, the delegates approved the creation of the **Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO)**.

Implementation of the Framework-Directive in Central and Eastern Europe

The participants of the Sinaia Assembly had included the organization of workshops on the implementation of the Framework-Directive in the EU pre-accession countries, among the priority activities of CEENBO.

The implementation of the Framework-Directive has generated a lot of work at the level of the Community and at the level of each Member Country. This included topical groups and coordination meetings for the European water managers, to which the water managers of the candidate Countries were associated.

A first workshop took place in Warsaw (Poland) on 4 and 5 July 2002. Mr. Tomasz Walczykiewicz, Water Manager at the Polish Ministry of the Environment, opened and chaired the workshop. Ms. Daniela Radulescu, CEENBO secretary, and Mrs. Josiane Mongellaz, in charge of the project at IOWater, were the facilitators.

This workshop was intended for the executives of the ministries, national and local boards and basin organizations of the candidate Countries, in charge of preparing the implementation of the Framework-

Central and Eastern European Network of Basin Organizations (CEENBO).

Mr. Costica SOFRONIE was elected as President of CEENBO.

According to the provisions in the Clause 4 of CEENBO Statutes, the **National Company "Apele Romane" - Romania - offered to host the Association's Head Office in Bucharest.**

The participants expressed their interest to the following main activities of CEENBO:

Directive in their respective countries. It dealt with the **"analysis of significant anthropogenic pressures and their impacts"**. This analysis will be included in the situation report of each basin district to be presented in 2004.

The French participants were representatives of the Water Agencies (Delegation in Brussels, Loire-Brittany Water Agency), IFEN (French Environment Institute), the European Topical Center on Water, members of the working groups on the analysis of pressures and impacts, and of IOWater.

The workshop allowed:

- Promoting the dissemination to the candidate Countries of updated information on the questions arising when implementing the Directive; presenting ongoing works at Community level so that the countries have the same view on the Directive requirements and preparing implementation guidelines.
- Presenting the outputs of the French Group: assessment of the current situation at the level of the basins and changes required to match the Directive, development of common implementation methods, case studies, etc.

- ❖ to strengthen the relations between INBO members from neighboring countries of the Central and Eastern European Region;
- ❖ to facilitate the implementation of the GWP/INBO Associated Program;
- ❖ to organize technical seminars on the "Stage and problems on the implementation of the EU Water Framework-Directive (WFD)";
- ❖ to exchange information regarding the organizational structure in each CEENBO country in order to implement the EU WFD;
- ❖ to develop information and training programs for raising public awareness and for local elected officials.

A technical seminar was held during the General Assembly.

It focused on the following issues:

- the progress made by GWP/INBO Associated Program in Central and Eastern Europe;
- implementation of the EU Water Framework-Directive;
- water pricing policies;
- the "AQUADOC - INTER" information and documentation system.

➤ Enabling the basin organizations of the candidate Countries to exchange their experiences and make known their analysis of the problems encountered, regarding this topic, when implementing the Directive in Central and Eastern Europe.

A second workshop was organized in Calimanesti, Romania on 14 and 15 November at the same time as the yearly meeting of CEENBO Bureau. It dealt with the **"stages of the Framework-Directive implementation and especially the preparation of the initial inventory and characterizations of water masses"**.

More than twenty delegates from 6 Central and Eastern European Countries participated.

The papers of these two workshops were gathered on CD-ROMs and disseminated.



Information

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Conference

International Conference WATER IN THE MOUNTAINS

Integrated Management of Upper River Basins

MEGEVE (FRANCE) - 5 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2002



Starting with the findings that mountains are the "water towers of the planet" and that specific development and management actions should be carried out there, 450 delegates, coming from 20 countries, met in MEGEVE, Upper-Savoy, France, from 4 to 6 September 2002, within the "International Year for Mountains", (with the participation of FAO, UNESCO, UNEP, the Global Water Partnership and the International Network of Basin Organizations), to assess the situation and formulate proposals which will be presented to the World Water Forum in KYOTO, Japan, in March 2003.

Indeed, mountains encounter specific situations:

- **They are hazard-prone areas;**
With their slopes and relief, combined with scarce and fragile vegetation caused by their hard climate, mountains encounter high erosion and fast water concentration, which generate high water levels and floods that may cause disasters in the low lands of the river basins and plains.
- **Water quality is deteriorating;**
Pollution of upstream torrents and rivers deteriorates water quality downstream.
- **Competition among water uses is high;**
The strategies of populations, even of countries, are more and more competing and the "upstream-downstream common cause" is insufficient!

In dry mountains, traditional irrigation is the main water consumer and demand is increasing.

The "snow blowers" - used by ski resorts at the beginning and at the end of the seasons - consume a lot of water during the low water level winter periods in the mountains when water requirement for tourists is the highest!

Further to the risk run by the populations over centuries because of **mountain water, the latter is also a "source" of wealth and development.** Better use of this potential should contribute to the land use planning and economy of mountainous areas.

Most often, there are technological solutions although progress is always advisable. **The main hindrances are mainly institutional and financial.**

Good management of mountain water means better water management in the plains. The participants formulated the following recommendations:

- 1 River basins are natural territories in which water runs. Concerted actions have to be organized at this level.
- 2 An effective policy of water resource management must be designed in the long-term.
- 3 The role and responsibilities of the stakeholders, as well as their rights and obligations, and the arrangements for their participation and dialogue must be specified in a modernized and consistent legal context.
- 4 River basin committees or councils must associate the relevant govern-

mental administrations and the representatives of the concerned local Authorities, with the different categories of users of water and aquatic ecosystems together with associations of collective interest from the civil society.

- 5 Masterplans, jointly formulated with dialogue, transparency, consensus and shared responsibility, must set out the objectives to achieve in the medium term in each large river basin.
- 6 It is necessary to set up reliable and representative integrated information and monitoring systems, complete and easily accessible databases as well as specific research programs.
- 7 The setting up of specific financing systems, based on the participation and common cause of users and polluters, is necessary to enable the implementation of the priority programs required to achieve the objectives set out in the master plans of each river basin.
- 8 Community utilities in charge of drinking water supply, sanitation or irrigation would gain by using industrial and corporate management, especially within public/private partnership arrangements, and to bill their service providing to the users, at real cost, with all useful equalization to make these services available to the low income populations.

Among all these proposals, some can also be quoted:

- the experimentation, with some municipalities, of a certification approach, which can lead to a **quality label for water management,**
- the creation of a **network of pilot basins,** an initiative of FAO and the European Information System on Forests and Mountains,
- the importance of developing **international water information systems** such as the Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System (EMWIS).

Megeve, whose initiative was underlined by all the participants, has been approached to become a "focal point" for the reflections and real actions initiated on water in the mountains and to organize a new conference in five year time in order to draw conclusions on the evolutions and outcomes.



Information

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International Events



"EUCAP"

A success in the ACP Countries

European financing

The EUCAP program, financed by the European Commission and the International Cooperation of the United Kingdom (DFID), introduces a **strategic approach** to the management of projects related to water supply and sanitation in the developing countries.

EUCAP is entrusted to an international consortium, led by HR Wallingford - UK, with IRC-Delft, IOWater - Paris, NETWAS Nairobi - Kenya, the NCWSTI Polokwane - South African Republic, the "CEFOC" group, "EIER" Ouagadougou - Burkina Faso.

The Strategic Approach : What is it?

The Strategic Approach to sustainable, efficient and fair development of water resources is the core of the Guidelines on which is based the new European cooperation policy. The Guidelines emphasize 6 leading principles that can be used in programs and projects. They are: institutional and management principles, social principles, economic and financial principles, environmental principles, information, education and communication principles, and technological principles.

This strategic approach concerns projects which deal with the 4 "programming frameworks" included in EC budget lines:

- Assessment and planning of water resources,
- Basic rural water supply and sanitation services,
- Municipal water and sanitation utilities,
- Water use in agriculture.

It is based on the official method for Project Cycle Management of the European Commission and on the reference logical frameworks.

Nine awareness raising workshops

Five workshops for raising awareness to the strategic approach of the European Commission for the management of water resource development projects, already took place, in English or French, in the Samoa Islands, in the Pacific Ocean in February 2002, in Nairobi for the East African countries, in Pretoria for the southern countries of Africa in March 2002, in Ouagadougou for the countries involved in the fight against desertification in May 2002 and finally in Djibouti in June 2002.

Each gathered from thirty to forty projects executives.

Four other workshops are planned in Nigeria, in St. Domingo, in Central Africa and in a Portuguese-speaking country.

Practical training courses

The first 2-week training courses on this strategic approach practice took place in July 2002 at the NETWAS training center in Nairobi, the NCWSTI training center in Polokwane (SAR), and in October 2002 in Ouagadougou at the "CEFOC".

The first participants were taken care of by the EUCAP program. They had the opportunity of comparing their respective projects, not only with the methods and recommendations of the international community but also with the appreciation of their counterparts. This led to a significant improvement in the projects and advance in the programming quality. The projects are thus financed better and more rapidly.

The success of the method led to an extension of this action to the ALAMED zone, either in a country of Latin America, of Southeast Asia or of the Middle East.

DJIBOUTI "A country of thirst"

Head of the "Horn of Africa", the Republic of Djibouti is no more making headlines in the newspapers: peace is back and reconstruction of the country has started. Economic is still based on its harbor activity, an outlet for Ethiopia, and on a large NATO military base.

But water is scarcer and scarcer.

The coastal aquifer is overexploited: 14 Mm³/year instead of the 10Mm³ of mean recharge. It is lowering and salted. The organization of water supply is divided among many competitive administrations. Wastage, leaks and delays in payment are regular.

The European Commission has devoted the main part of its 9th EDF to the water sector:

- 1 Adoption of a consistent sectoral policy for water and sanitation;
- 2 Setting-up of efficient management and coordination bodies;
- 3 Rehabilitation of Djibouti City water supply system and extension of the sanitation systems to the underprivileged settlements of the city;
- 4 Restructuring of "ONED" and its privatization under concession after its financial recovery;
- 5 Improvement of the urban environment;
- 6 Better knowledge of rainfall data and of Djibouti aquifer and control of its quality and that of sea waters;
- 7 Study of alternative water resources, including desalination of sea water using wind energy.

Within the EUCAP program, an awareness raising workshop took place in June 2002. It was led by the "CEFOC" and the International Office for Water and gathered about thirty participants.

It was decided to urgently work on the programming and organization of a new refresher course on the strategic approach.

BURKINA FASO

Integrated water resource management is now a current practice

Under the impulse of the Danish cooperation, the countries of the European Union, together with the Burkina Authorities, are carrying out an efficient work towards an integrated water resource management policy. Concerted meetings, awareness workshops, exchange of know-how further joint projects to move faster and do better.

Awareness raising to project management

In the EUCAP program, an awareness workshop took place in May 2002.

