



Message from the CEETAC chairman József Gayer

Dear Friends of Water,

First of all let me welcome you on the occasion of publishing the first CEE Water Talk, the regional newsletter of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) for Central and Eastern Europe. Many of you are aware of the partnership and its regional presence, but to bring everyone up to date a historical review of GWP with special regard to Central and Eastern Europe is given on pages 1 and 2.

I feel honoured to have been appointed to the CEETAC chairmanship at the interim phase which represents the birth of a network, a movement, and as the name suggests, a Partnership. I believe this partnership is especially important for the region at the dawn of the new millennium after a century soaked in blood by wars, fascism, communism and all their adverse impacts on water and life. The people and the nature of the region including ten so called transitional countries, see the map below, deserve a better life after the nadir and now there is a real chance to reach it. The chance is there but we have to make the best of the opportunity otherwise the looming water crises, as UNESCO has put it, will take possession. In a world where more than 1 billion people lack access to safe drinking water and half of humanity lacks adequate sanitation we are in a relatively better situation. But this is only a slight advantage. Our countries have inherited immense, often water related environmental problems (emissions of military camps, hazardous and outdated technology resulting in accidental spills of toxic materials, unsustainable agricultural practice, lack of sanitation especially in rural areas, etc.). Add to this the "traditional water problems" like

drought, flood and excess water, which sometimes emerge the same year in the same place, the fragmented and inefficient governance, the negligence of public participa-



tion, the ecosystems at risk due to different reasons, the scarce financial resources. However the recently experienced enormous changes in social political and economic circumstances also open doorways of opportunity for repairing damage and sustainable use of water in the future. While the circumstances in the individual countries differ one from the other, this history binds them with a link, which in turn is strengthened by the shared goal of all to rejoin Europe, now under the umbrella of the European Union.

All this require fundamental changes, a change of attitude, a change of the old-fashioned water scenario and the introduction of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). This shift of paradigm and the implementation of IWRM is advocated by the Global Water Partnership. Special thanks is due to Professor Janusz Kindler of Poland who established contact

between GWP and the region and under whose guidance the interim Central and Eastern Europe Technical Advisory Committee (CEETAC) has been set up.

In the past, remedial measures were characteristic to the water sector: people all over the world lagging behind the events and reacting whenever damage occurred either of quantitative or qualitative nature. For the first time in the history of water we are in a position to be proactive and able to change the development path in order not to compromise the meeting of future generations' demands. But this is our and your responsibility, dear reader, to act and profit from the opportunity for the benefit of mankind and nature. This is a great challenge, water management strategies must be reshaped both at national and local levels to contribute to the rise of the whole region. GWP is the network organization that provides assistance to this endeavour, assisting countries in the sustainable management of their water resources with a special focus on IWRM. This mandate is venerable but requires committed actors in the field who are both able and willing to work. GWP provides the setting but we must fill it with expertise and effort.

This publication, besides being the newsletter of the CEETAC is meant to be a forum of those who would like to express their views. I encourage you to contribute and send us comments, short writings related to water especially from the region, but not excluding contributions outside of the region if relevant. I also encourage you to join GWP and become the member of a partnership which connects people who feel responsibility towards water all over the globe.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Water Resources Research Centre (VITUKI) for being host institute of GWP in the region and providing secretarial service to our work. ■

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP?

In the mid-1990s there was an increasing recognition of the need for concerted international efforts for an integrated approach to water resources development. One such effort, the result of an initial call from the World Bank and UNDP was the creation in 1996 of the Global Water Partnership (GWP).

From the outset, GWP was conceived as a partnership among organizations interested in sustainable water resources development. Instead of a formal, intergovernmental agency, GWP was created as a "reinforced network" characterized by

