

Connections



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BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

SPRING 2003

WADING THROUGH WATERS— KYOTO AND BEYOND

COURTING CO-OPERATION— THE ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE PROCESS

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON 'WATER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'

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CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

TRADE- GATS And The ENVIRONMENT

Threats and opportunities

Date: 26th June 2003

Location : London

Contact: info@earthsummit2002.org

IN THIS ISSUE

MAIN BOOK

Special Feature	5-6
Kiev 2003 and the future of the Environment for Europe	
UNED-UK News	7
From Johannesburg to a Sustainable Development Strategy for the UK	
WEHAB news	8-10
Energy:	
Government's Grant to achieve Clear Skies	
Health:	
World Health Day 2003: promising children a healthy environment	
Agriculture:	
GM public Debate	
Biodiversity:	
Biodiversity after Johannesburg	
Local Government	10
IDEA for Sustainability	
UN	11
UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize	
Business	13
Business Leaders' Initiative on Climate Change	
Diary dates, Websites and Addresses	14-17

SUPPLEMENT

Comment	ii
Water Politics and the poor: Kyoto and Beyond	
NEWS	iv-vi
The Third World Water Forum	
Awards	vii
Stockholm Water Prize	
UK government	viii
The UK Government's Objectives for 3WWF	
NGO	ix
WaterAid's View on 3WWF	
Business	x
Business Perspective on Water and sustainability	
Water Poverty Index	xi
International Year of Fresh Water 2003	xii
Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality	xiii

Connections, Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development

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and suggestions for Connections,
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Cover page pic: Lake Superior,
© Lawrence Michael, courtesy:
Nature Picture Library. The Lake,
which is the largest surface fresh
water body, is not spared of
problems affecting nature, like
pollution, global warming etc.

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From the Editor

International Co-operation and Partnerships

'International co-operation', 'partnerships' seem to be the development mantra, be it in environment or otherwise. In the post WSSD phase, governments are gearing up to work towards the millennium development goals. The UK government's priority areas for the sustainable development have been specified as: sustainable economy, building sustainable communities, managing environment resources and international co-operation and development. Whatever is the order of importance, the underlying words are 'co-operation' and 'partnerships' for sustainable development.

Continuing in the line of which, the UK government is involved majorly in the Environment for Europe (EfE) process, which, brings together the activities of all the countries working for sustainable development in Europe. It boils down again, to 'co-operation' when the primary aim of the EfE process is defining common policies and coordinating to avoid duplication of effort. In addition to 'co-operation' and 'partnership', the EfE process has added a new dimension of 'participation'. For the most of western Europe, which has seen Local Agenda 21, 'participation' may not seem new, but it does, in true sense, for the so-called 'newly independent countries' of former Soviet Union and the Eastern Europe, who are the most active players in the EfE process.

The 3rd world Water Forum held between 16-23 March, in Japan, has ended with more than 100 new commitments on water. What these commitments really translate to, needs to be seen. This International forum which came too close on the heels of the WSSD, however gave rise to an element of scepticism about meaningful 'participation' of those nations which could ill afford it, for the lack of time and resources, besides other reasons. We have tried to explore these very terms in this issue of Connections. Building stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development, being the main objective.

Finally, if you have noticed some changes in Connections, we have succeeded half way! Your comments and suggestions will then make our efforts complete. I would like to hear from you.



Prabha Choubina

Kiev 2003 and the future of the Environment for Europe Process

The Environment for Europe Process has an important role in furthering the international cooperation on environment. The fifth Ministerial Conference in Kiev comes at a crucial phase, when the European Union is up for an expansion to include 25 countries. Also, the Conference offers an important opportunity for the countries of Central Europe, Eastern

From the 21st to the 23rd of May 2003, representatives of the 55 member states of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) will be in Kiev, Ukraine to take part in the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (EfE). The event was originally planned to take place in September 2002, but in view of the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the conference date was moved. It is important to recognise the significance of convening the conference in a country of the Former Soviet Union (FSU), as was decided at the Fourth Ministerial conference. The choice of Ukraine as host country is an acknowledgment of the unique and pressing problems of the so-called "Newly Independent States" (NIS). In some ways the host country is in a key position to ensure success for its "own" conference, but in a sense Kiev represents not only Ukraine but also the other FSU states.

Stakeholder Forum has been working with Ukrainian NGO MAMA-86 and the Alter Eco Coalition in the delivery of a project that involves communities within Ukraine in the Environment for Europe Process. The project builds on a relationship that dates back to 1994 and was developed as a natural successor to earlier initiatives that concentrated on Women and Sustainable Development, Drinking Water and Public Consultation as part of the National Environment and Health Action Plan (NEHAP) project.

A range of measures has been undertaken to strengthen the network and enhance the effectiveness of partner organisations. A series of regional workshops throughout Ukraine have been held in order to:

- ◆ Provide information about the Environment for Europe process and in particular the Kiev Conference;
- ◆ Assess, through Semi Structured Interviews and Questionnaires, the level of public confidence in the environmental decision making process;
- ◆ Provide an opportunity for representatives of the local community, in particular the more marginalised

members of society, to voice concerns about environmental issues in the region.

The project participants from communities across Ukraine are currently developing plans for a major National Seminar to take place just prior to the ministerial conference. This seminar will summarise the outcomes of the project, including contributions to the Carpathian Convention and statements on other protocols to be signed at the EfE conference. However it also aims to look to the future and invite a wide range of participants to contribute to a debate that asks the question "What should the future of the Environment for Europe Process mean for Ukraine?"

As the conference draws closer, there is an increasing level of activity across the continent as delegations prepare for what many hope will be a valuable and progressive event that will see the environment of Europe considered in a global context that reflects and acknowledges the outcomes of WSSD. The Environment for Europe process has achieved notable successes, perhaps most significantly the Aarhus convention; as described by Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations:

"... the significance of the Aarhus Convention is global. It is by far the most impressive elaboration of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, which stresses the need for citizen's participation in environmental issues and for access to information on the environment held by public authorities... it is the most ambitious venture in the area of 'environmental democracy' so far undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations."

The preparations for the Kiev Conference have also seen increased activity in the drawing up of protocols on strategic environmental assessment, civil liability and pollution release and transfer registers.

(continued on page 6)

This environmental law making is reflected in the provisional agenda for the Kiev ministerial conference that has been developed through the discussions of the Working Group of Senior Officials. Final approval will take place at the next meeting of the working Group in February. The full agenda can be found on the UNECE Website: www.unece.org.

The Conference will also consider the future of the EfE process, and it will adopt a Ministerial Declaration and it is surely this issue that presents the greatest challenges and opportunities.

Members of wider civil society are also making preparations for Kiev. Many of the NGOs that have participated in the EfE process will be represented through the European Eco Forum, which has responsibility for registration and creation of the international NGO delegation to the conference. The Ukrainian NGO Organising Committee will be responsible for the registration of national Ukrainian NGOs. Representatives of 60 international, European and national environmental organisations (ECOs) from 28 countries met under the auspices of Eco Forum in Bratislava on 7 – 9 December 2002 to discuss demands and proposals for the Kiev conference. The Bratislava Declaration is therefore an important articulation of the views of the pan European environmental community.

Registration for intergovernmental organizations and the NGO delegates ended on March 1st. It is proposed that about 200 representatives from NGOs could be invited to attend a joint session with Ministers. For the remainder of the ministerial conference about 50 persons will be present at all official sessions.

The question of the future of the “Environment for Europe” process will play an important part in both the official and the parallel events that will take place in Kiev. This hugely complex issue will undoubtedly see energetic exchanges in the search for consensus. From the perspective of Eco Forum the process is viewed as the mechanism to promote environmental policy integration, environmental democracy and sustainable development. The Bratislava Declaration also makes reference to the implementation of the Johannesburg Agenda achieved in part through the development and implementation of a regional Action Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

There is an expectation among the partners of the Kiev 2003 Project and in the wider NGO community in Ukraine that bringing the EfE Conference to Ukraine should ensure a clearer understanding among delegations of the challenges facing economies in transition. But this is not all. The NGOs and other groups here also want to demonstrate to their European neighbours how they are meeting the

Chair's summary of the “Future” group at a meeting held on 3 December 2003 in Geneva:

Ministers in Kiev may wish to discuss the wider question of the future aims and direction of the “Environment for Europe” process. Such a discussion could reflect on the needs:

- To strengthen the regional environmental framework including the implementation of regional environmental instruments;
- To reverse the widening gaps in environmental quality and health between Western Europe, on one hand, and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), on the other hand;
- To follow up on the political commitments and programme of action agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg and
- To adjust the architecture of the EfE process to new challenges

challenges and creating positive change within communities affected by environmental degradation. Many of the problems faced by the countries of the Former Soviet Union exist on a scale that is seldom found in Western Europe, and it is essential that the Ministerial Conference addresses this not only through the drafting of legal instruments and protocols but also through the continued engagement and support of civil society and the NGO community.

