

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Capacity building for better water management



*International  
Office  
for Water*



**Special  
World  
Water  
Forum  
Mexico**

**TRAINING**

**INFORMATION**

**MANAGEMENT**

**COOPERATION**

**N° 13 - December 2005 / January 2006 - English version**

### The catalogues for 2006 "Water" and "Wastes"

Unrivalled skills in dealing with continuing training...

Relying on its strong knowledge of the various water professions, **the National Training Center for Water Professions** proposes modules allowing to gain all the knowledge and skills necessary for serenely fulfilling your duty, either being an operator exploiting a system, a river technician, the manager or department head of water syndicates or farming companies, or even the engineer of a consulting firm or the person in charge of the environment in industry.



The "CNFME" hydraulic installations in Limoges

The catalogue of 2006 can be downloaded from the Internet:

[www.iowater.org/cnfme](http://www.iowater.org/cnfme)



5,500 trainees/year

For already 15 years, the International Office for Water (IOWater) has carried out, with a recognized teaching ability, its mission: "capacity building for better water management" through the transfer of knowledge and know-how by **the National Training Center for Water Professions (CNFME)** in the French-speaking countries of course. But **it is also successfully exported** beyond language barriers in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Mexico, Poland: these are some examples of training centers created similar to the model that has been developed by "CNFME" in France.

Just perusing **the 2006 catalogues of continuing training programs** will allow you to better weigh the quality of the training offer. All the great water-related topics are dealt with: the city and its sewerage, water supply, aquatic environments, management of skills and services, water in agriculture and industry, regulations, etc.

One of our potabilization units at La Souterraine



**"The "CNFME" is ISO 9001 certified.**

In addition to these "professional" training programs, specific modules on electrical engineering, automatism, maintenance, pumping, water analysis, are dealt with in full compliance with good practices and directly related to the drinking water supply and sanitation systems or production processes.

In order to optimize the beneficial effects for a community or a company, our team can formulate **the best suited multiyear training plans** and propose a simple and effective evaluation system for assessing the gained knowledge and skills.

**The National Training Center for Water Professions offers a service, ISO 9000 certified, version 2000**, and entirely computerized from registration, the measurement of the gained knowledge and satisfaction up to the convening, the trainee can directly access to his/her own results in the modules from the catalogue, and the client can follow up the "Intra" modules developed on his behalf.

2006 is the year in which the "waste" catalogue will be created: 10 training courses already cover the organizational, regulatory and technical fields.



Certifié ISO 9001 : 2000 par



A few figures to summarize:

- 5,500 trainees in 2005.
- 370 training programs offered in the catalogue,
- 450 training courses,
- 10 training sites: Limoges and La Souterraine of course, but also Le Bourget, Paris, Saint-Brieuc, Cholet, Pau, Tarbes, Antibes, Nancy, all these locations being selected for their field teaching contribution.
- **Our educational units** allow the trainee to study under working conditions, either through visits, demonstrations or practical work. **These units are unique in Europe**, due to their number, allowing the coverage of the entire water cycle, or to their capacity, identical to real plants or parts of plants.

All the courses can be carried out in English and Spanish.

The "CNFME" also offers other opportunities: training of elected officials, the "technical days of the International Office for Water"...



## for Water Professions

### New units ....

The "CNFME" has just completed a significant investment plan for the renewal and extension of its educational units.

- **The metrology unit** includes installations for the checking and calibration of flowmeters (electromagnetic, ultrasonic, Doppler effect, etc...), water level meters (ultrasonic, ball with bubble and pressure sensor), samplers, thermometers and pluviometers, electronic devices for the control of measuring equipment (analyses and generation of gauged signal).

#### Wastewater microscopic observation and analysis laboratory



- Located close to the pilot unit with activated sludge, **the new analysis laboratory** is equipped with a microscopic observation room for assessing the bacterial population in wastewater during the treatment cycle.
- **A presentation and demonstration room** was installed with modern equipment for collector management: TV inspection, waterproofing tests, leak detection.
- **Finally, the dehydration workshop** was entirely rehabilitated: the centrifuge and the filter-press were changed and the band-filter renovated.

These facilities are designed and developed by the IOWater trainers and technicians.

**Doubling the surface area of the technical hall is planned in 2006 for the installation of new units for the instrumentation of under-pressure systems and hydrology in rivers.**



### Training on wastes

#### For Municipalities and Urban Communities



Its usual customers have been appealing to "CNFME" regarding this topic: local authorities, consulting firms or private operators, both in France and abroad.

IOWater proposes, for the first time in 2006, a training offer dealing with the municipal waste sector in a specific catalogue, which includes about fifteen training courses addressing regulatory, technical, financial and organizational aspects.



## 1991 - 2006 IOWater celebrates its 15 years and is preparing the future!

**The International Office for Water is going to celebrate its 15 years of existence.**

It is an opportunity to make an evaluation of our Association's activity and a progress report on the evolution of our professions and fields of action.



A team of motivated experts

**The International Office for Water is going well!**

Its actions are recognized at the national and international levels, it is a leader in many fields (training for water professions, promotion of water management at the level of river basins and of integrated water resources management, institutional international cooperation, management of water-related data and information, etc).

Big stakes and new opportunities are offered to us, it is thus necessary to define a strategy to meet them even better.

The main issues are:

- **new information and documentation-related services;**
- **exportation of training for water professions;**
- **development of data administration activities;**
- **advice on Governance of municipal drinking water supply and sanitation utilities;**
- **development of integrated basin management over the world.**

**The strong motivation of our staff guarantees a new dynamics and the development of the new strategy of the International Office for Water in the coming years.**



## WATERDOC

A world-wide documentation and information service devoted to water

"WATERDOC", the IOWater documentation base, gathers the scientific, technical, legal and economic information and includes more than 250,000 documents in the various European languages. Our base is daily updated and proposes about 6,000 new references each year, available for free consultation on the Website:

<http://waterdoc.iowater.org>

The "WATERDOC" documents are selected by our study engineers then analyzed by a network of experts, thus ensuring the relevance of later research.

Documents can be ordered online through access in the English language.

### The Press Review

"WATERDOC" proposes online an electronic Press Review of 60 international periodicals, available upon subscription.

A specialized search engine enables an automatic search in all articles as soon as published. They can also be ordered online.



250.000  
References  
in the different  
European languages

### "WATERDOC" Topics:

- **Tech'Waterdoc:** 195,000 international technical, scientific and economic references,
- **"Fontaine":** 18,000 study reports and regional and local information produced by the Water Agencies, the Water Directorate of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development,
- **Juri'Waterdoc:** 2,900 references, French and European Community water-related legal texts, comments and jurisprudence,
- **Administr'Waterdoc:** 11,500 administrative references on institutional management and the organization of the water world,
- **Eco'Waterdoc :** 6,000 references on water economy,
- **R&D'Waterdoc :** base of European research on water,
- **WFD:** more than 400 methodological guides in full text, conferences, legal texts and case studies related to the implementation of **the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) in France and Europe,**



## A series of syntheses

"WATERDOC" is also a series of syntheses dealing with issues selected for their topicality or significance.

The list of the available syntheses can be accessed on:

<http://waterdoc.iowater.org>

Syntheses are provided in electronic version under PDF format. They can be ordered and delivered online.



## "IREP"

The French register of industrial pollutant emissions



The Directorate for the Prevention of Pollution and Risks (DPPR) of the French Ministry of Ecology called upon IOWater skills to disseminate on the Web the information of the French register of industrial pollutant emissions (IREP): emissions of dangerous wastes into water and the air.

The website, created by the International Office for Water, uses free software technologies (OpenSource) and provides many accesses to the information: search by pollutant and waste, search by plant, and is supplemented by a powerful cartographic visualization. IOWater is working on the optimization of data-gathering flows and at simplifying their management.

The website of industrial pollution in France:  
[www.pollutionsindustrielles.ecologie.gouv.fr](http://www.pollutionsindustrielles.ecologie.gouv.fr)



## RM&C Water Agency

Modernization of the information system

The Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency entrusted IOWater with the review of the overall operation of its information system, of the new needs and the strategy for **developing the future application** in the Agency to improve the reliability of data on the pollution flows entering and leaving municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants.



<http://waterdoc.iowater.org>

Subscriptions - Fax: +33 5 55 11 47 48 - E-mail: [waterdoc@oieau.fr](mailto:waterdoc@oieau.fr)



## Water Data

### WIS

#### The French Water Information System - WIS

In France, the Water Information System (WIS) gathers many partners, coordinated by the French Water Directorate and cooperating for improving water-related data and the environments.

An agreement protocol, signed in June 2003, and which succeeds to RNDE (National Water Data Network, 1992-2002), defines the obligations of the partners with respect to the production, conservation and availability of water data.

**The adhering partners are the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, the 6 Water Agencies, the Higher Council of Fisheries, Electricity of France, BRGM, Ifremer, the French Environment Institute, INERIS, the Water Offices of the Reunion and the Martinique and the International Office for Water (IOWater).**

When adhering to this protocol, IOWater was committed, in particular, to facilitate the "SANDRE", by managing the geographical and attribute reference frames of the water field and by giving access to this information, through its website.

#### The technical architecture of WIS

"To make water flow between several systems, it is necessary that the pipes, built by each one, comply with the construction standards and are correctly connected". This also applies to data: **it is necessary to have a common architecture that is compatible between the information producers, so that the French data flow from one to another.**

**IOWater participates by providing its know-how on the issues of data exchange (SANDRE) and WEB applications.**

A green book, written by the French Ministry of Ecology and IOWater has defined the general framework of this WIS architecture, real specifications for data-processing communities: the use of Web technologies was selected (Internet, HTML, Web services, etc.) while highlighting the standards and free software (OpenSource) to be used.

*For further information:*  
[www.sandre.eaufrance.fr](http://www.sandre.eaufrance.fr)



## "SANDRE" on the Web



the "SANDRE" has a metadata consultation and search service available which allows the finding and directing of the user towards the data produced or managed by the WIS partners.

**3 support to the WIS users** with the dissemination of the WIS tools: This last section makes the data-processing tools developed within the WIS available.



The "SANDRE" website allows direct online access to its services:

- ❶ **the standardization of data and services:** semantics, common definitions, exchanges. This "Standardization" section gathers all the standardization work of the "SANDRE", either regarding the data or computerization.
- ❷ **the dissemination of water-related reference frames and metadata:** where can available water-related information be found at each geographical level? To answer this question,

#### An example of "SANDRE" format

Since 2001, "SANDRE" has worked on the definition of a national standard allowing the harmonization of data exchanges between analysis laboratories and clients. The computerization of these exchanges has been proven to be a strategic stake to improve knowledge of aquatic environments and water uses.



## "SANDRE"

**the common language of water data**

The National Data Reference Center for Water (SANDRE), is the body in charge of standardizing water data in France and disseminating the national (cartographic and topical) reference frames. For more than 10 years, it has worked with the definition of a common infrastructure for the management and dissemination of water-related information.

The "SANDRE" is managed by IOWater according to its mandate and its Multi-year Objective-targeted Convention with French Ministry of Ecology, and gathers the partners of the Water Information System but also organizations not involved in the protocol: water analysis laboratories, National School of Public Health, Universities, Water Suppliers, etc.



[www.sandre.fr](http://www.sandre.fr)

Information: Fax: +33 5 55 11 47 48 - E-mail: [waterdoc@oieau.fr](mailto:waterdoc@oieau.fr)





## "Water in Mountains"



"Water in mountains" is the name of a new website which aims at providing water stakeholders in mountainous areas with a common space to dialogue and share information (documents, current events, contacts).

Accessible to any person interested in this topic, the "water in mountains" website proposes several kinds of access to the information:

- **Section "general information":** built with an interactive and relief-patterned map, this section allows you, when navigating on a catchment area to access to the various topics related to water in mountains: natural risks, climate, forestry, pastoralism, town planning, tourism;

- **Section "current events"** provides a report on the most recent and relevant information on the topics related to water in mountains;
- **Section "library"** gathers digitized documents that can be consulted by the website subscribers;
- **Section "forum"** is a space of free exchange open to everyone;
- **Section "contacts"** gathers information on the website subscribers;

The "water in mountains" website is a collaborative site fed by the contributions of its users.

