

CEE Celebrates 10 Years of Advancing Water Agenda

GWP CEE CELEBRATED ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY PRESENTING RESULTS OF MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST DECADE ON 6 OCTOBER IN BUDAPEST.



Since its establishment in 1998, GWP CEE has organised several thematic dialogues including Vision for Action, Financial Flows, Water, Food and Environment, Gender and IWRM Planning. The results were synthesised and presented at World Water Forums. To take stock of the results achieved since the Hague Forum, a regional stakeholder meeting was held in March 2001 in Budapest, Hungary. A Ministerial Declaration was adopted at the meeting welcoming, amongst other things, the initiative of the GWP to promote integrated water resource management in the region.

GWP CEE was one of the coordinators of Europe Day at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan. During the Forum, GWP CEE was involved in various meetings such as Tool Box sessions, the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure and others. According to GWP Regional Chair for CEE, Liviu Nicolae Popescu, "Dialogues are a central GWP CEE activity. We have used dialogues – facilitated conversations among groups with often disparate views – to discuss complex water management issues with a notable success", says Popescu. During 2006-2007, GWP CEE used national dialogues to organise a series of IWRM Policy Dialogues, responding to national water priorities in 12 countries of the region.

There has been a steady increase in interest for public participation, as well as recognition for it on different governance levels, in a wide range of sectors and contexts, including environmental management. To respond to this, GWP CEE established the Public Participation Task Force. The major achievements include organisation of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) Stakeholder Conference in 2005 and annual

celebrations of 29 June as Danube Day with international celebrations in Zaragoza Water Expo in 2008.

GWO CEE identified a gap of 20 Million EU citizens who lack safe and affordable sanitation. This was done by an international specialist task force publishing its findings in the book, Sus-



GWP CEE celebration

tainable Sanitation in Central and Eastern Europe: Addressing the Needs of Small and Medium-Size Settlements. This action was also well timed to contribute to the International Year of Sanitation 2008.

Since 2003, there has been an ongoing study on flash floods under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) / GWP Associated Programme on Floods Management. One of the most recent achievements, "Guidance on Flash Flood Management-Recent Experiences from CEE", has been published and provides easily accessible guidance on flash flood management to mayors, provincial administrators and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service.

In the region, the GWP ToolBox is instrumental in supporting knowledge exchange on integrated water resources management approaches towards sustainable water resources development, management and use. "Over the next years, GWP Central and Eastern Europe plans to undertake several initiatives including increased multi-sectoral dialogues, and raising political will for extended application of IWRM principle", says Milan Matuska, GWP CEE Regional Coordinator. ■

Calendar of Events

5th World Water Forum
15–22 March 2009
Istanbul, Turkey

World Water Day 2009
22 March 2009
"Shared Water – Shared Opportunities"

2nd European Water Conference 2009
2–3 April 2009
Brussels, Belgium

Advances in Urban Water Supply
and Sanitation Conference
21–22 May 2009
Minsk, Belarus

ToolBox Sustainable Sanitation Workshop
25–27 May 2009
Kiev, Ukraine

Call for Papers

ADVANCES IN URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION CONFERENCE

The conference, taking part in Minsk, Belarus on 21-22 May 2009, aims to be a platform for young water professionals, i.e. students and water professionals under 35 years old. Although it has a special focus on urban water supply and sanitation, papers on all aspects of the water/wastewater sectors are welcome. Deadline for submission of outline papers is the 1st February 2009. ■

For more information:
www.ywp-wik2009.org

International ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management

THE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT WAS LAUNCHED BY SWISS RE IN 2002.

The ReSource Award is an internationally recognised prize for leadership in implementing the principles of sustainability in watershed management. The submission deadline for the ReSource Award 2010 is 30 April 2009. ■

For more information:
www.swissre.com/resource

Danube Day at World Water Expo

DANUBE DAY



DANUBE DAY WENT GLOBAL WITH CELEBRATIONS AT THE WORLD WATER EXPO IN ZARAGOZA, SPAIN.