Trevor Rees, Kiev Project Coordinator, Stakeholder Forum

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*For more information and full agenda visit
www.unece.org/env/wgso/index_wgsoandexecom.htm
For more information related to NGO participation visit
www.eco-forum.org
For registration of Ukrainian NGOs
email: conference@rec-kyiv.ua.org*

From Johannesburg to a Sustainable Development Strategy for the UK

Some two hundred representatives of a broad range of UK stakeholder groups gathered at UNED-UK Committee's national conference '*From Johannesburg to a Sustainable Development Strategy for the UK*' on 19 February 2003, in London. Delegates enjoyed presentations and open floor discussions with key speakers including Adnan Amin (Director, UNEP, New York office), Claus Sorensen (Head of Cabinet for the Commissioner of Development at the European Commission, Mr Nielson), and the Rt. Hon. Michael Meacher MP (Minister for the Environment).

Six months on from the World Summit on Sustainable Development and following a period of consideration and intense discussion, the conference provided an opportunity to constructively review the achievements and short falls of the Summit, with a view to progressing sustainable development in the UK. This included the role of stakeholders in achieving it and the forthcoming review of the UK sustainable development strategy.

During the morning session, Adnan Amin and Claus Sorensen shared the platform, reflecting on the international and European dimensions of the Summit, respectively. Mr Amin reminded delegates that UNEP has a thirty-year history of involvement in progressing the environmental agenda, starting with Stockholm, and lately placing increasing emphasis on the use of partnerships and the involvement of civil society in bringing about this evolution. Despite the "crisis of confidence" between developing countries and the West, nurtured by the lack of progress of Agenda 21 and by the failure to yet invest the \$12 billion promised in Monterrey, it seems that political will for making progress is strong.

Mr. Sorensen acknowledged that post-Johannesburg, further work needs to be pursued in order to draw international issues into the development of EU member states' sustainable development strategies. At the regional level a number of barriers still inhibit progress and if the EU is to be successful in its endeavour, it needs to make the Common Agriculture Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy sustainable, as well as halting the production of polluting chemicals. He concluded by offering three key recommendations for the UK to take the sustainable development agenda forward: develop Councils for sustainable development at local and regional level; develop national think-tanks to mainstream sustainable development into political systems locally; the UK needs to step out of its insularity and play a more active part in the process.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Meacher, MP, confirmed that his government is strongly committed to following up agreements made at the Summit, including the 17 specific commitments made, ranging from biodiversity and trade reform to education for sustainable development. The achievements in the UK were confirmed to be representative of the functionality of the EU sustainable development strategy. UNED-UK Committee was commended for their work and expertise in the field of stakeholder engagements.

An expert panel of UK stakeholders representing Business and Industry, NGOs, Local Government, Trade Unions, Women, Academics and Scientists; Chaired by Derek Osborn, identified and discussed their roles and responsibility in forwarding sustainable development in the UK and internationally. Collaborative working between different stakeholder groups and the government was identified as a key to achieving this.

Break-out groups on the broad thematic areas of Energy and Climate Change, Sustainable Cities and Communities; Education for Sustainable Development; and Sustainable Production and Consumption, focussed on a relevant key commitment from the Summit, and identified what actions could be taken in the UK to contribute towards the achievement of this.

The success of the conference was in translating the international agenda and commitments back to the UK, allowing all sectors of UK civil society to identify with the outcomes of the Summit. It is thus far clear that we are entering a new era of collaborative action and implementation for progressing sustainable development at all levels. In realising this, it is essential that stakeholder engagement and participation becomes a fully embedded principle within the revised sustainable development strategy for the UK.

Georgina Ayre, UK Coordinator, Stakeholder Forum

The full conference report will be available by the end of March 2003 at www.stakeholderforum.org.

For more information contact, Georgina Ayre, email: gayre@earthsummit2002.org; Tel: 02070894303.

Government's grant to achieve Clear Skies

In March 2001 the Prime Minister announced that an additional £100 million would be made available in support of renewable energy in the UK. The Clear Skies renewable energy grant scheme represents an allocation of part of that money. The scheme was launched on the 14th January 2003, and will make available £10 million in grants for private householders and not-for-profit community organisations. The scheme is funded by the Department of Trade and Industries and managed by the Building Research Enterprise Ltd and will provisionally run until March 2005.

The scheme has been established to complement the existing Photovoltaic grant scheme that was launched in 2002 and supports the capital and installation cost of the following technologies- Solar Thermal, Wind, Micro-hydro, Ground Source Heat pumps and Biomass heating.

The grants available for householders are between £500 and £5000, depending upon the technology. For community organisations the grant levels are not technology specific and are calculated as 50% or £100,000 of the capital and installation cost, whichever is the lower.

The scheme was designed following an extensive consultation, both written and by the use of workshops, with key industry stakeholders and trade associations. This consultation considered all aspects of the scheme design from eligible technologies, the level and form grants should take, to the role and responsibilities of the scheme manager.

The principal aim of the scheme is to raise public awareness and support for renewable energy through the installation of household and community scale schemes. The objectives of the scheme are to:

- Demonstrate the contribution renewable energy can make at the household level;
- Increase the degree of community involvement with renewable energy schemes in the UK;
- Help people to understand the benefits that renewable energy can deliver in their locality;
- Build the mentoring base for renewable energy (i.e. increase the number of people who are active supporters of renewable energy);
- Stimulate the development of a robust renewable energy installer industry throughout the UK that is sustainable beyond the lifetime of the programme;
- Deliver a minimum of 2800 UK households with renewable energy systems;
- Deliver a minimum of 270 community scale schemes around the UK.

Chris Roberts, Scheme manager, Clear Skies Initiative

For more information, contact Chris Roberts, email: RobertsC@bre.co.uk; website: www.clear-skies.gov.uk

HEALTH — SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE DAY

World Health Day 2003: promising children a healthy environment

Each year on April 7th, the world celebrates **World Health Day (WHD)**. On this day around the globe, thousands of events mark the importance of health for productive and happy lives. This year, the theme for World Health Day is "**Healthy Environments for Children**". While environmental threats may cause up to one third of the global burden of disease, with over



40% of this burden falling on children, it is imperative that health, environment and children are brought together, under focus, to mark the 2003 World Health Day.

In her message for World Health Day 2003, Director General of WHO, Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland said, "The biggest threats to children's health lurk in the very places that should be safest – home, school and community. Every year over 5 million children ages 0 to 14 die, mainly in the developing world, from diseases related to their environments - the places where they live, learn and play. These diseases include diarrhoea, malaria, as well as other vector-borne diseases, acute respiratory infections and unintentional injuries (accidents). These deaths can be prevented. We know what to do. Strategies have been developed to combat these threats to children's health. They need to be implemented on a global and national scale. So this year's World Health Day is dedicated to ensuring Healthy Environments for Children."

WHO launched the *Healthy Environments for Children Initiative* during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002. It is now working with different groups around the world to turn this initiative into a vibrant, global alliance which will be capable of mobiliz-

ing local support and intervening to make children's lives healthier where they live, learn and play. This global alliance will mobilize wide-ranging partners for a broad movement on healthy environments for children. Scientifically proven research will form the basis of cost-effective action and time-bound results to save the lives of millions of children.

For those interested in organising events to mark the World Health Day 2003, the WHD team has prepared a toolkit. To download the toolkit and also a brochure which highlights the importance of Healthy Environment for Children, check the website www.who.int/world-health-day/2003/en/

For more information on the regional activities of Europe, contact Ms Liuba Negru, Communications Officer, WHO Regional Office for Europe; 8, Scherfigsvej; DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark; Tel. : +45 39 17 13 44.

