

## 8<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLEE GENERALE MONDIALE DU RESEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN

It is great pleasure for me to be here at the 8<sup>th</sup> assembly general of the International Network of Basin Organizations with other colleagues from the Global Water Partnership. As many of you know, INBO and GWP are close working partners.

The Global Water Partnership's mission is to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels. In that context our Regional Water Partnerships have interacted and partnered with INBO members over the years. In addition Mr. Jean Francois Donzier is a long-standing and very active member of our Steering Committee.

In 2009, INBO and the Global Water Partnership jointly published, with the support of the French Government, a Handbook for Integrated Water Resources Management in Basins. As the foreword of the Handbook states, "The pressure on water resources highlights the hydrological, social, economic and ecological interdependencies in river, lake and aquifer basins. These interdependencies demand more integrated approaches to developing and managing water and land resources. There is a dynamic relationship between basin managers and central governments, where they have to work together to ensure the viability of their decisions in meeting sustainable development goals".

The focus of the Handbook is on effective implementation of the integrated water resources management (IWRM) approach in lake, river and aquifer basins. It is available in several languages. We believe it will be a valuable tool for basin managers and government officials and that it will provide them with the necessary guidance, in setting up or strengthening basin organizations and in adopting sustainable water resources management approaches. We believe that the many practical examples in the Handbook will provide useful lessons for tackling water-related development challenges.

Your annual General Assembly provides an opportunity for members from around the world to debate and discuss the important issues you have on the agenda. I am particularly looking forward to hearing about progress in the work of OMVS since my last interactions with them in the late 1990s when I was working on water issues in West and Central Africa.

Our organizations are about partnerships, facilitating action and learning, and, we complement each other. We, look forward to continuing and strengthening our collaboration at both the regional and global levels.

*Dr Letitia A Obeng*  
*Global Water Partnership Chair*