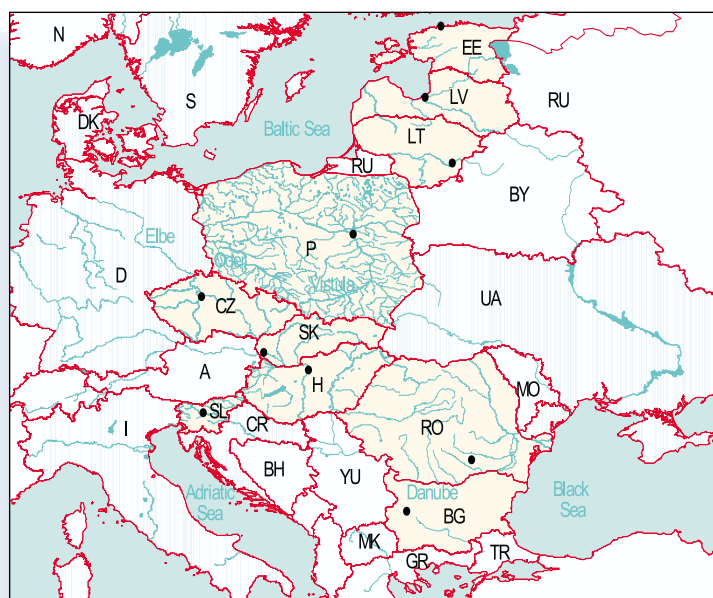
- shared values, perceptions and objectives of the partners,
- informality, flexibility and a minimum of rules and bylaws,
- emphasis on professionalism and scientific excellence,
- voluntary membership,
- cost-effectiveness, and
- a philosophy of decentralization and shared responsibilities in response to common objectives.

The mission of the Global Water Partnership is to support countries in the sustainable management of their water resources.

GWP will:

- clearly establish the principles of sustainable water resources management,
- identify gaps and stimulate its partners to meet critical needs within their available human and financial resources,
- support action at local, national, regional or river-basin level that follows principles of sustainable water resources management,
- help match needs to available resources, and
- strengthen mechanisms for sharing information and experience.

The GWP will achieve its mission in two key ways: first, through the build-up of reinforced networks, referred to as Associated Programmes, that will provide services on the ground to stakeholders in developing countries; and second, through the fostering of regional water partnerships, which will be constituted according to the same principles as the GWP itself, with the



The CEE Region

- BG – Bulgaria
- CZ – Czech Republic
- EE – Estonia
- H – Hungary
- LV – Latvia
- LT – Lithuania
- P – Poland
- RO – Romania
- SK – Slovakia
- SL – Slovenia

Mrs Margaret Catley-Carlson GWP Chair

Margaret Catley-Carlson is an advisor to and/or Director of many international organizations: International Development Research Centre in Ottawa (Vice-Chair) the Overseas Development Council in Washington, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International in the UK (Chair, Board of Governors). She is a Commissioner for the World Bank Commission on Water for the 21st Century and for the International Advisory Committee – 2020 Vision of International Food Policy Research. She is a member of the Canadian Advisory Council to the International Ocean Institute, and the Inter-American Dialogue. Mrs Catley-Carlson is the immediate past president of the Population Council (91-99), and past President of CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency (1983-89). She has been Deputy Director (Operations) of UNICEF, with the rank of Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations; Deputy Minister, Health and Welfare. Her international career began in the Department of External Affairs Canada, with diplomatic posts in Sri Lanka and London. Mrs Catley-Carlson graduated from the University of British Columbia and has received eight honorary degrees. ■



What is the GWP?

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capacity to set their own agendas for water resources development and with access to the Associated Programmes to address their needs.

GWP Governance

The key concept of GWP governance is that it should be light, flexible and cost-effective with a minimum of formal rules. Structured informality should be a guiding principle for GWP, and this principle should characterize the organization five and ten years into the future. The components of the GWP's governance structure, together with their roles and responsibilities, are outlined below.

Partners:

The partners of the GWP are the organizations, institutions and agencies interested in sustainable management of water resources, particularly those who are in a position to contribute to, or use, the services of the GWP's field programmes. Partners may be governments, intergovernmental institutions and non-governmental organisations, including professional, academic, commercial and industrial bodies. The essence of partnership should be a commitment to the objectives and working method of GWP and a willingness to contribute to its work. Partnership is voluntary and encouraged from developed and developing countries alike on the grounds that all have something to learn from one another.

The Consultative Group:

The highest decision-making body of the GWP is its Consultative Group (CG) or partnership assembly, which consists of the representatives of all the members of the Partnership. The CG meets annually. Decisions in the CG should, to the extent possible, be taken by consensus and guide the overall development of GWP.