AGRICULTURE — DEBATE

GM PUBLIC DEBATE

The government-sponsored 'GM Public Debate' will take place from May-July 2003 and the summary report is expected in September 2003.

The GM Public Debate Steering Board is charged with supervising a public debate on GM issues, framed by the public, against the background of the possible commercial production of GM crops in the UK. The suggestion that there should be a national debate stems from the report "Crops on Trial" published by the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission (AEBC) in September 2001. The Commission stressed the importance of encouraging a broader national debate on the issue.

The Environment Secretary, Margaret Beckett and ministers in the devolved administrations, set the AEBC to work out how such a debate should be conducted and in July 2002 Mrs Beckett asked Professor Grant to set up a Steering Board to set the Debate in motion. The Steering Board has seven AEBC members and four members from outside the AEBC drawn from across the spectrum of interest in GM issues.

Mrs Beckett also set up two linked studies to run in parallel with the public debate. A Science Review – led by Professor Sir David King, the Government's Chief Scientist and Professor Howard Dalton, Chief Scientist at DEFRA - is reviewing GM science issues. The Prime Minister's Strategy Unit is conducting a study of the costs

and benefits associated with the growing GM crops in the UK.

Government has agreed to provide £500,000 to fund the Debate. The Board is due to report its findings to the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations by the end of September. The debate period should incorporate the publication of the first set of results from the Farm Scale Evaluations (FSEs), expected this summer.

The Steering Board's programme provides a series of directly organised activities together with partnerships with a number of other organisations running their own associated GM debates. The Steering Board will also be actively seeking to work with independent local and national networks and organisations in stimulating debate at local level.

The GM Debate programme – which is due to run through May, June and July includes :

- Six national and regional conferences (three in England and one each in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) - venues to be announced;

(continued on page 10)

- Smaller county level meetings organised in collaboration with participating county councils and other partners ;
- A “toolkit” designed to be used to facilitate discussion – right down to village and local group level including an interactive CD-Rom and paper-based stimulus material;
- An interactive web-site;
- A GM film – to be made widely available – from the filmmaker Roger Graef.

The Steering Board began the debate process last November with a series of foundation workshops – organised by the Corr Willbourn research agency – to let mem-

bers of the general public frame the issues for debate. In parallel with the broad public programme of activity, a series of reconvened deliberative focus groups will be conducted (again by Corr Willbourn) involving the general public. The results of these will be compared with the outputs from the broad public debate and will themselves offer in-depth information about people’s deliberations on GM issues.

*For more details check the website:
www.gmpublicdebate.org.uk*

BIODIVERSITY — CONFERENCE

Biodiversity After Johannesburg:

The Critical Role of Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services in Achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals

2 – 4 March 2003, London

The meeting on Biodiversity after Johannesburg, organized by the Equator Initiative, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Nature Conservancy, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the UK Department for International Development, convened from 2-4 March 2003 in London, UK. Participants discussed the links between biodiversity, ecosystem services, sustainable development and the UN Millennium Development Goals. This was the first of two meetings in London dealing with the linkages between biodiversity and sustainable development. Over 160 participants, representing governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector discussed these issues in plenary and in working group sessions.

The plenary sessions provided an overview of the MDGs and biodiversity mandates arising from the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity framework. To explore the interaction between biodiversity and the MDGs, participants convened in four working groups to discuss: poverty, hunger and biodiversity; health and biodiversity; water, sanitation, urban poverty and biodiversity; and MDG 8 on developing a global partnership for development. The final plenary summarized the meeting’s recommendations, which will contribute to the second meeting on “Biodiversity after Johannesburg” and to the UN Millennium Project.

The summary report is available online. For more information log on to : <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/sd/sdund/>

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

IDeA for sustainability

Some argue that the term sustainability, like community is so overused that it has become devalued and therefore meaningless. The Local Sustainability Team at Improvements and Development Association (IDeA) intends to disprove this myth. The IDeA team came together as a team around the middle of last year but our origins go back

to the Local Agenda 21 team at what was the Local Government Management Board. The IDeA team is all too aware of its strong reputation and how it was able to introduce sustainability to council officials who had never heard of it.

(continued on page 11)

The world (or at least the world of governance) has moved on and our role is now to mainstream local sustainability throughout new local government structures and processes. This means, for example, finding ways of getting sustainability into community planning and Local Strategic Partnerships.

Clean, well-designed streets, safety and anti-social behaviour are, it seems, the most important issues to local residents. As well as working on these issues, councils need to make sure there is sufficient affordable housing in the places where people want to live. They also need to see to it that people can get to the places they want to, on time and in comfort, without polluting the areas through which they pass. So, where do we come in?

We believe that these features and others produce a 'sustainable community'. That is, a successful community where there is a satisfactory quality of life for residents, taking account of the needs of future generations. We need to persuade local authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships that the development of sustainable communities should be integral to their strategic planning. Take housing for example. What is the point of launching a new housing programme if the materials and construction methods will damage the environment for years to come, if there is insufficient insulation to prevent energy loss, and if there are few local jobs or shops or services and a poor public transport network.

All these features need to be integrated into a comprehensive and coherent programme and all the indications are

that is what John Prescott intends in his newly launched Sustainable Communities plan.

So what are we doing to make a difference? We are working in partnership with organisations inside and outside local government on a variety of initiatives, including conferences on climate change, housing and sustainable communities, publications such as a handbook on local sustainability, a web-based programme called Mainstreaming Sustainability on IDeA Knowledge and eventually a comprehensive map of who is doing what in local sustainability. A key role is to identify examples of good practice and make use of them in designing further materials so others can learn from them. We cannot do this without your help so please contact us to help us build our map.

Peter Hirst, Principal Consultant, IDeA

*The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) was established by and for local government in April 1999. Its mission is to support self-sustaining improvement from within local government. For more information contact: Sarah Bonnett, Local Sustainability, IDeA, Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG
Tel: 020 7296 6506; email sarah.bonnett@idea.gov.uk*

UN — AWARDS

UNEP SASAKAWA ENVIRONMENT PRIZE

UNEP is now inviting nominations for the prestigious *Sasakawa Environment Prize*, which honours individuals who have distinguished themselves by making outstanding contributions to the management and protection of the environment. Nominations, related credentials, any additional information and letters of reference are to be submitted no later than *30 April 2003*. By way of this prize, the United Nations Environment Programme hopes to encourage the awardees to continue their work and to inspire others to join the global coalition dedicated to protecting the environment.

A successful nominee must have made outstanding global contributions to the management and protection of the environment, consistent with the policies, aims and objectives of UNEP. Those eligible to make nominations

include, but are not limited to, specialists in environmental sciences, academies of science, engineering and research, members of the United Nations system, government, inter-governmental organisations, trade unions and NGOs. However, no candidate may nominate himself or herself. The referees should be able to provide, in no more than two pages (500 words), a detailed explanation of the contributions of the nominee and explain why each is valuable and effective.

More information is available through the UNEP website at
<http://www.unep.org/sasakawa2>

Celebrating The Best ! Award for Sustainable Development Partnerships Initiatives

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) identified implementation of partnership initiatives as necessary in order to meet the Sustainable Development Agreements and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We know that sustainable development will need action by all, and collaborative action by many. We also know that applauding best practice, success stories, and excellent ideas is an important tool to initiate more of the excellence that we need to achieve sustainable development.

These are the starting points of an innovative award scheme: UNEP's Division for Technology, Industry and Economics (Paris), IUCN (Gland), the German Federal Ministry for Environment (Berlin), and Stakeholder Forum (London) have joined forces to develop an international award scheme for sustainable development partnership initiatives. Initiatives involving small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and collaborations between SMEs and trans-/multi-national corporations will receive specific attention.

Recognized as a WSSD "type two partnership initiative", the Awards Scheme will encourage active business involvement in partnership initiatives through highlighting current best practices and providing support services for partnerships. It will facilitate the implementation of sustainable development initiatives by linking stakeholders, providing physical and virtual arenas for networking and knowledge exchange, and facilitating learning opportunities. Services could include both web-based information sources available to any interested party and direct, "face to face", tailor made services for award recipients. It is hoped that the examples set by award winning partnerships will contribute to an increase in implementation of sustainable development initiatives worldwide, create incentives for investment in multi-stakeholder partnerships, and encourage the business community to become an intrinsic player in the implementation of innovative, precedent setting initiatives.