36 executives, from the 9 countries involved in the Regional Solar Program (RSP) of the International Commission

against Desertification in the Sahel (CILS) (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal), worked together during 3 days on the beautiful premises of the "CREPA" in Ouagadougou.

The participants expressed their wishes for better training to the Project Cycle Management (PCM) of the European Commission, in-depth study of the aid processes of the European Commission and other donors and training on the drawing up of terms of reference for projects, on the design of economic and financial "logical frameworks" and on the operating costs of rural water supply.



Information

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INBO Workshop - Kyoto WWF

On Tuesday 18 March in Kyoto
Kyoto International Conference Hall:
10:00 - 12:00 at the Agora of the
"House of Water Citizens":

Debate on "How to organize the participation of water users in Basin Committees?" in partnership with the International Water Secretariat (IWS) of Montreal.



Africa

IVORY COAST

Implementation of the Water Code

The Water Resource Directorate (DIREAU) of the Ministry of Water and Forestry (MINEF) took the responsibilities of the former High Water Commission.

It is especially responsible for implementing the integrated water resource management policy and the Ivory Coast Water Code.

For this purpose, it will have to set up the necessary legal, institutional, regulatory, technical and financial tools.

Following several work meetings with the High Water Commission, then later with the "DIREAU", an assistance program was prepared with the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

This program includes two main lines:

- **Consolidating the institutional framework:** The institutional context was analyzed, especially the roles and interactions of each of the new bodies set up by the current Government, taking account of the preliminary assessment of a tax system based on water uses and pollution discharged into the environment.
- **Technical, administrative and legal assistance to the new sub-directorate for institutional and regulatory affairs,** created inside the "DIREAU", with the preparation of the various documents needed to implement the Water Code.

WUP

Water Utilities Partnership

The WUP program was initiated by the African Union of Water Suppliers (UAWS) the Regional Center for low-cost Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation (CREPA) and the Training and Networking Development (TREND).

The International Office for Water intervened on the reforms in the water sector from 1999 to 2002.

For this purpose, IOWater assisted the WUP Secretariat, located in Abidjan, with the setting up of an **Institutional Observation and Evaluation Unit (IOEU)** with a reference library.

A network of professionals of the water sector was initiated to feed this library.

IOWater assignments, which ended in June 2002, included among others the definition of target groups, the identification and search for available information and experiences and their dissemination, and the evaluation of the operating processes of the documentation unit and the development of exchange means and online services (website).



Central Asia

KAZAKHSTAN

Transboundary management of the Irtysh River Basin



The aim of this project is to assist Kazakhstan and Russia in the design and implementation of integrated and transboundary water resource management of the Irtysh River to achieve sustainable development of activities which rely on these resources.

The expected benefits are:

- ❖ **Socioeconomic: at the national level:** improvement of knowledge of the national capabilities for designing and implementing resource management tools ; **at the local level:** improvement of drinking water quality and optimization of fishing, agricultural and industrial activities.
- ❖ **Ecological: at the regional level:** improvement of joint management of polluted water; **at the local level:** a more regular flow and better water quality will have positive impacts on fauna and flora.
- ❖ **Institutional: at binational level:** regular dialogue between the two countries on Irtysh water management ; **at the national level:** implementation of the Irtysh river basin management in each country.

Following the signing in 1999 of an agreement on the transboundary management of the Irtysh river basin by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the French Development Agency, a consortium, gathering the International Office for Water, SAFEGE and ANTEA, was entrusted with technical assistance for the implementation of the French part of this project, financed up to 1,000,000 € by the French Fund for Global Environment (FFEM).

The project includes:

- The part-time secondment of experts from the consortium to provide technical assistance to the parties involved in the project through working groups (monitoring, modeling, information system, institutional aspects);
- Point measurement campaigns and the provision of light equipment;
- The organization of dialogue and follow-up meetings;
- Capacity building for the institutions involved.

Three international meetings were organized in October 2001 (Omsk), April 2002 (Ust Kamenogorsk) and October

2002 (Pavlodar). The work progress achieved, the new orientations and activities were discussed and the equipment needs required for developing the project were defined and approved in each meeting.

Draft statutes for the Irtysh Sub-Commission were drawn up and presented during the plenary session of the Russian-Kazakh International Commission on transboundary water management during its anniversary meeting (10 years) which took place in Petropavlosk on 3 and 4 October.

A delegation of 12 Russian and Kazakh representatives participated in a study tour organized in France from 15 to 26 October 2002. They met the main French and European water stakeholders (Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, the Water Agencies, the DIRENS, the Rhine Navigation Service, the Rhine Commission, BRGM, SAFEGE and finally IOWater).

The next international meeting of the Sub-Commission is planned in April 2003, to which will be presented a progress report on the work of the institutional, monitoring, basin information system and hydraulic modeling groups.

From One Continent to Another

Which training for water supply and sanitation?



The main objectives of this training project is thus to enable:

- improving the management of systems and the level of technical skill (O&M, water quality);
- preparing the people in charge to the sanitation challenges;

performances related to the technical management of facilities;

- **The development of performance indicators**, of new technologies (GIS, etc.), of financial techniques and accounting practices;
- **Awareness raising to sanitation issues** and analyses of the different wastewater treatment techniques.

The chosen solution

After analyzing the benefits and disadvantages of the different proposed alternatives, the Lao Authorities selected, during a meeting held in Vientiane on 20 September at the "Nam Papa" head office with the French representatives (AFD and Trade Department of the French Embassy), the creation of a **National Training Center for Water Professions in Vientiane**, under "Nam Papa" supervision.

This center would be gradually provided with educational units according to the priorities defined by the surveys and approved by the Lao Authorities. It would include:

- **lecture rooms**, a documentation center, offices, a computer room and a laboratory ;
- **various specialized units**: drinking water supply systems, mechanical engineering, pumping, measurement and automation;
- **units for practical training** on drinking water supply systems, drinking water and wastewater treatment pilot units (2nd phase);
- **facilities for accommodating trainees**: lodgings and restaurant;

The following is also planned: technical assistance with the detailed project of the center, the installation of educational infrastructures, the training of trainers, the organization of technical visits, the providing of educational kits and the supervising and coordination of activities.

The project cost is currently estimated at about 1.9 million Euros.

Within their cooperation with the People's Republic of Laos, the French Authorities support a training project for training the "Nam Papa" (water company) staff and covering not only the drinking water sector, but also sanitation, necessary for the well-being of the population and the development of the country.

- allowing "Nam Papa" to improve its services to the users.

In order to better define the conditions for the implementation of such a project, the French Development Agency (AFD) financed a feasibility study entrusted, after invitations to bid, to IOWater (leader)-BCEOM consortium.

This study included an institutional assessment, surveys of the training needs and ongoing projects in this field and definition of foreseeable solutions, and the detailed feasibility of the solution chosen.

Results

The needs were prioritized and a **"Training Master Plan for the water and sanitation sector"** in the short, medium and long term was approved by "Nam Papa", its supervising authority, the Ministry of Communications, Transports, Post Office and Construction (MCTPC), and the National Drinking Water Authority (WASA).

These priorities include, along others:

- **The reduction of water losses** (leak detection, metering), **improvement of the commercial performances** of "Nam Papa" (pricing systems, corporate management processes), improvement of the supplied water quality and of

Nura and Ishim river basins

A feasibility study, requested by the World Bank to BCEOM with the assistance of the International Office for Water, concerned the future lending of \$ 52 million. It aimed to define the work to be done for allowing the water users of the Nura and Ishim river basins, and of the capital Astana in particular, to benefit from a healthy and sufficient water resource.

The topics included in this study dealt with the cleaning up of sites contaminated by mercury in the Nura, in the Temirtau region (Karaganda), the rehabilitation of Intumak dam with the building of a flood spillway and the taking of special measures regarding mercury-polluted sediment storage, the development and adaptation of the qualitative and quantitative monitoring network and institutional measures with a view to improve water resource protection and management.

Various solutions, with cost estimates, were proposed for the elimination and disposal of the polluted matters and, regarding the institutional aspects, the development of river basin management with the implementation of incentive financial arrangements.



Information

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Latin America

FROM THE RIO BRAVO TO PATAGONIA

Training on water and sanitation is getting organized

Assessment

The assessment of the situation is often the same in many countries of the world including Latin America:

- ① Operational requirements for professional training of staffs from the water supply and sanitation sectors are numerous and diversified in their nature;
- ② Meeting these requirements is absolutely necessary due to the citizens' demand for quality service and to the need of improving the yearly operating results of the water companies, either public or private;
- ③ The existing training opportunities usually do not meet, in a systematic and consistent manner, the diversity of these operational requirements. **Today, there is no offer to cover all the personnel's needs in this sector**, either from a variety or worker category viewpoint, especially for the practical training of operation and maintenance workers.
- ④ In addition, the existing training providers have not often the educational infrastructures required for systematically put the trainees in real working conditions with practical training.

Today, a training offer should have two additional objectives:

- ❖ **Developing the professional capabilities of the utility personnel;**
- ❖ **Developing in the countries the new skills required by the national policies regarding the development of the water sector.**

Appropriate response

The creation of a Training Center for Water Professions is often an appropriate solution, under local law and preferably non-profit making, it can accommodate trainees in a modern facility using the best educational tools and local trainers working in the country language.

Rather than occasionally sending small groups to be trained in Europe or the United States at high cost, it is a lasting and cheaper response to the challenge of training at least thousands of water professionals in each country.

In addition, such a Water Training Center can also develop an interesting synergy with the training professionals who are in the country. Such a center can be involved in the training and information of elected officials and representatives of water users.

This, however, implies a first investment which is to be compared with the cost of continuing the current practices in the countries.

The capability of the International Office for Water is now widely recognized regarding the different stages of this process:

- **Assessment** of the training needs, either in a company or at the national level,
- **Inventory** of the existing opportunities,
- **Preparation** of priority training plans,
- **Legal, institutional, educational and technical design** of National and Regional Training Centers for Water Professions.

In Latin America

After the cooperation implemented with Poland and Romania or with South Africa, Botswana, Kenya or Nigeria, **many demands now come from the Latin American continent.**

Thus, **following the Mexican Training Center for Water and Sanitation in Texcoco-Mexico** implemented with the "Comisión Nacional del Agua", a center which will accommodate trainees from the entire Central American Isthmus, various projects are now developing:

➔ **In Brazil**, where the feasibility study, carried out in 2001/2002 in partnership with the Secretariat of Water Resources of the Ministry of the Environment and Brasilia University, confirms the above assessment and the importance of the potential internal market. The National Water Agency is now supporting the project with a view to widen the partnership.

➔ **Venezuela** has already requested IOWater (in 2000) to design a strategy for meeting the training needs. The idea of a National Water Center is now growing.

➔ **In Chile**, where assessment was rather positive regarding the drinking water supply service quality, training needs are however clearly expressed.