GWP Hungary was the organiser of the Danube Day at World Water Expo 2008 in Zaragoza with the

support from ICPDR, GWP, the Hungarian Ministries of Economy Environment & Water and Country Water Partnerships from Romania, Bulgaria. The responsible commissioners of national pavilions from Slovakia, Germany, Austria and Croatia also supported the event.

Water and Sustainable Development was the theme for this year's Expo, opened on 14 June. The huge event covered 60 acres with more than 27 structures designed by some of the world's leading architects; all on the theme of water, including the world's largest river aquarium. Visitors arriving at each of the Expo Country Pavilions on the 29th of June were met with Danube Day banners and posters. Many of the people visiting the Expo during 29 June received a "Danube Pass" for which they collected stamps from Danube countries and received a small prize.

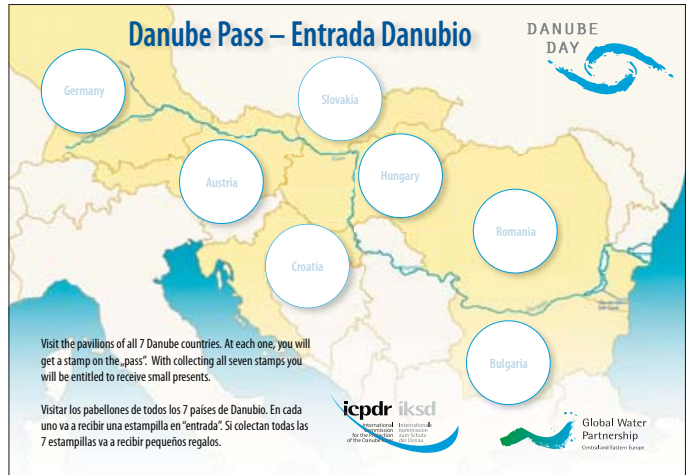
The Danube Box, the ICPDR's educational tool kit for promoting protection of the Danube Basin, was displayed together with GWP material such as GWP CEE books, leaflets and brochures produced in the last years with connection to the Zaragoza Expo topic Water and Sustainability. The "Blue Danube Waltz" attracted many visitors who all dressed up in Danube Day T-shirts danced in front of the Hungarian Pavilion. Later in the day, a press conference attracted media attention about Danube's water resources issues. ■

For more information on Danube Day visit www.danubeday.org



Press Conference at Water Tribune

CREDIT: GALIA BARBARSKA



Danube Day: 29 June
Día de Danubio: 29 de junio

English name: Danube
 Latin name: Danubius, Ister
 Ancient Greek: Istros
 Source: Black Forest, Donaueschingen, Germany
 Mouth: Black Sea via Danube Delta, Romania and Ukraine
 Catchment area: 817.000 km² Length: 2850 km.
 Population living in the basin: more than 80 million
 Drinking water source for about 10 million people

The most international river on the Earth. The Danube flows through 10 countries (Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine), takes water from further nine countries and thus connects 19 countries.

- Danube Commission established in 1948 (Belgrade)
- International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) established in 1994 (Sofia)



People dance "Blue Danube Waltz"

CREDIT: MONIKA JEZINA

World Water Day 2009

IN 2009, THE THEME FOR WORLD WATER DAY IS „SHARED WATER – SHARED OPPORTUNITIES“.

Nearly 40 percent of the world's population lives in river and lake basins shared by two or more countries. The world's 263 transboundary basins include the territory of 145 countries and cover nearly half of the Earth's land surface. Great reservoirs of freshwater also move silently below border in underground aquifers. There are over 270 known transboundary aquifers.

The Challenge Ahead

Every government wants to ensure that its citizens have the water they need to lead healthy, happy and productive lives. As population and economy grow, national demands for freshwater increase. There is not enough freshwater to meet everyone's needs. But the world's supply of freshwater is not evenly distributed and often not appropriately managed. Many countries are already facing scarcity of freshwater. By 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity, and two thirds of the world's population could be under stress condition.