The Award will honour partnership initiatives focusing on WEHAB issues (water, energy, health, agriculture, biodiversity), especially projects which integrate these five focal issues. The first round, to be held in 2003/04 will focus on Biodiversity. Partnerships applying for the award must demonstrate explicit adherence to core principles of multi-stakeholder processes: namely: accountability, transparency, equity among partners and ownership by all partners, as well as demonstrated integration of the environment, economic, and social pillars of sustainable development. Eligibility criteria will be developed

by a multi-stakeholder board and substantive criteria by an independent expert group, and both will be applied by a multi-stakeholder jury. In January this year, all Award Scheme partner organizations met in Gland, Switzerland, at IUCN Headquarters to further develop the project's objectives and prepare for an international workshop in April 2003. This expert meeting will help to finalise the award scheme, its operations, governance structure, and communication strategies.

Evy Wilkins, former intern at Stakeholder Forum

*Stakeholder Forum has been tasked to organise the workshop and will also host the Award Scheme Secretariat. For more information, contact: Michael Burke, Stakeholder Forum, Tel: 0207 089 4305
email: mburke@earthsummit2002.org
More information on the website:
www.stakeholderforum.org*

Recognizing sustainable development initiatives- 'The European Sustainable City Award 2003'

'The European Sustainable City Award 2003' aims to recognize and award the progress realized by European local authorities in the field of sustainable development. The Award Winners and those receiving Certificates of Distinction will be announced at a special Award Ceremony, to be held in June 2003, in Brussels. The three innovative subcategories for the European Sustainable City Award 2003 are: Health, Sustainable Waste and Resource Management, Poverty and Social Equity.

The European Sustainable Cities & Towns Campaign, which brings together a range of activities carried out by its various partners and contributors, is evaluating applications for the Award. The Campaign networks and the Campaign office will conduct the preliminary evaluations while an independent panel of experts will do the final selection. The applicants took part in the process by answering a questionnaire.

More information on :
<http://www.sustainable-cities.org/award2003.htm>
<http://www.iclei.org/europe/echarter.htm>

Business Leaders' Initiative on Climate Change

BLICC's (The Business Leaders' Initiative on Climate Change) Report II, which seeks to motivate the further development and discussion of corporate citizenship for a sustainable society, will be launched in June 2003. Report I which was released in Spring 2002, established an emission measurement baseline and presented the best practices related to customer activism, renewable energy and transportation.

The BLICC programme is based on an initiative taken by *Respect Table* companies in September 2000. *Respect Table* is a network of companies from Europe and the USA, initiated by Respect, a European-based consultancy group. The Respect Table network has been created to stimulate the business sector and collaborate jointly with the European Commission. The mission of BLICC is to establish a value-based programme for the exchange of knowledge and business related experience in a proactive collaboration with a range of societal actors to promote and lead business actions to combat climate change at a global level and support a socially, ecologically and economically stable society.

Specifically, the programme looks at how national and international climate change policy is developing; how companies can conduct emission inventories and; measure and report greenhouse gas emissions, how to establish a baseline and apply metrics. It creates a space for companies to learn from other business experience in conducting emission inventories. The long-term working process that will continue through 2005, provides a

common and transparent platform to achieve:

- The measurement of greenhouse gases;
- The commitment to actions to reduce greenhouse gases;
- Emission reduction targets and
- Accountability for actions.

The members of the BLICC programme believe that their role in society and action agenda are positive signals for what business can do in relation to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Current initiatives include the production of the BLICC Report II. The Report specifically demonstrates that a commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions leads to new business opportunities, encourages full participation of a diversity of stakeholders, and drives an innovative business agenda. It involves a review of the 2002 working programme, looking at monitoring and reporting, target setting, education and training, best practices and communication strategies related to the business agendas and climate change reduction actions of the BLICC member companies.

Mei Li Han, RespectEurope

*For more information contact Mei Li Han,
email: meili@respecteurope.com*

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UK DIARY DATES

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London

Ethical Corporation Europe Conference 2003: Managing Corporate Responsibility

Further information:

www.ethicalcorp.com/europe2003.asp

11 April 2003

Bristol

Council for Environmental Education and Development Education

Association Joint National Conference: Learning for Sustainable Development - towards a national strategy

Contact: Anne White, Council for Environmental Education, 94 London Street, Reading RG1 4SJ

Tel: 0118 950 2550

Fax: 0118 959 1955

Email: awhite@cee.org.uk

Website: www.cee.org.uk

6-25 July 2003

Devon

Challenging Globalisation: Alternative Models

Contact: The Administrator, Chumacher College, The Old Postern, Dartington, Devon TQ9 6EA;

Tel: 01803 865934;

Fax: 01803 866899

Email: admin@schumachercollege.org.uk;

Website:

www.schumachercollege.org.uk

International Diary Dates

7-11 April 2003

Denver, United States

International Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management

Contact: US Bureau of Reclamation

Tel: 1-303-445-2127

Fax: 1-303-445-6322

Email: lprincipe@do.usbr.gov

Website: <http://www.usbr.gov>

22-25 April 2003

Geneva, Switzerland

49th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee

Contact: CITES Secretariat

Tel: 41-22-917-8139/40

Fax: 41-22-797-3417

Email: cites@unep.ch

Web Site: <http://www.dts.org/eng/news/calendar.shtml>

25-26 April 2003

Vienna, Austria

Sixth workshop on International Climate Policy

Contact: Clemens Ploechl

Email: c.ploechl@ic-vienna.at

28-30 April 2003

Vienna, Austria

Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

Contact: Peter Mayer, Liaison Unit Vienna;

Tel: 43-1-710-7702;

Fax: 43-1-710-7702-13

Email: liaison.unit@lu-vienna.at

Website: <http://www.mcpfe.org>

28-30 April 2003

Las Palmas, Spain

Second International Conference on River Basin Management

Contact: Stacey Hobbs, Wessex

Institute of Technology;

Tel: 44-238-029-3223

Fax: 44-238-029-2853;

Email: shobbs@wessex.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2003/riverbasin03/index.html>

28 April -9 May 2003

New York, United States

11th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development

Contact: Zehra Aydin-Sipos, DESA; Tel: 1-212-963-8811

Fax: 1-212-963-1267

Email: aydin@un.org

Website: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd11/csd11_2003.htm

14-16 May 2003

Kassandra, Greece

Energy and the Environment 2003

Contact: Gabriella Cossutta

Website: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2003/energy03/index.html>

18-23 May 2003

Montreal, Canada

International Forum on Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health

Contact: Anne-Marie Legault;

Email: forum2003@idrc.ca

Website: <http://www.idrc.ca/forum2003>

19-23 May 2003

Bonn, Germany

International Conference on Rural Livelihoods, Forests and Biodiversity

Contact: William Sunderlin

Tel: 251-622-622

Fax: 251-622-100;

Email: w.sunderlin@cgiar.org

Website: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/shared/template/livelihoodconference.asp>

20-24 May 2003

Espinho, Portugal

First Environmental Education Congress

Contact: First World Environmental Education Congress, Rua 15, 349, 4500 Espinho, Portugal;

Tel: 00351 22 7319115

Fax: 00351 22 7319129

Email: info@1weec.net;

Website: www.1weec.net

3-6 June 2003

Shanghai, China

International Conference on the Urban Dimensions of Environmental Change-Science, Exposures, Policies and Technologies

Contact: Urban Dimensions of Environmental Change Conference

Email: udec@mail.montclair.edu or

udec@montclair.edu

Website: <http://www.montclair.edu/globalized/shanghai>

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STAKEHOLDER FORUM
www.stakeholderforum.org

FOR EARTH SUMMIT 2002, NETWORK
2002,
ROADMAP TO 2002, BRIEFING PAPERS,
ETC.

www.earthsummit2002.org

STAKEHOLDER TOOLKIT FOR WOMEN
[www.earthsummit2002.org/
toolkits/women/index.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/toolkits/women/index.htm)

COPENHAGEN+5: A SOCIAL DEVELOP-
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wssd/default.htm](http://www.earthsummit2002.org/wssd/default.htm)

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www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd.htm

