

Looking Back, Striding Forward



At SIWI, 2007 has been an exceptional year that has seen the expansion and steady improvement of our capacity building, programmatic, publishing and advocacy activities.

In many respects, 2007 was a period of growth and excitement for SIWI. The year began with a reformulation of the organisation's long-term strategy to further establish the policy institute as a relevant and forward-looking actor in the water and development field.

Several key programmes and initiatives were further developed to this end, while several new projects were launched. The Institute's collaboration with partners also developed, and at the institutional and individual level, SIWI participated in a wide range of international meetings, conferences and missions. A number of new reports and policy briefs were published or co-published by SIWI, and SIWI staff contributed to many other publications in the form of articles and background papers. Facilitating and catalysing this growth, was the expansion of SIWI's professional competence with the addition of several new staff members.

"SIWI has experienced a remarkably active, productive and inspiring year in 2007," says Mr. Anders Bernzell, Executive Director. "Each year, we try to improve on all facets of our work, and strive to extend our role in addressing water challenges. Together with our partners around the world, we look forward to tackling the challenges in water, development and especially in health and hygiene issues during the upcoming International Year of Sanitation."

Governance in Focus

As emphasised in many major reports from both inside and outside the United Nations system, good governance and capable

institutions are the foundation for sustainable human development and smart water management.

In its third year of operation, the UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI (WGF) has expanded its role as a trusted source of governance guidance for countries across the world. The facility is a demand driven programme that responds to the growing request from developing countries for policy and institutional support to address water governance issues linked to livelihood and sustainable development challenges. WGF project activities in Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Yemen and Kenya continue to provide on-the-ground support for improved water governance. In the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and in collaboration with WaterNet, CapNet and the Water Integrity Network (WIN), WGF is analysing, identifying and mapping ongoing national and regional anti-corruption actors and activities to establish partnerships with new institutions and improve accountability and integrity in the region. The facility's activities continue to grow in the middle and far east, with new projects in China, Iraq and Jordan initiated in 2007. In Iraq, WGF cooperated with other international bodies to organise a three-day May conference in Amman entitled "Iraq Waters: the Road to 2050." The facility's work strengthens local authorities and civil society organisations' capacity in integrated water resources management.

Capacity Building

In its second year, the capacity building unit within SIWI built upon its mission to provide systematic on-the-ground international training programmes. Together with Ramboll Natura and on behalf of the Swedish international development agency

Sida, SIWI arranged six programmes on integrated water resources management and transboundary water resources management. Programmes were conducted in Sweden, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Laos, Jordan and the riparian countries of the Zambezi River and are a critical component of SIWI's efforts to make knowledge and experience more accessible and applicable to the working professional.

Strong Initiatives

Existing and new initiatives were a vital part of SIWI's activities in 2007. The Swedish Water House, an initiative of the Swedish government designed to support Swedish input into international processes, arranged many seminars on topics ranging from the role of environmental flows in reducing poverty to improved urban sanitation planning. As an initiative comprised of over 60 Network Partners, seminars from the Swedish Water House provide not only a forum for important discussion but also both capacity building and networking opportunities.

In February, the Swedish Water House welcomed Ms. Karin Lexén, formerly international policy director for the Church of Sweden, as its new project director. The initiative also introduced new issue oriented cluster groups on "Water and Rights" and "Water and Climate." Among the reports produced by the cluster groups were: *Making Anti-corruption Approaches Work for the Poor: Issues for Consideration in the Development of Pro-Poor Anti-corruption Strategies in Water Services and Irrigation; Planning for Drinking Water and Sanitation in Peri-Urban Areas; and Agriculture, Water and Ecosystems.*

The Swedish Water House's close collaboration with the Environmental Flows Network, an initiative which it helped launch last year, continued through its participation



at the Environmental Flows Conference held in Australia with partnership from the 10th International River Symposium. The Swedish Water House produced the educational brochure *A Good Rain is Going to Fall*, which was used in classrooms to explain in simple terms how to utilise rainwater resources. Further increasing the Swedish Water House's public outreach and education efforts was the touring photo exhibition entitled "Project Hard Rain. Our Headlong Collision with Nature," which was first installed at the Stockholm Ethnographic Museum.

In November, the Swedish Water House supported the publication of a Swedish language version of the 2007 Human Development Report summary in Swedish, and undertook plans for a seminar in February 2008.

Doing Our Part

At a multitude of global and local fora, SIWI - as an entity or through staff expertise - participated as a seminar organiser, keynote presenter, attendee or exhibitor. At World Water Day on March 22, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Swedish UNESCO Committee, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Environmental Protection Agency (UNEP) and the UN Association of Sweden, SIWI convened a seminar on the day's theme of water scarcity. This was followed up in June with the publication of the SIWI policy brief *On the Verge of a New Water Scarcity*, which offered structured policy suggestions to decision makers facing increasing risks from rising water scarcity.

Also in March, with financial support from Sida, SIWI published the report *Transboundary Water Management as a Regional Public Good: Financing Development – An*

Example from the Nile Basin, which provided means to enhance financial sustainability in cooperative river-basin management and development projects in Africa. In May, SIWI joined the UN Secretary General Advisory Board (UNSGAB) on Water and Sanitation's kick-off meeting to plan for the 2008 International Year of Sanitation.

Together with colleagues from Stockholm Environment Institute and Chalmers University of Technology, SIWI was asked by the Swedish Environmental Advisory Council to analyse the likely increase in the demand for food and bio-energy and the associated mounting pressure on water resources through 2050. The results of the study illustrate that the pressure on water and also land resources will intensify. In addition, the huge losses in the food chain must be reduced. Similarly, improved efficiency in the energy sector is warranted.

This past year, SIWI joined the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) as a co-sponsor of the second edition of the WASH Media Award. The competition, held between July 2007 and April 2008, is open to journalists in developing countries who publish or broadcast original investigative reports on issues relating to water supply, sanitation or hygiene in their countries.

Other important meetings with SIWI participation include those arranged by the International Water Association (IWA), the Water Environment Federation, the Baltic Turntable, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Latino San and many more.

World Water Week

And, of course, during its own World Water Work in Stockholm in August, SIWI arranged a gathering of some 2,500 par-

ticipants from more than 100 countries. The week featured over 140 collaborating organisations as well as a numerous seminars, workshops, side events, prize ceremonies, launches and announcements and continues to increase in both size and importance. Mass media interest in the World Water Week reached new levels in 2007, with televised coverage from CNN International, BBC, Reuters, and CNBC amongst others, as well as multiple print articles placed in the International Herald Tribune and hundreds more local media sources around the world.

Ongoing Activities

Though much of 2007 included the integration of new projects, programmes, and initiatives into the SIWI portfolio, many ongoing projects continued to be developed. The 17th Stockholm Water Prize was presented to Prof. Perry L. McCarty of Stanford University. The International Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition culminated during the 2007 World Water Week with the presentation of the award to the three finalists from Mexico. The Stockholm Industry Water Award presented to the Public Utility Board (PUB) of Singapore, and the Baltic Sea Water Award to the Kaliningrad based NGO EcoDefense.

The Institute's communications, marketing, and advocacy activities continue to be developed and improved as well. In 2008, a new user friendly SIWI homepage will be launched as part of the Institute's continued transformation to better and more diverse digital information delivery systems.

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Photos from left: EC-ECHO-François Goemans, SIWI, Katarina Andrzejewska, SIWI and Elin Weyler