

Technical Committee Meeting Brief
August 28, 2014, Stockholm, Sweden

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on TEC Annual workplan for 2014, and discuss proposed TEC activities for 2015 in line with GWP Strategy and Roadmap 2014-2016. The meeting served also to monitor the TEC thematic areas and liaison with GWP programmes. The internal TEC meeting was followed by a TEC+ meeting (August 29-30) which implemented a new format in order to harness the latent potential of expertise that exists in the regions. A full report on TEC+ meeting was developed and shared broadly with RWPs.

Below is a brief summary of progress and next steps as discussed during the two meetings.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Mainstreaming Land and Water Governance in IWRM

Progress

Jan Cherlet (on behalf of Madiodo) presented a draft Perspectives Paper on “Coordinating Land and Water Governance for Food Security”. The paper explores the consequences of the disconnect between the management of land and water resources and recommends improved coordination of land and water governance. The authors argue that land and water are inseparably linked and need to be managed together rather than as separate entities. An integrated approach to water management must include land management. A workshop will be organised in South Africa (now scheduled for March 2015) to exchange experiences about practice, to help finalise the paper, its conceptual framework, and recommendations. Discussion focused on issues of scale and management practices (e.g. coastal zone and others). Participants from several regions expressed interest to contribute, including the Mediterranean, and Central Asia.

Actions:

Publish Perspectives Paper by December 2014 and launch at the regional workshop to be co-convened with IWMI and GWP SAF.

Water and Energy

Progress:

Daryl Fields is developing a Perspectives Paper on the Water and Energy nexus which she presented to the TEC+ meeting and to the workshop on Integrating Energy and Water Policy and Governance at SWWW 2014. Energy and water linkages are multi-faceted and complex. But Integrated Energy-Water Management (IEWM) is still a concept – there is an opportunity to move from a topic-by-topic approach to a systems approach. Mainstreaming rigorous risk assessments in both energy and water sectors can help motivate action and define focus. Much progress can be made by recognising and upgrading (i) existing institutional structures and (ii) a wide range of existing tools. The Perspectives Paper will provide a conceptual framework for integrated energy and water management.

Actions:

Publish Perspectives Paper by December 2014.

The Economics of WASH in Africa

Progress:

Dale Whittington shared recent research outcomes showing that WASH-related mortality is dropping significantly across the world except in Africa, and encouraged the participants to engage with fresh insights from better research using data in developing countries. His findings were welcomed by the participants. This work will be published as a Technical Focus Paper

Actions:

Publish TFP on Economics of WASH in Africa by December 2014.

NEW INITIATIVES

Water and Ecosystems

Progress:

Nicole Bernex presented a Concept Note on Water and Ecosystems at the TEC+ meeting. A proposed Perspectives Paper will underscore to contribution of ecosystem services to reducing the vulnerability of socio-ecological systems. The management of ecosystems should be considered as an intrinsic element of an integrated approach to water management.

Actions:

Draft Perspectives Paper to be completed by the next TEC meeting in April 2015.

Transboundary cooperation

Progress

Dan Tarlock presented a Concept Note at the TEC+ meeting to develop a Background Paper “From Principle to Practice: What are the Disincentives/Incentives for Nations to Cooperate in the Use and Management of Transboundary Rivers?” This paper builds on the Background Paper No 17 “International Law – Facilitating Transboundary” and looks more deeply into how international legal instruments support cooperative management if incentives exist within a basin and how IWRM can be used to ensure that all riparian nations’ stakeholders have to receive benefits from cooperation. International basin cooperation will be measured by concrete outcomes rather than formal criteria such as treaty language.

Actions:

Background Paper to be developed in 2015; and launched at TEC+ meeting in August 2015.

Groundwater series

TEC has published several innovative papers on the role and importance of integrating groundwater in both urban and rural settings. Stephen Foster proposed three further papers for consideration. “Groundwater resource challenge in achieving WASH targets”, “Water security dialogue – understanding the role of groundwater”, and “The essential role of government in groundwater management”. TEC discussed options for the three papers and recommended that priority is given to the water security paper.

Actions:

Concept Note on water security dialogue – understanding the role of groundwater to be developed before October 15, 2014 in order to incorporate the Perspective Paper into TEC workplan 2015.

Series on Water and Food Security

Uma Lele presented a proposal for a paper that would explore the future role of irrigation in achieving food security. She made the case for increasing water productivity which is in line with the relevant SDG.

Actions:

Concept Note on irrigation and food security to be developed for discussion at TEC meeting in April 2015.

Role and efficiency of water in delivering equity objectives

Mike Young presented a proposal for a Background Paper to explore the efficiency of water pricing and access arrangements in delivering equity. The purpose of the paper is to re-interpret and assess the raft of experiences and papers on water pricing and allocation arrangements from a new perspective. The perspective proposed is one that seeks to bring clarity to the question of when the use of water policy instruments to achieve equity objectives is (i) the most cost-effective way; (ii) one of the most cost-effective ways and (iii) an inefficient and hence costly means. This work complements the work of Dale Whittington on the economics of WASH.

Actions:

A Concept Note will be prepared by October 2014 for discussion at the next TEC meeting.

Embryonic publication proposals discussed included:

- Background Paper on "Contextualising IWRM for water economies at different stages of evolution"
- Technical Focus Paper on "Planning under Uncertainty"
- Background Paper on IUWM.

Actions:

Proposals will be further developed and considered in the Workplans 2015/2016.

Other TEC collaborations include:

- Contribution to GWP/INBO Handbook III and IV for 7th WWF
- Collaboration with German Development Institute (DIE)

GWP KNOWLEDGE CHAIN IN ACTION

TEC now delivers a diversity of outputs ranging from various types of publications as well as regional workshops, training courses, policy and regional consultations, translation of papers, and the toolbox repository of explicit knowledge collected over the past decades. As the challenges of water management are increasing, it is imperative to share views about what the knowledge chain means for GWP partners, and how it can be made to work better.

Mohamed Ait Kadi (TEC Chair) informed TEC about the change of format of TEC+ meeting in order to harness the latent potential of expertise that exists in the regions. At a meeting with the Regional Chairs, held during the CP2014 in Trinidad, Mohamed requested each region to nominate its representative expert to attend the TEC+ meeting. TEC's engagement with the regions will include:

- Contribution to TEC publications (Case studies)
- Commissioning papers (e.g. TFPs on IWRM implementation)
- Organising thematic regional workshops
- Supporting policy consultations
- Supporting regional TECs/pool of experts

NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed for April 2015.