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www.peacechild.org

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www.biodiv.org

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www.unsystem.org/ngls

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www.wedo.org

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www.wbcsd.org/

WORLD CONSERVATION MONITORING
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WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION
www.who.org

THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (EARTH SUMMIT 2002)
www.johannesburgsummit.org

WORLDWIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF-
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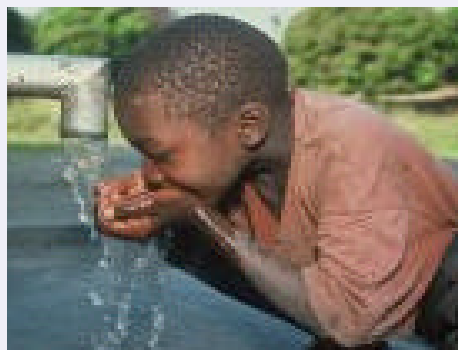
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WATER AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



CONNECTIONS • SPRING 2003 • SUPPLEMENT

Water, politics and the poor: Kyoto and beyond

The global water crisis preoccupies the international community periodically—at major events such as the WSSD and the World Water Forum in Japan. In fact 2003 is designated the International Year of Freshwater so it should preoccupy us all year. But for the billions without water and sanitation, this is a daily preoccupation, to the point of intolerable routine. Aside from reminding us of this fact, what else can the great ‘water meetings’ hope to achieve? Alan Nicol provides a short route map by way of an answer. He argues that we now have to move from a concern over ‘safe’ water to a concern of ‘secure water’ for poor communities.

Over a billion people lack access to safe water worldwide, and more than 2 billion to adequate sanitation. The health impact are appalling and widely known. But how important—perhaps more important—is access denied to water sufficient to ensure productive livelihoods

and long-term development for communities and households, the idea of ‘secure water’, from which more than just better health can be achieved?



Girl carrying water in Ethiopia

Pic courtesy: Alan Nicol

If this concept is added to our understanding of the situation, then we drag in a plethora of further problems and crises, and start to question some of the very fundamental assumptions

about our directions taken in tackling the crisis. It has moved far beyond ‘us’ providing for ‘them’. It is now a global crisis of perceptions and policies, not just (or even) water.

We have learnt that the much-vaunted but elusive goal of ‘water for all’ that drove the optimism of the 1980’s UN Water Decade has proven a chimera. And the 1990s were no better. Those served by clean water rose from just 79% in 1990 to 82% in 2000 (WHO, 2000). WHO describes the situation as ‘shocking’ given that current figures represent ‘at least 20 years of concerted effort and publicity to improve coverage’. So what is going wrong?

Many of the past failures, especially during the 1980s resulted from major social and economic upheaval in developing countries as global recession, debt crises, unfavourable terms of trade and the impact of government retrenchment under structural adjustment

policies squeezed government budgets and led to major institutional change. Government service provision became a dirty word, and a mantra that espoused the values of market-based choice began to seep into the policy environment. We were told at various times that private operators would begin to fill the gap through responding to ‘demand’ from below. But who would



Pic courtesy: Alan Nicol

pay? Who would profit? Who would regulate this situation? The questions that emerged were endless and remain with us to this day.

Borehole in Tamilnadu, India

One key issue to emerge, ironically ‘demanded’ by the very shifts taking place in policy towards consumer-oriented delivery is who are the consumers, what can they afford to pay, and how can we assist in service delivery? These questions are fundamental to the new Demand-Responsive Approaches being formulated by the international Water and Sanitation Program and the World Bank, closely followed by a large number of donors.

Answers to these questions will only emerge if, at a fundamental level, why and how poor people demand water is understood and fully embedded in policy responses.

(continued on page iii)

THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM— COMMENT

A clear message to emerge from studies of communities in India, Sri Lanka and Kenya is that knowing what constitutes the 'household water economy'—why and how people gain access to and use different quantities (and types) of water—helps in determining a whole range of factors from what sort of technology options are most appropriate to who are the poorest and least able to pay (hence who needs to have targeted subsidies), how long-term capital replacement costs can be covered and how both scaling up (within and well as beyond communities) and eventual scaling up in levels of service type can be employed

This remains, however, a 'top-down' driven approach to informing a wider international, national and local stakeholder community of what is really needed to help provide for local livelihoods security. But our responses need to go beyond this, to bringing the poorer stakeholders and communities into the institutional and policy processes themselves, building partnerships that go beyond simple local-level bureaucratisation in the development of water management committees and other such institutional structures.

Recent experiences in southern Africa illustrate that there are significant barriers in preventing the 'entry' of the poor to new institutions, whether they have been substantially devolved or not. There is a need to be both attuned to the 'glass barriers' preventing entry as well as to the lack of luxury in having time to participate—rapid diversification of the rural economies is squeezing the time-availability of households and pulling (literally in some cases) people further and wider in search of income. In

many agricultural communities there are significant implications of the meaning of 'community' itself, and, hence, to the common phrase 'community-based' management of water supplies.

Recognising these barriers and working to remove them is an important task of future water programmes. But finally, and most significantly, there is a need to disengage the problems itself. It is not primarily a water crisis—rather a crisis of poverty at the root of which are problems of distribution of wealth and the disempowerment of the poor. Looking beyond the usual sectoral windows to other windows of opportunity including bringing the poor into local decentralised governance processes, into lower-level policy making processes and into institutions where they can be empowered with new knowledge and capacity to articulate their demands to policy and political actors will be the essential key to beginning to unlock the terrible routine in which theirs is a daily crisis, not just felt on 22nd March, or in 2003, but globally, daily and for decades past and to come.

**Alan Nicol, Head of the Water Policy Programme,
Overseas Development Institute**

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Water Facts: Water Use

- Humans use 54% of all the accessible freshwater contained in rivers, lakes, and underground aquifers. By 2025, this number will increase to 70%.
- According to WHO, less than 1% of the world's freshwater, or 0.007% of all the water on Earth, is readily available for human world consumption.

Agriculture

- Annually, agriculture accounts for 69% of all water withdrawn for human use (mostly in the form of irrigation)
- Current global water withdrawals for irrigation are estimated at about 2,000 to 2,555 km³ per year.

Energy:

- Hydropower represents 19% of total electricity production, making it the most important and widely used renewable source of energy.
- Worldwide, there are about 45,000 large dams in operation.

Industry:

- 23% of all water withdrawn for human use is used for industry purposes.
- Africa and Europe differ greatly in their amount of water consumption for industry purposes. Europe consumes 54%, while Africa consumes only 5%.
- Water withdrawals for industry:
 1. World: 22% of total water use
 2. High-income countries: 59% of total water use
 3. Low-income countries: 8% of total water use

THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM

The Third World Water Forum Concludes with 100 New Commitments



More than 100 new commitments on water were made by participants of the eight-day 3rd World Water Forum, the most important international water meeting ever, which concluded Sunday. The Forum was held in the three neighboring Japanese cities of Kyoto, Shiga and

Osaka from March 16-23, holding 351 separate sessions on 38 interlocking themes dealing with water, especially on how to bring safe water and sanitation to the entire world.

Some 24,000 participants from 182 countries, more than triple the number of participants expected, attended the sessions. The key issues that they addressed revolved around balancing increasing human requirements for adequate water supplies and improved health and sanitation with food production, transportation, energy and environmental needs, while most countries will require more effective governance, improved capacity and adequate financing.

“The 3rd World Water Forum has become a truly ‘action-oriented’ conference,” said Kenzo Hiroki, Vice Secretary General of the 3rd World Water Forum. “I have talked with hundreds of participants in sessions and

in the corridors,” said William J. Cosgrove, Vice President of the World Water Council, one of the main conveners of the World Water Forums, held every three years in a different host country. “Without exception, they reported that they consider that the Forum exceeded their expectations. It was a unique opportunity to form partnerships, join networks and learn from the experience of others.”

They agreed that the “community level public participation is fundamental to achieving these goals,” and that the “common basic requirement for water is an opportunity for cooperation and **peace**.” The Organizing Committee issued a preliminary 8-page Forum Statement, in which the Committee agreed that they will be “solemnly committed to facing the global water challenges and to meeting the goals set forth at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in New York (2000)” – cutting in half the proportion of poor people without secure access to water and sanitation by 2015.

The preliminary statement been posted on the Forum’s website (<http://www.world.water-forum3.com>). More than 100 commitments were reached during the Forum.