The partners of the website include: UNESCO, the Consignments and Loans Fund, the European Information System on Forests in Mountains, the Alpine Company of Upper Savoy, the Public Works Company of the Upper Savoy Department, DATAR/DIACT, the International Office for Water and INBO..

*Alpine Economic Company of Savoy*  
[www.echoalp.com](http://www.echoalp.com)  
 (section "water in mountains")

## www.iowater.org

**3,000,000 visitors on IOWater website in one year!**

IOWater website, opened in 1997, has become with the passing of years a **real international portal to worldwide water information**, giving access to many resources: documentation, current events, training, cooperation or data.



**This portal is addressing professionals and decision makers of the water sector** and reflects on the Web the main IOWater vocation, which is to gather, in France, in Europe and in the World, public and private abilities for better water management. It provides access to:

- **information on French and international current events,**
- **IOWater online services,**
- **the best specialized websites of the water sector,**
- **the sites of the national and international partners of IOWater,**
- **the documents of the great international conferences on water.**

## www.iowater.org

## Website on French water policy

**The French public stakeholders mobilize themselves to meet the global water challenge**



IOWater participates in the development of the website of the French public water stakeholders, opened for the 13<sup>th</sup> Commission for Sustainable Development, which took place in March 2005 in New-York.

**This site introduces the French experience and know-how in the water sector.** It focuses on 4 great concepts of water management: democracy, transparency and good governance, users' participation and basin management.

*This website in three languages is accessible through the following addresses:*

- [www.eau-international-france.fr](http://www.eau-international-france.fr)
- [www.water-international-france.fr](http://www.water-international-france.fr)
- [www.aqua-internacional-francia.fr](http://www.aqua-internacional-francia.fr)



The site proposes synthetic information on the water situation over the world, the European water policy and the overall organization of the French water sector.

**IOWater portal, with free access and in 4 languages (French, English, Spanish and Portuguese), is consulted for 50% by Web surfers originating from France, and for the other 50% by Web surfers coming from abroad, North America in particular.**

**You are looking for information on water?**

**With 2 clicks, you will certainly find it on IOWater portal!**

## Patrimonial management of drinking water supply systems

### Stakes and recommendations

Upon the request of the **Professional Syndicate of Water Supply and Sanitation Companies (SPDE)**, the International Office for Water made a study for helping the utilities to manage the significant assets which are the drinking water supply pipe networks. Those have a long lifespan, several decades, and the decisions made by the public Authority and its manager, will commit the utility over a duration longer than the mandates of the elected officials or the delegation contracts.

**The total length of the drinking water supply pipes in France is estimated at 850,000 km and, very roughly, the value of this renovated network, all materials included, would be about 80 billion euros: the stakes are thus very high.**

These assets are always increasing, because of new infrastructures and changes in urban space: their management must meet this dynamic prospect.

The local Authority will have, above all, to make a choice on the performance level which it wishes to reach and on the deadlines needed to achieve it, and this will have consequences on the water price.

**It will have to define its strategy of common cause between generations:** is it necessary to pay more now to guarantee the performance of the service for a longer period or to leave this care to our successors? Is it necessary to make significant investments for renewal, to prevent possible degradations, or simply to set up a vigilance policy, and to only react when the problems arise? **It is thus advisable to arbitrate between preventive or curative strategies.**

The manager will have to make tools for knowledge of the assets available to the Community, as well as for decision-making support or communication.

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## "DEPURANAT"

### Promoting natural techniques for wastewater treatment



On 20 and 21 October 2005, the International Office for Water hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the partners of the "DEPURANAT" project (Depuración Natural of Aguas Residuales) which aims at developing natural techniques for wastewater treatment (also known as extensive techniques) on the European Atlantic Arc and especially in Southern Europe.

The "DEPURANAT" project is based on a partnership made up of ITC- Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias, project leader, the University of Minho - Portugal, the CENTA - Centro de Nuevas Tecnologías del Agua - Spain, and some Canaries and Portuguese municipalities, and IOWater.

Based on the study of the operation of 6 plants already using such technologies and of 6 planned or already-built plants applying these treatment principles, the consortium is assigned to:

- **Draw up technical guides** for helping the main contractors to design their treatment plants according to good engineering practices;
- **Develop methods for supporting decision-making** to select the best techniques according to the conditions which the contracting authorities are encountering in the field;

- **Enhance by-products resulting** (sludge, organic matter, treated wastewater, etc.);
- **Create a market** for such techniques in the Atlantic Arc;
- **Strengthen the "relation"** which is established around such sites with the surrounding population (water classes for children, market-gardening products, flowers, etc.);
- **Develop training tools** to promote a real natural wastewater treatment engineering.

The "CENTA" and IOWater provide technical support for the drafting of the guides and the enhancement of know-how after construction and during operation, for better making known these often neglected techniques, which integrate themselves well in the environment, especially for a population-equivalent between 100 and 500.

✓





## MEXICO 2006

# 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum



The International Office for Water (IOWater) has been strongly involved in the World Water Forum of Mexico City: 8,000 participants are expected and this shows the great interest in this event.



### A preceding strong mobilization

The Forum was prepared by the great regions of the World, all of them produced reports which show the diversity of the problems. IOWater was thus called upon to write the IWRM section on the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) and European Water Initiative (EUWI) of the **European regional report**.

One can already note a strong mobilization on the **basin management** topic and especially on the issue of transboundary aquifers and rivers.

The importance of the role of **local authorities** and the idea that **governance** should be decentralized as much as possible will also be reaffirmed.

Special attention will also be paid to **natural hazards**: floods, droughts, erosion, these risks exist everywhere, even in developed countries, and it is urgent to develop effective prevention. At last, there is an enormous delay regarding **sanitation** in the Southern countries and this may originate great health and ecological risks on a large scale in many countries.

### Tangible results are expected

The question raised is to know how to respect the already made commitments and to achieve in practice the millennium goals of the United Nations, how to finally act to transform these commitments into concrete actions.

The strong mobilization of the local elected officials will exert a strong pressure for not only generating general declarations, but also for an effective involvement of the local authorities and especially the municipalities, which are directly concerned.

The meetings of Mexico City must provide strategic outlines, recommendations for advancing with the new ideas which are emerging from the Forum preparation work.

The organizers received **600 proposals for sessions** coming from the various interested parties, and could only selected 185 of them, of 2 hours each.

The organizers also received 1,700 proposals to present **local actions** of which only 600 will be presented.

A database will be developed on the Internet.

### IOWater promotes its ideas

IOWater has strongly mobilized the **International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)**, which will organize an exceptional **"8-hour mega session"**, the whole day of 18 March, on the topic of Basin Management. It aims at transmitting the following message: **"the basin is the relevant territory to manage water"**. It is a practice to be generalized worldwide and it should be said that **"it works!"**

In addition, IOWater organizes another official session on **Water Information Systems with "CONAGUA"**. It will show the result of cooperation in the creation of a Federal Water Information System in Mexico, the French Water Information System (WIS), or the Mediterranean Information System (EMWIS), which already gathers the national systems of all the Mediterranean countries, etc.

A stand in the **"Water Fair"** will show our main activities and French-Mexican cooperation actions with CONAGUA.

### The French Partnership for Mexico City

The French Ministries for Foreign Affairs and Ecology took the initiative of organizing a joint participation of all the various stakeholders of the sector, within a **"French Partnership for Mexico City (PFM)"**, in order to ensure coherent presence and to disseminate common messages. The "PSEau", "ASTE" and the International Office for Water take care of the Secretariat, within a **"French Coordination Team"**, which prepared the collective actions of the Partnership (stand, messages, sessions, side events, etc.). The French stand will convey the PFM messages and disseminate leaflets of French examples and recommendations on the topics which France wants to promote. These documents are available on the PFM website:

[www.water-international-france.fr/mexico](http://www.water-international-france.fr/mexico)



## Invitation !

### Our 5 sessions in Mexico

#### Saturday 18 March 2006:

- ➔ **Management of African transboundary basins (AMCOW/ANBO)**  
*"63 transboundary rivers in Africa"*
- ➔ **Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (EUROPE-INBO)**  
*"29 countries agreed to achieve good ecological status in river basins in 2015"*
- ➔ **Users' and public participation and common cause in basin management (INBO)**  
*The Basin Committees: Local Water Parliaments"*
- ➔ **Synthesis of the progress made in transboundary basin management over the world (INTBO).**  
*"Water has no boundary!"*

#### Tuesday 21 March 2006:

- ➔ **Development and implementation of Water Information Systems (IOWater/CONAGUA)**

Coordinación Francesa  
Partenariat Français  
French Partnership

México 2006 - IV Foro Mundial del Agua

[www.iowater.org/mexico](http://www.iowater.org/mexico)





## A new priority for IOWater: Governance of water utilities

Reducing by half before 2015 the percentage of the population who has no access to drinking water, and that without access to sanitation, such are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) laid down by the World Summit on Sustainable Development of Johannesburg in 2002.

**It appears that improving governance in community water utilities is one of the first priorities.**

Governance is "all the rules, procedures and behaviors related to the exercise of authority at the various decision levels, characterized by responsibility, transparency, legibility, consistency, efficiency and effectiveness in particular".

**IOWater increases its involvement in this governance topic** within the Multiyear Objective-targeted Convention signed with the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development for 2005-2007.

For this reason, IOWater especially carried out the following activities in 2005:

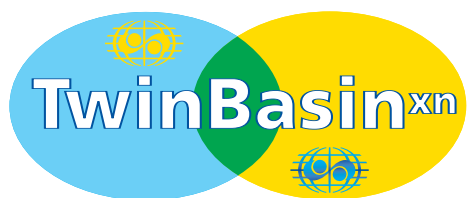
- **creation and facilitation of a working group** gathering the French public and private stakeholders, Ministries, French Development Agency, Public establishments, Local Authorities intervening within decentralized cooperation, NGOs and private stakeholders **to analyze the lessons learned and draw conclusions from cooperation activities, to better identify the demand and to define priority topics.**

- **participation in the preparation of two sessions for the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (Mexico City, March 2006):**

- ↳ **"transparency and democratic control" for better governance of local drinking water supply and sanitation utilities** (session managed by the French Association of Mayors of Large Towns - AMGVF),
- ↳ **"needs of developing countries and contributions from international initiatives"** (session managed by the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development).



## The "TWINBASIN" Project is progressing: please participate!



The **TWINBASIN<sup>xn</sup>** project, financed by the European Commission (6<sup>th</sup> Framework Program for European Research) and managed by the International Office for Water in cooperation with INBO, GWP and Techware, aims at **promoting twinning arrangements between Basin Organizations** in order to disseminate good practices and strengthen their human resources.

**Guides** are drawn up for developing beneficial twinning arrangements. **Scholarships** are allocated to facilitate the mobility of young executives between basins (short practical periods), **tools for managing knowledge and distance training** will be available, etc.

The network already relies on a group of 40 founder members, representatives of the stakeholders concerned.

During its Marrakech meeting in May 2005, **the Steering Committee of the TWINBASIN project** was pleased with the

significant progress made by the project during the last few months, allowing it to advance significantly in the achievement of its objectives.

After the first two Calls for Proposals sent in 2005, **14 twinning arrangements were selected** to be supported by the project, involving **26 Basin Organizations of 14 countries**. The participation of the Countries of the South is paramount (51%).

**TWINBASIN** plays its part, by incontestably promoting and inspiring these cooperation arrangements. Indeed, more than 70 % of the signed twinning agreements were established within the project and are thus attributable to it.

The wide dissemination of the first **"TwinBasin Newsletter"** (6,300 subscribers) through INBO in particular, the promotion of the project during international IWRM-related events, and the recent distribution of leaflets (20,000 copies in French, English, Spanish and Russian) are as many events that give the project the adequate and necessary international recognition.