The GWP Chair:

The Chair of the GWP is elected by the members of the Partnership, normally for a two-year period. After four highly successful and productive years as the GWP Chair, Ismail Serageldin stepped down and Margaret Catley-Carlson was elected as Chair during the Consultative Group meeting in August 2000 (see her biodata on the left).

The GWP Patrons:

The Patrons of the GWP are internationally recognized persons who act as "champions" of the GWP, agreeing to advance the goals of the Partnership in a variety of different fora. They are: HRH The Crown Prince of the Netherlands; Kader Asmal, Minister of Education, South Africa; and Ismail Serageldin Director of the Library of Alexandria, former Chair of GWP. ■

The Steering Committee:

The Executive Secretary is guided by a Steering Committee composed of representatives of the various constituencies of organizations interested in the partnership: international organizations, bilateral aid agencies, private companies, NGOs, research institutes. The Steering Committee considers issues before they are submitted to the CG for debate and approval. It functions as a de facto board of trustees, advising the CG on key policy matters while making decisions on operational issues and supporting the Executive Secretary as needed.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC):

The TAC provides professional and scientific advice to the CG and safeguards the technical quality of GWP. In particular, TAC will advise the CG in priority setting as well as identification and performance evaluation of the GWP's Associated Programmes. TAC members (12) are experts of high international caliber in different disciplines related to water resources management. The TAC chairman is Torkil Jønch-Clausen, (DHI Water & Environment, Denmark).

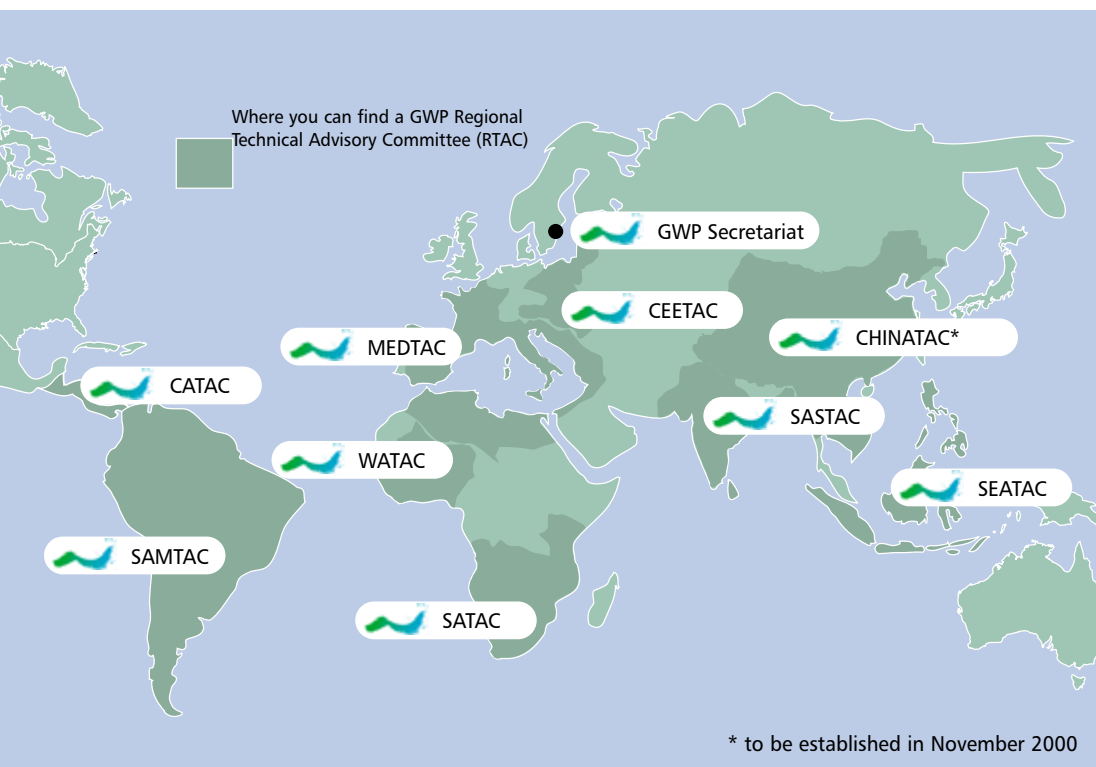
The Secretariat:

The GWP secretariat is hosted by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida) in Stockholm. It is headed by the Executive Secretary of GWP, Khalid Mohtadullah (Pakistan).