Source: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/>

Global Agreements reached at the 3rd World Water Forum



Of the more than 100 commitments reached during the Forum, the climate theme accounted for more than 20 commitments, and gender issues produced 13 commitments.

International Flood Network

(IFNet)

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of

Japan has supported the establishment of the International Flood Network (IFNet), launched during the Third World Water Forum for flood mitigation at the global stages. IFNET is committed to launching the “Global Flood Warning System” project, with the capacity to create the precipitation maps all over the world every 3 hours. As a result, flood warnings in the world will be vastly improved, benefiting up to 4.8 billion people. The World Water Council committed to developing and implementing with a consortium of international financial institutions, UN agencies, international

THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM

financial institutions, UN agencies, international non-governmental organizations, and research institutions a program aiming to precisely identify and highlight the benefits brought by sound water management and provide governments with appropriate tools and analysis so that they may be considered in priority setting, planning, development, management, and budgeting for the water sector.

UN-HABITAT

UN-HABITAT signed a memorandum of understanding with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to create a program to build the capacity of Asian cities to secure and manage pro-poor investments and to help the region meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The program will cover a pipeline of US\$10 million in grants from ADB and UN-HABITAT for the first two phases and US\$500 million in ADB loans for water and sanitation projects in cities across Asia over the next five years. Additional funding for Water for Asian Cities has also been made available to UN-HABITAT by the Government of Netherlands.

UNESCO and the World Water Council

UNESCO and the World Water Council committed to promote, develop and support the establishment and operation of an independent, easily accessible facility that can help solving problems related to trans-boundary waters by providing on request access to experienced technical advisers, tools, training sessions and mediators.

The partner international organizations and research institutes (WWC, UNESCO-IHE, FAO, KIP, IFPRI, IWMI and SOAS) committed to continue their efforts and to lobby for financial support to develop a better understanding of the concept of Virtual Water, its application and its impact and to provide governments with information and tools to consciously utilize virtual water trade as an effective way to promote water saving and make it an integral part of government's national and regional water, food and environmental policies.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) commits to a Community Water Initiative, aimed at building on the power of the local community to solve water and sanitation challenges. Its aim is to provide innovative communities with small grants to expand and improve their solutions to the water and sanitation crisis. The Community Water Initiative has an estimated target budget of \$50 million for 2003-2008.

Source: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/>



Issues and Concerns at the 3rd World Water Forum



Governance: Many countries face a governance crisis, rather than a water crisis, the final statement said. "Good water governance requires effective and accountable socio-political and administrative

systems adopting an integrated water resources management (IWRM) approach with transparent and participatory processes that address ecological and human needs."

Capacity Building: The need for capacity building, education and access to information for enhanced effectiveness in water management is unquestioned. These critical elements of the water development process are often

treated as an add-on to programs, with scant regard to local capacity-building institutions, gender mainstreaming, cultural diversity and traditional knowledge or to long-term commitment.

Financing: **Financing infrastructure** for the water sector comes mainly from the public sector of developing countries and is "topped-up" with contributions from foreign aid, international financial institutions, commercial loans and private equity. Despite the link between water security, development and poverty alleviation, overall investment in water resources management has been seriously neglected.

THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM

According to the Vision and other estimates, developing and transitional countries will require \$180 billion annually in order to produce global water security over the next 25 years. This will require greater efficiency and better financial management. Several models for combining public, donor and/or private funding have been attempted, and the results have been mixed. The debate concerning public-private partnerships has not been resolved.

Participation: In many regions, countries and local communities have come to realize that water is a multi-stakeholder issue, and that partnerships of all interested and affected parties are a viable mechanism to translate IWRM into practice. Major groups including CEOs, unions, indigenous people, water journalists, parliamentarians, youth and children all have a point of view and deserve the right to be heard. Yet large segments of society, especially women and the poor, are not given a voice. There is a need for a closer examination of participation based on race, ethnicity, economic status, age, and

religion to ensure inclusiveness.

Regional Issues: Although most of the issues outlined above are global, some are of particular concern in certain regions. Asia and the Pacific face a main water challenge due to the growth in both water demand and population. Pervasive poverty has confined Africa to a vicious cycle of underdevelopment, conflict, and suffering. In the Americas, large investments in water-related projects and macroeconomic reforms have failed to stimulate sustainable economic growth. Dwindling water resources are threatening people's livelihood, the environment, and economic growth in the Middle East-Mediterranean. And Europe's water resources are subject to considerable pressure due to the relatively high population density, significant industrial activity and intensive agricultural production.

Source: <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/>

World Water Actions



One of the initiatives of The Third World Water Forum was 'World Water Actions'. To contribute to the discussions and nurture the debates, the Secretariat of the Third World Water Forum and the World Water Council

jointly initiated *World Water Actions*. This worldwide study, conducted by the water community for the water community, will provide an inventory of innovative water actions during 2000-02, with the aim to raise awareness of solutions that are available to improve water resources management and anticipate emerging priorities, which will serve as guidelines for future efforts. Inputs for study, which is being managed by the *Water Action Unit*, come from a variety of sources, such as water-related websites, conferences, direct contacts, and networks. A synthesis of the actions inventory will highlight trends in water management: World Health Organisation is already doing WHAT, WHERE, and HOW.

The third draft of *World Water Actions Report* is available on the website www.worldwatercouncil.org. Worldwide actions, which are being inventoried for the purpose of this report, are available as well, providing readers with a chance to comment on them and submit other, perhaps better examples of their activities (http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/search_actions.php). The definitive version of the report is expected to be released after the Forum.

For more information, please visit
<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/WAU.shtml> or
contact Water Action Unit C/o World Water Council, Les
Docks de la Joliette, Atrium 10.3, 10 Place de la Joliette,
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Visionary German Wins 2003 Stockholm Water Prize

The German Professor Peter A. Wilderer, who has promoted and developed holistic, interdisciplinary research for more than 30 years in the pursuit of sustainable water use and sanitation, was announced today, March 21, as the 2003 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate. Professor Wilderer's research is marked by a rare combination of detailed technology development and a deep concern for the environment and human quality of life.

Peter A. Wilderer is a Professor at the Technical University of Munich and serves also as Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies on Sustainability (IoS). Professor Wilderer has developed and demonstrated a profoundly holistic vision of sustainable and integrated water and wastewater management

Professor Wilderer, 64, will receive the Prize from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden at a ceremony in the Stockholm City Hall on Thursday, August 14, during the annual World Water Week in Stockholm. The Laureate receives USD 150,000 and a crystal sculpture.

Concrete Contributions, Realistic Approaches

His contributions to basic discoveries now applied in modern biofilm reactors enable treatment facilities worldwide to clean waste-water from homes, business and industries, and return it safely every day for reuse in the water cycle.

The Stockholm Water Prize

The Stockholm Water Prize is an international environmental award presented by the Stockholm Water Foundation annually in honor of outstanding achievements in science, engineering, technology, education or public policy related to protection of the world's water resources. The Prize is awarded to an institution, organization, individual or company that has contributed substantially to water preservation and enhancement through applied research or direct action. It recognizes efforts that increase knowledge of, and win respect for, the water environment. The Stockholm Water Prize, which was first awarded in 1991, is valued at USD 150,000.

Source: <http://www.swedentech.swedishtrade.se/>

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize Announced

Dr. Jerson Kelm and Director President of Agencia Nacional de Aguas (ANA) of Brazil and Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, were announced as the winners the 2003 inaugural edition of the Hassan II Great World Water Prize. They were honoured for their significant water-related achievements and their contribution to the improvement of water resources management, during the 3rd World Water Forum.

The *King Hassan II Great World Water Prize* is an international award jointly established by the Government of Morocco and the World Water Council, in memory of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, for distinguished leadership in 'encouragement of cooperation and sound management of water resources'. The Prize is awarded on a three-year cycle to an institution,

organization, individual or group of individuals in honour of outstanding achievements in any aspects of water resources such as scientific, economic, technical, environmental, social, institutional, cultural or political. The Prize Committee develops specific themes at the beginning of each award cycle, but the spirit of the award will always reflect cooperation and development. This year's theme is cooperation and solidarity in the fields of management and development in water resources.