Groundwater Resources of the World

In some areas, the availability of good quality freshwater has been reduced due to pollution from human waste, industry and agriculture. The figures are disturbing. Every day, 2 million tons of human waste is disposed of in water courses. In developing countries, 70 percent of industrial wastes are dumped untreated into waters where they pollute the usable water supply. Since 1900, half of the world's wetlands, our principal source of renewable freshwater, have been lost. Putting an end to the deterioration of transboundary wetland ecosystems is critical for securing

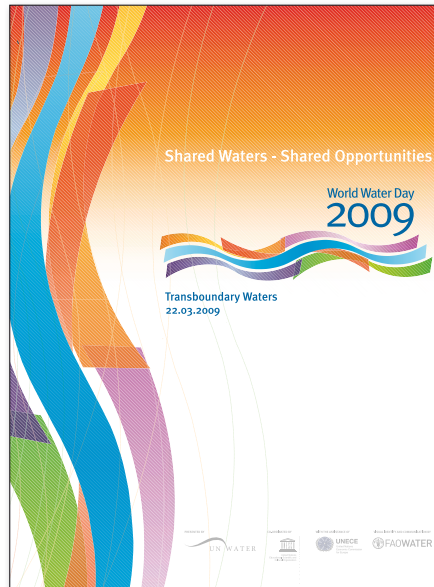
a stable supply of water for our homes, farms and industries.

Climate change will certainly have an impact on water resources and their management. As temperatures rise, rainfall patterns are expected to change, increasing the risks of floods, drought and other water related disasters in many areas. Glaciers and ice fields, the immense reservoirs of freshwater stored in the world's mountains and polar regions are already melting.

Cooperation and not Conflict

With many countries different stages of development, with different economic interests and different political outlooks, all trying to satisfy their water needs with limited water resources, some people foresee a future filled with conflicts. But history shows that cooperation, not conflict, is the most common response to transboundary water management issue. Over the past 60 years there have been nearly 300 international water agreements and only 37 cases of reported violence between states over water.

Work remains to be one to improve and implement these international agreements. In addition, more agreements are required. Of the



words 263 international river basins and transboundary aquifer systems, 158 do not have any type of cooperative management framework in place. Nurturing the opportunities for cooperation in transboundary water management can help build mutual respect, understanding and trust among countries and promoted peace, security and sustainable economic growth.

World Water Day

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

In 2009, a special focus is placed on transboundary waters. Nurturing the opportunities for cooperation in transboundary water management can help build mutual respect, understanding and trust among countries and promote peace, security and sustainable economic growth. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) leads the activities of the World Water Day 2009 with the support of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

For more information, visit official website www.worldwaterday09.info

Slovakia Takes over Presidency of International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY AND DEVELOPING FLOOD ACTION PLANS FOR TRIBUTARIES AMONG THE PRIORITIES.



Slovakia takes over the Presidency of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) for the year 2009 at a ceremony held at the United Nations in Vienna on 27 January 2009.

Olga Srsnova, General Director of the Division of Waters and Energy Sources at the Slovak Ministry of Environment will serve as President and guide the activities of the ICPDR. "During my presidency, I am committed to promoting development that meets the needs of both the people and the environment", said Ms. Srsnova. She intends to support the role of the ICPDR as a forum for discussion, especially against a background of increasing pressure on river resources.

The State Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment of Slovakia Jaroslav Jadus attended the handover ceremony, underscoring the importance of the Presidency for Slovakia.

Slovakia is particularly committed to support the timely and proper implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive. Water managers and experts throughout the Danube basin are working towards achieving good water quality by 2015 as required by the Directive. The coming months will be essential in developing the Danube River Basin Management Plan including the Joint Programme of Measures that must be completed by the end of 2009. The Presidency will host a Stakeholder Forum to discuss the measures to be adopted in Bratislava around the date of International Danube Day on 29 June 2009. "Discussing the planned measures, listening to those who will be affected by them, and finding compromises are key for the success of the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive," Ms. Srsnova emphasized.

The final Danube River Basin Management Plan will be adopted by all ministers responsible for water management in spring 2010.



Jaroslav Jadus (State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment of Slovakia), Olga Srsnova (ICPDR President 2009), Sasa Dragin (ICPDR President 2008) and Philip Weller (ICPDR Executive Secretary)

Additional focus will be given to the development of flood action plans for sub-basins. "Being regularly affected by floods, Slovakia is aware of the international dimension of this problem," Ms. Srsnova underlined, "The flood damage along the Danube can be significantly reduced by a better flood management of its tributaries. The development of a flood action programme for the respective sub-basins is an important step to achieve this."

