

The Water Week Approaches

With only weeks remaining before the 2006 World Water Week in Stockholm, final preparations are being made to a programme which will be the most substantial and diverse during the 16-year history of the event. The Water Week takes place August 20-26, 2006, and registration is currently open.

Through a great many seminars, side events and workshops, the World Water Week will address the most important issues in water and development today, and for tomorrow. The overarching theme of "Beyond the River – Sharing Benefits and Responsibilities" will be examined and dissected in very human terms: how can livelihoods of poor people be improved?; where will their food (and the water for it) come from?; what will they drink, and how will they attain safe sanitation and health?; how can they survive natural disasters? Interwoven in all of the discussions will be the question of how it all can be done sustainably and equitably, for people and the environment.

Officially, the week starts on Sunday, August 20, with a full slate of seminars and side events. Even earlier, however, the 10th Anniversary Global Water Partnership

Celebration will take place from August 18-20. On Monday, August 21, the opening plenary will take place. That plenary, like the closing plenary on August 25, will feature distinguished speakers addressing the week's theme in broad terms. And, in addition to individual insights, an opening day "High-Level Panel on Benefit Sharing in Transboundary Waters", and a closing day "Synthesis Panel", will offer group dynamics and interactive discussion with the World Water Week audience.

Some 1500 participants are expected from 100 countries. They will represent businesses, governments, the water management and science sectors, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, research and training institutions, United Nations agencies and more. For all of them, the plenary events at the Stockholm City Conference Centre will provide the appropriate context for the week's capacity-building, partnership-building and implementation review.

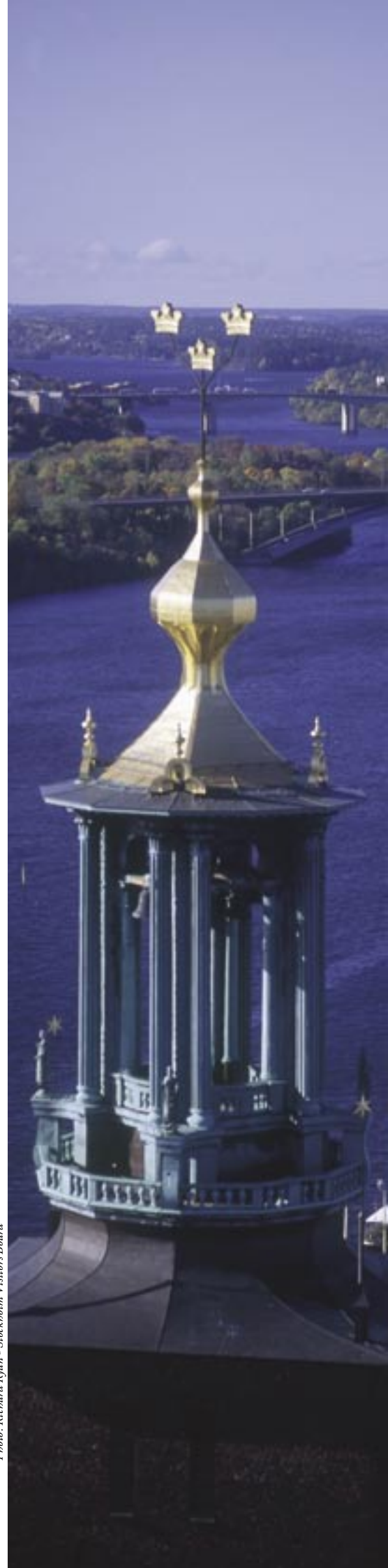
On pages 4-5 several more of the themes and activities taking place in Stockholm are presented, and a complete overview is found on pages 6-7.

To register, or for more information, visit www.worldwaterweek.org.