The website: **www.twinbasin.org**, main interface of the project with all its community, allows and ensures a capitalization and a dissemination of the acquired knowledge.

This tool has become operational recently, although it should be improved.

Nearly 6,000 Web surfers have already consulted it and many members are already registered. The website will be soon the support of Web-Forums, which will allow starting the thinking of experts and specialists about significant issues specific to IWRM. Finally, the entire knowledge gathered by **TWINBASIN**, regarding IWRM, will be supplemented and enriched by the results and products of "clusters", with the other projects related to the "Twinning" topic (WADE, RIVERTWIN & TWINBAS projects) supported by the European Union.

Ultimately, the **TWINBASIN** project is at a key stage of its implementation. The second meeting of the Steering Committee allowed the broadening of thoughts and the making of decisions necessary for the project evolution towards the achievement of all the planned **TWINBASIN** objectives.

**The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place in Mexico on 20 March 2006.**



**www.twinbasin.org**

World Water Forum  
Mexico - 18 March 2006  
16:30 - 18:30  
INTBO Session:  
"Management of Transboundary Basins"

## AFRICA

## LARGE PROJECT

# The Volta: towards the creation of a Transboundary Basin Organization

### EUWI

The European Union Water Initiative (EUWI), launched in 2002 during the World Summit for Sustainable Development of Johannesburg to facilitate the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), includes an African component which aims at improving Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

Since 2003, the Strategy and Work Program approved by the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) has been promoting:

- ◆ management of transboundary basins;
- ◆ formulation of national plans for water effectiveness.

This component is led by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which entrusted the International Office for Water with the formulation, with AMCOW and European Coopera-

tions intervening in Africa, a Priority Action Plan for a first group of 5 transboundary basins with identified strategic activities and funding requests made to the European Commission.

They are:

- **Southern Africa:** Orange/Senqu Commission (ORASECOM),
- **Central Africa:** Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC),
- **Eastern Africa:** Lake Victoria and Kagera River Basin : Nile Equatorial Lakes - Subsidiary Action Plan (NEL-SAP) and Kagera River Basin Organizations (OBK),
- **Western Africa:** Niger Basin Authority (NBA) and Volta Basin.

The European funds would be available for mid-2006.

### The Volta project

In the meantime, the decision-makers of the 6 countries of the Volta Basin (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Mali and Togo) have shown their determination and strong political will to quickly go forward.

The Volta has not yet a Basin Authority.

**A Volta Basin Technical Committee (VBTC)** was set up in July 2004 and held its second meeting, from 20 to 24 June 2005.

This intergovernmental consultation body has been mandated for creating the necessary conditions for creating a **Volta Transboundary River Basin Organization for Integrated Water Resources Management**, including ecosystems and other related resources.

French bilateral Cooperation supports the International Office for Water to back up the VBTC activities in two steps:

- 1 **Support to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the VBTC's Technical Committee** in close cooperation with the Coordination Unit for Water Resources (CUWR) of the Economic Commission of Western African States (ECOWAS), with experts from each member country of the basin, and from the IWRM group of the European Initiative.
- 2 **Technical assistance to the VBTC and member countries with the preparation of an effective implementation of the Basin Authority:** statutes / organization chart / identification of human and financial resources / financial mechanisms / inter-country coordination systems / planning processes.

These activities are taking into account the national strategies for water resources management of the six Member States. They are also integrating the parallel programs developed by the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the French Fund for Global Environment and other donors in order to quickly define a consistent action plan.



## South Africa

### A river basin approach

#### Where are we five years after the passing of the Water Law in South Africa?

In November 2004, 90 delegates from 14 countries met on the banks of Loskop Lake, 200 km East of Pretoria, in order to share their experience on the implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

IOWater, which participated as a member of AFEID delegation (French Association for Irrigation and Drainage), has endeavored to demonstrate that the creation and development of basin organizations has been useful

and efficient for solving water resource sharing between the various uses.

#### South Africa is a good example of this.

The objective of the South African Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWA) is to guarantee **"some water for all for ever"**.

Thus, the Water Law has defined 19 Catchment Management Agencies (CMAs) on river basins of the country.

It entrusts the existing 294 "Irrigation Boards" and 400 village irrigation networks with the local management of water resources, by changing them into Water Users Associations (WAUs).

So far, 5 CMAs have been set up and some 50 WAUs have been operating.





### South Africa - NCWSTI

#### Capacity building for better water management

##### Background

Improving drinking water supply and sanitation utilities is considered as one of the priorities of South Africa.

The South African Government has thus wished to increase the capacity building of these utilities.

**In order to achieve a high level of service quality, the persons in charge of the installation, operation, maintenance and management of these systems should be qualified and have good professional skills.**

The concerned employees requiring training are about 20,000 to 30,000 people.

##### A promising project

The "Human Capacity Building for South-African Water Sector" Project is financed by the "Priority Solidarity Fund", within the French-South African bilateral cooperation.

On the French side, the International Office for Water, in partnership with SAUR/IDFP, was selected to implement this 3-year project.

The overall aim of the project is improving professionalism in the Water and Sanitation Sector in South Africa, with **a training program for the staff of the Water Services Authorities (WSAs) and Water Services Providers (WSPs).**

##### Training of Trainers



##### Precise objectives

They deal with the development of **an entire training system:**

- creating a national training-center network for the water sector,
- developing technical training programs,
- training a first group of South African trainers and facilitators,
- generating a sector demand for continuing training,
- organizing quality practical, analytical and theoretical training programs.

**The National Community for Water & Sanitation Training Institute (NCWSTI)**, which is based at the University of the North, Limpopo Province near Polokwane city, is the focal point of the training system.

**NCWSTI** will develop this "National Training Network for the Water Sector" relying on two other Regional Centers (Branches) located in the KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape provinces.

Provided with **training kits** (training manuals, facilitation and evaluation tools), adapted to the South African context, the trainers will be incorporated in this "**national network**" managed by **NCWSTI**.

##### First achievements

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) composed of representatives of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and **NCWSTI** as well as representatives of the French Embassy in Pretoria and French Development Agency (AFD) was constituted and already met twice.

IOWater designed **the technical specifications for the various technical training facilities**, which were built by the South African Engineering Company UWP.

At the same time, **NCWSTI gathered the first network of South-African trainers** composed of some 120 persons from DWAF, WSAs, WSPs and municipalities.



Training unit for the laying out of mains

**Training of Trainers** and specific training programs (Assessor Workshops) were organized enabling the participants of this network to be accredited as Training Facilitators, according to the rules of SAQA (South African Qualification Authority) and NQF (National Qualification Framework).

At the end of 2005, **several training courses had already been organized by IOWater and SAUR-IDFP** on the main following topics: drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, electrical and mechanical maintenance, customer management, supervision and management of water utilities and human resources management. Finally, a Senior Trainer has been especially recruited by NCWSTI, on the project budget, for coordinating activities in the field.



## AFRICA

### Congo

#### Technical assistance to RCIC



Audit of a chlorination plant in cooperation with REGIDESO

In March 2005, within the training program that the National Training Center for Water Professions of IOWater has been implementing for 3 years for the **RCIC (Red Cross International Committee)**, the "CNFME" carried out an audit of 3 drinking water production plants of Kindu, Uvira and Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo : 3 very different technical situations as regards the waters of the Congo river, of the Kivu Lake and groundwater which encounter iron and manganese problems.

#### The technical analysis has led to proposals for improving plant operation.

These audits were used as case studies in the training course for the RCIC Wathab (Water-habitation) team who came to Limoges in October 2005.

The analysis has proven that the staff of REGIDESO, Congo national water supply utility, had huge training needs.

A training plan is being prepared to be proposed to the European Union for financing.

✓

### Uganda

#### Kampala City Council

The "Kampala Urban Sanitation Project" - KUSP –initiated by the Kampala City Council (KCC) and supported by the French Development Agency (AFD), aims at improving the District's staff skills with a capacity building contract entrusted to HYDROCONSEIL, assisted locally by AQUACONSULT.

In November 2005, Hydroconseil entrusted IOWater with a training activity dealing with "Human resources recruitment and management".

✓

### Rwanda

#### Audit of the Draft Water Law

Considering that the Country is under-equipped for drinking water supply, flood protection and for agricultural hydraulics, the World Bank has required technical assistance, to be provided by a group led by BRLi in partnership with IOWater, with the formulation of the Draft Water Law.

#### The draft Water Law

It is recommended that the draft be complemented with:

- ◆ the protection of wetlands and peat bogs;
- ◆ the collective organization of water development works;
- ◆ a revitalization of unofficial water supply services;
- ◆ the organization of irrigation;
- ◆ an integrated approach to the management of some 350 river basins;
- ◆ the organization of data collection.

✓



Combani earth dam in Mayotte

## INDIAN OCEAN

### Mauritius

#### MPU & CWA

In Mauritius, the main bodies in charge of the water sector, under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU), wish to implement an important professional continuing training program for their staff for accompanying the water sector reforms and backing up their strategy.

The 2005 French-Mauritius bilateral cooperation program, for which the International Office for Water is operator, focused on the two following components:

- ① **Strengthening the modernization strategy of the Central Water Authority (CWA)**, by developing the use of **Performance Indicators**, to which 80 executives were trained during two missions carried out in February and April 2005 by IOWater experts.

Support is planned for the implementation and follow-up of this Benchmarking System within the CWA company project.

- ② **A feasibility study for a Training Center for Water Professions in Mauritius** including the assessment of training needs for the Mauritius staffs of the water sector, the definition of a training Masterplan and the identification of equipment, human and financial resources needed for creating this Center.

✓

### Mayotte

#### Cooperation is continuing

In 2005, IOWater / CNFME continued its technical support to the **SIEAM (Inter-municipal Syndicate for Water and Sanitation of Mayotte)**.

The conformity of almost all the sources of drinking water currently exploited on Mayotte has thus been analyzed.

IOWater is also carrying out, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the follow-up, over a longer period, of the variations in water quality of the Combani dam reservoir, in order to offer the best solution for supplying raw water to the Orovéni plant (10,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d).

✓



## CENTRAL ASIA

### Tajikistan - Dushanbe - 30 May - 1<sup>st</sup> June 2005

#### International Conference on Regional Cooperation and the Management of Transboundary Basins

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan organized, with UNDP support, an International Conference on Regional Cooperation

and the Management of Transboundary Basins, which took place in Dushanbe from 30 May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2005.

Its main objectives were:

- establishing dialogue between the Central Asian States and strengthening regional cooperation;
- organizing a discussion with the participants originating from other regions having transboundary basins;
- drawing up recommendations likely to solve the problems related with safety and sound use of rivers.

INBO President, Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison, gave an introductory address during the opening ceremony in the presence of the President of the Tajik Republic, and chaired the 3<sup>rd</sup> session on "Integrated Basin Management".

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, IOWater General Manager and INBO Permanent Secretary, chaired the first topical session on "Sustainable Management of Transboundary Waters".



## Central Asia

### Participative management of transboundary rivers



Mr. Jean-François Donzier, IOWater General Manager and INBO Permanent Technical Secretary went to Uzbekistan from 23 to 30 October 2005, at the invitation of the Scientific Information Center of the **Interstate Coordination Water Commission of Central Asia (ICWC)**, to launch, in particular, with Mr. Viktor Dukhovny the creation of the Russian-Speaking Regional Network of INBO and to have a progress report on the achievements of the Information Center in Tashkent and on its last modeling for the protection of the Aral Sea, with a better management of the Syrdarya and Amudarya.

He could visit, accompanied by Mr. Oumarov, **the Fergana valley**, where a very interesting reform is taking place for an integrated and decentralized participative management of the irrigated areas by groups of concerned farmers.

