

GWP at 6th World Water Forum in Marseille

The 6th World Water Forum took place in Marseille from 12th to 17th of March 2012 and gathered approximately 35000 participants, comprising more than over 400 hours of discussions and debates with over 800 speakers. For several GWP regions the World Water Forum was the culmination of months of preparatory work for various sessions and events.

A New Handbook for Integrated Water Resources Management in the Basins of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers was launched

This publication was launched at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille by the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), UNECE, UNESCO, GEF, EVREN and AFD who worked together to produce it. <http://www.gwp.org/en/gwp-in-action/News-and-Activities/New-Handbook-for-Integrated-Water-Resources-Management-in-the-Basins-of-Transboundary-Rivers-Lakes-and-Aquifers/>

GWP blog: <http://globalwaterpartnership.wordpress.com/2012/03/13/water-world-speaks-with-one-voice/>

Pictures:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/globalwaterpartnership/sets/72157629635639325/with/7003390757/>

GWP Central America

GWP Central America was involved in the work for various sessions of the Americas including: Water Governance and IWRM, Climate Change and Water Supply and Sanitation.

Some of the most important issues raised in the governance sessions are:

- The region needs to strengthen community organizations in water management so that they have the skills necessary to perform the appropriate technical and administrative management of drinking water provision and resource conservation. The increase in knowledge will also improve their advocacy role.
- The participation of different stakeholders and resource users, contribute to better water governance.
- Funding is needed to ensure governance processes.
- Political will is key in establishing IWRM.
- In water management, it is necessary to consider the different contexts and scales of a country or region.
- It is fundamental to improve the politicians' knowledge on IWRM.



For the region of the Americas, the highlight of the week was the presentation of the “Water Agenda of the Americas”, which is an important result of the 6th World Water Forum process. More than 40 organizations have participated in the development of the Agenda which includes the entire hemisphere. This

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document is expected to become the working tool for the region on the water resources, as is stated in the introduction of the document: “[the Water Agenda of the Americas] aspires to contribute to the efforts of the international community around the common objective of making this vital resource, both for its social and cultural significance as well as its role in the sustainability of our civilizations, a driver of development for the benefit of present and future generations.”

- [GWP CAM PARTICIPATION»](#)
- [FOTOS GWP CAM IN FORUM»](#)
- [GOVERNANCE PRESENTATIONS»](#)
- [WATER AGENDA OF THE AMERICAS»](#)

GWP Central and Eastern Europe

GWP CEE contributed to books launched at 6th World Water Forum

<http://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-CEE/gwp-cee-in-action/news-and-activities/GWP-CEE-contributed-to-books-launched-at-6th-world-water-forum1/>

Galia Bardarska and Liviu Nicolae Popescu of GWP Bulgaria and Romania contributed to the publication “*New perspectives for the management of water projects: Models and applications from 8 trans-boundary projects*” published by Oxyo Water, France.

Galia Bardarska on behalf of GWP CEE made a contribution to the book “*No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-European region*” published by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe. The books were launched at 6th World Water Forum in Marseille.

Central Asia and Caucasus

GWP CACENA was involved in the following sessions:

12-16 March 2012 Marseilles, France. The 6th World Water Forum. On 15th March there was conducted special Session “**Input of Central Asia to the World Water Progress**”, which was supported by GWP CACENA as co-organizer. The general goal of this session was to present to the worldwide water society the agreed solutions within thematic priorities for the Central Asian sub-region, which has specific and diverse natural, social and economic environments related to water resources. Session was led by Saghit Ibatullin, Chairman of EC IFAS, and high level panel was represented by Mr. Islam Abishev – Chair of the State Committee of water resources of Kazakhstan, Mr. Hasan Khasanov, Deputy Minister of water resources of Tajikistan, Mr. Shavkat Khamraev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and water resources of Uzbekistan, Central Asian NGO Ecoforum was represented by Ekaterina Strekelova from CAREC.



Delegates from Central Asia with Ben Braga – President of IFC WWF6



High level panel of the Central Asian session

During session target coordinators from Central Asian countries presented solutions for seven priorities for Central Asia:

1. Guaranteeing water for future generations
2. Risk management and water security
3. International cooperation in the region – on the basis of International Conventions
4. Adoption of innovations in agriculture through agrarian reforms in order to achieve food security
5. Integrated water resources management – a tool for balancing multiple uses of water
6. Climate change and conserving environmental capacity
7. Sustainable water supply and sanitation



Group photo after signing **“World Pact for Better Basin Management”**



Synthesis session of APWF

Delegates from GWP CACENA, which were represented by partners from Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan took active participation in INBO initiative towards launching of the **“World Pact for Better Basin Management”** and also in synthesis session of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum.

GWP Mediterranean

Non-Conventional Techniques for Water Reuse in the Mediterranean

GWP Mediterranean presented the Non-Conventional Water Resources Programme in the Mediterranean at the World Water Forum in Marseille. The programme is implemented together with partner institutions, organisations and companies. It aims at advancing the use of Non-Conventional Water Resources in water scarce communities in the Mediterranean, as a cost-effective method for water availability and climate change adaptation. The traditional rainwater harvesting method is used and improved when combined with innovative techniques and methods.