The Regional Technical Advisory Committees (RTACs):

The regional TACs in
Southern Africa
West Africa
South Asia
South-East Asia
South America
Central America
Mediterranean Region
Central and Eastern Europe
China (to be established in November 2000)

are intended as the centrepieces and start engines of future regional water partnerships. The membership assemblies of these partnerships, the regional CGs, will on the advice of the regional TACs define regional priorities for water resources development and concomitant action programmes. The regional TACs will operate according to the same principles as the central TAC, drawing on eminent expertise within each region on water resources management. One of their main functions will be to assist the regional partnerships in referring clients in need of assistance to service providers within the regions. ■



The country representatives

Czech Republic

Mr Petr Dolejs

Water and Environmental Technology Team
Box 27, Pisecka 2
370 11 Ceske Budejovice, Czechia
Tel./Fax: +420 38 55 22 109
Mobile phone: +420-603-44 09 22
Email: petrdol@cb.cesnet.cz



The first, and up to now the only meeting of the Czech GWP stakeholders was organised in Prague on 22. 6. 2000. This one day meeting was attended by nearly 40 professionals. All water subsectors were represented among the participants. Professionals from different universities, Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, research and consultancy firms, water services firms, river boards, public hygiene, and even two professional journalists did attend the meeting. The discussion following the introductory presentations was very interesting, inspiring and long. In fact, participants could hardly leave the meeting room as several important questions were risen during the general discussion and after the formal end of the meeting, several discussion circles were formed spontaneously to continue. This all was the proof that such a meeting was an excellent contribution not only to international but also to in-country information exchange.

The main speaker at the morning introductory session was Prof. Milan Straskraba, who was with

the University of South Bohemia in Ceske Budejovice. I am sorry to announce in this respect that this world known expert in limnology, especially in mathematical modeling of lake ecosystems passed away on 26.7.2000, about a month after he gave two brilliant talks at this Prague GWP meeting. We will be missing him very much at our next national GWP meetings.

One of the results of the first Czech meeting was that participants and colleagues who will be interested in GWP will use the already existing Czech internet server AQUAFORUM for dissemination of the GWP related information. This idea was supported by both ministries who run this water server. Participants were also very much interested in all the distributed material published by GWP, and all look forward to the translated version of the TAC background paper No. 4 on IWRM. ■

Lithuania

Mr Bernardas Paukštys

Hydrogeological Company "GROTA" / Vilnius University
Eisiskiu plentas 26
LT -2038 Vilnius, Lithuania
Tel: +370 2 233 623
Fax: +370 2 267 471
Email:bernardas@iti.lt



Lithuania together with nine other CEE countries has been involved in GWP activities since the Warsaw meeting in November 1998. During the recent two years six CEETAC meetings have been organised in various places of Europe: Budapest, Vilnius, Bled, Vienna, Bratislava and Bucharest. Representatives of Lithuania participated in all of them. At the country level three rounds of national consultations (two before and one after the 2nd World Water Forum) with various water stakeholders have been held in Vilnius, where different aspects of water management, water vision and framework for action were discussed. For the preparation of the national Water Vision – 2025 a working group consisting of 10 representatives from various institutions has been established by the order of the Minister of Environment. At the end of 1999 the Water Vision report was approved by the ministry.

Representatives of Lithuania took part in the regional GWP meeting in Budapest, June 1999, Stockholm Water Symposium and

GWP's Consultative Group meeting August 1999 and the 2nd World Water Forum in The Hague, March 2000.

For dissemination of information on GWP and CEETAC activities the executive summary of CEE Water Vision Report, GWP-CEETAC leaflet have been translated into Lithuanian language and sent to major water institutions and municipalities. The web page on water vision has been compiled and a discussion forum on water club started with interested parties and persons.