*International Commission for the Protection of the Aral Sea*  
dukh@icwc-aral.uz - www.icwc-aral.uz



## Invitation!

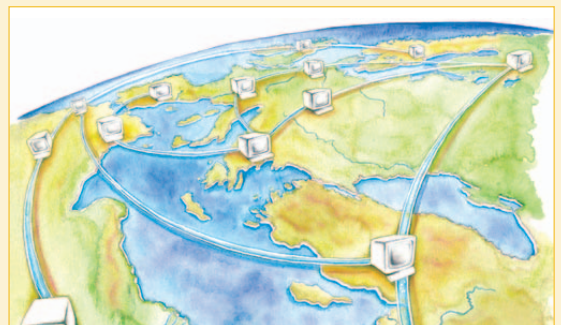
Mexico - 21 March 2006

16:30 - 18:30

IOWater / CONAGUA

Official Session (5.13):

"Developing and Implementing Water Information Systems"



4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum - Mexico - 16 - 22 March 2006

## ASIA

### China

#### French year in China on the water classes issue



Mrs. Zhou You Hong and Chi Xinyang directing an awareness-raising session after school in an experimental primary school in Beijing.

Just one year after the visit to Paris of a Delegation of 5 Chinese experts on the "water classes" topic, a return visit to Beijing of French experts of the Seine-Normandy Water Agency and International Office for Water, supported by the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, was organized during the Water Week from 20 to 26 March 2005.

It was an opportunity of seeing that public awareness to water resources protection was on the move in the Middle Kingdom, with very interesting extracurricular practices such as project competitions for students or awareness-raising classes orga-

nized after daily courses or even the organization of water forums allowing people in charge to emphasize the water problems that the country has to face.

The adaptation of the work achieved in France by **the Seine-Normandy Water Agency** in its "water classes" program, consisting in "log books" on water topics for all school levels have drawn much interest from our Chinese interlocutors, who wish to develop further cooperation on this topic.

### India

#### Towards the creation of a Training Center for Water Professions

##### Background

A **French-Indian working group** has been constituted under the aegis of the French Ministry of Public Works and Indian Ministry of Urban Development (MUD), in order to define cooperation actions likely to efficiently contribute in abating the difficulties of Indian public water supply and sanitation utilities.

**Professional training seems to be one of keys to the improvement of public utilities in India.**

The International Office for Water (IOWater) and the Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO) were thus entrusted with a feasibility study for creating a Training Center for Water Professions.

##### A necessary project

An enquiry on training needs, carried out in 2004 and involving several Indian big cities of more than 1 million inhabitants (Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Chennai) showed that **there are training needs, estimated at about 20,000 persons per year.**

The French Ondeo and Veolia groups also report important training needs for their Indian staff.

In 2005, IOWater defined the criteria for building this Training Center in Ghaziabad area (25 km East of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh State), in **the Central Public Works Department (CPWD)**, which extends over an area of 14 hectares, with a magnificent turfed campus, a building and a residence for trainees, that can easily be adapted for water professional training.

IOWater presented to the MUD officials the main guidelines of this project, they are:

- ◆ **a Professional Training Master Plan** for the water sector in India,
- ◆ **an economic analysis** demonstrating the economic viability of the Center and training costs compatible with the Indian economic conditions,
- ◆ **the organizational chart of the Center executive team** with a view to develop training activities for 10,000 persons per year (after 10 years of activity).
- ◆ **a description of the training infrastructures** and facilities needed.

### Cambodia

#### Water 12 months out of 12

After an invitation to tender, the Asian Development Bank and the French Development Agency entrusted BCEOM, in partnership with IOWater, with a study of irrigation in the Northwest of the country, **the "North West Irrigation Sector Project" (NWISP)**, which includes an approach to a national policy for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Cambodia.

There is no Cambodian tradition for irrigation during the dry season and flood agriculture developed, thanks to the overflowing of Lake Tonle Sap, swelled at each monsoon by the Mekong high flow.

The purpose of the NWISP is to develop a participative and integrated management of the irrigation systems.

It aims at building or restoring irrigation systems and also at organizing some thousand millions of ha with out of season agriculture.

IOWater has proposed to set up **the embryo of future "Basins Committees"** on a few pilot hydrographic areas of the Tonle lake tributaries. They would gather the officers in charge in the Ministries of Water Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development and would be the 'core' of a dialogue with the multiple water users within the large decentralization process under way in Cambodia.



ASIA

# Mekong River Commission

## Water Resources Management in the Mekong River Basin



For its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Mekong River Commission (MRC) organized in Chiang Rai (Thailand), on last 29 and 30 November, an **International Conference on the topic of Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mekong River Basin.**

With about 4,800 km, the Mekong river is the longest of South-East Asia. It crosses China, Burma (Myanmar), Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam. Its river basin covers a surface area of 795,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The populations who live on its banks are among the poorest of the world.

How to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and reduce poverty in the Mekong Basin?

This requires **regional cooperation to manage water resources on the Basin scale:** Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam signed, on 5 April 1995, a Cooperation agreement for Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin. **The Mekong River Commission (MRC)** was created on this occasion.

Ten years later, the Chiang Rai Conference focused on the following questions:

- What are the needs for development in the Mekong Basin?
- How to achieve effective cooperation to obtain sustainable management of water resources?
- How Integrated Water Resources Management can be implemented on the basin scale?
- How to ensure development without affecting environmental integrity?
- How to develop, at all levels, the stakeholders' necessary abilities?

More than one hundred experts came from all over the world to participate in this Conference.

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, IOWater General Manager and Permanent Technical Secretary of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) was invited by MRC to come and present the **"INBO-GWP" Associated Program for the "creation and strengthening of Basin Organizations over the world"** and the results obtained by the TWINBASIN and other ongoing projects supported by the EU



# Sri Lanka

## One year after the Tsunami

IOWater had intervened in 2003 in Sri Lanka, on the World Bank's request, to propose, within the formulation of the draft water law, which has been submitted to the Parliament of Sri Lanka, the principles of a reform of the Mahaweli Authority, in charge of rural development on about 50 % of the territory.

The draft water law also plans the creation of Basin Organizations on rational territories and the establishment of abstraction and pollution taxes.

Unfortunately, the East coast and the South of Sri Lanka were highly affected by the tsunami of December 2004.

The Canal de Provence Company (SCP) and the Water Company of Marseilles intervened in the area of Trincomalee harbor, with the assistance of the Rhone-Mediterranean and Corsica Agency and "PACA" Region, for the rehabilitation of wells, the recovery of pipes and the rebuilding of devastated public buildings.

A joint SCP/AERM&C/IOWater mission went there in 2005 to evaluate the results and consider continuing actions in the Trincomalee area.

The choice of the future projects is guided by the concern:

- ① of benefiting from the experience of the three organizations: SCP/AE RM&C/IOWater,
- ② of bringing a tangible response to the immediate problems to solve,
- ③ of intervening in a lasting way in the programs supported by French Assistance to Development.

The mission was also an opportunity of having contacts with **the National Water Supply and Drainage Board of Sri Lanka (NWS-DB)** which has an in-house Training Center, located in Colombo, which includes 3 classrooms, a 60-seat hall, two workshops for practical works and 10 trainers, and with which a lasting cooperation is under consideration.



## THE AMERICAS

### First Binational Summit Rio Grande / Rio Bravo

McAllen (Texas) - Reynosa (Mexico) - 17 - 18 November 2005



The first Binational Rio Grande / Rio Bravo Summit was held in Reynosa and McAllen on 17 and 18 November 2005, within the framework of **the International Mexico / USA Commission on Limits and Water (CILA)**.

This meeting, co-chaired by the two Commissioners, Messrs. Arturo Herrera Solís (Mexico) and Carlos Marin (USA), was attended by about 300 participants, representatives of the various Organizations intervening in the water sector on both sides of the border and aimed at enriching the work of the International Commission by highlighting the real questions which arise in the field.

The Summit was organized around 4 topics as varied as:

- the legal and institutional framework,
- the binational management of the Basin,
- the environment and water quality,
- financing.

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, General Manager of the International Office for Water and Permanent Technical Secretary of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), was invited to make the main conference of the opening plenary session on the topic of the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive.

## Brazil

### How to organize Training for Water Professions?

In 2002, the International Office for Water initiated a cooperation with the University of Brasilia (UNB), with support from the Brazilian Authorities in charge of water - the Secretariat for Water Resources (SRH) of the Ministry of the Environment and the National Water Agency (ANA) - in partnership with the French Embassy in Brasilia, for carrying out a feasibility study for the creation of **a Training Center for Water Professions in Brazil**.

A detailed analysis of the drinking water supply and sanitation sectors was carried out, based, in particular, on data from the SNIS (Sistema Nacional de Informações sobre Saneamento - National Water Information System).

As a whole and including direct and indirect staffs working in the drinking water supply and sanitation sector, the Brazilian professionals concerned by training for water professions can be estimated at 200,000 people.

The investment linked to a training project is very low, with considerable benefit, as compared to the 50 billion Euros required over a 20-year period for modernizing the water supply and sanitation utilities in Brazil.

Several inter-ministerial meetings were organized in Brasilia in the last few months, under the supervision of the Ministry of Cities and PMSS (Modernization Program for the Water and Sanitation Sector), in order to promote a broad partnership between the various stakeholders of the sector and to efficiently deal with practical and technical training aspects.

Whatever may be the organization selected, it will be necessary to proceed with network practices in order to develop sufficient geographical coverage and to meet local needs.



## "CEMCAS" - A success story!



Let's share our experience...

During the 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum of Mexico, please visit **"CEMCAS" (Mexican Training Center for Water and Sanitation)**, created by CONAGUA with the French-Mexican cooperation and IOWater support.

[www.cemcas.com](http://www.cemcas.com)



THE AMERICAS

Large Project

Mexico - "SINA" - "SIRAs"

World Water Forum  
 Mexico - 21 March 2006  
 IOWater / CONAGUA Session:  
 "Water Information Systems"

Creation of the National System (SINA) and Regional Water Information Systems (SIRAs)

Reminder of the context ...

At the end of the 1990s, the "Basin Councils", created in Mexico according to a logic of decentralization of water resource management, very quickly felt the need to access the information allowing them to make suitable decisions.

In order to meet this expectation, the **CONAGUA (National Water Commission)** then planned the creation of pilot information centers called **CICAs (Centros de Información y Consulta sobre el Agua)**.

The CONAGUA wished to benefit from the French experience in the field of management of water-related data and information and the International Office for Water and the French Water Agencies provided an organizational and technical assistance, financed by the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs since 2001.

Since 2003, various recommendations have started to be approved and take effect:

- ◆ preparation by the **CONAGUA** and **INEGI** (Institute of Statistics and Cartography), the **SEMARNAT** (Secretariat in charge of the Environment) and **IMTA** (Mexican Institute of Technologies on Water), of cooperation protocols for the exchange of information at the national level;
- ◆ adoption by the Basin Committees of the Yucatan Peninsula and Mexico Valley of the launching of the first two pilot "CICAs", with a strong support from the States concerned;
- ◆ study tour in France of representatives from the **CONAGUA**, **INEGI**, **SEMARNAT**, **IMTA** and the Government of Quintana-Roo, for an analysis of the methods adopted for the management of data and obtained results.

Changes and new orientations...

The Mexican water law of 29 April 2004, significantly modifies the organization at basin level and provides for:

- **The creation of autonomous Basin Organizations**, which will be in charge of, among other things:
  - formulating and proposing the Hydrological Plan for their basin;
  - operating the basin financial system;
  - allocating concessions for the exploitation of facilities and water resources;
  - preserving water quality and promoting its effective and sustainable use in coordination with the States and the Basin Councils, etc.
- a redefinition of the role of the **"Basin Councils"**, which become, from now on, consultative bodies of the Basin Organizations.

As regards the information systems, the law:

- reminds the overall principles of free access to water-related information;
- entrusts the **CONAGUA** and the Basin Organizations with the task of disseminating this information;

- plans that **"the national planning and programming of water resources will be carried out on the basis of a National System (SINA) and Regional Water Information Systems (SIRAs) which will be supported by the Commission and the Basin Organizations."**

In 2005, the SINA/SIRA "project" entered into its implementation phase, with a support from IOWater, within the French-Mexican cooperation.

A Topical Group on Water was officially created involving **CONAGUA**, **SEMARNAT** and **INEGI**.

