

Technology? Policy? Both?

Hard and Soft Development Solutions in Focus
at 2005 World Water Week

Development has occurred differently throughout the world, and regional climates and conditions vary greatly. Thus, the 2005 World Water Week in Stockholm, August 21–27, will be framed within the context of the two primary ways of meeting future water-related development needs – the “hard” path and the “soft” path.

“Hard” path solutions are traditionally supply-oriented and emphasise centralised infrastructure and decision making: dams and reservoirs, pipelines and treatment plants, water departments and agencies. It delivers water, mostly of potable quality, and takes away wastewater. Particularly for wealthy and water-rich countries, such solutions drove development during the 1900s. The demand-oriented “soft” path may also rely on centralised infrastructure, but complements it with extensive investment in decentralised facilities, efficient use of technologies and human capital. It strives to improve the overall productivity of water use and deliver diverse water serv-

ices matched to the users’ needs at local and community scales.

According to Mr. Anders Berntell, Executive Director of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), which arranges the World Water Week, the two approaches are not mutually exclusive.

“There are complementarities between the two approaches,” he says. “In many cases, a mix of ‘hard’ approaches such as technology and ‘soft’ tools such as participatory management may be needed. Tailoring solutions to situations will be a key focus during the week.”

And what a World Water Week in Stockholm it is shaping up to be. Already, by April 2005, a record number of independently organised seminars and side events had been planned by collaborating partners. The week’s Stockholm Water Sym-

posium, “Drainage Basin Management – Hard and Soft Solutions in Regional Development” has through the abstract process seen its programme grow to one of unprecedented strength and diversity. Workshops will examine issues such as infrastructure, climate variability and water efficiency in the industrial and agricultural sectors.

And, as always, the World Water Week’s technical tours, social events and prize award ceremonies will be first-class. The presentation of the 2005 Stockholm Water Prize may best meld the multifaceted nature of the week, when India’s Centre for Science and Environment and Ms. Sunita Narain accept the 15th jubilee award on August 25 from the hands of HM King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. CSE’s work has shown great respect for science and technology, but always with a social conscience which puts people first.

Experts from business, government, water management, science, inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and United Nations agencies and programmes have made the World Water Week in Stockholm more than a regular stop on the development agenda. It has become a critical juncture in ongoing processes, a forum for innovation and a beacon for keeping water and related development issues high on the international agenda.

Join us in Stockholm, August 21–27, for the 2005 World Water Week.

The Clock is Ticking – Register Today!



Registration for the World Water Week is open now, and significant savings can be incurred by registering before June 20, 2005. In addition, registration is flexible. You can register for the entire week, or choose a one-day registration for seminars, plenary sessions or workshops. To register, or for more information about the Stockholm Water Symposium, seminars, side events and ceremonies taking place from August 21–27, visit www.worldwaterweek.org and download the World Water Week Second Announcement/Call for Registrations!

The Four Pillars of the World Water Week in Stockholm

A Brief Look at the August 21–27, 2005, Activities Which Combine to Make One Unique Event

Symposium

Plenary sessions with noted speakers, panel debates of leading experts, and scientific workshops fuelled by professionals who submitted papers or posters are the core of the annual Stockholm Water Symposium. Since 1991, the meeting has carved its niche as a leading, forward-looking gathering for scientists, politicians, decision makers and different stakeholders.

The theme for the 15th Stockholm Water Symposium is “Drainage Basin Management – Hard and Soft Solutions in Regional Development”. The general focus can be broken down into three categories:

- 1) water resources development, conveyance, allocation and environmental flow,
- 2) water supply and sanitation to cater for household requirements, and
- 3) water management, including pollution abatement, in industrial and food producing sectors.

The workshops will explore different aspects of these categories (see list, page 5). A number of workshops have additional co-convening organisations. In addition to invited speakers for each workshop, the workshop programmes have been supplemented by speakers chosen from an abstract submittal process which ended February 1, 2005. A poster exhibition complements each workshop.

Plenary speakers, and special panels such as a High Level Panel on Water Infrastructure, will also delve into the issues. With the Stockholm Water Symposium serving as its scientific core, the World Water Week is well grounded as a leading research-based, but policy oriented gathering.

Seminars/Side Events

In recent years, the World Water Week has experienced an exponential growth in the number of independently arranged seminars, side events and launches. Whether arranged as stand-alone events, or as part of ongoing processes, these seminars have enabled the week to tackle a wider range of issues and involve more organisations.

In 2005, around 30 seminars and side events had been planned as of press time, on subjects as varied as corruption in the water sector to transboundary water governance (see full list at right).

For example, the EU Water Initiative (EUWI), UN-Water and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) are among those initiatives and organisations organising seminars in Stockholm. The EU Water Initiative was launched in 2002 to catalyse efforts on behalf of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2005, the Stockholm meeting will include a multistakeholder forum to inform, further mobilise EUWI partners, and develop synergies with other international processes.

A seminar by UN-Water will explain how the 24 UN system entities co-operate around water, including in the international policy environment among others.