The ICPDR Presidency rotates annually among the Contracting Parties of the Danube River Protection Convention. Slovakia follows Serbia and will be succeeded by Slovenia in 2010.

For more information, visit www.icpdr.org

Europe's Sanitation Problem

20 MILLION EUROPEANS STILL NEED ACCESS TO SAFE AND AFFORDABLE SANITATION.



Women in Europe for a Common Future, Coalition Clean Baltic, GWP CEE, Earth Forever, Bulgaria, Euroteleorman Romania and Creative Slovakia organised the seminar entitled, "Europe's Sanitation Problem: 20 Million Europeans Need Access to Safe and Affordable Sanitation" during Stockholm Water Week on 19 August.

The seminar was honoured by the presence of the GWP Patron HRH Prince Willem-Alexander, Chair of the United Nations Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. Unchanged, current legislation and funding programmes will leave these 20 million people behind. Despite the allocation of more than EUR 336 billion in Cohesion Funds to new EU member states, hardly any funds address the needs of the poorest people living in small rural communities. The usual system of pit latrines causes groundwater pollution in many villages which depend on wells for drinking water. The numerous health effects include regular outbreaks of viral hepatitis, blue baby syndrome and diarrhoea. Children and women are most often affected. The proposed alternatives are not affordable for households



with a monthly income or pension of not more than EUR 50-100.

The seminar, which built on the conclusions of a high level conference in Brussels earlier this year, brought together key decision makers from politics and industry to look at barriers and solutions. GWP CEE Sustainable Sanita-

tion experts from Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Regional Secretariat also contributed to success of the seminar.

For more information on the GWP CEE Sustainable Sanitation Programme, visit www.gwpceeforum.org



This seminar was honored by the presence of the GWP Patron HRH Prince Willem-Alexander

CREDIT: BOGDAN IMACAROL

GWP CEE Presents at Water Crisis Dialogue

GWP CEE REGIONAL COORDINATOR MILAN MATUSKA GAVE A KEY NOTE PRESENTATION ON THE WATER CRISIS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE ON 20 NOVEMBER IN SEVILLE.

The 4th International Dialogue on World Water Crisis took place in Seville, Spain on November 20th and 21st. The event was organized by Green Cross Spain with the collaboration of the Seville

City Council and EMASESA Metropolitana, the largest water facility in Andalusia. This year the Dialogue was focused on current water management problems in Central and Eastern Eu-



The dialogue provided an opportunity for networking

CREDIT: MILAN MATUSKA



Petruta Moisi gives a presentation on water problems in Romania

CREDIT: MILAN MATUSKA

rope, facing new challenges and opportunities, including implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Since the first Dialogue in 2005, Seville has become a worldwide meeting point for water experts to discuss how water management can be better shared between governments, NGOs and private initiatives. Along with the current situation in Central and Eastern Europe, the issue of sanitation was also discussed, in part because 2008 was declared the International Year of Sanitation. Before the Dialogue, the GWP CEE Regional Coordinator Milan Matuska gave an interview which appeared in the newsletter *Andalucia Ecologica Medio Ambiente* and an introductory presentation to the Dialogue: *Water Management in Central and Eastern Europe*. His presentation was followed by contri-

butions of invited experts from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania focused on different aspects of water management. This helped the auditorium consisting of approximately 100 Spanish representatives of professional organisations and NGOs working in water management to understand the whole range of problems that varied from country to country in the region.

One of the challenges was the rather limited number of participants from Central and Eastern Europe to point out the most important regional issues and clarify differences among the countries, especially in the context of the application of IWRM principles through the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The presentations of Spanish organisations and companies were generally orient-

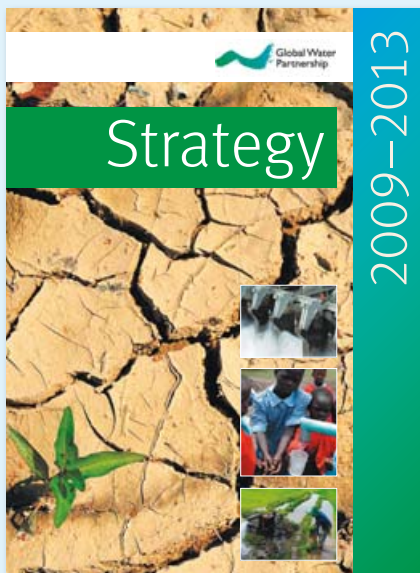
ed on the specification of potential help for the water management sector in Central and Eastern Europe.