Plenary Speakers in Stockholm*

- *Mr. Anders Bertell*, Executive Director, SIWI
- *Prof. Asit K. Biswas*, President, Third World Centre for Water Management, Mexico
- *Ms. Tabeth Chiuta*, IUCN ROSA Regional Programme Coordinator, Zimbabwe
- *Mr. Khoo Teng Chye*, Chief Executive, Public Utilities Board, Singapore
- *Mr. Kemal Dervis*, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme
- *HRH The Prince of Orange*
- *The Rt. Honorable Herb Gray*, P.C., C.C., O.C. Chair, International Joint Commission
- *Ms. Carin Jämtin*, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden
- *Dr. Frank Rijsberman*, Director General, International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka
- *Dr. Akissa Babri*, Director Africa, International Water Management Institute, Ghana

*As of June 1, 2006. Additional plenary representatives will be added to the programme. Visit www.worldwaterweek.org for the latest updates.



The Power of Partnership

The Water Week promotes partnerships and alliances between individuals and organisations from different fields of expertise. Many of this year's convening and co-convening organisations are themselves partnership-driven.

One such organisation new to the Water Week this year is Building Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation (BPDWS), an international cross-sector learning network focused on improving access to safe water and effective sanitation in poor communities. Partnerships for sustainable development -- voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiatives aimed at implementing sustainable development -- were an important complementary outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Effective partnerships are clearly warranted for sanitation, yet evidence of them remains fairly scarce.

Another partnership organisation and long time collaborator of the Water Week is the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC). Since 2002, the WSSCC has been promoting and supporting the formation of national WASH coalitions to gather all stakeholders and actors in a collective process for the achievement of the MDGs in water and sanitation. In many cases the government takes the role of leader, promoter and partner by bringing in the civil society, international organisations, private sector and the local govern-



ment. Successful coalitions are now in place in over 21 countries worldwide, such as the Philippines, Ethiopia, Jamaica and Madagascar just to mention a few.

On August 22, the WSSCC and the BPDWS will convene two half-day seminars dedicated to partnerships. The first "Partnerships in Action" convened by WSSCC will present and discuss different kinds of partnerships that have managed to enhance progress in their countries, such as the above mentioned WASH coalitions and a Public Private Partnership for Handwashing. The seminar will invite discussions on success factors, synergies, challenges and pit falls.

In the afternoon, the BPDWS seminar will explore how partnerships can assist on-site sanitation, debating what makes them succeed or fail. BPDWS aims to equip those

interested in partnership approaches and urban sanitation with a set of analytical tools that can improve partnership design. BPDWS recent work has been based in five African cities, all struggling to serve large, poor populations that rely largely on pit latrines and public toilets. The seminar will address the partnership experiences in these cities.

On August 23, Partnership for Capacity Development on Water Supply, Sanitation and Health in the Context of IWRM in Africa will be held. Cap-Net, Streams of Knowledge and International Water and Sanitation Centre will present the first results of the partnership and will facilitate a discussion on strategies and priorities for effective capacity development on water supply and sanitation. Also, Partners for Water and Sanitation will be actively involved at this year's World Water Week.

Workshops: Action on the Ground

Dr. Jacqueline Ann Goldin from The Africa Project (TAP), in association with AWIRU, South Africa, is in good company. When she presents "African Models of Transboundary Governance Project" on August 22 during the Tools for Benefit Sharing in Transboundary Settings workshop, she'll be one of nearly 150 selected paper and poster presenters at the 2006 World Water Week in Stockholm.

Dr. Goldin, like her presenter-colleagues, was selected by the World Water Week's Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) from among the nearly 800 abstracts submitted from around the world.

"Providing 'on-the-ground experiences' is a critical component of the World Water Week workshops," says SIWI Professor Jan Lundqvist, chair of the SPC.

All of the abstracts have now been added to the World Water Week website. Visit www.worldwaterweek.org to get a preview of the presentations in Stockholm.

Making Donor Aid More Effective

Two key aims of the Water Week – to promote partnerships and alliances, and to review the implementation of actions, commitments and decisions – will come together in two special side events entitled Donor Country Approaches to Water-Related Development Co-operation.