WSSCC will have a multifaceted programme in Stockholm highlighting its AMIWASH Initiative, which is designed to bring together African ministers in support of reaching the MDGs. Seminars take place on several days during the World Water Week, primarily on Sunday, August 21, and Thursday, August 25 and a special one-day fee allows for flexible participation.

Prizes and Awards

Honouring excellence in the water field has always been an important pillar of the World Water Week in Stockholm. Award-winners provide inspiration and are proof that innovation, whether in technology, social policy or any number of fields, can make a positive impact.

Since 1991, the Stockholm Water Prize, given annually by the Stockholm Water Foundation, has recognised excellence in the field. HM King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden is the Patron of the Prize and hands over the honour. In 2005, Ms. Sunita Narain, on behalf of the Centre for Science and Environment in New Delhi, India, will ascend the marble steps of the Stockholm City Hall on August 25 to receive the honour. 2005 marks the 15th anniversary of the Stockholm Water Prize, and a number of former Prize Laureates are expected to be in Stockholm.

Three other important awards are presented during the week. The international Stockholm Junior Water Prize will be presented to a winning student or team from one of around 30 countries which will participate in Stockholm. Indeed, the countries are already active throughout the spring with their own national competitions to select their international representative. HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is the Patron of the Prize, which encourages interest in water issues among young people.

In June 2005, the winners of the 2005 Stockholm Industry Water Award and the 2005 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award will be announced by SIWI. These winners, too, will be honoured in Stockholm.

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Seminars and Workshops Tackle Many Issues

The World Water Week features many Symposium workshops and independently arranged seminars. Here is a listing of them. Full descriptions can be found in the World Water Week Second Announcement and www.worldwaterweek.org

Social Events, Tours and Exhibitions

Some of the most intense and productive discussions often occur outside the meeting room, and in Stockholm, a number of social activities provide ample opportunities to mix business with pleasure, as do off-site study visits.

The “Meet and Greet” in the Stockholm City Hall has by tradition been the opening social event during the week. Site of both the Stockholm Water Prize Royal Banquet and Award Ceremony, and the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony, the City Hall offers a unique ambience in the heart of Stockholm.

The World Water Week Dinner also offers relaxation outside of the meeting room. In recent years, this event has become a favourite of participants due to the fine food, pleasant environment, live music and good company. A new dinner event, at the Aquaria Water Museum in Stockholm, was added to the social programme during 2004 and proved popular.

Off-site study tours in 2005 will visit a facility showing new sanitation alternatives in the Stockholm area along with the traditional visits to the Henriksdal, a unique and well-respected underground wastewater treatment facility in Stockholm.

Finally, an on-site (Stockholm City Convention Centre/Folkets Hus) exhibition by sponsors of the World Water Week and key collaborating organisations, also offer attendees further opportunities to expand knowledge in the field by seeing innovative technology or progressive activities by leading organisations.

Stockholm Water Symposium Workshops

- Design and Operation of Infrastructure for Multiple Development Objectives
- Coping with Climate Variability, Climate Change and Water Related Hazards
- Water Provision Across Sectors and Jurisdictions
- Tailoring Water and Sanitation Solutions to Reach the Millennium Development Goals
- Strategies to Increase Resource Use Efficiency in Industrial and Agricultural Sectors
- Political and Social Negotiation Processes: Sustainability and the Politics of Water
- Approaches to Mitigate Land Degradation and Gully Erosion
- Water Quality Degradation by Hazardous Substances and the Cost of Non-action

World Water Week Seminars

- AMIWASH – African Ministers to Meet the MDGs
- Finance for Water Solutions: How Capital Markets, Banks, Insurers and Asset Managers Can Work for Water
- 2005 Founders Seminar on Business, Water and Development
- From the Millennium Summit to 2015
- Harnessing Uncertainty: Taking Complexity and Vulnerability Seriously in IWRM
- Hydraulic Infrastructure as a Platform for Economic Growth
- IWRM- Do we Practice that in the North?
- Local Actions for a Global Challenge (4th WWF)
- Marketing Sanitation and Hygiene
- Meet International Water Targets Without Fighting Corruption?
- Modelling the World of Water – Decision Support Tools for Water Resources Management
- Multistakeholder Forum of the EU Water Initiative
- Prediction in Ungauged Basins (PUB): Data, Science and Policy

- Practices in the NGO Sector: The Role of Rotary Clubs
- Water and Energy
- Scenario Building as an Approach for IWRM Planning
- Shared Water Problems in the Middle East: Water for Agriculture
- SIWI Seminar – Benefit Sharing from Integrated Land and Water Use in River Basins
- SIWI Seminar for Young Water Professionals
- The Political Economy of Defecation
- Transboundary Water Governance as a Manifestation of a Trialogue
- UN-Water Seminar

World Water Week Side Events

- A Plan to End Poverty: Meeting the Millennium Development Goals by Investing in Development
- Innovations in Service Delivery to the Poor
- Launch of the Initiative on the Economics of Water: Towards Sustainability
- Political Aspects of the New Swedish Water Management System
- The Children’s Water Way
- Water-Related Risk Management

Remember, you can register for the entire World Water Week or just for those seminar and workshop days you are most interested in. See www.worldwaterweek.org for more details.