

International Training Programmes Build Capacity

Capacity-building work continues with recent programmes on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Integrated Transboundary Water Resource Management (ITWRM).

The second Advanced International Training Programme (ITP) on Integrated Water Resources Management started in August 2006 and gathered 30 participants from 22 different countries. The ITPs are implemented by SIWI and Ramboll Natura for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). This session included:

- IWRM presentations and case studies, including role playing, efficient group working and managing organisational change;
- Participation in World Water Week for four days;
- Visit to Emån River Basin in South Sweden to observe IWRM case studies with successful stakeholder involvement; and
- Thematic group work and development of individual projects.

One of the key features of the programme is that participants develop an individual project in order to link the benefit of the training programme directly to their jobs and their organisations. In this way, each participant receives a tangible result from the training programme which can be applied directly in their daily work.

After the three weeks in Sweden, participants are now back in their home countries for about ten weeks and are further developing their individual projects. In late November the group meet again in South Africa, where participants will get the regional perspective on IWRM, and will look at the Olifants River Basin, in particular. The International Water Management Institute's (IWMI) regional office for Southern Africa is organising the regional venue of the training programme.

The Advanced International Training Programme on Integrated Transboundary Water Resource Management took place March 6 – 17, 2006, in South Africa and May 29 – June 2, 2006, in Sweden.

The main purpose was to contribute to strengthening capacity for improved water management in transboundary water resource settings. This was done in the programme by focusing on three levels: (i) through selection of participating individuals whose work has been sanctioned by the chief decision maker of the organisation; (ii) by having participants form an in-house committee/support group within their organisation and to report back to them during and after completion of training. In this way, the institutional capacity is strengthened; and (iii) by presenting examples of institutional arrangements, negotiation approaches and the like.

During the programme the work of the



Photo: Ramboll/Natura

Thematic group work and development of individual projects.

Helsinki Commission, or HELCOM, was presented as one such example. HELCOM works to find solutions to the problems of the Baltic Sea and specifically works to get all riparian countries to agree and contribute in the decision making and action programme.

“The experience is that it is very relevant to use practical examples from one part of the world to find approaches that can be used in quite another type of setting,” said Prof. Jan Lundqvist of SIWI, one of the lecturers in the programme.

An important objective of the programmes in general is that they start a process and help to facilitate networks and social contacts between professionals facing similar issues. In practice, a cadre of alumni with competence in transboundary water resource management is being created.

Call for Applications: Transboundary Water Resource Management

A new International Training Programme on Transboundary Water Resource Management is now accepting applications until November 17, 2006.

The course will take place in South Africa, March 19-30, 2007, and in Sweden, June 11-15, 2007.

The training programme is aimed at decision makers, planners, specialists and managers involved in transboundary processes from relevant ministries and government departments, international water commissions, research organisations, NGOs and consultancy firms.

The general programme objective is to contribute to an improved ability of the participants to identify the advantages that are associated with realistic and operational transboundary agreements.

For more information, visit www.siw.org.



Photo: Ramboll/Natura

A visit to Emån River Basin in South Sweden allowed participants to observe an IWRM case study that utilised successful stakeholder involvement.