The preliminary study of the **Chilean Training Center for Water Professions**, carried out in 2002 in partnership with the National Water Institute (INH) and the Ministry of Public Works (MOP) is encouraging. The notion of a regionally devoted center for the South Cone (Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) also seems very interesting.

Awareness of the needs for professional training is growing at a time when many people ask questions regarding:

- **the solutions** to be brought as concerns the needed investments and the improvement of water supply and sanitation service quality;
- **conditions** for a public/private partnership.

The creation of the National Training Center for Water Professions seems to be the usually consensual and necessary solution towards Sustainable Development.

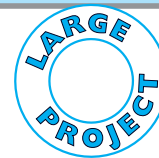
Mexican Training Center for Water and Sanitation ("CEMCAS") - Mexico



From One Continent to Another

MEXICO

Mexican Training Center for Water and Sanitation "CEMCAS"



During the technical and educational assistance provided by IOWater (CNFME) to its Mexican counterpart (CEMCAS), all "CEMCAS" executives and trainers came to France in 2002 to study in detail the operation and educational organization of the **National Training Center for Water Professions in Limoges and La Souterraine** and the Training Center of the "Compagnie Générale des Eaux" in Romorantin (its recent evolution as a resource center was explained and presented), and meet in Paris with executives of **ONDEO-SUEZ** and **VIVENDI** and with representatives of the French authorities in charge of this bilateral cooperation program.

During these visits, our Mexican colleagues had the opportunity of meeting face to face, during several days, most of the industrialists having donated equipment to "CEMCAS". This enabled them to appreciate the performances of the French technologies.

Of course, IOWater continued its assistance to "CEMCAS" with various assignments dealing with the following:

- drawing up of the enhanced training proposal on the topic "Corporate management of water utilities", selected by the "Comisión Nacional del Agua" (CNA) as one of its priorities (the donations from the French industrialists of the most advanced software packages for the management of customers – customer relation management - are to be noted).
- the implementation of the national "Platino" training program financed by the World Bank for the management of several aquifers.
- the evaluation of the educational organization of "CEMCAS", at the end of its "first operating year" and evaluation of its performances.

Mr. Marcos CERRILLO ROMERO, the new General Manager of "CEMCAS" took office in March 2002.

His prime priority is the commercial development of "CEMCAS", in particular with the expansion of the client network and the development of its communications means with the commissioners.

At the same time, **IOWater finalized the organization and sending of the equipment provided by the French industrialists.**

Thanks to the help of the French Embassy and of the "CNA" specialized departments, an assignment carried out at the beginning of August 2002 enabled the solving of the last legal and administrative problems for authorizing this import activity.

Thus a first batch of containers arrived in Mexico in September 2002.

During the third quarter of 2002, IOWater specialized trainers assisted their Mexican counterparts with the installation, use and development of this French equipment.

The first educational kits corresponding to the priority training courses - translated and adapted to the Mexican context - were also handed to "CEMCAS".

A French adviser at "CEMCAS"

Within the French Mexican agreement and to assist the Mexican instructors with the implementation of practical training programs required for improving the skills of the employees of local public utilities, **VIVENDI Environment seconded an experienced specialist to "CEMCAS" as technical and educational adviser.**

This adviser is **Alain VIBERT** - 55 years old – engineer from the "Ecole Supérieure de Chimie" (1970). After being Head of the Water Treatment Laboratory of Orléans Regional Center, he worked at the Study and Engineering Department and then at the International Relations Department, for water treatment and the study of systems, of "SEDIF" - Water Syndicate of Ile de France (area surrounding Paris).

He will share his expertise and field experience of drinking water supply with his "CEMCAS" colleagues during the next two years and then will be replaced by one of his counterparts of **ONDEO-SUEZ**.

CHILE

Feasibility study for a Training Center for Water Professions

Chile is the most advanced Latin-American country regarding the private sector involvement in the management of water utilities. Companies have been operating for years and cover the majority of the population.

When they get involved, private companies want to achieve profitability as soon as possible and therefore immediate maximum efficiency.

This search for efficiency is translated by training policies, which, at the level of companies or at the national level, will lead to propose to the companies' personnel in charge of water supply to acquire or improve their knowledge under optimal conditions.

Therefore, the main task of a Training Center for Water Professions must be to offer short, perfectly focused and very

operational courses to facilitate the effective implementation of multi-year training plans for the personnel of water companies at any hierarchical level.

The feasibility study of such a center dealt with:

- an analysis of the water supply and sanitation sector,
- an assessment of the expressed professional training needs,
- a description of the project and of its implementation : equipment, educational infrastructures and installations, technical and educational assistance with the starting of the center's activities and the training of trainers,
- the provisional budget for investments and accompanying actions and operating costs.

This study was carried out in close cooperation with the Chilean Authorities: Water Directorate of the Ministry of Public Works (MOP) and the National Hydraulic Institute (INH), with the French Embassy and the French partners such as the Suez-Ondeo group through its local branch Aguas Andinas which covers about 50% of the population.

A request for financing, based on this study, has been made to the French "FASEP" fund for the effective undertaking of this center.



Information

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MEXICO

"Centros de Información y Consulta sobre el Agua - CICAs"

Several years ago, the Mexican National Water Commission (CNA) undertook a wide reform of the water sector which includes, among other things, **the creation and development of Basin Councils and Commissions** at the level of the main basins, sub-basins and aquifers of the country.

These organizations, made up of representatives from federal, State and municipal authorities and of the various water users, enable dialogue on water resource planning and management at the level of river basins.

In order to get the information needed for decision-making and public information, the "Rules of Organization and Operation of these Basin Councils" had planned the creation of "Water Information and Dialogue Centers", entitled "**CICAs (Centros de Información y Consulta sobre el Agua)**".

In the preliminary phase of the creation of these information centers, the "CNA" had wanted to take into consideration the French know-how and experience in the management of water data and information.

Therefore, during these two last years (2001/2002), various experts of IOWater carried out assignments in Mexico, financed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs and WMO (World Me-

teorological Organization) to assist "CNA" with the "conceptualization" of these centers which will have the following three main tasks:

- 1 **Management of the Information System for integrated water management at the level of river basins (SIGIAC)**, with the creation of databases, a geographic information system, a documentary information system and Website;
- 2 **The technical secretariat of the Basin Council** with, on one hand, the organization of the production of information needed for decision-making, and, on the other, a logistics support for organizing meetings;
- 3 **The organization of communication and education activities on the topic of water at the river basin level**, with, among other things, the creation of information and dialogue centers including libraries, showrooms and awareness raising facilities, etc.

A first 3-year work program was under study at the end of this phase to effectively implement these "CICAs" in various Mexican basins, with priority given to **a pilot project for the "CICA" of the Mexico Valley Basin Council, which will be launched in 2003.**

Consolidation of the basin councils

The 3-year French-Mexican cooperation program on water, signed by the "Comisión Nacional del Agua" and the French Embassy in Mexico aims to strengthen the new 25 Mexican Basin Councils ("Consejos de Cuenca") established on the whole Mexican territory.

It is planned, in particular, to **provide a methodological assistance with the preparation of basin masterplans and management and development schemes** (equivalent to the French SDAGEs and SAGEs) while taking into account the users' participation in local water resource management.

The Country is starting a deep reform of the water sector particularly strategic for the future.

In view of this thinking, the Mexican Institutions are consulting many countries (Germany, USA, the Netherlands, Spain, etc.). The French water experience seems to retain their attention as its methodological possibilities and tools for assistance with decision making could be adapted to the local context.

The Mexican requirements in integrated water resource management at the level of river basins (revision of the water law, assistance to the Basin Councils, preparation and implementation of tools for medium/long-term planning and water management at the level of the basin) and the creation of "CICAs" (Water Information Centers), emphasize the need for strengthening the French-Mexican cooperation in this sector.

BRAZIL

IOWater / "Agência Nacional de Aguas" (ANA) agreement

During his visit to France, from 11 to 20 February 2002, Mr. Jerson Kelman, President Director General of the National Water Agency (ANA) of Brazil, accompanied by two of his Superintendents Jair Sarmento and Felix Domingues, could discover the reality of the French Water Agencies' experience.

The Loire-Brittany and Rhine-Meuse Water Agencies, the EPALA, the Ministries for Foreign Affairs and of Ecology welcomed the delegation and a multi-year agreement for institutional cooperation was signed with Jean-François Donzier, General Manager of IOWater.



This agreement will focus on three priority topics:

➔ **The organization of Water Agencies and Basin Committees**

How did this French system start in the 1970s? What tax level was used and how did the users really participate in the decision-making?

➔ **Information management**

How can you change from a system, in which data are dispersed, fragmented and heterogeneous, to a real **National Information System on Water Resources (SNIRH)**, by organizing the information so as to really federate the comparable data coming from many partners?

The experience of the French National Water Data Network (RNDE) could be adapted to Brazil.

➔ **Training on Water and Sanitation professions**

How can you meet the very diversified operational needs in professional training of the numerous staffs in the water and sanitation sectors? How can you design a Training Center, similar to those of Limoges, Gdansk or Mexico, which can meet the specific needs of Brazil?

These three topics are included in the cooperation programs, started in 2002 and supported by the French Embassy in Brazil and the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development. They will be dealt with during the coming years.





LIFE

A European CD-ROM: "Diffuse and dispersed pollution"



Within the EC LIFE Program, the International Office for Water is associated with 5 European partners to carry out an inventory of the measures taken in 6 European countries to prevent and control non-point and dispersed pollution in surface water and assess their efficiency.

IOWater partners in this project are F&N Umwelt Consult in Germany, the University of Agronomy of Gembloux and the Ministry of the Environment of the Walloon region in Belgium, RIZA in the Netherlands, the WRc in the United Kingdom and IVL in Sweden.

A CD-ROM contains the main conclusions of this study, which is part of the "preliminary actions" of LIFE regulation and aims to contribute to the definition of new measures for the implementation of the Water Framework-Directive.

Research on methods was carried out on seven pollution sources:

- **agriculture**, taking account of pesticides and nutrients, the issue of sludge application and heavy metals,
- **discharges from private properties**, coming from on-site sanitation facilities and non professional gardening practices;
- **activities not connected to a public system** (installations depending of the IPPC or UWW Directives excluded),
- **historical pollution**, i.e. old mines and landfills on the one hand, and old industrial sites or old military bases on the other,
- **run-off** on transport infrastructures,
- **the entire atmospheric pollution**, through deposits,
- **dispersed toxic wastes**.

The entire report is incorporated in this CD-ROM for each topic. This includes a comparative inventory of the 6 involved countries, according to the DPSIR method (Driving forces, Pressure, State, Impact, Response). The inventoried measures are then described and **recommendations proposed to disseminate the most efficient solutions and the most easily applicable at the European level**.