The first 7 topical sub-groups were created to define the future common language for data exchange in Mexico: "administrative and institutional context", "surface waters", "groundwater", "water quality", "climate/meteorology", "urban hydraulics", "agricultural hydraulics".

The Planning Department of **CONAGUA** takes care of the information, facilitation and coordination of the topical groups and prepares, for 2006, the SINA website, the reference frame for the characterization of the main water resources of Mexico and a catalogue of the Mexican water stakeholders.



**The "SINA" and "SIRAs" in Mexico**

**The National Water Commission:**

- Allows for consistency at national level,
- Defines policy directives,
- Deals with inter-basin strategies and national security.

**The Basin Organizations:**

- Formulate the basin plan,
- Manage the national waters of the basin,
- Coordinate integrated management,
- Harmonize specific actions,
- Facilitate and support the Society's participation by way of the Basin Assembly and Council.

[www.conagua.gob.mx](http://www.conagua.gob.mx)

World Water Forum  
Mexico - 18 March 2006  
11:00 - 13:00  
EUROPE-INBO Session:  
"The European Water Framework Directive"

EUROPE

Namur - Belgium  
29 September - 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005

"EUROPE-INBO 2005"

Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive

More than 175 representatives of Governmental Administrations, Basin Organizations or District Authorities coming from 36 countries met in Namur - Walloon Region in Belgium, from 29 September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005, at the invitation of the Walloon Region and of the Group of European Basin Organizations for the WFD implementation (EUROPE-INBO).

"EUROPE-INBO" is member of the Common Strategy Coordination Group (CIS) for the WFD implementation process.

Its work aims at enriching the Common Strategy (CIS) by presenting different approaches, very operational results or field experiments.

The implementation of the **European Water Framework Directive (WFD)** in the 25 countries of the European Union and in the Countries applying for accession, seems a major fact for the dissemination of the principles of good governance, recommended by INBO, which made it a priority topic for mobilizing its members.

*51 papers were presented during the Namur meeting.*

**Proceedings**

Two main topics were dealt with in the Plenary Assembly:



❶ **Transboundary river basins and International River Basin Districts:**

The delegates proposed:

- To strengthen the action of the existing international bodies (international commissions, bilateral cooperation, etc.),
- To support the creation of new International Commissions and to strengthen cooperation for shared basins with the countries neighboring the EU,
- to promote a bottom-up approach, using the work done by various countries to formulate management plans of International Districts and their program of measures,
- to make the monitoring/follow-up systems coherent, harmonization of the data and Geographic Information Systems at the level of the entire basin,
- to ensure compatibility of the developed GIS tools with the European WISE reporting system and comparability between the results of the national monitoring programs planned for 2007.

❷ **Public consultation for the implementation of the Framework Directive:**

It seems that original approaches, based on the local organization of events, on the use of local communication supports and relay of local authorities and NGOs, are sometimes more effective for mobilizing the citizens than the use of the media for wide dissemination, the cost of which is high for a return which is sometimes disappointing.

The participative bodies already existing in the Member States (River Committee, Local Water Commission, river contracts, etc.) are the ideal support to develop public participation on their territory.

Consultation will require the use of specialists in communication in order to tend to maximum effectiveness and better participative interactivity. It is necessary to adopt a language adapted to the targeted publics while avoiding too technical or bureaucratic terms which would be inaccessible to most citizens.

Messrs. Jean-Marie WAUTHIER and Mieczyslaw OSTOJSKI



Attention was also paid to the cost of these consultations and to the need for planning significant budgets to conform to the new obligations in this field.

**The main meeting of 2007 should not be missed!**

**Other recommendations were formulated** regarding compatibility between the Common Agricultural Policy and the environmental directives, the "upstream-downstream" common cause, interfaces between the Framework Directive and navigation, power production, the prevention and protection against floods and droughts, the continuity of rivers for the circulation of fish species, the early tracking of the invading aquatic species, sub-basin plans and the specificities of islands.

**The next meeting of "EUROPE-INBO" will be organized in Megève in Upper Savoy from 20 to 22 September 2006.**

The participating Organizations reaffirmed their wish to continue exchanging their experiences, especially through:

- twinning agreements between Basin Organizations of different countries, within the **TWINBASIN** project.
- training programs for the executives and staffs of Basins Organizations, with the **WFD-LEARN** program.



[www.inbo-news.org](http://www.inbo-news.org)





## EUROPE

### "EUROPE-INBO" participated in the 6<sup>TH</sup> "BALTIC SEA DAY"

In the 1970s, the riparian countries of the Baltic Sea (Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) decided to act together to protect the environment, especially through "Helcom", the Helsinki Commission for the Protection of the Baltic Sea.

Since 2000, an International Conference has been organized every year in St. Petersburg to give a progress report on the achievements made.

The 6th "Baltic Sea Day" took place on 22 and 23 March 2005 in St. Petersburg. Today, this yearly forum has become one of the main mechanisms that enable the development of a cooperation between riparian countries of the Baltic Sea.

Among the many topics included this year in the program of the Conference, there were: trilateral cooperation for the Gulf of Finland,

strategy for collecting data on dangerous substances in Russia, the European Maritime Strategy and the European Water Framework Directive.

"HELCOM" wished to involve the International Network of Basin Organizations in the work of its 6<sup>th</sup> "Baltic Sea Day".

Messrs. Mieczyslaw Ostojki, President of the "EUROPE-INBO" Group, Jean-François Donzier, IOWater General Manager and INBO Permanent Technical Secretary and Jean-Claude Vial from the French Water Directorate, came and presented the activities of the Network and particularly the work undertaken for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

*Helsinki Commission  
nikolay.vlasov@helcom.fi*



## 2006

### "EUROPE-INBO" MEETING Megeve - France - 20-22 September 2006

Information: Fax: +33 1 40 08 01 45 - E-mail: [inbo@wanadoo.fr](mailto:inbo@wanadoo.fr)

### "EUROPE-INBO" Workshop

**Flood prevention in Europe  
Wroclaw - Poland  
19 - 21 October 2005**



The members of **EUROPE-INBO (Group of European Basin Organizations for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive)** met in Wroclaw in Poland from 19 to 21 October 2005 to participate in a workshop on flood prevention, organized with the support of the Polish Ministry of the Environment.

Several topics were included in the program:

- **The legal framework** on the protection against floods and its relations with the Water Framework Directive and Natura 2000;
- **The systems for flood forecasting**, the management of flood-prone areas, regional planning, collective awareness of the risks and measures for the prevention of damage;
- **Technical actions**, especially flood storage areas, which can be implemented in the basins to reduce flood volumes.

The work was opened by the Polish Minister for the Environment. Messrs. Jean Marie Wauthier and Mieczyslaw Ostojki, Presidents of EUROPE-INBO, and Jean-François Donzier, IOWater General Manager and INBO Permanent Technical Secretary, gave the introductory addresses of this workshop.



### EDEN-IW

#### "Agents"... for data flow

The need to provide scientists, decision-makers and the general public with access to environmental data suited to their expectations is felt at all levels. It is also a **true technical challenge**, as these data are dispersed, heterogeneous and difficult to be understood by the users when in a raw state.

**The EDEN-IW (Environmental Dated Exchange Network for Inland Water)** project was carried out, within the IST program of the Fifth RDFP to test innovating technologies for **simultaneously accessing heterogeneous databases on river quality**.

It is also in line with the cooperation between the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) of the United States.

From 2002 to 2004, a highly comprehensive template was produced and successfully presented. It gives access to French, Danish, English databases, and to the EEA Waterbase. Small software distributed on the Web, called **"agents"**, interpret the requests of the users, direct them to the relevant databases, streamline the results and return them in the form of maps or graphs. The system is multilingual and integrates English, Danish and French.

**EDEN-IW clearly proves the technical feasibility of such applications.**

**EDEN-IW** has associated, together with the Joint Research Center of Ispra, NERI (Denmark), European Dynamics (Greece), CNR (Italy), the Queen Mary University of London and the International Office for Water (IOWater).

**More information:**  
[www.eden-iw.org](http://www.eden-iw.org)



## Week of European Solidarity for Water

**INBO and IOWater as partners  
Strasbourg - France 15-21 October 2005**

The Week of European Solidarity for Water was held in Strasbourg from 15 to 21 October 2005. This event was managed by Solidarity-Water Europe and the International Secretariat of Water, with the support of the Council of Europe, the local Authorities of Strasbourg and the World Water Council.

**The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO) and the International Office for Water were particularly mobilized to support and promote this event in which they were partners.**

It was about offering to the European stakeholders of local water management a place for exchange and dialogue and allowing them:

- ◆ to formulate European recommendations for the 4th World Water Forum of Mexico City;
- ◆ to intensify exchanges and common cause between the various partners in water management;
- ◆ to accentuate and develop field projects in Europe especially focusing on the most underprivileged populations;
- ◆ to raise the awareness of the general public and elected officials on "water realities" and on the (human and financial) investments necessary for their management.

### Workshops and exchanges on water and the Civil Society

Four workshops were organized during two days, they dealt with the following topics:

- management of water-related risks;
- the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive in Central and Eastern European countries;
- access to drinking water and sanitation for everyone;
- decentralized financing for water management in small towns and rural areas of Central and Eastern Europe.

The President of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison, chaired the workshop on the topic: "implementation of the European Water Framework Directive in Central and Eastern European countries."

On their part, Mr. Jean-François Donzier, General manager of the International Office for Water and INBO Permanent Secretary and Mrs. Anne-Marie Ciurea, Rumanian Ministry of the Environment, jointly presented an analysis of the "lessons learned from 10 years of implementation of basin management in Eastern Europe".



### Workshop on the Framework Directive



### 4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Mexico

#### Invitation

**INBO session  
18 March 2006  
14:15 - 16:15**

**Users' and public participation  
and common cause in basin  
management (INBO)**

*"The Basin Committees:  
Local Water Parliaments"*



## EUROPE

### Rhine Network

#### The guide on public participation has been published!

Since 2002, IOWater has been one of the partners of the **Rhine Network** (INTERREG program coordinated by **Solidarity-Water Europe**), a transnational project on the Rhine basin, whose purpose is to **identify, enhance and develop good practices for public participation and awareness in the water sector**.

The Rhine Network wishes to provide local managers with legal, technical and practical information, as well as examples, likely to help them implement a participative policy for integrated and sustainable water management.

In 2005, IOWater was in charge of producing a **methodological guide "better involvement for better managing your projects: For a participative management of water and aquatic environments"**, in close cooperation with the network partners. This guide was gradually drawn up: it began with an overall bibliographical research and summary on the concept of public participation, the international and European regulations in this field, the existing techniques and tools, etc.

A more in-depth thinking focused on **the requirements of the Water Framework Directive** regarding public participation, real guidelines for planning water policies on the scale of large river basins.

Interviews took place with the different project managers of the **Rhine Network**, in order to collect their views on public participation and their experience feedbacks in this field.

The results of these interviews were analyzed against a reference methodology and were presented in a descriptive sheet for each case study; finally, a synthesis enabled to emphasize interesting tools and practical advice, that can help the project managers to involve the public in their projects.

Several meetings allowed the partners of the **Rhine Network** to work, in a participative and cooperative way, to formalize a first experience feedback and develop approaches that could be used by other field managers involved in water management projects.

The guide can be downloaded from the website: **[www.rhinenet.net](http://www.rhinenet.net)**

### WaterStrategyMan

The **WaterStrategyMan** project, in which IOWater was one of the partners, was financed by the European Union (DG Research) and allowed the development and evaluation of **alternative strategies for water resources management and the regulation of water demands in the arid regions of Southern Europe**.

It began in January 2002 and was completed with a seminar which took place in Cyprus from 11 to 13 May 2005.

The project included:

- an assessment of the current situation in the arid regions of Southern Europe;
- the development of a methodology for evaluating different water management scenarios;
- the development of scenarios for the distribution of water resources and strategies for recovering water cost;

- the gathering of protocols for integrated water management;
- an assistance to the decision-makers with the establishment of water management in arid regions integrating multiple purposes (agriculture, tourism, drinking water supply, etc.).