Development aid both solves and creates problems. Multi- and bilateral donors are looking to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of development assistance. To be effective, aid needs to reach its intended target, but the capacity must exist in recipient countries to be able to develop, implement and monitor their budgets in order to make the aid accomplish its goals.

The Stockholm International Water Institute in co-operation with a number of do-

nor countries will host two such side events on August 21 and 22. Donor countries will present their approaches on specific aspects of development co-operation in the water sector. Recipient countries will also provide their perspectives on current and future challenges and opportunities of development co-operation.

Another event, New Aid Modalities in the Water Sector, will be arranged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Danida, in cooperation with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) of the United Kingdom. Harmonisation, alignment and mainstreaming in new aid approaches in the water sector will be discussed, as will lessons from policy and practice.

A UNique Look at Water Scarcity

The themes for the United Nation's 'Water for Life' Decade are: scarcity, access to sanitation and health, water and gender, capacity-building, financing, valuation, Integrated Water Resources Management, transboundary water issues, environment and biodiversity, disaster prevention, food and agriculture, pollution and energy.

In Stockholm, at the UN-Water seminar, the issue of water scarcity will be tackled on August 23. Water scarcity is the point where the aggregate impact of all users impinges on the supply or quality of water under prevailing institutional arrangements to the extent that the demand by all sectors, including the environment, cannot be fully satisfied. But scarcity can take many forms: as a social construct, a product of affluence, expectations and customary behaviour, or a change in supply pattern due to climate change.

Since 2003, UN-Water has been the new official United Nations mechanism for follow-up of the water-related decisions reached at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. The seminar is the second UN-Water gathering in Stockholm, with the first in 2005.



Photo: Azzam Alwashi, Iraq Foundation

The Euphrates, the longest interstate river in western Asia, has seen 6000 years of development.

Confluence in the Middle East

In recent years, the World Water Week in Stockholm has had as a standing focus an examination of different water issues in the Middle East, usually in the Jordan River basin. In 2006, the focus shifts east of that river basin, to the Euphrates-Tigris region.

Cooperation Prospects in the Euphrates-Tigris Region on Wednesday, August 23, will look at how "social, economic and political cooperation can benefit all in the region," says Dr. Anders Jägerskog of SIWI. "This seminar will help enhance dialogue and mutual understanding, dis-

cuss common issues and possible cooperative solutions, and identify programs and activities of common interest around the Euphrates and the Tigris."

The importance of the rivers cannot be overstated. Each river has several small tributaries which feed into shallow freshwater lakes, swamps and marshes, all surrounded by desert. The rivers are important to the ecology of the entire upper Persian Gulf region, as well as the economy and the livelihoods of those in its basin.



W. Mitsch



S.E. Jørgensen



S. Narain



P. Wilderer



J. Imberger



K. Asmal



B. Frost



M. Henze

Water Luminaries to Gather for First Laureate Seminar

A rare and unusual happening will take place at the Water Week when, for the first time, a special seminar will gather a number of the previous Stockholm Water Prize Laureates.

The Stockholm Water Prize Laureates Seminar: Challenges and Opportunities within the Water Sector on Thursday, August 24, will feature no less than 8 previous recipients of the distinguished award who will share their experiences during this special seminar.

Participating Laureates are Professor Kader Asmal, M.P., Parliament of the Republic of South Africa; Ms. Barbara Frost, Chief Executive, WaterAid; Professor Mogens Henze, Technical University of Denmark; Professor Jörg Imberger, University of Western Australia; Professor William J. Mitsch, The Ohio State University; Professor Sven Erik Jørgensen, Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Ms. Sunita Narain, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi, India; and Professor Peter A.

Wilderer, Technical University of Munich, Germany.

"Each of the Laureates, in his or her own way, is a luminary who is both knowledgeable and inspiring," says Ms. Gunnel Sundbom, Director of the Stockholm Water Prize. "An exciting programme has been developed which focuses on the technical, social and economic challenges faced in water and development. The Laureates have many experiences and perspectives to share at the seminar."