The conclusions and recommendations are supported by case studies on each topic. About 50 experiments are described.

Consultation per topic is possible by distinguishing technical reports from case studies. A list of these case studies is proposed to enable specific consultation per country and topic. Dynamic links were created to enable easily referencing to the above.

Search with key words in all the documents, reports and case studies is also available for optimal browsing.

This CD ROM is available at the International Office for Water, price: 20 Euros (taxes not included).

EUROPEAN TOPIC CENTER ON WATER

Inventory of polluting emissions



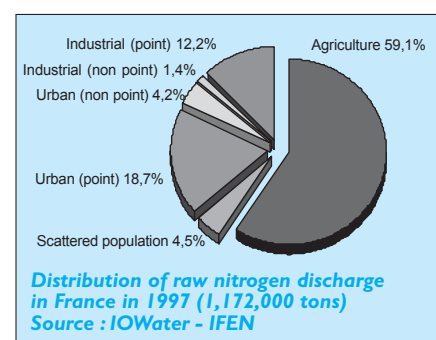
The **European Environment Agency** relies on a **Topic Center on Water** to draw up methods for gathering and organizing the data useful for fulfilling its tasks regarding environmental assessment.

Inside the Topic Center on Water, IOWater prepared a method for the inventory of polluting emissions. It has just been transmitted to the member countries for validation.

This approach, presented as an example of good practice in the "guide for the analysis of pressures and impacts in accordance with the Water Framework-Directive" could become, in the future, a method for the retrieval of information on the emissions of all kinds towards water.

Initially developed by "IFEN" in France to allow the national Authorities to meet the different demands made by the international community regarding data on emissions in water, this method was adapted to enable **a gradual implementation in the EEA member countries**.

It takes account of all the polluting sources, either point or non-point, but also of the progress of the pollutants from the source to the receiving environment, and thus of the self-purifying processes. It is not a new model involving complex algorithms but only a tool which separates the data organization from its contents, thus allowing to benefit from the last advances in each area of knowledge.



This year, IOWater is starting, on behalf of EUROWATERNET, the information collection network, the building of a database on emissions of all kinds towards water.



Information

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EDEN-IW

The Environmental Data Exchange Network - Inland Water project



The IST program of the Fifth RDPF includes, among its objectives, the development of innovative solutions for the different categories of users (scientists, decision-makers and the general public) to access environmental information.

The Environmental Data Exchange Network – Inland Water (EDEN-IW) project is in line with this program. It consists in using computer technologies to provide unified access to existing European databases on watercourse quality, without having to make them homogeneous in terms of structure and language.

Launched during Summer of 2001 for a 3-year duration, this project is led by Ispra JRC and gathers 6 European organizations. IOWater contributes with its know-how of data management and modeling, acquired with "SANDRE", regarding its work on glossaries and multilingual thesauruses on water. Among the tested databases there is the French National Water Data Base used by IOWater.

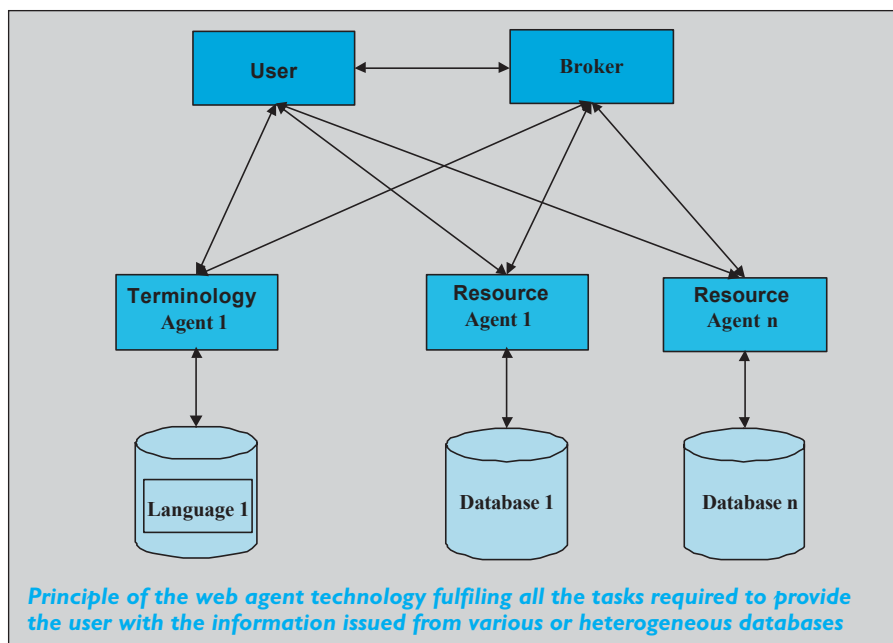
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EDEN-IW is supported by a group of users, including among the first ones the EEA and its Topic Center on Water, and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which has similar projects.

A seminar was held in Washington in June 2002. It analyzed the work progress made and mobilized the users of both sides of the Atlantic.

For additional information:

www.eden-iw.org



Extensive processes for domestic wastewater treatment

The Environment General Directorate of the Commission, the Water Directorate of the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development and the French Water Agencies entrusted the International Office for Water with the drawing up of **a guide, in seven European languages, on extensive wastewater treatment processes adapted to small and medium towns (500-5,000 pop-equivalent).**

By definition, the extensive processes require larger surface areas than the usual intensive treatment developed by big cities. However, the investment costs are usually lower and the operating conditions lighter, more flexible and energy saving. They require a smaller and less specialized work force than intensive processes.

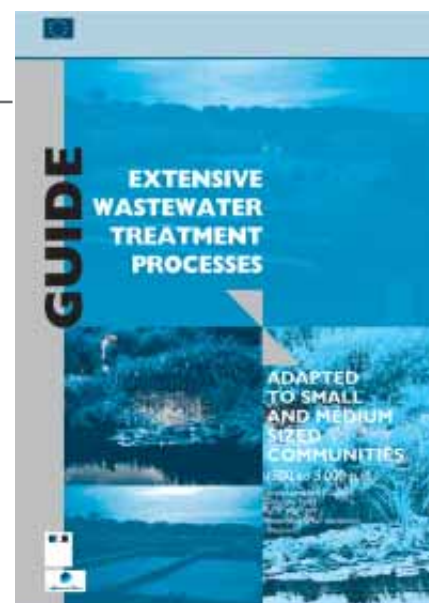
They are suited to the different European configurations which do not exceed thousands of population-equivalents.

The guide details the following techniques:

- infiltration percolation,
- planted filters with vertical outlet,
- planted filters with horizontal outlet,
- natural lagoons,
- aerated lagoons,
- association of different extensive processes,

It includes a selection aid, based on the following criteria:

- discharge quality,
- advantages and disadvantages,
- available space,
- soil permeability,
- adaptability of the processes to climatic conditions,
- cost.



The guide, illustrated by different case studies, was drawn up with the "CEMAGREF" and Mr. Paul COOPER, consultant. **It is available in French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Greek.**

WATER MANAGEMENT IN ARID ZONES

The International Office for Water is involved in a project supported by the Research General Directorate of the European Commission. It aims to develop and evaluate alternative strategies for water resource management and the regulation of water demand in the arid zones of Southern Europe.

The expected results of this study, which is carried out from January 2002 to June 2006, are the following:

- **assessment of the current situation** of water management in the arid zones of Southern Europe, using the type of problems encountered,
- **development of scenarios** for the allocation of water resources and strategies for recovering water cost,
- **assistance to decision-makers** for starting water management in arid zones, with multiple purpose integration (agriculture, tourism, drinking water supply, etc),
- **development of methods, tools, sets of directives and implementation protocols** so that the decision-makers can have access to a wide range of integrated management strategies.

IOWater is especially contributing to:

- the different methods that can be used for estimating economic and environmental costs,
- the organization of a workshop for result presentation and validation (second semester of 2003),
- an information and training campaign and exploitation of results,
- publication of results (reports, book, etc.).

INBO Workshop - Kyoto WWF

On Friday 21 March in Shiga
OTSU Prince Hotel – Suzuka Room:
15:30 - 18:15

Topic "Integrated Water Resource and River Basin Management"

Official session: "And now what ambitions for Basin Organizations?" with the members of INBO Liaison Bureau and GWP.

FINANCING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURES IN EUROPE?

During the last World Water Forum held in The Hague in March 2000, the investment planned in the 15 countries of the European Union for the next 10 years was estimated between 150 and 215 billion Euros, only for sanitation.

The investment needs are now uncertain and, in some cases, the methods and data used for assessment are inconsistent.

A first objective has derived from this situation. **It is to define the principles which must govern the methods used for estimating the investments in the water sector** and disseminating them to the stakeholders concerned in Europe.

Impact of investments needs on water price

From an historical point of view, finances were mainly State issued, but were also coming from various sources: government, regions, municipalities or public organizations such as the Basin Agencies. Recently, private capitals were introduced for financing infrastructures. With the new financial challenges, issued from the new European Water Framework Directive, the usual financing methods might be disrupted. What will be the national strategies for developing public – private partnerships?

The price of water, essential product, is also submitted to particular constraints and is especially sensitive.

The price range and composition is thus a major challenge of water policies, at the local, national and community level.

Three precise objectives for European MEIF project

The MEIF (Methods for Evaluating Investments and Financing in the water sector and prospective for price evolution) approved in July 2002 by the European Union in its 5th R & D Framework Program (Accompanying activity: sustainable water resource management) is led by "Price Waterhouse Coopers" (PWC), BIPE and IOWater. It has 3 objectives:

- 1 **Improving knowledge of methods for estimating investments in the water and sanitation sector;**

- 2 **Understanding the links between investment needs and the source of financing for implementing these infrastructures;**

- 3 **Analysis of the consequences on water price.**

This activity will be carried out in 2003 and 2004 in five countries of the European Union (Germany, Spain, Italy, United Kingdom and France) and 5 countries candidates to accession (Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic).

Indeed, the States have not the same water requirements, the same management methods, the same level of infrastructures, or even the same institutional and local organization. This evidences the European diversity. Therefore, uses related to the agricultural, industrial and domestic sectors must be distinguished, as recommended in the Water Framework Directive, but the core of this study will focus on the investments required for domestic and industrial activities. Criteria and indicators, taking account of all the environmental, economic, social and physical, political, institutional and even cultural data, will have to be integrated and analyzed to be used when developing tools for assessing the investment needs of each country.

Better understanding of national strategies for the financing of investments will require the understanding of what these methods for financing future investments will be, by determining the role of public stakeholders at the local and national level, together with the involvement of private ones.

Finally, diversifying the financial resources needed to finance these investments will also have an impact on pricing and this impact must be estimated.



Information

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Water world on Internet



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

"AQUALIBRIUM": A European inventory

A European Conference on public-private partnerships in the management of water supply and sanitation utilities took place in Berlin from 15 to 17 November. This event has been the peak of the AQUALIBRIUM project, co-managed by IOWater.