This approach was applied in the Paros island (Greece), the Belice basin (Sicily), the Tel Aviv region (Israel), the Limassol region (Cyprus), the Algarve basin (Portugal) and the Tenerife island (Spain - Canary Islands).

*All the results are presented in six books downloadable from the project website:*  
<http://environ.chemeng.ntua.gr/wsm>

#### Educational contest "Rivers of pictures, rivers of words"

This event was initiated by the **European Rivers Network (ERN)**.

In June 2005, the Dutch barge "Reinwater", left Rotterdam and went up the Rhine to Brisach (D) and the Vogelgrun island (Fr).

At each stop, a team of the **"Reinwater"** foundation was there to collect the works made by the children, expose them and propose practical workshops to the children.



### "Big Jump"

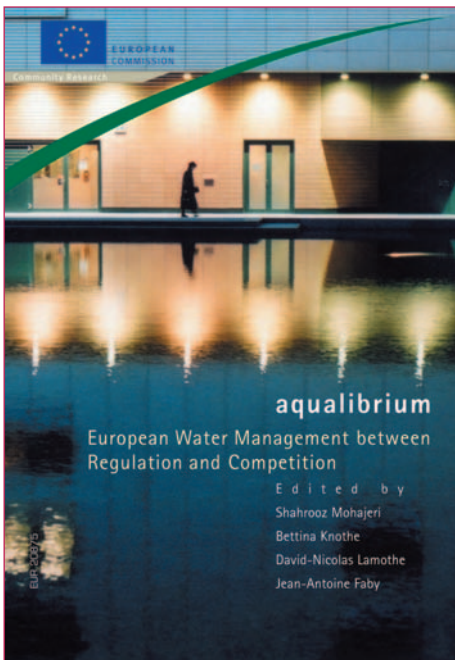
**First European bathing day in river**



**[www.rivernet.org](http://www.rivernet.org)**



### "AQUALIBRIUM"



The "AQUALIBRIUM" project was carried out by a consortium, made up of Nexus (Germany), the University of Alcala (Spain) and the International Office for Water, and supported by the 5th Framework Program of the European Community for Research, in order to draw up an inventory of the legal frameworks and current debates on the role of private operators in 14 different national contexts of water utility management.

The study results were published in a book, whose sections are accessible on line on IOWater website:

[www.iowater.org](http://www.iowater.org)

The main conclusions are as follows:

#### Forms of participation of the private sector

In most countries, the organization of the public water services is, except in England and Wales, the responsibility of the "local authorities", municipalities or communities with an equivalent institutional level.

All types of legal solutions are found for the management of water utilities, starting by an exclusively public management to a total privatization, with various degrees of participation of the private sector (subcontracting, delegation, etc.). The authorities in charge of the utilities are usually free to choose the organization method.

The participation of the private sector in the management of drinking water supply and sanitation utilities, current in several countries, as in France, remains a large minority on a European and international scale.

The forms of participation of the private sector in the management of water utilities are regrouped in three main categories:

❶ **Subcontracting:** It is an externalization of some activities, using a contract granted for the supply of goods or the providing of services. It is above all developed in Scandinavia.

❷ **Public-private partnerships (PPP)** which imply a balanced relation between the partners.

Two major PPP schemes can be distinguished with: on the one hand, **the mixed companies**, created by local authorities on their territory, as majority shareholders, with one or more private operators (more developed in urban areas and in Spain and Northern Europe), and, on the other hand, **delegation contracts**, signed by local authorities and private operators for which two main categories are identified in Europe:

- a delegation which only deals with the operation of the utility,
- a delegation which integrates both the building of the facilities and the operation of the utility (these contracts are of the concession or BOT type).

❸ **Entire privatization**, which refers to the cases of total transfer of ownership of the water utilities and of their facilities to the private sector (England and Wales are the only examples).

"Aqualibrium" compares the various situations, encountered in the 14 countries, in tables outlining the legal frameworks and the possible positioning of the private operators, country by country.

#### Ongoing debates

Various forms of participation of the private sector developed during the last few years. They led to debates, sometimes lively, about the particular nature of this activity, which aims at meeting an essential and vital need.

The topics, recurring everywhere in Europe, deal with the merit of the involvement of private operators in this activity, with the making of profits on this occasion and with their possible transfer to other economic sectors, with the legitimacy of the intervention of foreign operators, with the methods of determining the water price, etc.

These debates evolved to broader discussions on the management of water utilities in general:

#### ◆ Regulation and control:

General provisions should be implemented to organize the regulation of all the water utilities, either public or private.

#### ◆ Performance and service quality:

It is necessary to evaluate the public and private operators' performance and the quality of the service provided to the users.

#### ◆ Price and financing of services:

The requirements for infrastructures are considerable and must be met in a very constraining context of budget balance of the utilities while maintaining an "acceptable" price for the population.

#### ◆ A greater transparency:

It implies a legal separation of the public or private service provider from the organizing authority within a strictly regulated context.



[www.iowater.org](http://www.iowater.org)

The water world on the Web

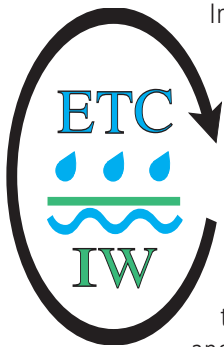


3,000,000 visitors in 2005!



## EUROPE

### A European database on emissions into water



States of the European Union.

In charge of the "emissions into water" task, on behalf of the **Water Topic Center of the European Environment Agency (EEA)**, the International Office for Water continued the collection of data in Basins and voluntary Member

IOWater modernized **the tool for storing data on emissions** to introduce it on the Internet. This site, internal to ETC, uses the most modern techniques of cartography, allowing the making of his/her own map and access to the data.

In parallel, the need for estimating the emissions from non-recorded sources, and more widely from all the little referenced sources, led us to develop **a table of the emission factors**, combined with their characteristic sizes and corresponding bibliography.

Lastly, IOWater contributed to a prospective study of **the evolutions of sanitation in Europe before 2020**.

Among the other tasks entrusted by ETC, IOWater updates the water sheets of the **"Reporting Obligations Database - ROD"**. This EEA base gathers all the European and international reporting obligations resulting from the commitments of the Member States. The elements are available in the form of summary sheets, giving access to the texts of the Directives, to the collection guides and formats, to the deadlines and useful information. This tool is used by the EEA to alert all the nationals in charge of reporting when a deadline is near.



World Water Forum Mexico - 21 March 2006  
 IOWater / 16:30 - 18:30  
 "Water Information Systems"

### "WFD-Community"

#### A Water Virtual University

The project consists in creating a **Continuous Education and Training scheme for water professionals**, based on collaboration between peers, working together on **the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), through a Virtual Learning Community**.

The partnership gathers the International Office for Water (France), Apele Romane (Romania), the University of Bucharest (Romania), the Gdansk Water Foundation (Poland), Hydrocontrol (Italy), and the International Network of Basin Organizations.

The project will last 36 months (until mid-2006), and its budget (Euro 380,000) is 75 % supported by **the European Leonardo da Vinci program**, and 25 % by the consortium members.

The corpus of knowledge needed for WFD implementation has been described by the partnership, leading to the identification of 6 modules in addition to an introduction to the European WFD:

- **M1: Good status in 2015;**
- **M2: Characterization, pressures and impacts;**
- **M3: Monitoring;**
- **M4: River basin management plan and programs of measures;**

- **M5: Public participation;**
- **M6: Economic analysis.**

#### The pilot phase:

- The topic M1 module concerning good ecological status is completed and was tested with 20 participants during a demonstration course (4 Frenchmen, 12 Romanians, 3 Polishmen and 1 Italian), within **5 working teams, working in their own language and in English for inter-teams exchanges**.

This first test was evaluated by an external consultant, and analyzed by the partners during a Steering Committee in early July in Gdansk in Poland.

Improvements were developed during the second test, from September to November 2005.

- The topic M2 module on characterization, pressures and impacts was introduced by the trainer with students and tutors during a web conference on 8 September 2005.

It was presented to water professionals on 10, 17 and 24 November 2005.

The outcomes of this work will then be disseminated among INBO members to get professionals' feed-back.

The last Steering Committee of the "WFD-Community" project took place in Rome, Italy, on 12 and 13 December 2005.

All the process is available on the project website:

**[www.mayeticvillage.com/wfd-community](http://www.mayeticvillage.com/wfd-community)**

#### Invitation

**Megève II Conference**  
 20 - 22 September 2006

**"The Framework Directive and water bodies in mountains"**

with  
**EUROPE-INBO 2006**



## CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE Poland

# Support to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive

World Water Forum  
Mexico - 18 March 2006  
11:00 - 13:00  
EUROPE-INBO Session:  
"The European Water Framework Directive"

A PHARE Twinning on the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (WFD) started in September 2004 for a two-year duration, involving the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development and its Polish counterpart.

IOWater is the French operator of this project. The objective of this twinning is to provide support on the following aspects in particular:

- ◆ **preparation of river basin district management plans and programs of measures;**
- ◆ **implementation of the cost recovery principle;**
- ◆ **public participation**, through the whole preparation process of the management plans;
- ◆ **international cooperation in International River Basin Districts.**

A permanent French Resident Adviser, seconded to the Polish Ministry of the Environment, coordinates the project implementation and gives advice, based on his experience.

**Numerous French experts also participate in the Twinning.** They belong to water institutions or organizations involved in the implementation of the WFD in France: Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, the Water Agencies (Seine-Normandie, Adour-Garonne, Rhine-Meuse, Artois-Picardie), Regional Environment Directorates (DIRENS), the Office of Geological and Mineral Research (BRGM) and the International Office for Water... who work together with their Polish counterparts to improve the conditions for the WFD implementation in Poland.

In addition to the permanent IOWater experts, the assignments are carried out by the people in charge of the various components of this twinning arrangement: Pierre Strosser and Thierry Davy for economic analysis, Eric Muller and Marie-Claire Domont for management plans, Jean-Pierre Rideau and Arnaud Courtecuise for cost recovery, René Lalement for water data management, Stéphanie Croguennec and Julien Martinez for public

consultation, Jacques Sironneau for legislative aspects, Denis Besozzi and André Wulf for international basins, José Smitz for the use of the Pegase model.

In Poland, the project is led by the Department of Water Resources, Ministry of the Environment, under the responsibility of Mieczyslaw OSTOJSKI, Bernadetta CZERSKA and Monika MORDARSKA, who are in charge of coordinating activities.

The project also involves the Polish Regional Water Management Agencies (RZGWs), the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMGW), the Water Management Board (BGW).

Seminars, led by Martial Grandmougin and Dominique Frechin, were organized in four regions in order to present the French experience in WFD implementation and the evolution of SDAGEs and SAGEs.

**Emphasis was given to the Upper Vistula pilot Basin during the first semester of 2005. (See box)**



## The Upper Vistula pilot Basin



The objective of the Pilot Basin experiment is to test the methods and tools available at the various steps of the WFD implementation in Poland.

**Component 1: characterization, heavily modified water bodies, economic analyses:** detailed analysis of pressures, test of the Pegase model, economic analysis of water uses, development of baseline scenarios (2015 deadline), assessment of the risk of not achieving good water status, identification of the main water management issues in the basin.

**Component 2: preparation of the program of measures, cost-effectiveness analysis:** identification of the main measures used in Poland and corresponding cost estimates.

**Component 3: public information and consultation:** testing process for public information and consultation, creation of an Informal Committee for water management in the pilot basin.

**Component 4: evaluation of water resource and environmental costs, disproportionate costs, derogation.**

The first outputs were presented during a seminar organized in Gliwice early July 2005 and in 4 training courses organized in September and October in Gdansk, Warsaw, Szczecin and Wroclaw.

Guidance documents were prepared.

### The pilot basin

The pilot river basin that has been selected covers the upper basin of the Vistula, from its spring to the confluence with the Raba. It has a surface area of 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is inhabited by 4.3 million people.

The pilot river basin is located on the territory of two **Regional Water Management Boards (RZGWs), Gliwice and Krakow.**

It is characterized by an uneven distribution of water resources.