In the future, Green Cross Espana plans to summarize all the Dialogues and present the conclusions at WWF 5 in Istanbul together with a proposal of Fundamental Principles for the Framework Convention on the Right to Water which is the joint initiative of Green Cross Espana together with the International Secretariat for Water and the Maghreb-Machreq Alliance for Water. ■

General information on the 4th Dialogue can be found on the Green Cross website: <http://gci.ch>. For more information in Spanish, visit www.greencross.org.es.

GWP Launches New Global Strategy: Pushing Water Higher up the Development Agenda

THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP (GWP) ANNOUNCES ITS NEW GLOBAL STRATEGY, ONE THAT FOCUSES ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF FOUR MAJOR GOALS DURING THE PERIOD 2009-2013.



"Recognizing the new challenges, GWP has developed a new intervention strategy," said GWP Patron HRH The Prince of Orange Willem-Alexander. "This strategy makes the organisation fit for the future and guarantees the continuation of the important role that GWP is playing in improving the integrated planning and management of the world's water resources. It is an honour for me to be Patron of such an influential organisation."

Referring to new global challenges, GWP Chair Letitia A. Obeng, said, "The Strategy has been developed during a difficult period. Development efforts are threatened due to unprecedented economic and financial volatility, and increased uncertainty facing the world. We are however excited that we can build on our past, and position ourselves to contribute to addressing urgent waterrelated challenges."

GWP's educational and advocacy role since 1996 for an integrated approach to the management and development of water resources has contributed to changes in policies and legislation. The new strategy aims to build on those successes by pushing water higher up the development agenda.

"There are precious few development issues that can be talked about without reference to water security," said GWP Technical Committee Chair Roberto Lenton, "whether it is poverty, hunger, disease, or the environment. In fact, the world community will have great difficulty reaching the Millennium Development Goals if it does not place water security issues front and centre."

Martin Walshe, GWP Deputy Executive Secretary and currently Acting Executive Secretary, emphasized the inclusive process that resulted in the

strategy. "The strategy is the result of a full year of consultations, including two network-wide meetings in 2008. The strategy truly represents the aims of the GWP network," he said. "Comments were received from around the globe, including from staff and the donor community. We are grateful to everyone who contributed."

Ania Grobicki, the newly-appointed GWP Executive Secretary, noted that "With communities, societies and nations under pressure from the economic downturn and from the effects of increasing climate variability, I believe passionately that GWP's key task is to keep the focus on water security for all." Ms. Grobicki takes up her new post on March 11. ■

The GWP 2009-2013 Strategy is available at www.gwpforum.org.



5th World Water Forum

HELD EVERY THREE YEARS, THE WORLD WATER FORUM STRIVES TO GATHER PEOPLE TOGETHER FROM EVERY HORIZON TO FIND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE WATER CHALLENGES THAT THE WORLD FACES DAILY.

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
I S T A N B U L 2 0 0 9



**BRIDGING
DIVIDES
FOR WATER**

The Forum is a unique platform where individuals from both inside and outside the water sector can interact and debate, creating broader awareness for water related issues and a resolve to find solutions. In addition, it provides the opportunity for Ministers, Local Authorities and Parliamentarians to consolidate their different perspectives with those of experts and civil society.

After the previous Fora, held in Morocco (1997), the Netherlands (2000), Japan (2003) and Mexico (2006), the 5th World Water Forum will be held in March 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Bridging Divides For Water

Given Turkey's strategic position between East and West, North and South, but also the conceptual barriers between different water cultures, between developed and developing regions of the world, and the need to bring together the many ongoing initiatives around the world related to water issues, "Bridging Divides for Water" has been chosen as the overarching theme for the Forum in Turkey.