More information on:

http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/HASSAN_II.shtml

The UK Government's Objectives at the 3rd World Water Forum

The challenge for Kyoto has been to mobilise political will towards solving global water issues. It has concentrated on the implementation of plans agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets on access to clean water and sanitation.

Background

The provision, use and management of water are central to both sustainable development and poverty reduction. Nearly two thirds of the world's population will be living in countries of significant water stress by the year 2025. If we do not pay more attention to equitable water management we will see conflict and war generated by water shortages. 1.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, and 2.4 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. The provision of clean drinking water and sanitation is essential to prevent 2 million children dying of diarrhoea every year. Carrying water also exhausts women and keeps girls out of school.

The UN has designated 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater, acknowledging that global water issues need to be placed high on the international agenda. The UK's efforts at Kyoto were directed towards ensuring that the international community delivers on its promises made at WSSD in Johannesburg last year.

Government Objectives for Kyoto were-

- Kyoto is meant to concentrate on implementing the poverty focused agenda that has been agreed to achieve the MDG targets on access to water and sanitation and the WSSD Plan of Implementation for the introduction of water management and efficiency plans by 2005.
- Kyoto is not to be used to introduce new initiatives. The old-style approach of conference announcements of support for aid-dependent projects had to change if we were to achieve a sustainable improvement in developing countries' capacity to deliver water and sanitation services to all their people.
- Kyoto is aimed at producing a clear message which placed water resources and sanitation as central to poverty reduction, food security, better health, peace and security and safeguarding the environment.

Other important issues were:

- **Governance:** Countries will need support within their poverty reduction strategies to address the reforms necessary to effectively provide water and sanitation services. Increased clarity around the advantages and disadvantages of private sector involvement is likely to result in increased ownership of the reforms by developing countries;
- **Financing for water infrastructure:** Financing remains a key issue. Work needs to be done to assess the financing efforts necessary to deliver the MDGs – addressing issues such as efficient use of public resources, aid, increased private investment, and increased cost recovery, while enhancing the access of the poor. This must be done within the context of country-led poverty reduction strategies;
- **Role of the private sector:** Mobilising private sector finance, management and operational expertise is critical in meeting the water and sanitation targets. Such initiatives must use transparent and accountable business processes and be accompanied by effective regulation of the private sector. The Department for International Development is working to encourage partnerships between national and local government, civil society and the private sector that improve the provision and access of water and sanitation services to the urban poor.

The challenge now is to ensure that political momentum leads to action on the ground. Better management of water resources, access to safe water and basic sanitation are key contributors to poverty reduction, food production and the future safety and sustainability of the world.

Martin Walshe, Senior Water Advisor, DFID

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The World Water Problem- as it stands at the World Water Forum

Are the governments committed enough to solve the pressing problems of water? Is there an equation that connects poverty reduction, 'water-for-all' dream and privatisation? Stephen Turner outlines WaterAid's view on the government's commitment and some of the crucial questions relating to water

Third World Water Forum seeks to promote action across the freshwater sector on how the commitments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development will be implemented. The Summit agreed that all governments should have national integrated water resource management plans by 2005, and that the proportion of people without access to clean water and sanitation should be halved by 2015.

And yet, the human and financial resources to achieve these targets are not yet in place.

WaterAid is concerned that this is another major international meeting too close on the heels of the World Summit. UK's Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, clearly believes that this is one conference too many; demonstrated by the fact that the UK Government will be represented by Elliot Morley, a junior minister in DEFRA. The frequency of international meetings also makes it difficult to ensure that civil society, especially from developing countries are well represented. Costs and logistic difficulties make it more difficult for the voice of the poor to be heard.

WaterAid is supporting a number of its own national partners from Africa and Asia to attend the Forum; and through the Freshwater Action Network (FAN), a larger group of NGOs representing civil society action in freshwater will be able to attend. FAN will be facilitating daily briefing and strategy meetings and separate workshops with other NGO networks to produce an NGO Statement to be discussed with Ministers. WaterAid is of the firm conviction that the outcomes of international gatherings only have meaning when the voices of people are heard and listened to.

At the Forum, WaterAid will be focusing on the relationship between poverty reduction strategies and the water sector now being developed in Africa and Asia. WaterAid's experience is that southern civil

society has a vital role to play in arguing for prioritisation of access to clean water and sanitation. When they have acknowledged that it is a priority for their citizens national governments have given greater emphasis to water and sanitation.

Increasing resources to the sector have to come from official development assistance, not just from national public sources, currently by far the largest source of investment in the water sector on a world-wide basis. These funds need to be focused on the poorest communities found among the rural poor and slum dwellers on the fringes of cities in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

WaterAid will also be challenging donor countries to increase their aid spending on water and sanitation for the poor. Currently as little as 1.7% of OECD's (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) official development assistance is earmarked to programmes based on sustainable, affordable low-cost water supply and sanitation technologies that target the poor.

At the Forum WaterAid and Tearfund will also be launching the findings from their 18 month-long research programme into the impact of the private sector in delivering services for the poor. These findings state that international water companies are not the key to meeting the Millennium Development Goals that were re-affirmed at the World Summit in Johannesburg. WaterAid questions why the private sector has been, and continues to be, over sold as the single answer to the urgent question of increasing access to water and sanitation? Why hasn't more attention and energy been given to other options?

For WaterAid, it is essential to achieve a fundamental reform of the water sector if additional investments are to be made. WaterAid believes that the required additional investments of up to \$30 billion per annum would be available if water sector reform was achieved.

(Continued on page viii)

THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM

These reforms include the recognition of a pluralist approach with communities at the corner stone of self-managed schemes; local government providing an enabling and regulated environment; national governments ensuring that resources are committed, without corruption, to achieve the poor's right to clean water and sanitation; and require the international community to stop twisting the arms of national governments to adopt the private sector as a single answer.

**Stephen Turner, Head of Planning & Development,
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(This article was written before the 3rd World Water Forum took place. This however represents the views the Water Aid took to the WWF. The pic of boy drinking water, on the cover page of supplement is courtesy) Jon Spaul/ Water Aid)

The business perspective on water and sustainability

There can be little disagreement in the fact that there is an urgent need for sustainable use of our water resources to deliver the needs of today and of future generations. At the same time, the water resources need to be protected as they are under stress from growing populations and the quality of water sources is under threat from farming, industrial activities and from poor sanitation.

UK water industry monitors its own performance on sustainability annually through a set of twenty environmental indicators agreed by stakeholders. These will soon be complemented by a similar set of social and economic indicators.

These essential services can be equally well delivered by both the private and public sector; what is essential is transparency, good management and appropriate regulation. Primarily this means cost recovery: that customers pay for the services they use either by a bill directly from the services provider or through general taxation.

The very poorest citizens in the world, especially in urban areas, are those who today may be paying most for water, buying drinking water by the bucketful from the private sellers. A networked water and sanitation service will often cost householders less than using a water seller and certainly has the potential to deliver sustainable solutions.

In England and Wales the water and sewerage industry is fully privatised. Customers pay for water based either on how much they use or on the value of their home. The

most vulnerable customers are protected by the system of economic regulation that was set up in 1989. Special tariffs are in place for them. The prices that the water and sewerage companies can charge all domestic customers are strictly controlled by the economic regulator Ofwat, and the regulation system rewards companies for being as efficient as possible, delivering more for less. There is a voice for customers through consumer bodies such as WaterVoice. The protection of the water environment is monitored closely by the Environment Agency and there are penalties in place for those who breach the standards set. A similar type of system operates in Scotland even though ownership of the service remains in the public sector.

The need to charge a reasonable price for water and sewerage services is not just a UK idea. Full cost recovery is enshrined in the Water Framework Directive, a far reaching piece of European legislation which was adopted in 2000 and will be implemented over the next 12 years. The Directive also has as its central tenet the need for river basin management to deliver sustainable futures. This is an approach that has just as much relevance in the developing world as the developed.

Eureau, the association representing water operators throughout Europe, is currently working with the European Commission on a set of proposals to deliver partnerships and assistance to African countries to help create the type of sustainable solutions that we all want to see.

(continued on page xi)

THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM

As Water UK we are also supporting the water and sanitation initiatives set up by the UK Government following the Johannesburg summit.