An original project

Launched at the beginning of the year, this project, included in the 5th RDFP, involves IOWater with two partners:

- **NEXUS**, a Berlin consulting firm specialized in environmental issues;
- **IDOE**, the center for research on enterprises and management of the Alcalda University of Madrid.

After a 10-month work, the partners will submit, at the end of the year, to the European Commission **an inventory of the private sector participation in the management of utilities in the 15 Member States.** An original organization was created for this purpose: each partner got involved with 4 subcontractors representing 4 different countries. This enabled the writing of 15 national reports.

These reports, based on a common model, deal with two complementary aspects:

- **the description of the national situation:** legal framework in force, presentation and tasks of the stakeholders involved, pricing, respective position of the public and private operators, recent and ongoing changes, etc. This inventory is mainly based on the study of specialized literature: reports, monographs, articles, professional periodicals, etc.;
- **an inventory of the national debates on the private sector participation in the management of utilities,** based on interviews with stakeholders from various origins: local authorities, suppliers, consumers, public administrations, researchers, etc.

During the Berlin Conference, the discussions were based on these national reports. The conference gathered participants with varied profiles, several of them recognized at the international level: Ricardo Petrella, professor at the Catholic University of Louvain and promoter of the "World Contract for Water", Bernard Guirkingner, General Manager of ONDEO, or even Gaspar Arino, famous professor in administrative law at the university of Madrid and water specialist. A representative of OFWAT, the English regulation authority, representatives from international organizations of consumers (Consumers International, Public Services International) and for environmental protection (International Water Affairs), national associations of communities (Finland, Germany), European public and private water suppliers (EUREAU), etc. also attended.

Very informative results

The major interest of the AQUALIBRIUM project is that it covers the 15 Member States on a major aspect of the currently changing management of utilities.

Although the situation in the different States has strong national characteristics, the reports emphasize that there are many common features and similar trends.

Among the "most characterized" situations, there is England, where water supply was entirely privatized in 1989 and where a regulating authority (OFWAT), unique worldwide, which, in terms of processes open to all (users, suppliers, etc.), imposes to the suppliers price variations (currently lowering) and performance levels (leak rates, services to the consumers, investments, etc.) and each year controls that these obligations are complied with on the basis of an indicator grid, before widely disseminating these results.

On the contrary, Luxembourg is different with utilities only managed by municipalities, in a context of abundant natural ... and financial resources, which allow the costs to be only partly borne by the users.

In 1997, Ireland had forbidden the municipalities to bill water to the subscribers, as operating costs "are now covered by income tax".

Finally, the Scandinavian countries, which have very performing municipal utilities, however rely on the private sector to handle many operations depending of these utilities (relations with

clients, works, analyses, etc.) on the basis of subcontracts which sometimes amount to 80% of the entire cost of the services.

In spite of these differences, some significant common features may however be identified. **Everywhere, but in England, the management of utilities is the responsibility of local authorities,** responsibilities they assume themselves in most cases or by relying on state companies or municipal water companies of which they have the entire capital. The latter is being gradually replacing direct management companies for greater transparency (separated budget, etc.) and better cost control.

The involvement of private operators is still not highly developed on the European scale. It is still an exception and even disregarded in some cases (the Netherlands). **The financial resources needed for transposing the Urban WasteWater Directive and for the renewal of the networks are however a significant concern in Europe (with various degrees), and this lead most countries to change the regulation framework in force to promote the cost recovery principle and organize partnerships with private operators.**

Regulation and control of public and private operators are developing at the same time. **This involves the consumers more and more and greater attention is paid to them:** new services are created, from easy terms of payment to advice on water saving and more developed communication. Finally, the social dimension of water supply is now a concern which is increasingly taken into account to better guarantee access to the service (suppression of water cuts) and maintain water price at a level acceptable for the greatest number.

In the coming years, the common challenge for all these utilities will be to overcome this apparently unsolvable situation, while ensuring higher investments and continuously improving service quality in an always more constraining financial context, less and less favorable to public subsidies. In such a situation, favoring the development of public-private partnerships, the control of public and private operators is prevailing everywhere in Europe as a major issue. **The regulation authorities, the evaluation tools, benchmarking and indicator systems will develop.**

INBO Workshop - Kyoto WWF

On Thursday 20 March in Shiga
OTSU Prince Hotel – OHMI Room –
River Stream 2 : 12:30 - 15:15
Topic "Integrated Water Resource
and River Basin Management"

Official session: "Progress in water management at the level of river basins over the world" with the participation of all the attending members of INBO.

KOSOVO

Towards integrated water management

Following the conflict of 1998/99, the reconstruction of Kosovo became an emergency and the basic problems remain to be solved. Kosovo is now an Independent Province administered by the United Nations, according to Resolution 1244 of the Security Council.

In the water sector, UNMIK (United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo) involved the bilateral and multi-lateral donors in the preparation of an analysis document on the implementation of concerted and integrated water resource management in Kosovo.

Following this undertaking, in which Mr. Mancel, Director of International Cooperation at IOWater participated, the French Government proposed to support the reorganization of the water sector, with studies on:

- 1 the institutional arrangement with Basin Organizations in Kosovo,
- 2 a system for managing data and information.

The French Ministry of Ecology entrusted the "Fédération France Eau" with these studies and Messrs. Fonbonne (VERSeau) and Haener (IOWater) car-

ried out several assignments in Kosovo between February and July 2002.

These studies underline the need to:

- **Develop an institutional program** including, among other things, a clear definition of the responsibilities of the existing organizations, currently involved in the water sector, and the setting-up of Basin Committees and their executive bodies;
- **Use instruments for water resource management at the scale of river basins** (management plan, financing plan, etc.) via large programs for the training of local human resources.

But:

- the monitoring of the resources is almost non-existent as all the measurement systems are to be rebuilt after the conflict;
- most of the computerized information systems of the main stakeholders in water resource management are in the building stage or non-existent;
- the few historical data, which exist and are dispersed on paper docu-

ments, are uneasily accessible and hardly usable;

- the production of information needed for decision-making is not organized.

A detailed action program was proposed to benefit from the Kosovo reconstruction phase to develop, in a consistent and integrated manner, the production and collection of raw data and the production and dissemination of the information expected for water resource management.

In total, 4 project description sheets were validated by the local administrations and presented to the donors. These sheets deal with:

- ❖ the support to the setting-up of basin organizations and planning on the scale of river basins,
- ❖ the reinforcement of water resource monitoring,
- ❖ the organization of the monitoring of water abstractions and wastewater discharges,
- ❖ the development of a consistent water information system.

POLAND

Towards the implementation of the European Directives?

Within the framework of the process of accession to the European Union, Poland has started to transpose and implement the European directives in the water sector.

A 2-year institutional twinning arrangement between the French and Polish Ministries of the Environment, supported by the European Commission, ended in October 2001. It allowed the gradual conformity of the legislative and regulatory texts and the definition of the methods for implementing the main Directives in the water sector.

French-Polish bilateral cooperation

Signed in 2002, this cooperation agreement aims to:

- ❖ promote the exchange of experience between the French Water Agencies and the Polish "RZGWs",
- ❖ train and inform regional and local Polish decision-makers in the water sector.

The objective of this program, jointly organized with the Gdansk Water Foundation in Poland and France, is to assist with the decision-making needed for implementing the European Directives.

The project is implemented, on the Polish side, by the Water Department of the Ministry of the Environment, the Water Management Board, the concerned "RZGWs" and the Gdansk

Water Foundation, and on the French side, by IOWater and the Water Agencies.

1 The twinning agreements

3 dual teams have already been set up :

- **Seine-Normandie** Water Agency - **Gliwice** "RZGW" (upstream basin of the Vistula and the Oder) - Agreement signed in August 2001.
- **Adour-Garonne** Water Agency - **Warsaw** "RZGW" - Agreement renewed in July 2002.
- **Rhine-Meuse** Water Agency - **Szczecin** "RZGW" - Agreement signed in February 2002.

In 2002, the project organized:

- ◆ A workshop for the presentation of the work undertaken by each dual team, held in Warsaw and intended for the representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and of all "RZGWs" (June 2002),
- ◆ 6 assignments in Poland with specialists of the French Agencies,
- ◆ A practical training program in France for 2 specialists from each of the 3 "RZGWs" concerned,
- ◆ A workshop for the presentation of the findings of each dual team, aiming at a good dissemination and capitalization of the experience at the national level (December 2002).

2 Training of the heads of regional and local authorities

This component is jointly implemented by IOWater and Gdansk Water Foundation. They take care of the preparation and implementation of the various planned activities:

- analysis of the conditions required for implementing an information program for elected officials and a feasibility study of an online information service,
- 2 training courses organized in Gdansk (December 2002), addressing the heads of regional administrations and water supply and sanitation utilities and dealing with the implementation of the European Directives on sanitation,
- a study tour in France for about thirty executives from the municipal water supply and sanitation utilities to evidence the solutions selected by French local Authorities to comply with the European Directives.

A steering committee, made up of representatives of the French and Polish Ministries in charge of the Environment, follows up the whole project and meets at least once a year.



Information

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ROMANIA

Capacity building for better water management

In order to continue the efforts made these last years within the cooperation between France and Romania and especially with a view to implement the Framework Directive, a bilateral cooperation arrangement was signed in October 2001 by François Casal, on behalf of the French Ministry of Ecology, and Florin Stadiu, Secretary of State in charge of the Water Department in Romania.

In 2002, the project dealt with the topics considered as a priority by the Romanian party:

- a twinning agreement signed by the Loire-Brittany Agency and the National Company Apele Romane regarding the Somes river basin (Tisza),
- an analysis of the conditions required for modernizing the Roma-

nian National Data Base on Water Management using the French experience of the National Water Data Base (RNDE),

- a feasibility study for a "School for Executives" intended for all Romanian civil servants involved in water resource management and a support to the launching of a pilot information program for elected officials.

The local Authorities are now fully responsible for the organization of water supply and sanitation utilities and their complying with the European Directives.

A first series of "Water Information Days" was tested in December 2002.

The project will be implemented under the supervision of the Water Department of the Romanian Ministry of Water and Environmental Protection, in partnership with "Apele Romane" and with the Foundation for Training in the Water Sector (CFDPFA), as regards the information of elected officials.



ROMANIA - HUNGARY

The Tisza – Crisuri Transboundary Basin

On 8 and 9 March 2001, the representatives of the 5 governments of the Tisza Basin (Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia and Hungary), the European Union and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube (ICPRD) met in Budapest to discuss the implementation of an "Environmental Program for the Tisza River Basin" (EPTRB).