The six main themes of the forum are: "Global Changes & Risk Management", "Advancing Human Development and Millennium Development Goals", "Managing and Protecting Water Resources and their Supply Systems to meet Human and Environmental Needs", "Governance and Management", "Finance", "Education, Knowledge and Capacity Building".

Istanbul Consensus

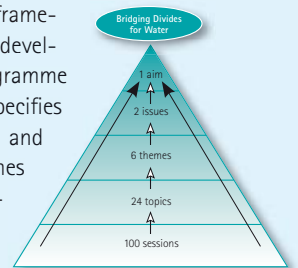
In addition, through the Ministers Conference, Local Authorities Conference and the Parliamentarians' Summit, the 5th World Water Forum provides the opportunity for Ministers, Local Authorities and Parliamentarians to consolidate their different perspectives with those of experts and civil society. As the results of the conferences, a joint declaration Istanbul Consensus will be signed.

Thematic Process

The thematic process for the 5th World Water Forum follows a "pyramid" approach: all

themes, topics and sessions will ultimately lead to the achievement of a clear set of experiences, recommendations and commitments for action on bridging water divides among actors, sectors and among the present and future generations.

The programme framework has been developed by the programme Committee and specifies the aim, themes and topics. Six themes have been identified under two categories:



- 1) Ends:
 - Global Changes and Risk Management
 - Advancing human Development and the MDGs
 - Managing and Protecting water resources and their supply systems to meet human and environmental needs
- 2) Means:
 - Governance and Management
 - Finance
 - Education, Knowledge and Capacity Building

Thematic Coordinators have been identified for each theme: their role is to develop within a thematic consortium the respective theme, topics and sessions to identify and share experiences and actions bridging the divides between

New ToolBox Website Launched

THE IWRM TOOLBOX BRINGS TOGETHER A COLLECTION OF GOOD PRACTICES FOR MANAGING WATER RESOURCES AT ALL LEVELS.



On 1 October 2008, a new version of the Toolbox web site was introduced. The site was redesigned, the IT system was upgraded and the search function was simplified; the result is a user-friendly database of IWRM knowledge. The Toolbox is a free and open library of case studies and references that can be used by anyone who is interested in implementing better water management approaches or learning more about improving water management on the local, national, regional and global levels.

The Toolbox is also an excellent tool for engaging the broader community of interested professionals around the world and sharing experiences. We hope that this new-look Toolbox will increase your knowledge, improve your network of contacts and help you to implement ideas and solutions for water-related problems.

IWRM goes local

In November, a new case study entitled, "Principles of IWRM in Municipalities" was published on the Toolbox website. This work, elaborated by the Slovak Association of Municipalities, is of benefit to communities, land users and local municipalities. It promotes the improvement of water resources and the prevention of the deterioration/depletion of available water resources in the given area. The need to formulate the principles stems from the necessity to reflect the wide decentralisation of competencies - ranging from drinking water



supply, waste water treatment, flood protection - and public administration reform during the last two decades. It also addresses the most important global challenges such as climate change and the supply of quality water for the population in the near and distant future. The Toolbox administrators are eagerly awaiting your comments. Also, new case studies and reference documents are welcomed. ■

For more information, visit www.gwptoolbox.org

actors, sectors, regions and generations of relevance for the theme and to formulate recommendations, commitments and actions to further build these bridges.

Forum programme

The 5th World Water Forum will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from March 16th to 22nd, 2009. A variety of events throughout the week will aim to focus on just one overarching theme: "Bridging Divides for Water." Some of the highlights of the week will include:

- Heads of State, Ministers, Parliamentarians and Local Authorities will meet at the Forum to have both individual and joint working sessions aiming to foster discussion and consensus on priority water-related issues;
- 100 topic-sessions will be held throughout the week, each one attempting to provide an answer and clearer understanding on a crucial water-related question, through multi-stakeholder dialogue;
- Keynotes speeches will be delivered every morning by renowned personalities on the Forum's main themes;
- High-level presentations will be made on the work accomplished in the various regions of the world to identify solutions to their water issues;
- Hundreds of exhibitors will present their activities and technology in the World Water Expo and Water Fair;
- Some excellent grassroots water-related activities, as candidates for the Kyoto World

Water Grand Prize, will share their experiences with participants;

- Training activities will take place for participants in the Learning Centre and for children and adults alike in the Global Water Education Village;
- Open space and networking opportunities will be facilitated to allow divides to be bridged between participants;
- A social and cultural programme, including the International Water and Film Encounter and events in the Citizen's Water House;
- And much more besides.