As president of Eureau I have many hopes for the World Water Forum in Kyoto. Foremost is that NGOs and political commentators start to recognise that the private sector and public bodies are all on the same side when it comes to our desire to achieve sustainable solutions to water and sanitation services. I hope that we will come to a consensus that the business-like approaches of today can deliver the sustainable solutions of tomorrow.

Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK

***Pamela Taylor** is the Chief Executive of Water UK and President of Eureau, the European Union of Water and Wastewater Operators. For more information log on to www.water.org.uk.*

(This article was written before the 3rd World Water Forum took place. This however represents the views the Water UK took to the WWF)

Water Poverty Index

The *Water Poverty Index* has been developed by a team of 31 researchers, including from the UK's Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and experts from the World Water Council, in consultation with more than 100 water professionals around the world at the end of 2002.

It finds that some of the world's richest nations such as the United States and Japan fare poorly in water ranking, while some developing countries, such as Guyana, Suriname and Turkmenistan score in the top ten. 147 countries are thus graded according to five different measures – **resources, access, capacity, use** and **environmental impact**. The top 10 water-rich nations in the world are, in descending order: Finland, Canada, Iceland, Norway, Guyana, Suriname, Austria, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland. The 10 countries that score the lowest are all in the developing world - Haiti, Niger, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Malawi, Djibouti, Chad, Benin, Rwanda, and Burundi.

The new index demonstrates the strong connection between 'water poverty' and 'income poverty.' This link will be a prime subject of the upcoming *3rd World Water Forum*, to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in late March. It also demonstrates that it is not the amount of water resources available that determine poverty levels in a country, but the effectiveness of how you use those resources, according to researchers involved in the project.

Capacity: a country's level of ability to purchase, manage and lobby for improved water, education and health.

Resources: a per capita volume of surface and ground-water resources that can be drawn upon by communities and countries.

Access: a country's ability to access water for drinking, industry and agricultural use.

Use: how efficiently a country uses water for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes.

Environment: a measure of ecological sustainability, issues included are water quality, environmental strategies and regulation, and numbers of endangered species.

The **United Kingdom**, placed at no. 11 on the *WPI*, scored highly on four categories, including number 3 in environmental use of water. It did not fare well in the resource category, because some regions of the UK are dry enough to be classed as a semi-arid area. Since the UK's climate is cooler than the tropics, the impact of its relatively scarce water resources is not too severe, and what resources are available are relatively well managed through the use of large storage capacity and long distance water transfers.

Web link: www.worldwatercouncil.org.

International Year of Fresh Water—2003

"No single measure would do more to reduce disease and save lives in the developing world than bringing safe water and adequate sanitation to all."

(Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General)

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the year 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater. The UN Millennium Declaration itself had previously set among the targets for the new millennium "to halve, by the year 2015 (...) the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water".



By way of the resolution initiated by the Government of Tajikistan and supported by 148 other countries, the General Assembly encourages governments, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection. It also calls upon governments, national and international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to make voluntary contributions and to lend other forms of support to the Year.

The International Year of Freshwater will thus provide an opportunity to accelerate the implementation of the principles of integrated water resources management. The Year will be used as a platform for promoting existing activities and spearheading new ones in water resources at the international, regional and national levels. The International Year of Freshwater is expected to follow up on agreements reached at WSSD in Johannesburg and should have an impact far beyond the year 2003.

One of the major focuses of the Year will be the publication of the World Water Development Report, a UN effort towards monitoring progress made in water development and cross cutting issues in fields such as health, food, ecosystems, cities, industry, energy, risk management, water valuation, resource sharing, knowledge base construction and governance. The newsletter to be accessed through the official website contains updates and information about events happening around the world. There is a comprehensive database to be used by opinion leaders everywhere so as to raise awareness with respect to water issues around the world.

HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, of Saudi Arabia has been appointed as the Organization's Special Envoy for Water. The Prince's nomination comes in recognition of his contribution to sustainable development in his native country, regionally and on the international level.

For more information about the International Year of Fresh Water, how to get involved and follow-up, please visit the official website at www.wateryear2003.org.

Announcement.....

Stakeholder Forum in collaboration with the World Health Organisation invites you to participate in an online discussion on the WHO's proposed Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. The discussion will run from 31 March for four weeks on the dedicated website:
www.DietPhysicalActivityForum.org

WHO seeks civil society input into the Strategy, and wants to spread awareness of this important initiative, which launches in 2004. This is your chance to influence this process, and we encourage you to join the discussion.

Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality

“Access to safe water is a fundamental need and therefore a basic human right”.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General.

Over 5 million deaths occur each year due to water related diseases and contaminated water infects around 2.3 billion individuals with diseases. It is imperative that tackling the drinking water quality goes a long way in preventing many of the water borne diseases and the deaths thereof. These figures however include many regions and Nations where the problem is as much as availability of water as it is the quality of water.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), while acknowledging that the quality of drinking water is a universal health concern, raises the issue that water can and does indeed transmit disease in countries in all continents – from the poorest to the wealthiest. Cases of intoxication due to the poor quality of drinking water have been encountered in Bangladesh most recently, but also in Canada and the US in the recent past. Thus one of the main roles of WHO is to establish international norms, including for drinking water, to protect human health. Since 1958 it has published – at around ten-year intervals – several editions of *International Standards for Drinking-Water* and subsequently *Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality*. The latter contains additional comprehensive chapters on risk-assessment and risk-management, as well as specific case-studies. The *Guideline* are recognised as the UN's official position on drinking-water quality, as well as the 'scientific point of departure' for drinking water directives of the European Commission.

WHO is presently preparing the third edition of its *Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality*, a major updating to the 1993 second edition. The *Guidelines* are addressed to water and health regulators, policy-makers and their advisors, mainly to assist them in the development of national standards. The draft version is currently available at www.who.int/water_sanitation_health

UK readers may be interested in particular in the European branch of WHO: www.euro.who.int

The UK Government has set legal standards for drinking water in the *Water Quality Regulations*, which the Drinking Water Inspectorate is in charge of implementing and monitoring. Most of these come directly from an obligatory European Community Directive but some UK standards are more stringent. The latest EC Directive contains a few more stringent and some new standards, which are due to be implemented by the end of the year 2003. The Inspectorate has agreed the improvements to be made by each water company to meet these standards, available through : www.dwi.gov.uk

Two non-governmental organisations are leading the process to cleaner drinking water in Britain, by disseminating knowledge about water. Water UK (<http://www.water.org.uk>) and the Foundation for Water Research (<http://www.fwr.org>)

Simona Bejinaru, Research and Editorial Intern

Acknowledgement:

'The waterfall in Vermont' © Lynn M.Stone, pic on the cover page of supplement:, courtesy Nature Picture Library. Connections would like to thank Simona Bejinaru, Research and Editorial Intern, for her help with the Water and Sustainable Development' Supplement

USEFUL WATER RELATED WEBSITES

International

*UNEP, Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
www.unep.or.jp

*UNEP Global Environment Monitoring System, Freshwater Quality Programme GEMS/ WATER
www.cciw.ca/gems/

*UNICEF Water, Environment and Sanitation WES
www.unicef.org/programme/wes/

*WHO
www.who.int/health_topics/water

*UNESCO
www.unesco.org/water

*UN University
www.inweh.unu.edu

*UN Atlas of the Oceans
www.oceansatlas.org

*World Meteorological Organisation
www.wmo.ch

* World Bank
<http://www.worldbank.org> (search for: WRM Water Resources Management, WBI World Bank Institute, WMN Water Media Network)

*World Water Day 2003
www.waterday2003.org

*World Water Council
www.worldwatercouncil.org

*Youth World Water Forum
www.ywwf.net

*Global Water Partnership
www.gwpforum.org

*Wateraid
www.wateraid.org

*The World's Water
www.worldwater.org

*CGIAR Challenge Program on Water and Food
www.waterforfood.org/

*Water and Sanitation program
www.wsp.org

*Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
www.wsscc.org

*Global Environment Outlook 3
<http://geo.unep-wcmc.org/geo3/>

*Water and Sanitation program
www.wsp.org

*2002 Stockholm Statement
www.siw.org/sws2002/Stockholm_Statement.htm

UK

*DEFRA Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
www.defra.gov.uk

*DFID Department for International Development
www.dfid.gov.uk/

*Sustainable Development in Government
www.sustainable-development.gov.uk

*Water UK
www.water.org.uk

*World Development Movement
www.wdm.org.uk