

GWP-C Commemorates World Water Day 2011

In commemorating World Water Day 2011, GWP-C was part of a national exhibition put on by its partner the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) and the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMET). It was a two day exhibition held in Trinidad in observance of World Water Day on March 22nd, 2011 and World Meteorological Day on March 23rd, 2011.



Mr. Daniel Plenty, Acting Manager of Corporate Communications, WASA is seen here introducing the guest speakers at the event. At the head table from left-right: Mrs. Jacqueline Ganteaume-Farrell, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities; Mr. Emmanuel Moolchan, Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service; and Ms. Ellen Lewis, General Manager of Corporate Communications, WASA

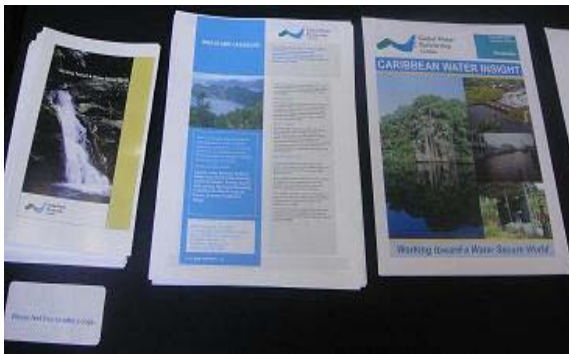
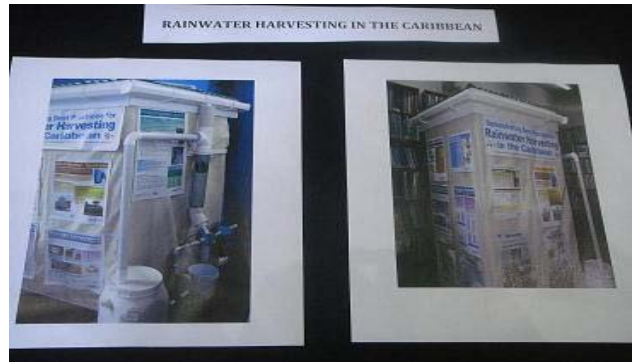
Ms. Ellen Lewis, General Manager of Corporate Communications, WASA, in her opening remarks at the event spoke of the importance of public education and awareness on water resources management. She further explained that how we live on land and what we do affects our watersheds. In her remarks, she cited the recently held Media Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) put on by GWP-C and its partner the Water Resources Agency (WRA) and the information provided by WASA's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ganga Singh who revealed that agriculture is the main polluter of watersheds in Trinidad and Tobago. Also giving remarks at the opening ceremony was Mr. Emmanuel Moolchan, Director of TTMET.

Mrs. Jacqueline Ganteaume-Farrell, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Public Utilities who gave the feature address, stressed the interrelation of forests, water and the weather noting the observance of World Forestry Day on March 21st, World Water Day on March 22nd and World Meteorological Day on March 23rd each year. She stated the commemoration of these events on consecutive days is no coincidence. Mrs. Ganteaume-Farrell reiterated the call to build greater awareness on water and the environment and to educate citizens on United Nations led initiatives.

GWP-C along with its partners the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) and the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA); the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMET); the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC); and the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Housing and the Environment were the main exhibitors at the event.



Exhibitors were able to share information with the general public on their work and activities and moreover how they can become actively involved in building greater awareness on water and forest conservation and learn more about climate change, natural disasters and other areas.



Cross-sections of some of the material displayed in the GWP-C

Displayed in GWP-C's booth were GWP-C brochures; newsletters; GWP-C's water videos on water scarcity in the Caribbean and flood risk management; information on GWP-C's rainwater harvesting

model; and water conservation handouts. Material of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) such as the GWP 2009-2013 Strategy; 2009 Annual Report; policy briefs; and other material were also shared with the public.