The World Water Forum: Background

The World Water Forum is organised once every 3 years by the World Water Council in close collaboration with the authorities of the host country. It constitutes the largest water-related event in the world. Its 3 main objectives are to:

- Make water a priority in the political and economic agenda worldwide;
- Facilitate and encourage in-depth debates on major water issues;
- Generate political commitment and bring the public's attention to these commitments.

The 1st World Water Forum was held in Marrakech, Morocco, in 1997. This Forum led to the preparation of a "Vision for Water, Life and the Environment in the 21st Century", whose results were discussed during the 2nd World Water Forum in 2000 in The Hague, Netherlands.

A great number of Governments and organisations from the water sector committed themselves to work towards its concretisation. As a privileged witness of these commitments, the Council has since verified the implementation of promised actions in this direction.

In March 2003, the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, Japan, clearly stated its resolution to involve all stakeholders through, for example, the creation of a "Virtual Water Forum" and the gathering of thousands of testimonies within the "Voices of Water." The Council, following its commitments made at the 2nd World Water Forum, presented its "World Water Actions" Report: an inventory of 3000 actions on the ground. By gathering more than 24,000 participants, the 3rd World Water Forum was the largest water-related event ever organised.

One hundred and thirty ministers attended the Ministerial Conference. Several hundred commitments were made both during the Forum and during the Ministerial Conference. Each session-organiser was also asked to formulate a list of concrete actions to be set up in the near future.

For the 4th edition, the World Water Forum was organised for the first time on the American continent in Mexico City, gathering approximately 20,000 participants. ■

For more information:
www.worldwaterforum5.org

New Training Manual on Economics of Water

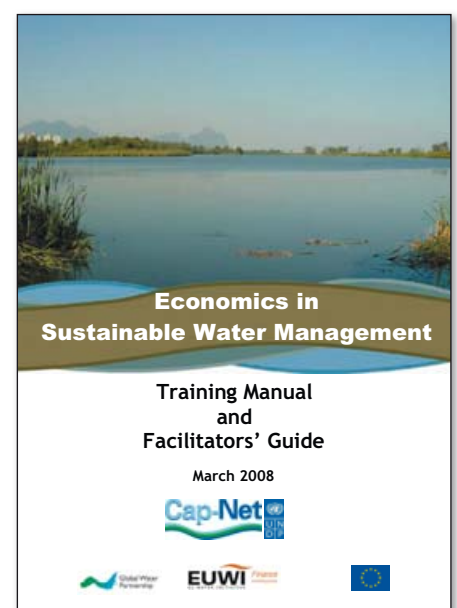
WATER IS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE, DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION.

We live in a time where the world faces huge needs and challenges to ensure better access to safe water and sanitation service to billions of people. This has been rightly addressed in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and many other global, regional, and local-level resolutions. There is general consensus that improved efficiency in the water sector, and the direct positive consequences that better water resources management and better access to water and sanitation, will bring to major development targets.

For better management and improved access, there are several tools and instruments available to the water manager. This training manual focuses on economic and financial instruments. Economic instruments provide incentives for more efficient water use, either in terms of reduction of water quantity or increasing returns on investment in water management and infra-

structure. Financial tools are applied for financing water management and infrastructure, water sector reforms and planning for integrated management of the resource.

Water managers are expected to make rational water allocation decisions based on efficiency and effectiveness. It is within this context that Cap-Net, the Global Water Partnership (GWP), and the European Union Water Initiative Finance Working Group (EUWI-FWG) have joined efforts to develop this training manual on economic and financial instruments for IWRM. The need for the manual is evidenced by the many training courses that have been organised, following on from an international training of trainers' workshop held in Mexico in May 2007 and organised by Cap-Net and its partner networks. It is our aspiration that the manual would find its way to those capacity builders on the ground who intend to organise training activities on economics in sustainable Water Management (IWRM) and who may find inspiration and guidance from it.