The tripartite meetings (Romania / Hungary / France) of Budapest, Oradea and Paris (December 2001) allowed, within the France-supported project for exchange of experiences on the management of a transboundary basin, the updating of the following priorities for the Körös/Crisuri basin (sub-basin of the Tisza):

- Analysis and strengthening of the water quality monitoring and warning systems in case of accidental pollution;
- Organization of data exchanges and standardization of analysis methods;
- Analysis of existing tools for integrated water resource management and participation in the preparation of an inventory and of the management plan for the transboundary river basin,

according to the recommendations of the Framework-Directive and Helsinki Convention.

This preliminary phase, financed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, led to the terms of references of a large-scale project approved by both countries.

This project of "assistance with the creation of tools for the control and management of the transboundary water of the Körös/Crisuri basin" should enable a better identification and follow up of the pollution sources and the measurement of their point and non-point impacts.

Informing the people in charge of local Authorities on their role in the river basin management and public access to the information will also be dealt with in this project.

This technical assistance, coordinated by IOWater, thus aims to:

- ① Develop the capacities of the Romanian-Hungarian Commission, through the strengthening of the Romanian organizations (basin branches and Crisuri basin committee) and Hungarian bodies in charge of water management. This means:
 - the establishment of a Romanian-Hungarian Steering Committee for the Körös/Crisuri basin project,

- the building of capacities for collecting and analyzing data on water quality,
- the improvement of data processing and exchange in and between both parties,
- the improvement of action processes and the creation of an action team for accidental pollution purposes,

- ② Help with the preparation of an inventory and procedures for drawing up a harmonized transboundary management plan, according to the recommendations of the Framework-Directive, and especially of its Annex n°7, while respecting the Helsinki Convention.

The total budget of this international project for the management of the Crisuri transboundary basin amounts to 3.7 million €, including the financing of about 1.024 million € by the French Fund for Global Environment (FFEM).



Information

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RUSSIA

ENVRUS: Towards River Basin Management

The TACIS project "Advice to the Ministry of Natural Resources on Water Management in Russia – ENVRUS 980" is now completed after 30 months of exchange between the project team and the Russian specialists.

Following a study phase on the various water management systems used over the world, the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources decided, during a seminar held in Souzdal, to adopt water management at the level of river basins with users' participation and financial incentive.

After this first choice was made, an overall water management framework was defined for the Russian Federation, then legislative amendments were proposed and lastly an experimental project

was undertaken in the Moscow-Oka basin and entrusted to the BCEOM/Verseau/IOWater consortium.

This practical work, in which participated many members of the Federal Ministry, representatives of Regional and Basin Oblasts as well as representatives of Moscow Municipality and large Authorities such as the Nijni Novgorod and Kaluga, included:

- ◆ Defining the bodies required for water management at the level of the river basin,
- ◆ Implementing a masterplan for basin management and development,
- ◆ Structuring a basin database (OKARBIS),

- ◆ Proposals for financial arrangements to support the policy of basin water quality and quantity protection,
- ◆ Creating the Oka River Basin Council and organizing its first meeting in Kaluga in June 2002. This led to recommendations for the water users of the basin.

A video film, widely disseminated by local television and during conferences and events in Moscow and in different locations of the Russian Federation, and the creation of a website were efficient means for disseminating the outcomes of this project.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE PRE-ACCESSION TWINNING AGREEMENTS

Reminder of the context

The twinning process consist in providing the Central and Eastern European countries, which are candidates to accessing the European Union, with all the technical and administrative knowledge they require to include in their national law all the legislative and regulatory texts already passed and applied by the 15 current Member States.

Institutional capacity building, through the twinning of counterpart Eastern and Western administrations, is one of the priorities of the European Commission's PHARE program.

This multi-year comprehensive cooperation aims at providing each candidate country with the efficient and operational organization required to fulfill its future community obligations.

A twinning agreement is thus signed by the candidate Country and the Member State. It defines the expected outputs of

the project, the responsibilities of each party, the implementation methods to achieve the result and their cost.

When several Member States are concerned, one of them is the project leader and signs the agreement on behalf of the others.

The following cooperation methods are planned for each twinning arrangement:

- the long-term and full-time secondment of civil servants (Pre-Accession Advisers) from Member States in the candidate countries,
- short assignments carried out by specialists in each Directive in the Countries concerned,
- practical training courses in the Member States' administrations and organizations concerned for experts from the candidate Countries participating in the transposition phase,

- training of the personnel who will have to operate the new systems in their respective countries, and particularly training of trainers.

The European Commission has established a new process, called "Twinning Light". It enables the development of shorter twinning projects without any need for the long-term secondment of an expert.

Regarding the preparation and implementation of twinning arrangements relative to the water sector, IOWater has been intervening since 1999 as an operator for the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Poland, Romania and Slovenia, totaling 15 twinning arrangements on water management.

ROMANIA

Financial mechanisms

In 2002, IOWater intervened in Romania in a new twinning arrangement led by "ADEME" and related to financial mechanisms. Its objectives are:

- to finalize legal transposition and prepare programs for the implementation of the Directives which are among the most costly in the sectors of water, air, waste and industrial pollution control,

- to estimate the cost and financial requirements of these Directives in Romania,
- to propose legislative or regulatory acts for creating appropriate economic instruments.

In 2002, D. Besozzi of the Rhine-Meuse Water Agency, Lionel Robaux and Josiane Mongellaz of IOWater contributed to the achievement of these objectives in the water sector in close cooperation with the Water Depart-

ment of the Romanian Ministry of the Environment.

The activities dealt with the transposition of the Directive on Drinking Water and with the preparation of programs for the implementation of the Directives on Urban Wastewater and Nitrates.

A first analysis of the financial mechanisms in the drinking water supply / sanitation sector has started.



Central and Eastern Europe : P

Implementation of the Directive on Nitrates

A twinning project was carried out, on the one hand, by the Department of Water Protection of the Czech Ministry of the Environment and, on the other, by a group of Member States, led by Great Britain, with Austria and France.

The project dealt with the implementation in the Czech Republic of four Directives on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances, groundwater protection, quality of water intended for human consumption and on the protection of water against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources.

The International Office for Water was responsible of the part relative to the Directive "nitrates" in cooperation with the Czech Ministry of Agriculture.

The project was carried out with specialists from the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, the DIREN of the "Centre", from the Rhine-Meuse Water Agency, the Association for Agronomic Rehabilitation of Alsace, and IOWater.

The Nitrates components included four main objectives:

1 Preparation of technical documents and appropriate regulations

An inventory of the professional institutions and networks which could participate in the implementation of the Directive was drawn up.

The French specialists presented "CORPEN" in detail. This led the Czech Authorities to create regional working groups.

The French specialists helped in the design, made by the Czech "Water Research Institute", of a new system for monitoring water quality.

The method implemented for defining the vulnerable zones was analyzed in detail, together with the designation of these zones, taking the eutrophication criteria into account.

The reporting systems provided for in the Directive were studied.

Finally, a study of the legal transposition projects was carried out.

INBO Workshop - Kyoto WWF

On Wednesday 19 March in Osaka Osaka International Convention Center : 15:30 - 18:15 during the session on "Water and Information"

Presentation: "The Euro-Mediterranean Water Information and Documentation Center (EMWIS), 27 countries exchange their data" at the initiative of the Technical Unit and all the National Focal Points of EMWIS.

2 Use of good agricultural practices, preparation of action plans and measurement programs

The working groups analyzed a draft code of good agricultural practices.

The French experts analyzed the training programs and the educational methods intended for the agricultural professions. They also brought a lot of useful information for training the farmers and participated in the seminar organized by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture in Prague and in the regions.

Lastly, a conference on the Nitrates Directive, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in Prague in February 2002, gathered 170 participants.

The financial strategy prepared for implementing the Directive was analyzed by the project experts: it identifies the financial tools that can be used to contribute to the investments and redeployment needed.

3 Preparation of systems intended for implementing measures for controlling pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources

4 A study tour organized in France in October 2001

Its program allowed better understanding of the practical aspects of the Directive implementation.

Implementation of the Framework Directive

The twinning agreement, signed on 23 May 2002 by the Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Austria, France and the European Commission, aims to implement the European Framework-Directive 2000/60/EC

This twinning project officially started on 6 May 2002 and will end on 19 December 2003.

At the Czech Ministry of the Environment a permanent team includes two Pre-Accession Advisers (the first, Mr. James Hunt, for the twinning project duration, and the second, Sylvie Jégo, Adour-Garonne Water Agency, for 12 months).

The agreement includes:

- the drawing-up of decrees for implementing the new water law,

CZECH REPUBLIC

- the preparation of water management plans at the level of a pilot river basin,
- the creation of a monitoring and follow up network for aquatic environments,
- public participation.

The French contribution to this project mainly concerns the **Orlice pilot river basin management plan**, public participation and the monitoring and follow up network for aquatic environments.

The International Office for Water was entrusted by the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development with carrying out the French participation in this project, with the support of experts from the Water Directorate of the Ministry, Water Agencies, the Navigation Department of the Seine, the DRIRE from "Nord-Pas-de-Calais".

HUNGARY

Implementation of the Framework Directive

The main objective of the twinning project, which started in September 2002, is to assist Hungary with the changing of its national laws, regulations and methods to implement the European Water Framework-Directive and provide the institutions with the means for complying with the planning, regulations, reports and information requirements related to this Directive.

During this project, the Hungarian Ministry of the Environment and Water will be helped in its set up of a national system for controlling accidental pollution, in cooperation with France, and of a system monitoring surface and groundwater, in collaboration with Germany.



From One Continent to Another

Pre-Accession Twinning Agreements

BULGARIA

Regulation on wastewater discharges and emission limits

This twinning project was carried out by the Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment and Water and a group of Member States, led by Germany in which Austria and France collaborated.

It included 10 sub-projects related to the Bulgarian environmental priorities.

IOWater was entrusted with the sub-project "Regulation on wastewater discharges and emission limits". It also contributed to the sub-project "National strategy for the Environment and Action Plan" as concerns water, focusing its proposals on integrated water resource management and the development of basin organizations.

The main components of the sub-projects were:

- Preparation of regulations relative to **the conditions for the authorization of wastewater discharges** and the methods for the field definition of individual emission limits;
- **Evaluation of the laboratories** in charge of analyzing water quality;
- Preparation of a **gradual method**, taking account of the economic progress made by Bulgaria;
- Drawing up of proposals for **institutional evolution** regarding the authorizations and control of their execution;
- First measures for **the implementation of these regulations** – use of the method for authorizations by the Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment and Water and its regional departments (Regional Inspectorates of the Environment and Water and Basin Directorates).

Activities started in October 1999 and were carried out by French experts from the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, the Navigation Department of the Seine, the DRIRE of "Nord-Pas-de-Calais" and from the International Office for Water.