Activities described above was a good introduction of GWP and CEETAC among the water society of Lithuania. In the newly prepared Hydrogeological Dictionary the meaning of abbreviations "GWP and CEETAC" are described. This is the best proof that GWP today is known and recognized in the country. ■

Poland

Undoubtedly, birth and initial growth of Central and Eastern European branch of Global Water Partnership was a result of the conference initiated by Professor Janusz Kindler of Warsaw University of Technology. Held in November 1998 in Warsaw, the conference gathered a number of leading personalities and international experts of water management. The Warsaw conference has triggered a series of events that had considerable impact on perception of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in East European countries of Europe. Although generally known and accepted by specialists, the ideas related to the IWRM have been politically underestimated until recently. The specialists in Poland and other PHARE countries felt that by consolidating their efforts around the IWRM they

Mr Marek Nawalany

Warsaw University of Technology
ul. Nowowiejska 20
00-653 Warsaw, Poland
Tel: +48 22 621 8993
Fax: +48 22 625 4305
Email:marek.nawalany@iis.pw.edu.pl



should become heard at last. Not surprisingly, three rounds of consultations concerning Water Vision and Framework for Action organised in Poland and run by the Polish representatives of GWP (Professors Janusz Kindler and Marek Nawalany) before the Hague Forum resulted in univocal decision of organising the Polish Water Club. The Club, still being in phase of self-organisation, is meant to fulfil the major expectations concerning water management in Poland, i.e. making catchment-wise water management a reality. Recently, the first steps

towards this aim have been made by the Polish Government - two leading water management institutions, RZGW and ODGW, have been merged into one organisation. This step opens a new era for the GWP in Poland. Institutional strengthening, advisory mission, proliferation of good practices in water resources management and education in water management will be the major goals of national, Polish branch of GWP. ■

Slovakia

The Slovak water experts welcomed the opportunities to be involved in the Global Water Partnership activities through consultations and so called "water clubs" discussions. The timing for a broad platform of discussions is perfect, as Slovakia is spurring to meet the EU requirements in water sector. New Water Act is under development and outstanding issues must be solved involving all stakeholders. The consultations under the GWP umbrella were devoted to better organizing the legislative process, to finding solution of conflicts between water users and regulators, and to listening different opinions of water experts on the future development in water management sector in Slovakia. The main challenge for the GWP activities in Slovakia is to improve information sharing among different agencies dealing with water issues. Nowadays, the water sector issues are dealt with in a fragmented manner and there is no feasible mechanism in place to network different agencies and experts together.

The core group of the GWP

Ms Danka Jassikova-Thalmeinerova

Ministry of Environment
Nam. L. Stura 1
812 35 Bratislava, Slovakia
Tel: +421 7 5956 2181
Fax: +421 7 5956 2213
Email: jassikova.dana@flora.lifeenv.gov.sk



consists of the government representatives (Ministry of Environment), research institutes (Water Research Institute and the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute), public water service companies (Water Works Utilities), and academics (Slovak Technical University). Three major actions were held within the GWP activities:

- **round table consultations** – the main focus was to prepare the national report for the Vision to Action document presented at the Second World Water Forum (2WWF) in The Hague.
- **post Hague seminar** – the dissemination of the information and main output of the 2WWF were presented. Also, the seminar was focused on the discussion on the

transposition of the EU Water Framework Directive with respect to the integrated river basin management. More than 40 participants discussed the policy options how to organize the state administration in water management with respect to meet the EU requirements and to translate them into the national legislation. The seminar was hosted by the Slovak Hydrometeorological Institute.

• **seminar on integrated river basin management** was organized at the Ministry of Environment. Also, water experts from the Germany – Bavaria Lander were invited to present their approaches with respect to on-going implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in Germany and potential implications in Slovakia. ■

Romania

The Romanian involvement in the GWP activities started together with the other countries from Central and Eastern Europe in 1998. Romanian representatives of stakeholders have been involved directly, and some consultants who were contracted, support the different tasks agreed at the level of CEETAC carrying out the following activities:

1. The first mapping exercise and consultation for this, in regard to the possibilities to cover the main issues related to integrated water resources management (IWRM) in the Romanian water sector activity as well as the strategic assistance through the Associated Programmes.
2. Consultation with national stakeholders on National Vision and Framework for Action. At the national consultation that was carried out in the country in the fall of 1999, 30-40 stakeholders attended the meeting. Other country specific contacts and discussions with national stakeholders took place in addition (stakeholder meetings, individual discussions with government individuals, etc.).
3. Romanian delegation attended the Consultation with regional stakeholders, on Vision and Framework for Action discussions on how, what and who has to fulfil

