



WATER GOVERNANCE FACILITY



WGF Newsletter October 2007

A Word from WGF

Governance in water continues to be very important for intensified implementation of ongoing country water reform. An issue which so far has received scant attention, in both water reform planning and implementation is the water impacts of climate change and variability. Recent events such as the Stern-report and reports from the International Panel on Climate Change have re-energized political efforts to work with climate and this is also spilling over to the water sector. Water and climate is a critical area requiring more systematic action – looking at the future rather than the past – when it comes to options of

policy, technology, capacity, infrastructure development and financing priorities. The WGF is currently responsible for water sector responses options to climate change and variability for the United Nations World Water Development Report. While water and climate is not a completely uncharted territory, much work remains to be done on how to govern water resources with looming climate change.

Håkan Tropp, UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI

WGF in Action

WGF is supporting the development of a joint programme for climate change adaption in Jordan. Jordan, one of the ten most water scarce countries in the world, has placed massive investments to enhance water resource management. Still, critical gaps in investment and policy development remain. The joint programme seeks to address these gaps by enhancing capacity to adapt to climate change and provide sustained access to improved water supply sources.

The Iraqi government is committed to integrated and sustainable approaches to water. To this end, UNDP will help them develop a strategic framework of assistance towards integrated water resources management and institutional development. In cooperation with ESCWA, UNESCO, AUSAID, JICA, Spanish Cooperation and CIDA with the participation of the Arab Water Council and the World Water Council; the UNDP and its

Water Governance Facility based at SIWI organized a three-day conference entitled Iraq Waters: the Road to 2050 in Amman, 15-17 May 2007. Conference summary can be reviewed at the WGF website.

Integrity, honesty and anti-corruption are under addressed in water governance. Through its support to UNDP-Kenya and its close links with the Water Integrity Network (WIN), WGF is engaged in various activities to improve integrity and anti-corruption measures in water. Recently, WaterNet and CapNet expressed interest in developing water training modules on integrity and accountability in water in the SADC-region. The assignment will identify relevant actors and contribute to the analysis and mapping of ongoing anti-corruption activities at the national and regional level in SADC countries. WGF will work in close collaboration with WaterNet, CapNet and WIN.

On the Web

The website for the World Water Week has been updated with the latest news from the WWW 2007. Presentations and reports can be downloaded at www.worldwaterweek.org

The Energy, Transport and Water team at the World Bank International Development Association (IDA) have prepared a 'Water IDA at Work' series that provides in-depth analysis of what IDA has achieved in the Water & Sanitation, Water for Food and

Water Resources Management sectors. The publications can be found at www.worldbank.org/water

The final version of the documentations from the ACTeOn and Solidarite Eua Europe informal workshop 'How can economics best support water policy decision making? Taking stock of the first years of Water Framework Directive implementation' will soon be accessible to download directly from the ACTeOn web site.

News

Effective pro-poor water governance is essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the international water and sanitation targets. In cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) and H.R.H. Willem-Alexander, Prince of Orange, WGF convened a seminar on 'Practical Approaches to Pro-Poor Water and Sanitation Governance' at the World Water Week in Stockholm. The seminar identified appropriate intervention points and workable field strategies to secure good water and sanitation governance and recommended we develop guidelines and robust diagnostic tools of specific applicability to governance in water projects. For more information on the seminar, visit <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/seminarsandsideevents/Tuesday%20Seminars/tue-practicalapproaches.asp>

Ms. Alice Jaraiseh has joined the staff of the Stockholm International Water Institute and will serve as Project Officer at the UNDP Water Governance Facility. She is a hydrogeologist with expertise in project coordination and research on water issues in the Middle East. Through her work at different NGOs and most recently her work with Friends of the Earth - Middle East she has gained diverse field experience in capacity building, integrated water resources management and transboundary water restoration. At WGF, she will be responsible for supporting the coordination of the different ongoing projects as well as the communications and the outreach programme.

Calendar

- The Swedish Water House is inviting participants to a seminar on 'Water, Rights and Obligations,' taking place 09:00-12:00, October 10, 2007 at Piperska Muren, Scheelegatan 14, Stockholm. [Read more at www.swedishwaterhouse.se](http://www.swedishwaterhouse.se)
- The Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP) is holding the 8th training session on 'Making Governance Gender Responsive.' The training will take place in Manila, Phillippines, on November 12-19, 2007. Download an information sheet at <http://www.capwip.org/training/mggr.htm>

Did You Know?

Reducing food wastage by 50 % - including post-harvest losses, losses in transport and handling, and losses in the household - might vastly reduce or even negate the need for additional water to grow more food, which will ensure sufficient water is available for food in the future. (Lundqvist et al. 2007)