The main clauses of the new water law, published in the Official Journal of the Bulgarian Republic and which came into force on 28 January 2000, were analyzed and orientations given to prepare their enforcement. 14 working groups followed these orientations. They were implemented by the Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment and Water.

According to clause 135 of the new water law, 14 regulations which harmonize the Bulgarian national legislation with the community experience, were prepared.

The Official Journal has published most of them:

- industrial wastewater discharges into urban sewage systems,
- protection of water against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources,
- quality of water for fish and oyster farming,
- emission limit values of dangerous substances in the discharges,
- development of networks and of the national system for monitoring water,
- search, use and protection of groundwater,
- sanitary protection areas,
- quality of coastal sea water,
- quality of water intended for human consumption,
- delivery of authorizations for wastewater discharges and definition of the emission limit values for industrial pollution,
- categorizing of surface water.

Those relative to the quality of surface water intended for water supply (household use), quality of bathing waters and to the treatment of sludge from wastewater treatment plants were submitted to the "Environment" working group 22 of the Coordination Council for accession to the European Union for its perusal.

In order to ease the implementation of the regulations in the field, **a user-friendly software, developed by the Loire-Brittany Water Agency, and its manual were translated into the Bulgarian language.** Two training seminars were organized. The first one took place in Sofia and was intended for the staff of the Ministry, of the Executive Agency for the Environment and of Regional Inspectorates of the Environment and Water located near the capital. The second one was held in Veliko-Tarnovo and addressed the staff of the Regional Inspectorates of the Environment and Water located far from Sofia.

Basin organizations

The Bulgarian Ministry of the Environment and Water has also selected the French proposal, prepared by the International Office for Water, for the twinning arrangement which aims to set up 4 Basin Authorities, planned for in the water law. Operations started in September 2001.

The activities, carried out with French experts, especially from the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Water Agencies and the International Office for Water, allowed the preparation of proposals, related to the following specific objectives:

- **Definition of the organizational structure and tasks of the Basin Organizations,**
- **Adaptation of the water resource monitoring system,**
- **Proposal of a national method, tested in the Vit-Ossam pilot basin, which will be used when preparing basin management plans** (integrated management at the level of the basin, dialogue, etc.),
- **Coordination** and relations between the Ministry of the Environment and Water and the other organizations involved in water management,

A study tour enabled eight high Bulgarian officials, among them were the future Managers of the Basin Organizations, to get acquainted with water management in France and acquire deep knowledge of the Water Agencies.

This study tour lasted four weeks, three weeks in three different groups, split between **the Artois-Picardy, Loire-Brittany and Rhine-Meuse Water Agencies** and the last week at the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development.

A project conclusion seminar took place mid-October, in which participated, among others, two Presidents of the Board of Directors of Water Agencies, Mrs. DELELYS, Artois-Picardy Agency and Mr. P. ROUSSEL, Rhone-Mediterranean-Corsica Agency, together with Mr. REGNAULT, Vice President of the Loire-Brittany Basin Committee.

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Europe / Twinnings ○○○

.../... BULGARIA

Drinking water, bathing waters and water for fish and oyster farming, and dangerous substances

This twinning arrangement is carried out by a group, led by France, in charge of the components: bathing waters, water for fish and oyster farming and dangerous substances. It also involves Germany, responsible for the drinking water supply component.

Both sub-projects are similarly divided into six phases:

Phase 1: Inventory of the drinking water supply systems and methods for billing consumption, on one hand, and of water classes and pilot areas for fresh and sea waters, on the other.

Phase 2: Assessing the gaps between the current situation in Bulgaria and the European standards.

Phase 3: Identifying technical, legislative and financial needs and investments required for improving the national systems.

Phase 4: Defining appropriate systems for monitoring water quality in relation with the standards and good laboratory practices.

Phase 5: Preparing programs to comply with the European Union requirements.

Phase 6: Training and awareness campaigns for the general public.

This project has started and a **pre-accession adviser, Mr. Hakim Taleb, expert from the Loire-Brittany Water Agency, is already there since the beginning of October for the project duration to coordinate activities and experts' assignments.**

The first assignments of the French experts are planned for the beginning of 2003.

ESTONIA

A twinning agreement on water policy, signed by the Estonian Ministry of the Environment and the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, will be implemented in 2003-2004.

It will deal with **the implementation of three major European Directives**: the new Directive on drinking water, the Directive on urban wastewaters, the Directive on dangerous substances and the related "Daughter Directives".

An expert, Mr. Eric Lebat, is seconded by the Loire-Brittany Water Agency for a year, as pre-accession adviser to the Estonian Authorities.

IOWater will lead this twinning arrangement on behalf of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development.

From One Continent to Another



The Mediterranean

ALGERIA

Water, a priority of the French Algerian cooperation

The three following objectives were emphasized:

- 1 Improvement of public water supply and sanitation utilities,
- 2 Setting up of water information systems,
- 3 Strengthening the capabilities of the River Basin Agencies.

The Algerian French cooperation program included these three objectives for 2002.

➔ With the "Algérienne des Eaux"

The Human Resources Development unit must be reinforced to improve performances.

This unit will be assisted with HRD methodology, definition of objectives and priority actions.

Assistance of French specialists will include:

- A preliminary training course in France for 8 people concerned by the issue of human resources management. It deals with the definition of a methodology suited for the

"Algérienne des Eaux" for preparing professional references frames, skill assessments and training plans. Each of these 3 frames will include the analysis of the definition, terminology, identification of gaps and needs, the design of activities and a case study.

- Two assignments in Algeria of IOWater professionals for the follow up and evaluation of the priority training plan implementation.

➔ Information on water

A training program intended for the Ministry of Water Resources (DEAH), the National Water Resource Agency (ANRH) and the River Basin Agencies dealt with the following topics:

- Basic concepts relative to the management of the information in the water sector (norms and standards, methodology and installation of the system),
- Development of a database architecture,
- Systems for controlling data quality.



➔ The River Basin Agencies

The tasks of the five River Basin Agencies (ABH) are to undertake integrated water management in their respective river basin.

The implementation or updating of basin plans is also their objective.

IOWater activity deals with a methodological support from French specialists to prepare tangible action plans on a pilot sub-basin. The aim of this action is to support the "ABH" teams for them to:

- ❖ define priority data and the methods for collecting them for good knowledge of the basin,
- ❖ define and evaluate balances between qualitative and quantitative requirements of the users,
- ❖ define and refine a priority action plan.



Information

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FOURTEEN COUNTRIES ARE ALREADY ONLINE

Within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector –EMWIS- fourteen National Focal Points (NFPs) have already created their national website to display the information available in their country:

- Algeria
- Cyprus
- France
- Greece
- Israel
- Italy
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Malta
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Portugal
- Spain
- Turkey

The most developed sections are the institutional bodies and legislation on water. **The topical directory (the "Who does What") is today accessible online and includes more than 2,500 organizations.** Data collection is going on as regards "contacts" and "information sources". In addition to EMWIS classical informative sections (Institutions, Documentation, Training, Research and Development, Data Management), topical electronic forums are opened according to the needs expressed by the users (MEDA-Water Program of the European Commission, Sanitation, Job opportunities). Lastly, an electronic heading enables any interested person to be informed of the news on water in the Euro-Med area.

The joint work of the NFPs and EMWIS Technical Unit is daily progressing through forums and electronic mails or during regular training and information seminars.

Very positive results at the end of the 1st phase (1999-2002)

EMWIS progress report, after only three years since its effective start at the end of 1999, is highly positive and shows that this tool meets a real need and a strong demand of all partners in compliance with the decisions made during the ministerial conferences of Marseilles (1996) and Turin (1999).

EMWIS is the only operational project of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in the water sector.

<http://www.emwis.org>

It is based on strong political will at the highest levels. It has allowed the strengthening of the Partnership's spirit and of the common cause principle in the partner countries and is more and more integrated in the national water culture of these countries. **The lasting nature of EMWIS, which must have the means to continue its action on the long term is thus well recognized.**



A development plan up to 2005

The General Water Managers who met in Madrid in November 2001 adopted a new four-year program for 2002-2005. Its objective is to develop the operational implementation and the strengthening of the National Focal Points and of the Technical Unit and the development of new activities (dissemination of specific information on the MEDA-Water Program of the European Union, topical activities which will lead to the organization of events and electronic forums, etc.). This program is currently estimated at 5.2 Million €. Its financing should go on with the present arrangement and structure: activities of EMWIS Technical Unit and strengthening of the support to the Euro-Mediterranean countries regarding the activities of their National Focal Points, on the basis of **a joint financing from France, Italy, Spain and the European Commission, and from each country for its National Focal Point.**

An INBO-EMWIS partnership agreement

During the last INBO General Assembly, held in Quebec in May 2002, INBO and EMWIS signed an agreement to cooperate with a view to improve the gathering and dissemination of information and documentation on **integrated water resource management** inside their respective partnerships. INBO will, in particular, support EMWIS in the creation of **a section on water management at the level of river basins in the Mediterranean riparian countries** and will mobilize its partners for this purpose. This section will promote the concepts and experiences developed by INBO members in particular the members of the new **Regional Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations**, created in Madrid on last 3 November. Each network will favor the joint dissemination of the collected information.

New steering bodies

During the Madrid meeting, the General Managers or their representatives proposed to renew EMWIS steering bodies for a new 4-year period, starting from July 2002. **The Steering Committee** will include the following countries: Algeria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Spain and the Palestinian Authority.

Spain will fulfill the task of chairmanship and Cyprus the vice-chairmanship.

Morocco will be Chairman of the Coordination Committee and Malta the vice-chairman.

The last meeting of EMWIS Steering Committee took place in Rome on 17 September 2002. It was the occasion of finalizing the terms of references of the 2nd phase and the draft convention to be signed with the European Commission to continue activities as from January 2003.

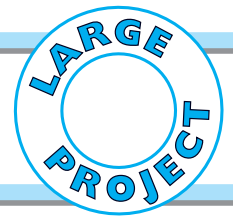
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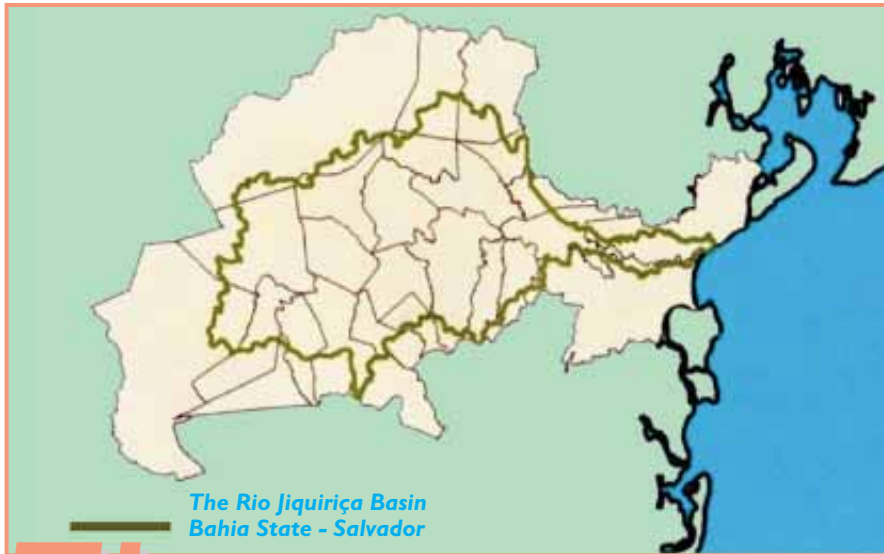
E-mail: info@emwis.org



Brazil



A BAHIAN RIVER



The Rio Jiquiriça Basin
Bahia State - Salvador

The project "Participatory management of water resources in the Jiquiriça river basin" (Bahia – Brazil) has raised more and more interest. Selected by the "Caixa Economica Federal" as one of the 10 best Brazilian projects, it was chosen among the 100 best world projects at the Dubai 2002 International Prize regarding the "Best Practices for Local Management".