The handbook is available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish and can be downloaded from www.gwpforum.org. ■

Drava River Vision

THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SUSTAINABLE TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT TOOK PLACE ON 23-25 SEPTEMBER 2008 IN MARIBOR, SLOVENIA.

The common European legislation related to water, in particular the Habitat Directive, the Birds Directive, the Water Framework Directive, the Renewable Energy Sources Directive and the Flood Directive, presents a framework for developing the processes and practices for sustainable river basin management. The transboundary cooperation and sharing of knowledge among several countries in one river basin is therefore an additional challenge on the way to sustainability in the field of river basin management.

The International Symposium entitled "Drava River Vision" brought together officials, experts and professionals from the fields of nature protection, water management, hydropower and land use planning and NGOs from the Drava River riparian countries (Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Hungary) to share good practices in the field of river basin management. The goal of the symposium was to come up with possible solutions to the identified challenges with an emphasis on potential synergies.

Speakers from different European countries and institutions discussed the importance of sustainable river basin management in the transboundary context, the status and future development of nature conservation, the existing and future hydropower infrastructure, flood protection challenges as well as many other issues raised by the participants.

The symposium resulted in the "Drava River Vision Memorandum of Understanding", a framework for nature protection, hydropower and water management institutions and individual professionals to effectively implement best practices and activities that will contribute to achieving the sustainability goals.

The Institute for Water and the Government of Carinthia – the Department of Water Management, with the assistance of the Environmental Agency – Section Drava River Sub-Basin organised the symposium. Support was provided by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia and the Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management. ■

For more information, visit www.life-drau.at

Global Water Partnership Appoints New Executive Secretary



THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP (GWP) ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. ANIA GROBICKI AS THE GWP EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, EFFECTIVE MARCH 11, 2009.

Dr. Grobicki is currently Head of Secretariat for the multi-stakeholder forum on strengthening research for health, development and equity worldwide which was established to prepare for the 2008 Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health. As Head, she was responsible for operations, fundraising, outreach, communications, and engagement with high-level individuals across the globe and oversaw the November 2008 Bamako conference.

"The GWP Steering Committee looked for and found in Dr. Grobicki a unique and energizing person to lead the GWP network into the next strategy period," said Letitia A. Obeng, GWP Chair. "We wanted someone strategic who will excite the Partnership, bringing with them a key range of skills."

Dr. Grobicki has spent the majority of her working life establishing and growing a range of organizations, and working on water-related issues at the sub-national, national and international levels. For 10 years she managed her own consulting firm where she worked on, among other things, water supply, reuse, water quality, pollution, sanitation, and integrated catchment management issues. She has worked on the water needs of industry, energy, agriculture, health and the environment.

"I look forward to serving and supporting this unique network of stakeholders that is GWP, and reaching out to new and potential partners worldwide," said Dr. Grobicki. Noting that her new responsibilities coincide with the start of a new strategy period for GWP (2009-2013), she remarked that, "through the global strategy we will support approaches that are innovative and sustainable, in order to meet the water needs of all sectors of the economy, and ecosystems."

Affirming the priorities of the new strategy, Dr. Grobicki added, "With communities, so-

cieties and nations under pressure from the economic downturn and from the effects of increasing climate variability, I believe passionately that GWP's key task is to keep the focus on water security for all, especially for the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children, who are the first affected in times of crisis."

Dr. Grobicki has worked extensively with various NGOs and UN agencies and is a prolific writer of books and papers, including for the 2nd World Water Development Report. She has been a Coordinator for the African National Congress's Science and Technology Group, a Coordinator for the CGIAR's Challenge Program for Water and Food and has also been a university lecturer in South Africa and the UK. Dr. Grobicki has a BA in Economics, a BSc in Chemical Engineering and a PhD in Biotechnology from Imperial College, London.

Dr. Grobicki succeeds Emilio Gabrielli who left in May 2008 to take a private sector position in Australia. Martin Walshe, GWP Deputy Executive Secretary, is serving as Acting Executive Secretary. ■