<http://www.gwp.org/en/gwp-in-action/Mediterranean/News-and-Activities-GWP-Mediterranean/Non-Conventional-Techniques-for-Water-Reuse-in-the-Mediterranean/>

South Asia

The **Bangladesh Water Partnership** was involved in the following events:

1. Participation at 6th World Water Forum from 12-17 March 2012 at Marseille, France.

The 6th World Water Forum was held from 12-17 March 2012 at Marseille, France. K. M. Zeba Rahman, Executive Secretary, BWP participated in the forum as the sole representative of BWP.

1.1 Participation in Women's' Leadership Preparatory Conference from 10-11 March 2012 at Marseille, France.

On the eve of the 6th World Water Forum (March 10th and 11th), over 100 female and some male participants gathered in Marseille to debate Women's Leadership in Water and to forge concrete solutions. The preconference agreed on concerted action to make access to water for food, domestic use and income generating activities, a reality for the bottom billion on our Planet who lack such basic needs.

The Women's pre-conference on Women's Leadership in Water and Sanitation concentrated on 3 main themes: women's role in water and food security, community water management and water, and peace and security from a woman's perspective. On the first day (10 March 2012) of the preconference, Martine Vassal, Deputy Mayor of Marseille welcomed all participants on behalf of the host city and Alice Bouman-Dentener, President, Woman for Water Partnership welcomed the participants on behalf of the Women for Water Partnership. Civil society organizations presented their case studies and interacted with ministers, representatives from international institutions, government agencies, development organizations and grassroots women organizations to jointly determine the way forward and develop a road map to implement the agreed principles and policies.



K. M. Zeba Rahman presenting a paper at the preparatory conference of WfWP

K. M. Zeba Rahman, Executive Secretary of Bangladesh Water Partnership actively participated in this Women's Leadership Preparatory Conference on 10-11 March 2012. She presented a paper on "Transboundary Issue – South Asia under peace and security from a woman's perspective" on 10 March 2012. There has always been a shortage of water at some locations at the world at some times. Whenever this occurred, there was competition among people for water which sometimes resulted in conflict. Since water security directly impacts human security, it is a potential source of conflict. Water issues are gradually becoming the prime focus in interstate relations. Increasing water shortage

has made South Asia a water-conflict region. Ms. Zeba Rahman described the transboundary river basins in South Asia and the treaties/agreements on these river basins among these countries. Water distribution, its utilization, its management and above all the hydro-electric power projects affect the upper and lower riparian countries. Water security is gradually becoming an epicenter of interstate relations and water scarcity is increasing the miseries of people of this area. She also highlighted the conflicts occurring in this region due to water sharing. She pointed out that as water shortage is triggering conflict in the region of South Asia, dispute resolution among these countries should be developed to ensure water security and peace in South Asia. As domestic managers, women have an intimate knowledge of water sources, quality, reliability of their own uses of, and need for, improved water supply facilities. Why and how women should be involved in Water Security and Peace building on the transboundary river basins was also presented by Ms. Zeba Rahman. To ensure water security women should be involved in surface water management as well. Women themselves often feel a strong need for improved water supply facilities for themselves and their families and they are known for organizing, lobbying and protesting in order to effect change in water management. This motivation and self-organization is a vital community resource in Water Security and Peace building.

1.2. Participation on the side event of WfWP titled "Catwalk – Women leadership in Water: Presenting New Thinking New Challenges" on 14 March 2012 at the 6th World Water Forum.

Women for Water partnership (WfWP) held a side event titled "Catwalk – Women leadership in Water: Presenting New Thinking New Challenges" on 14 March 2012 at the 6th World Water Forum. According to the Dublin/Rio Principles for IWRM (1992), women play a central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water. Women around the globe take up their pivotal role and reach out to governments and the water and development sector to jointly tackle the immense challenge of providing water and sanitation for all.

Presented by a film star and led by women water professional as "Mannequins", WfWP presented the outcomes of the Preparatory Conference on Women Leadership in Water, highlighting the most critical issues related to women and water. K. M. Zeba Rahman, Executive Secretary of Bangladesh Water partnership was a mannequin of Catwalk to present the key message of Preparatory Conference on Women Leadership in Water.

1.3. Participation in the side event of PWP titled "Implementing IWRM in South Asia through AWP" on 16 March 2012 at the 6th World Water Forum.

Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP) held a side event titled "Implementing IWRM in South Asia through AWP" on 16 March 2012 at the 6th World Water Forum. Followings were the issues discussed at the event;

- Making water and sanitation a candidate for inclusive growth through the process of IWRM
- Benefiting from the world best practices
- Sharing experiences of Pakistan and South Asia regarding implementing IWRM at grassroots level
- Partnership development with world water stakeholders

K. M. Zeba Rahman, Executive Secretary of Bangladesh Water Partnership participated in the event and made a power point presentation on "AWPs: Gender Responsive Grassroots Level IWRM Institutions in Bangladesh". She described the current status and general activities of AWP in Bangladesh. Ms. Zeba Rahman also highlighted some successful initiatives carried out by AWP in Bangladesh and the outcomes of these initiatives. She described as to why AWP is a good practice from a Women's Perspective. The AWP were designed to translate IWRM concepts on the ground and provide a platform for water related institutional and stakeholder interaction in order to achieve IWRM at local level. Women because of their domestic roles, play a pivotal role in water management since they are the mainstream providers and users of water and beneficiaries of improved water services. Given the right training and exposure women can become potential change agents especially in expanding good practices in water supply, sanitation, management and climate change adaptation.

The **Pakistan Water Partnership** took part in the following events:

1. Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP) held a national seminar on 3rd March 2012 involving the partners in PWP preparations for 6th World Water Forum at Serena Hotel Islamabad. At this seminar outline of presentations of Pakistan to be made by PWP and the contents of the side event of PWP to be held on 16 March 2012 during the 6th World Water Forum were discussed at length. The event was chaired by Sardar Muhammad Tariq, Regional Chair GWP-SAS, and co-chaired by Mr. Naseer Ahmad Gillani, Chairman, Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP). Over forty seven (47) delegates from Government, water utilities, academia, private sector, NGOs, water stakeholders and experts attended the seminar and contributed towards improvement of the contents of the presentations.



Sardar Muhammad Tariq, Regional Chair, GWP-SAS delivering inaugural address and explaining the contents of the presentations to be made at 6th World Water Forum



2. Mr. Naseer Ahmad Gillani, Chairman PWP; Dr. Pervaiz Amir, Partner PWP; Ms. Nasreen Iqbal, Partner PWP; Mr. Karamat Ali, Country Coordinator PWP participated in the 6th World Water Forum at Marseille, France from 12-17 March 2012.

- During 6th World Water Forum, Mr. Karamat Ali, Country Coordinator PWP attended the inaugural session, technical sessions of all six days and closing ceremony. He presented introduction Session 2.1.1, coordinated by PWP in collaboration with UNESCO-ICIWaRM in Session 2.1 INTRO – Using Our Water Resources Smartly: Getting Water Resources Management Right on 12th March 2012 at 1700 – 1900 hours in Hall Europ-8;

- He presented a case study titled “Implementing IWRM in Pakistan” on 13th March in Session 2.1.1 Getting Started: Choosing an Entry Point for a National IWRM Strategy at 830 to 1030 hours in Hall Europe-7.
- He also presented another case study titled “Reducing Flood Vulnerabilities in Pakistan: Indus Basin - Lessons Learned” on 15th March 2012 at 1100 – 1300 hours in Session 1.4.5 Getting Started on Mitigation Strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction in Developing Countries.
- Mr Ali also organized the PWP side event titled “Implementing IWRM in South Asia through Area Water Partnerships” on 16th March 2012 at 1315 – 1415 hours in Hall PC-11 – Morgiou.
- Mr. Naseer Ahmad Gillani, Chairman, Pakistan Water Partnership (PWP) attended the inaugural session, technical sessions of all six days and closing ceremony of the 6th World Water Forum.
- He also chaired the PWP side event titled “Implementing IWRM in South Asia through Area Water Partnerships” on 16th March 2012 at 1315 – 1415 hours in Hall PC-11 – Morgiou. The presenters of the side event included UNESCO’s Mr. Toshihiro Sonoda whose presentation was entitled “Water and Global Cooperation”; NARBO’s Mr. Tadashige Kawasaki whose presentation was entitled “Linking NARBO initiative with Area Water Partnerships in South Asia”; Bangladesh Water Partnership’s Ms. K. M. Zeba Rahman, AWP’s: Gender Responsive Grassroots Level IWRM Institutions in Bangladesh; and ICID’s Mr Avinash Tyagi.
- Dr. Pervaiz Amir, Partner GWP/PWP acted as the rapporteur of the Session 2.1.1: Getting Started: Choosing an Entry Point for a National IWRM Strategy at 830 to 1030 hours in Hall Europe-7 and presented his report to the WWF6 Secretariat at the conclusion the session.
- Some pictures of the participants are given below:





Mr. Naseer Ahmad Gillani, Chairman, PWP chairing PWP Side Event at 6th World Water Forum, Marseille, France on 16th March 2012 together with other presenters from UNESCO, NARBO, Bangladesh Water Partnership and ICID.



Dr. Pervaiz Amir and Mr. Karamat Ali visited ANS Stall in the Exhibition Hall where Pakistan's water supply and sanitation presentation was being displayed.





Mr. Karamat Ali, Country Coordinator PWP with Dr. Kulwant Singh, Advisor, UN Habitat India.

Getting Started Choosing an Entry Point for a National IWRM Strategy – Mr. Karamat Ali, Country Coordinator presenting IWRM Case Study from Pakistan.