Mr Liviu-Nicolae Popescu

M.W.F.E.P. – I.C.I.M.
Aleea Fizicienilor Street N4,
bl. 3c, et 2, ap 16, Sector
374558 Bucharest, Romania
Tel: +40 1 221 5758 / 221 9226
Fax: +40 1221 9204
Email: lipopesc@pcnet.pcnet.ro



the tasks of such complex and diversified actions. Periodical consultation for contributions and updating in the different stages of working were made also. Contacts for information and involvement included the International Secretariat of ICPDR (Vienna);

4. Romanian experts attended the international water related Symposia and forums that were organised under the GWP auspices like the Water Symposiums in Stockholm 1999 and 2000, World Water Forum (WWF) in The Hague.
5. After the WWF in The Hague in order to keep the momentum the WWF documents as well as the Ministerial Declaration with all political implications were presented in a number of meetings.
6. Future plans for 2000 include the Third round of Consultation with a large number of stakeholders old or new involved in the GWP works taking place on 20 of October. ■

7. The translation, editing and dissemination of the main basic documents of GWP related to the IWRM are in the different phases of finalisation.

8. The finalisation of the mapping exercise is envisaged for the year 2001 in order to establish the possible facilities offered by the Associated Programmes for the strategic actions that are necessary to be taken forward for the needs that will be identified.

Arrangements for constituting the first Romanian Water Club has started and in the preliminary plans the official launching of this is intended for the year 2002. ■

OUR VISION IS THAT IN TWO OR THREE DECADES THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT, SAFE, CLEAN AND HEALTHY WATER FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE LIVING IN STABLE SOCIETIES IN THE REGION

The Second World Water Forum & Ministerial Conference

The World Water Forum held in The Hague, The Netherlands from 17 to 22 March, 2000 did not take its name lightly. It was a truly open and interactive event attended by more than 5500 participants, the largest water gathering ever. A happening and a chance to exchange information and ideas through lively interaction and captivating forms of communication. The Forum provided a platform where participants could influence the process through which ideas were

Making Water Everybody's Business

translated into decisions and policy. Two basic, future related documents based on worldwide consultations were presented here: the "World Water Vision" prepared by the Vision Management Unit of the World Water Council and the report "Towards Water Security: A Framework for Action" by the Global Water Partnership. More than 80 sessions have been organized including regional and water-use presentations, discussions of major stakeholder groups; special subjects like water & history, globalisation, ethics etc. were dealt with and an international documentary filmfestival was also held.

A Ministerial Conference (an initiative of the Dutch government) was held during the last two days of the Forum. 158 delegations participated, representing 130 countries and including 118 ministers, as well as heads of many international organizations. It aimed to mobilise political support with an eye to countering global water predicaments with concrete action. The Ministerial Declaration of the Hague on Water Security in the



21st Century, a political support for the Forum's achievements, acknowledged the development of the Framework for Action by the Global Water Partnership.

Also closely linked to the Second World Water Forum was the World Water Fair. A large and varied number of international exhibitors took part, ranging from multinationals to local players, from commercial-minded to idealistic. Thus, visitors to the Fair saw an international community presenting and demonstrating solutions, displays and products on future water use. The GWP pavilion attracted many visitors who received competent information from the representatives of the regions.

Forum, Ministerial Conference and Fair all served one overriding purpose: raising public awareness about the looming water crisis. Obviously the Declaration of the Hague is just the start of a long-term political commitment to solving global water issues. This was the first time that a ministerial conference was held in combination with the World Water Forum and a follow-up is already planned. The German government has graciously offered to organize an international conference in December 2001 to this effect. Specifically directed at water, this will be part of the evaluation of the UN conference on the environment and development (held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992) that is to take place in its next edition in 2002. Thorough evaluation and continued follow-up will also take place at the Third World Water Forum, in Japan, in 2003.