GWP-C Water Videos Air in the Caribbean

In observance of World Water Day (WWD) 2011, GWP-C's video productions "*Water: Is there enough for tomorrow?*" and "*Water Scarcity and Population in the Caribbean*" were shown on local television stations in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Both videos focus on water scarcity in the Caribbean and the importance of water conservation. The more recent of the videos "*Water: Is there enough for tomorrow?*" specifically highlights the various principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the benefits of this approach in managing the Caribbean's water resources.

Activities of Partners

Commemorating World Wetlands Day in Tobago

Global Water Partnership-Caribbean's (GWP-C's) partner, Environment Tobago celebrated World Wetlands Day 2011 with a week of activities all focused on this year's theme "*Forests for Water and Wetlands.*" Environment Tobago collaborated with partners from different sectors including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), private businesses and community-based organisations to host the event.

The week long activities which commenced on World Wetlands Day (February 2nd, 2011) took place within the Belle Garden Wetland in Tobago, which is the site of an existing United Nations Development Programme /Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF) funded initiative to increase awareness of wetlands and proactively encourage sustainable use of the Belle Garden Wetland. The Belle Garden Wetland is 1 of 17 wetlands of varying sizes on the island of Tobago.



The Belle Garden Wetland in

The activities looked specifically at training, research and education in the community surrounding the Belle Garden Wetland. Some of the events for the week included:



***Reforestation Activities** - Using native plants sourced and propagated by a local landscaping company. Environment Tobago also sought to enhance an area within the wetland as designated habitat for butterflies and birds by planting a concentration of nectar and food plants for species



Students performing crab surveys.

***Ecological Surveys** - Butterflies and blue crabs were used as indicator species for ecological baseline surveys. Blue crabs were chosen as they are a keystone species within the wetland ecosystem. Butterflies were surveyed because they are a bio-indicator species of environmental health.

***Capacity Building** - Tertiary students and other interested parties were educated in the importance of the wetlands and trained in field surveying techniques for indicator species. Students were given hands-on experience in field surveying techniques, data collection and analysis.



Students seen here during interactive learning sessions.

***Education Outreach** - Children at the local primary school neighbouring the wetland participated in interactive learning stations that covered topics such as the importance of wetlands and forests, wetland bio-indicators and threats to wetlands. Using print media, articles were published in the local paper highlighting wetland issues.

Some Highlights from World Water Day 2011 Activities by Partners

Guyana

GWP-C's partner, Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI) along with all the World Water Day (WWD) stakeholders in Guyana released a full-page announcement that was published in local dailies in

Guyana. The other stakeholders included the Ministry of Health, the World Wide Fund-Guianas, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), EPA and DIGICEL.

Jamaica

The Ministry of Water and Housing and the Meteorological Service of Jamaica in collaboration with GWP-C's partners in Jamaica, the Water Resources Authority (WRA), the National Water Commission (NWC), the National Irrigation Commission (NIC) and the Rural Water Supply Limited (RWSL) hosted a series of activities in celebration of World Water Day (WWD) on March 22nd, 2011 with specific focus on this year's WWD theme *'Water for Cities: Meeting the Urban Challenge'*.

Among the activities to commemorate WWD 2011 was a major forum which included the participation of the Minister of Water and Housing of Jamaica, the Honourable Dr. Horace Chang and featured presentations from various water agencies including GWP-C's partners, the Water Resources Authority (WRA) and the National Water Commission (NWC).

During the forum, the WRA launched a water and education programme called Water Education for Teachers (WET) Jamaica, aimed at promoting and building awareness on water resources in Jamaica. The programme which is scheduled to span the period of 2011-2013 is an initiative between GWP-C's partner the WRA; the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the Project WET International Foundation. UNESCO/IHP and WET International Foundation having existing water education programmes felt that if they combined their efforts they could empower teachers (kindergarten to high school level) to help in the water education process throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Also launched at the forum by WRA was a Fact Book on the Water Resources of Jamaica which would be an educational tool that supports the WET Jamaica Programme. The Fact Book contains information that can be used by the general public on water resources in Jamaica and is designed to increase awareness on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).