Its high urbanization, important concentration of industries, high salinity of the Vistula water as well as the low groundwater level contribute to increasing the costs of drinking water supply to the population.







## CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

### Poland

## Support to the organization of data management

The ARCADIS/BCEOM/PROEKO group in charge of the PHARE project "Technical assistance with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Poland", which was carried out between January and September 2005, called upon the expertise of the International Office for Water on water data administration.

In Poland, as in many countries, data production is widely distributed between various institutional stakeholders (IMGW, GIOS, WIOS, PIG, RZGW, etc.) and multiple information systems use these various data sources (ArcWFD, AKOINFORNET, Water Register, WISE, etc.).

In order to facilitate the organization of a distributed information system for the Polish water sector, the IOWater experts had to:

- provide recommendations for **building the data exchange capacities of the Polish stakeholders of the water sector**, while respecting their responsibilities and their fields of action;
- **develop a computerized application** template aiming at proving the technical feasibility of the considered scenarios, up to the implementation of modern exchange procedures, based on the organization of **semantic interoperability**

(common language) and of **technical interoperability** (structured exchange files, etc.).

Two real examples show the technical feasibility of this last scenario:

- **the first**, on hydraulic infrastructures data coming from an Excel file managed by a RZGW;
- **the second**, on a database on surface water quality (JAWO database) through the use of a common language and the implementation of structured exchange XML files.



## The Gdansk Water Foundation celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary!



Gdańska Fundacja Wody

This event, chaired by the Pomeranian Voivode, took place on 16 May at the City Hall of Gdansk, in the presence of the Presi-

dent of the Limousin Region accompanied by a large delegation and of IOWater, which represented the French founder members.

Representatives from the Middle Franconia Region (Germany) and Kalouga Region (Russia) also participated in this event.

**This Gdansk Water Foundation (GFW)** is a foundation under Polish law created in May 1995, within the framework of a cooperation project led by IOWater and gathering Polish (Ministry of the Environment, Gdansk Voivodship and Municipality, Regional Funds for Environmental protection) and French Authorities (Ministries for

Foreign Affairs and the Environment, Artois-Picardy Water Agency, Limousin and Nord-Pas-de-Calais Regions) and Danish Cooperation, with a complementary financing from the European Commission within the **Life Baltic** program.

**With a team of about twelve people, led by Zbigniew Sobocinski, the Foundation carried out more than 70 seminars and training courses in 2005 for a public of about 1,600 professionals of the water sector, coming from the entire territory of Poland.**



## Invitation!

### Our 5 official sessions in Mexico

#### Saturday 18 March 2006:

- **Management of African transboundary basins (AMCOW/ANBO)**  
*"63 transboundary rivers in Africa"*
- **Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive (EUROPE-INBO)**  
*"29 countries agreed to achieve good ecological status in river basins in 2015"*

- **Users' and public participation and common cause in basin management (INBO)**  
*"The Basin Committees: Local Water Parliaments"*
- **Synthesis of the progress made in transboundary basin management over the world (INTBO)**  
*"Water has no boundary!"*

#### Tuesday 21 March 2006:

- **Development and implementation of Water Information Systems (IOWater/CONAGUA)**

**4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum - Mexico - 16 - 22 March 2006**

## CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Hungary / Romania

LARGE PROJECT

### The Körös / Crisuri Transboundary Basin

#### A test for the Tisza and the whole Danube Basin



The 1<sup>st</sup> Steering Committee of the Körös / Crisuri project, name of the transboundary river basin shared by Hungary and Romania and tributary to the Tisza, took place in Oradea on 13 September 2005, under the direction of Philip Weller, Secretary-General to the **International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)**. This ambitious technical assistance project, financed by the French Fund for Global Environment (FFEM), of a total budget of 3.7 Million Euros, is now well advanced. A French technical assistance, coordinated by the International Office for Water, is planned for:

- the setting-up of working groups: structure, follow up and overall coordination;
- the prevention and fight against accidental water pollution;
- information analysis, general GIS of the basin;
- assistance for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive;
- a support for the preparation of a harmonized Körös/Crisuri River Basin Management Plan with participatory process.

It was agreed to use a pragmatic approach, based on the existing good bilateral coordination.

The dynamics of the project allows the implementation of the following stages of basin planning, a test for the whole Tisza Basin.

For the management and harmonization of the data required for formulating the Körös/Crisuri Basin Management Plan, the work, started in order to produce common topical charts, will be closely followed up by a Hungarian-Rumanian working group, but also by Ukrainian, Serbian and Slovak representatives.

The main basin stakes, determined during a first joint seminar in July, will be presented to the Interested Parties for a later public consultation test in the two national sections of the transboundary basin.

Actions dealing with accidental pollution, monitoring, preparation of the Program of Measures and economic analysis are planned in 2006.

**The final objective of the project is the preparation of a Transboundary Management Plan and the harmonization of the action plans for response to accidental pollution.**

The outputs of the Körös/Crisuri project could be used by other rivers shared by Hungary and Romania, and by other countries of the Danube Basin.

The ICPDR, which makes sure that there is methodological consistency on the scale of the whole Danube Basin, is the ideal channel for information dissemination in this geographical area.



## Romania

### Towards water cost recovery

The PHARE-financed WAFDIP (Water Framework Directive Implementation) project, implemented by a consortium led by ARCADIS and completed in September 2005, provided support to the Rumanian Authorities with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The project assistance focused on two pilot basins, the ARGES, a river in the south of the country which drains Bucharest, and the SOMES a transboundary tributary of the Danube, which drains Transylvania in the North-West.

The International Office for Water, as main partner of the consortium, was in charge of an economic analysis of water management.

54 executives of the 11 river basin areas of the Administration of Romanian Waters (NAAR - APELE ROMANE) were trained on the practical use of concepts such as price, costs and tariffs, taxes and charges,

financial amortization and technical depreciation, but also on the difference between repair, renewal and investments as well as on opportunity costs, administrative costs, environmental costs, on demand-related water management and users' capacity to pay. Examples of the calculation of environmental costs were presented.

The IOWater specialists and the 54 NAAR executives constituted a group of experts to approach field problems such as:

- the difficulty of accurately assessing the impact of economic agents on water;
- cost recovery through the price paid by the users;
- changes in the users' behavior as they have not any more the same quality and quantity requirements
- individual water supply equipment of the rural population;
- the financing of flood control;

- the transfer of the assets of the State-owned water utilities to the local Authorities, with the corresponding financial and technical resources.

The group members jointly wrote, in English and Rumanian, a practical handbook, to be used by the 11 NAAR river basin areas: on the left page, there is the initial economic analysis made by the SOMES Basin Administration; on the right page, there are the observations, comments and additional remarks provided by the 54 participants, with the assistance of IOWater experts.

**A useful and effective collaboration:** the Rumanian participants presented their new acquired knowledge during meetings that followed with their colleagues of the Danube Basin countries!







## THE MEDITERRANEAN

Marrakech - Morocco  
23 - 25 May 2006

# Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations - MENBO

The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO) was held in Marrakech (Morocco), from 23 to 25 May 2005, at the invitation of the Moroccan Authorities and Basin Agencies and under the presidency of Mr. Juan Jose Moragues (CHJ - Spain).

His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Elyazghi, Moroccan Minister for Regional Planning, Water and the Environment officially opened the meeting and will take the Presidency of the Regional Network up to its next General Assembly in 2007.

**158 top-level representatives coming from 31 countries** (Albania, Algeria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Congo, Egypt, France, Greece, Guinea, Italy, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Niger, Palestinian Authority, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan) as well as representatives of the NBA, International Commission of the Scheldt, WWC, "IME", European Commission, FAO, JRC, "OMVS", of the Secretariat of the 4<sup>th</sup> WWF of Mexico and of the WSSCC, participated in the works.

**The application of the principles of integrated water resources management at the level of river basins, which are the basis of INBO action, has very widely progressed in the past ten years, in particular with the European Framework Directive, and it is thus very significant to disseminate our results to make known all advantages and to propose new bases for cooperation.**

Two days of Technical Workshops, organized on this occasion, allowed exchanges on issues related to floods and droughts and on the management of groundwater in the Mediterranean Basin.

◆ **As regards the prevention and control of floods and droughts**, which heavily affect many countries of the Mediterranean region, the delegates confirmed that a better exchange of information and know-how was needed.



They were interested in the creation of the **European Circle for Exchanges on Flood Forecasting, EXCIFF**, and its planned future activities.

They support the proposal to initiate other circles of exchanges, especially on the mapping of flood hazards or flood control in the Mediterranean countries.

Consistency of the water monitoring and information systems, harmonization of data and Geographic Information Systems and the use of common models are essential for sharing information and following up actions.

The participants recommended to install reliable and effective systems for quick warning against floods and droughts and to establish prevention and action mechanisms to face the natural disasters caused by water and to protect human lives and properties.

It is essential to harmonize the flood control plans between the countries of Transboundary Basins.

◆ **With regard to aquifer management**, the delegates insisted on the importance of improving knowledge on aquifers.

They underlined the irreversibility of the degradation that may affect some aquifers (pollution, sea water intrusion or over-exploitation) and thus the need for concerted and comprehensive long term management, involving all the stakeholders.

It is essential to inform the partners and organize an in-depth dialogue.

Among the priority topics, one should include the establishment of networks for monitoring the aquifers to ascertain their sustainable use, especially in the Mediterranean region, knowing that the natural recharge regimes are insufficient, and the taking of measures to avoid overexploitation.

In coastal areas, these networks would be used for controlling the status of sea water intrusions in the aquifers and for establishing criteria for diversifying the exploitation of groundwater resources.

◆ **Regarding the European Water Initiative (EUWI) / European Water Framework Directive (WFD) Joint Process**, in its technical part, it focuses on 3 topics (water scarcity, groundwater management and links between rural development and water management) in 2005/2006.

It aims at facilitating the implementation of water resource management policies adapted to the Mediterranean context and, in particular, of the WFD for the EU Member States.

Examples of the WFD implementation for groundwater management were presented as well as the example of a shared aquifer in North Africa.

The Mediterranean recommendations will be presented to the European Water Directors in June 2006.

A cooperation agreement was signed on this occasion by the respective Presidents of EMWIS, INBO and MENBO..

*All the working documents of these meetings, as well as the presented papers, are available on the website:*

[www.inbo-news.org](http://www.inbo-news.org)  
[www.remoc.org](http://www.remoc.org)



**158 top-level representatives coming from 31 countries**



The International Office for Water  
takes care of INBO Permanent Technical Secretariat



## THE MEDITERRANEAN Turkey

### France won the "environment" twinning

The French Ministries of Health and Ecology and Sustainable Development and the International Office for Water had submitted a twinning offer to Turkey, aiming at assisting the Turkish Ministry for Health in its harmonization of water legislation with the European Directives.

The French team had promoted its proposal during a meeting for the presentation of offers, organized by the European Delegation in Turkey, on 22 March 2005 in Ankara.

**Turkey selected**, among the five received proposals (Germany, Austria in partnership with Malta, Greece, Italy and France), **the French offer, which also includes the participation of Dutch experts.**

The project more precisely deals with **the use of the "Community patrimony" in three sectors: drinking water, bathing water and mineral water.**

This twinning, amounting to 2 million Euros, should begin in Spring 2006.

It will lead to the installation in Ankara of a French Resident Adviser for a 2-year duration.



The Bosphorus bank in Istanbul

## Palestine

### Raw water for the Palestinian people?



Mouth of the Jordan River

As regards the supply of water to the Palestinian territories, the Oslo agreements have guaranteed the supply of approximately 70 to 80 million m<sup>3</sup> of raw water per year since 1993. On the Israeli side, MEKOROTE is the only interlocutor. In the Palestinian territories, **the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA)** fulfils all the institutional functions of the water sector in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, the right bank of the Jordan. However, because of territory parceling, raw water conveyance and delivery is complex.

The only raw water supplier in the West Bank Sector has been **the Jordan West Bank Water Department (WBWD)** since 1948.