CEETAC passed first exam in The Hague

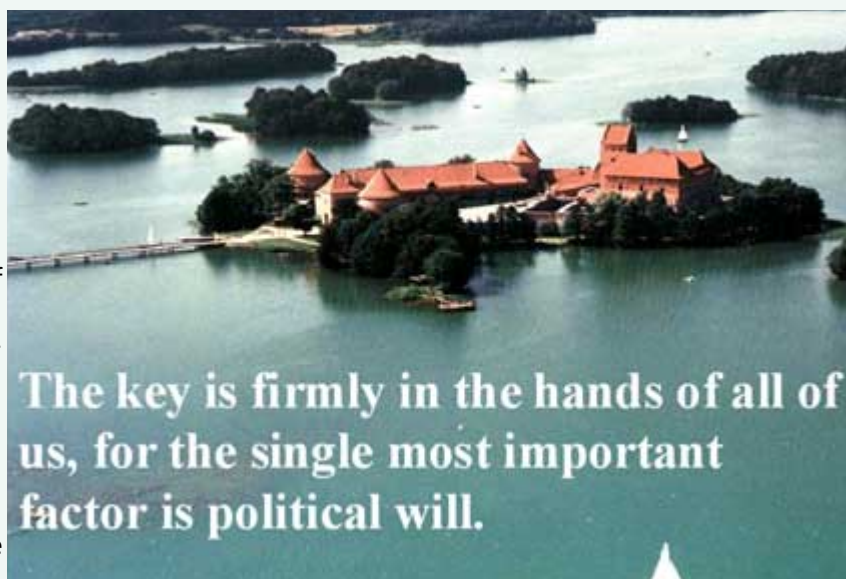
After more than one year of hard work the members of interim CEETAC came to the Second World Water Forum in The Hague in March this year to pass the first exam on their activities. After consultations with

a large number of national water stakeholders the CEETAC members, representing 10 respective CEE countries, prepared their contributions to Vision and Action report which was successfully completed by two professors Janusz Kindler from Poland and László Somlyódy from Hungary. Professor Marek Nawalany (Poland) was in charge for organisation of the CEE day in The Hague and did really a good job enlightening the water management situation in the CEE countries. Altogether ten of 12 CEETAC members participated in the Water Forum.

The CEE day was held on 17 March. National posters and a joint CEE poster kindly compiled by Marek Nawalany, were exhibited in the corridor near the session room, presenting basic hydrological data and major water issues of the countries. Many participants in the Forum were interested to see and hear about water problems in the "transition countries" therefore the number of attendees was changing from 160 in the morning session to 70 in the afternoon session. The meeting room was completely full during the morning session.

Mr. Ivan Cheret, GWP TAC member and a good friend of Eastern Europe and the Chair of CEE day, together with József Gayer, the Chairman of the interim CEETAC, opened the session. Altogether eight presentations were

made on various aspects of water resources management in Central and East European countries. Specific geo-political situation of the region influencing present and future management of water resources were reflected in presentations of the invited speakers: Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Joint UNEP/UNCHS Balkans Task Force talked on: "Water, natural environment and politics (The Kosovo Conflict - consequences for the environment)", Milena Zupancic, Slovenian national UNICEF Ambassador in co-operation with youth: "Water and Education" and Mrs. Mihaela Popovici (Romania) talked on: "The role of NGOs and CBOs in the framework of water supply and sanitation". HRH Prince of Orange, the chairperson of the Forum, with his accompanying group visited the CEE morning session.



The afternoon session speakers professors Janusz Kindler (Poland) and László Somlyódy (Hungary) in a fascinating way of "arguing and fighting" debated the pros and cons of joining the EU.

The topic "Borders and Bridges" was described by Mr. Koos Wieriks, International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine ("River Rhine Experience"). Mr. Joachim Bendow, the ICPDR ("Danube River Basin lessons learned"), Galina Kapanen, the Centre for Transboundary Co-operation ("Lake Peipsi Basin experiences and lessons learned"), the Polish, German and Czech representatives Hardtmüt Müller, Ryszard Malarski and Pavel Punčochar ("Lessons learned in Odra river basin").

Closing the session Mr. Ivan Cheret congratulated the convenor of the session professor Marek Nawalany for the excellent organisation of the CEE day. This appreciation meant that CEETAC has passed the exam with a good score. This also meant that the CEE session and The Hague forum started the long process of thinking and implementing integrated water resources management and implementing the Water Vision in the CEE region.

Bernardas Paukštys