The Legal and institutional context

The Brazilian Water Law 9.433 of January 1997 is very interesting and proposes a modern framework for water resource management in the country.

However two major problems arise:

- ❶ **Transcription and implementation in the States of the Federation is uneven**

Large projects have been implemented at the national level and in various States focusing on more integrated, decentralized and participatory management. But the situations vary greatly, especially regarding the users' participation in management.

- ❷ **Some stakeholders tend to consider the creation of Basin Committees as an end in itself**

Thus, many Committees were created during the last 10 years on most of the territory, but it happens that these committees have no:

- **Suited legal framework:** have they a deliberative role or only a consultative one?

- **Decision-making supporting tools:** what is the assessment of the basin water resources and what could be the future scenarios?
- **No associated technical body:** who prepares the Committee meetings, looks for a preliminary consensus among the stakeholders, executes the decisions made?
- **Financial resources:** until now there is no tax in Brazil. Who will finance the decisions made and how to define, under these conditions, an action plan for the basin?

Planning is also a weak point in so far as few States, few basins have real "Water Resource Management Plans".

Development of a methodology

In order to prevent these problems, while remaining consistent with the Bahia State legal framework (Basin Committees are not planned yet), the decision was made to start an innovative "bottom-up" process in a pilot basin, that of the Rio Jiquiriça.

An Intermunicipal Consortium for integrated, holistic and participatory management

Created in 1993, the **Intermunicipal Consortium of the Jiquiriça Valley**, originated from the will of the representatives of the civil society and Mayors, aims to improve the quality of life of populations. It is a facilitator between political and technical sectors and between the governmental administrations, private initiatives, financial institutions and

the different social categories by directly acting as a technical orientation instrument for the Municipalities.

The mobilization and awareness raising of the institutional stakeholders and individuals required much effort to avoid overlaps or non-focus in actions by seeking partnerships, above political and sectarian ideologies, while keeping a structure enabling effective participation of the population.

The actions related to the participation of the population aim at stimulating the different social categories towards a thinking and action process regarding the issues which affect the quality of the natural environments.

The involvement of the Consortium was based on five topics: economic, political and institutional aspects, infrastructures and natural environments.



A real participatory process

For participation in water management to become effective, it was decided to gradually set up **Forums for Water Users and Development** in the various municipalities of the basin.

It involves organizing local groups in each of the 25 municipalities. This implies a permanent and dynamic participation of the population for analyzing its problems, needs and interests, for

Jiquiriça

FOR AN INNOVATIVE EXPERIMENT

finding solutions and making decisions on integrated management of the basin.

The Local Forums further a dynamic and cooperative environment, offering opportunities of social consensus, which will contribute to critical knowledge, the creation of new standards for understanding and apprehending social powers. The main criteria to participate in these forums is social and political representativeness, the basic condition to ensure the legitimacy of actions included in their objective.

The method chosen for setting up these forums included the organization of a 2-day seminar. Free discussions developed around the problems considered critical by the population. This included three ideas: your expectations, your knowledge, your actions which define a work timetable for the 12 coming months.

Towards a Regional Action Plan

It is planned to gradually:

- Facilitate these Forums to carry out participatory surveys in the municipalities;
- Train, raise awareness, identify the leaders, to enable the creation of a legitimate and viable Basin Committee.

The local forums represent the basic unit for socioeconomically and politically supporting the im-

plementation of the Basin Committee which will be the facilitator in conflicts on water quality and quantity;

- Gradual regional integration of the municipal surveys in a basin action plan.

The Committee, the core of a technical and financial system

While creating this Committee, 2 basic problems will have to be incorporated:

This committee will need technical support for its decision-making.

In addition to the institutional process, it seems greatly advisable to answer, from a technical viewpoint, the following questions:

- What are the current uses in the basin?

A register of users and rural landlords is needed;

- How to monitor and have information on the basin and its evolution over time (quantity, quality)?

The monitoring network requires to be reinforced for surface and groundwater;

- What are the major problems? Where is the pollution found, or are we outside the standard limits? Where do the quality problems hinder drinking water supply and/or other uses? Where are the conflicts of use? Between which uses? What is their main cause?

In-depth technical studies on the characteristics of the basin are required;

- Which could be the (ambitious but realistic) medium-term quality objectives for the basin?

A participatory policy with quality objectives is needed;

- How to obtain decision-making supporting tools for the future Committee?

An Information System, compatible with the State tools already developed, is needed.

Regarding these aspects, the Intermunicipal Consortium of the Jiquiriça Valley should play an essential role, supported by the State and Federal Authorities.

This Committee should have an operating budget.

The financial mechanisms have still to be defined. It is obvious that the French model which plans for a financially independent Water Agency at the level of the basin, thanks to the levy of taxes ("cobrança") for water use, is not suited to the case of Jiquiriça.

Although there are tourist and agricultural potentialities in this partly semi-arid zone, the level of economic activity is now too limited. Cross-financing should be relied on (sectoral, regional, etc.) to obtain a sufficient level of investment to guarantee sustainable water management in the region.

Duplication possibilities

The Consortium is a practical and real example of adopting a river basin as a unit for planning and participatory management which is entirely in keeping with the current policies on national and international water resources.

The characteristics of the Jiquiriça basin, with 17 out of its 25 municipalities located in the semi-arid part of the Basin, are very similar to those of the other basins located in the Brazilian Nordeste.

There are still few operating Basin Committees or having real responsibilities in decision-making. Thus, the ongoing process in the Jiquiriça is very promising and goes further than the planned reforms of the sector, while achieving most of the identified objectives.

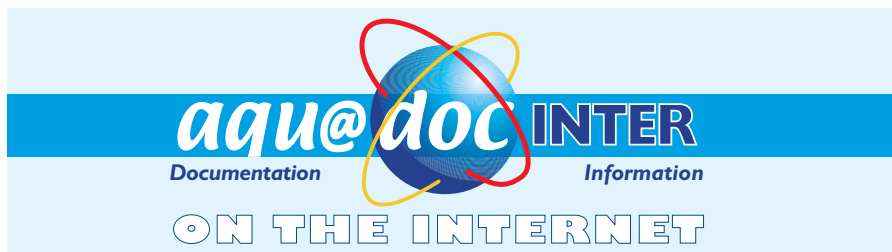
Therefore, its dissemination will enable other people involved (Governments, Society, etc.) to improve themselves or learn from this experiment. The practice developed in the Jiquiriça region meets the conditions to be successfully reproduced in basins with similar characteristics, while respecting local specificity.



Information

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To simplify access to shared information: an international multilingual portal for water managers

<http://www.aquadocinter.org>

The first National Focal Points in Central Europe

The AQUADOC-INTER project consists in building a global network of national water information centers, offering easy, unified and multilingual access (in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Eastern European languages, etc.), through a common portal on the Internet, to the documentation, experiences and experts' knowledge available in all the partner countries, especially those participating in the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO).



As an experiment, AQUADOC-INTER is networking the water information centers of Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic and Romania in Central and Eastern Europe with IOWater in France.

Following the technical steps of feasibility studies, the selection of architecture and installation of tools, which took place in 2000 and 2001, the project is now starting its operational phase in the English, French, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Czech languages. In each National Relay Documentation Center, i.e. the Focal Point, the team, made up of 4 to 5 persons with varied skill profiles, must acquire all the means required for the good operation of the network with respect to the constraints and defined common international objectives. A training cycle started in 2002 in which the managers of the information bases and servers, the webmasters and project managers of each country attended specialized and useful courses.



Portal home page: www.aquadocinter.org

The implementation of specific products (periodic newsletters, directory of addresses regarding the organization of water management and operators, etc.) will be included in phase 3, a step dealing with the starting of the effective network operation from October 2002 to July 2003, based on common processes and on tests run in the IOWater French National Information Center.

Tests are also under way to develop the prototype in the Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic languages.



3rd World Water Forum 16 - 23 March - Kyoto

GET THE PROGRAM !

4 meetings are not to be missed:

In the very tightly packed program of this "Japanese week", the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and the International Office for Water, in charge of the Permanent Technical Secretariat, invite you to the four meetings which they organize:

1 On Tuesday 18 March in Kyoto
Kyoto International Conference Hall: 10:00 - 12:00 at the Agora of the "House of Water Citizens":
Debate: "How to organize the participation of water users in Basin Committees?" in partnership with the International Water Secretariat (IWS) of Montreal.

2 On Wednesday 19 March in Osaka
Osaka International Convention Center : 15:30 - 18:15 during the session on "Water and Information"

Presentation: "The Euro-Mediterranean Water Information and Documentation Center (EMWIS), 27 countries exchange their data" at the initiative of the Technical Unit and all the National Focal Points of EMWIS.

3 On Thursday 20 March in Shiga
OTSU Prince Hotel - OHMI Room - River Stream 2 : 12:30 - 15:15

Topic "Integrated Water Resource and River Basin Management"

Official session: "Progress in water management at the level of river basins over the world" with the participation of all the attending members of INBO.

4 On Friday 21 March in Shiga
OTSU Prince Hotel - Suzuka Room: 15:30 - 18:15

Topic "Integrated Water Resource and River Basin Management"

Official session: "And now what ambitions for Basin Organizations?" with the members of INBO Liaison Bureau and GWP.

If you happen to be in Kyoto from 16 to 23 March 2003, do not hesitate, register early to attend these four events as seats are in limited number!!

Download your registration form on:

www.inbo-news.org
Kyoto section
And fax it to:
+ 33 1 40 08 01 45
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International News n° 10 - December 2002

Publishing Director : *Christiane RUNEL*

Production : Frédéric RANSONNETTE - Gisèle SINE

Printer : CORLET Imprimeur - Condé-sur-Noireau - N° ISSN 0769-1995D

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