This public Authority was created by the Jordanian administration. Since 1967, WBWD had been managed by the Israeli Authorities, then, after 1993, was transferred to the Palestinian Authority.

A modernization of this institution is needed. The Palestinian Water Law of 2003 made this possible. After an invitation to tender, the project for supporting the reform was entrusted by the Palestinian Authorities to a consortium led by SEURECA, with AFD financial support.

IOWater provides its institutional expertise.

After dialogue between its experts and the Palestinian Authorities, the representatives of the municipal water suppliers and Village Authorities, IOWater contributed to the drafting of statutes for the new raw water supply Authority, an independent public company which will recruit its own staff and will balance its budget with the sale of its services.

It will propose tariffs to carry out its assignments, but the raw water price will still be set by PWA.

As this type of industrial and commercial organization does not exist in the Palestinian legislation, IOWater had to make sure that the proposed texts were legal and contributed to the drafting of the decree creating **the new company, the National Water Utility (NWU)**, which will gradually replace the old WBWD.

Finally, IOWater contributed to the drafting of the protocol for the transfer of assets and personnel between the two institutions.



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The water world  
on the Web



3,000,000 visitors  
in 2005!



# THE MEDITERRANEAN EMWIS

# SEMIDE EMWIS

## 15 countries on line on the Web

The Euro-Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS) now proposes direct access to the information managed by 15 countries of the Mediterranean region (Algeria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

EMWIS, through its **National Focal Points (NFPs)**, offers unified access to the water-related information in each country (institutional structure, training and research organizations, data administrators, regulatory texts, documentation, news) and international services: trilingual monthly electronic flash, topical directory, follow-up of programs and regional initiatives (MEDA-Water, European Water Initiative, etc).

A significant part of the activities of **EMWIS Technical Unit** - an European Economic Interest Group made up of the International Office for Water (F), SOGECID (I) and CEDEX (E) - is dedicated to the building of the capacities of the National Focal Points especially for the management and development of **National Water Information Systems** and for raising the awareness of the stakeholders on the advantages of **sharing information**.

### A marked interest for the European Water Framework Directive

Within the framework of the topical studies initiated in 2004, EMWIS launched an enquiry on the interest of some concepts of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) for the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). The first results show that there is a great interest for basin characterization and monitoring activities. This underlines MPC requirements in terms of acquisition of a better knowledge of the basins.

The Mediterranean Partners are highly interested in the follow-up of WFD implementation in the EU Member States. Thus, efforts are still needed to extend cooperation between the Member States and the Mediterranean countries, especially through the "Med-Joint Process" and its technical working groups but also, in a more general way, through the EU neighborhood policy (Twin-

ning agreements, etc...). EMWIS provides significant support to the collaborative work between the two shores of the Mediterranean with a Web section dedicated to the WFD and the working groups, on "groundwater" in particular.

### The Conference of the 35 Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

The conference of the 35 Water Directors of the Partnership and the European Commission took place in Rome in Italy on 24 and 25 November 2005. It especially:

- ◆ **Reaffirmed the validity of EMWIS**, the commitment of the countries to implement, adapt and appropriate it, according to the decisions made during the Ministerial Conferences of Marseilles in 1996 and Turin in 1999.
- ◆ **Defined the strategy for the next 10 years**, in particular the launching of feasibility studies for a regional mechanism for water observation, integrating inside EMWIS the follow-up of the Millennium Goals related to water and sanitation in the Mediterranean region, as well as the implementation of the "water" component of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.
- ◆ **Approved a new four-year program (2007-2010)**, continuing without any discontinuity the ongoing phase, with financing, currently estimated at approximately 3.400 M Euros.
- ◆ **Decided to increase support to the National Focal Points** and to the implementation or strengthening of their National Water Information Systems, with support from the European Union.
- ◆ **Opened EMWIS** to the Mediterranean countries not signatories of the Barcelona declaration: Libya and Balkans countries.



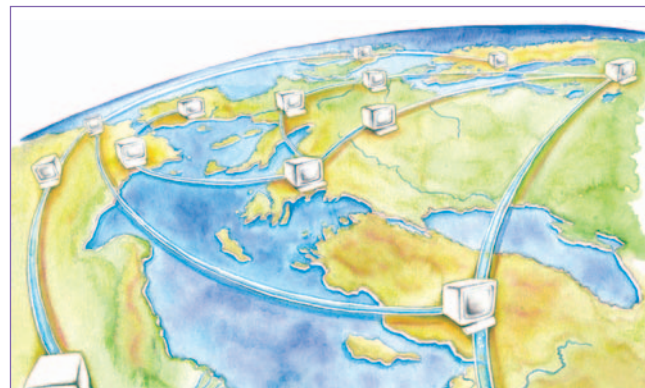
The Water Directors' Conference in Rome

- ◆ **Proposed that EMWIS constitutes the tool for consistency between the policies of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and Action plan for the Mediterranean**, and that their Conference becomes an institutional support for the implementation of the European Water Initiative in the area.
- ◆ **Renewed the composition of the Management Committee** with the following countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Turkey, Spain and the Palestinian Authority.

The French Water Director, Mr. Pascal Berteaud, was elected President of EMWIS and Mr. Walter Mazzitti (Italy) Secretary-General, responsible for the relations with the European Commission and the Partnership Countries.



Fore more information:  
[www.emwis.org](http://www.emwis.org)



World Water Forum  
Mexico - 21 March 2006  
16:30 - 18:30  
"Water Information Systems"

World Water Forum  
 Mexico - 18 March 2006  
 14:15 - 16:15  
 INBO Session:  
 "Users' and public participation  
 and common cause in basin management"

## Water in the Sahara

### Water saving and protection against pollution

In the Sahara, apart from the areas located in the Atlas, Hoggar and Tassili, the water resources are above all ground waters, situated in Northern Sahara in two large aquifers, which extend beyond the Algerian borders: the "Continental Intercalaire" and "Complexe Terminal".

**Sound management of water resources, control of agricultural hydro-techniques and pollution prevention on this vast territory are today needed** to ensure harmonious and sustainable development.



In 2005, the Sahara Basin Agency launched an awareness campaign and **an International Conference on Groundwater Resources in the Sahara (CIRESS)** took place in Ouargla on 12 and 13 December 2005 to end this year of intense campaign.

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, IOWater General Manager and INBO Permanent Technical Secretary, was invited to present the principles of integrated basin management during the opening ceremony chaired by the Algerian Ministers for Water Resources and Research.

[abhs@wissal.dz](mailto:abhs@wissal.dz) [www.abhs.dz](http://www.abhs.dz)

✓

## THE MEDITERRANEAN Algeria

### Algerian-French Cooperation Program "Algérienne des Eaux"

IOWater provides assistance to the "Algérienne des Eaux" (ADE) for reinforcing its HRD modernization process.

21,000 employees of "ADE" are concerned in the long term in the 5 main regions of Algiers, Oran, Constantine, Ouargla and Chlef.

Within the framework of the French-Algerian bilateral cooperation program for 2005, the following activities were carried out:

- **Training of commercial executives** on the "CATO" system (Operational Dialing Center), implemented with the Water Company of Marseilles (SEM).

- **Assistance to the creation of a National Training Center for Water Professions**, in order to define the technical and educational specifications of the future Algiers Center which is mainly designed for Technical Training, whereas the Oran and Constantine Centers will focus more on Managerial Training.

This project is financially supported by Belgium, for about 2.5 million dollars.

- **Training for the future executives of the Algiers Center**, mainly designed to prepare its operational organization and training offer.

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## Assistance to the ABHs

### For establishing a tax on industrial water abstractions

With the Algerian Financial Law of 2005, **the River Basin Agencies (ABHs)** are now in a position to levy taxes from the users of the Public Water Domain.

In order to implement this process, it is first necessary to identify the users and to know their water abstractions that will be used as a basis for the taxes.

The method recommended by the International Office for Water, during its assistance mission in 2005, consisted in defining a step-by-step consistent and homogeneous approach for the 5 River Basin Agencies, by targeting the main users as a priority and using all the available information sources:

The great number of illicit or unregistered boreholes requires that the Authorities take necessary steps to change this situation.

The International Office for Water also recommended that **the River Basin Committees** be widely informed of the steps taken and involved in this inventory and in the future establishment of taxes.

Finally it was proposed that a forthcoming Financial Law establishes **financial funding** from the National Fund for "Integrated Water Resources Management", in order to:

- finance meters for the water abstractions of industrial areas;
- progressively facilitate their further investments.

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## Training with ACEF

IOWater and the French-Algerian company "ACEF" signed a framework agreement for carrying out professional training activities, analysis and promotion of know-how in the water sector.

The "ACEF" Company developed a **training catalogue** for water professions in Algeria, intended for consulting firms and industry.

In 2005, "CNFME" carried out several professional training seminars in Algiers on the treatment of urban and industrial wastewater (dairies, pesticides, plastification, board mills, etc.).

Training courses on the design of drinking water supply systems, leak detection and storm water management are planned in 2006.

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## THE MEDITERRANEAN Morocco

### ONEP: National Office for Drinking Water Supply

#### Capacity building of the training center

ONEP (National Office for Drinking Water Supply) provides its 7,000 employees with continuing training of high quality: 21,000 training days per year.

But ONEP has been assigned with three new priority objectives:

- ① "safeguarding of the acquired knowledge",
- ② extension of the drinking water supply service to rural areas,
- ③ water pollution control.



Thus, ONEP requested IOWater for technical assistance aiming at specifying how the new assignments could result in new training needs: 2,800 managers of water fountains should be trained; 300 micro-companies are being created to extend water and sanitation services to small communities, etc.

An opening of the installations and capabilities gathered by ONEP in the Bou Regregh complex close to Rabat, to foreign customers also appears to be possible.

It is also necessary to ensure the training of employees of the other Moroccan stakeholders of the water sector, local authorities, construction work companies and craft industry, polluting activities, etc.



The Bou Regregh  
Training Center

### Sanitation training plan

Historically dealing with drinking water supply, ONEP has invested in sanitation for a few years.

This evolution is quite naturally accompanied by a redeployment of part of the staff and an increasing recruitment.

In order to achieve its objectives, ONEP undertook to define a consistent sanitation training plan.

The German consulting firm GWK was entrusted, with financing from KFW, with a program for assisting ONEP.

It requested assistance from the International Office for Water (CNFME) for the formulation, at the end of 2005, and the implementation in 2006, of the sanitation training plan intended for ONEP executives and technicians.



## Tunisia

### Performance indicators for water utilities

From 4 to 8 April 2005, the International Office for Water (IOWater) welcomed in Limoges a Tunisian delegation from "SONEDE", the Tunisian National Drinking Water Supply Company, in order to increase their knowledge of **the use of performance indicators in water utilities**.

"CNFME" firstly developed the theoretical and practical background of the implementation and use of indicators for the management of operational, administrative and financial branches.

It was also an opportunity of discovering French approaches through **experience feedbacks** from the Limoges Water Utility, Nantes Urban Community and the Water Syndicate of Ile de France (SEDIF).

The "SPDE" (Professional Syndicate of Water Suppliers) and "IGD" (Institute of Delegated Management) presented a feasibility assess-

ment of indicator implementation experimented in 2003 and 2004 for delegations of over 10,000 clients.

"SONEDE" and IOWater agreed to develop their cooperation for jointly proposing assistance to African metropolitan cities.



The delegation visits the CNFME  
technical facilities

### Optimization of pumping station for irrigation

The good operation and optimization of pumping stations for irrigation are vital for the Tunisian agriculture and economy.

In April and May 2005, the German consulting firm IGIP, within the framework of a project funded by KFW, entrusted two experts of the International Office for Water (CNFME) with several professional training seminars on the topics of **speed variation and work regulation in pumping stations used for irrigation**. These training courses took place in Kairouan and Hammamet and were intended for the executives of the Ministry of Agriculture involved in the design, operation and maintenance of irrigation systems.



## The water world on the Web



- > Professional Training
- > Documentation - Information
- > Institutional Cooperation
- > Water Policy
- > Current Events - Technical Watch



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