

PARTNERSHIPS FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION: INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Sunday, August 16 • 14:00 – 17:30 • Room T6

In 2008, GWP Chair Dr. Letitia A. Obeng participated in the launch of Transparency International's *Global Corruption Report 2008: A Call to Action*, which focused on water. This seminar looks at existing and potential partnerships to help build capacity in water integrity, and discusses the Water Integrity Network's (WIN) strategic framework for action.



In its 2009–2013 global strategy, the GWP is committed to assisting "government agencies to develop legal and regulatory frameworks, to become accountable and to allocate resources." This strengthening of governance helps prevent corruption. Water integrity requires tough—and enforceable—policies. It won't happen without political will and developing strong institutions.

COUNTRY ASSISTANCE FOR ROBUST FLOOD MANAGEMENT POLICIES: THE HELPDESK FOR INTEGRATED FLOOD MANAGEMENT

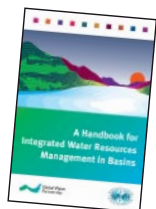
Tuesday, August 18 • 17:45 – 18:45 • Room K12



How can flood managers provide adequate protection from ever more frequent and severe flood events, while managing the economic, environmental and social trade-offs involved? The newly-established HelpDesk for Integrated Flood Management (IFM HelpDesk) is a demand-driven mechanism supporting countries in managing floods in an integrated way. The IFM HelpDesk provides guidance on flood management policy, strategy and institutional development based on tools developed through the Associated Programme on Flood Management, a joint initiative of the World Meteorological Organisation and GWP.

Integrated approaches to flood management promote resilience, minimise loss of life, and maximise the efficient use of flood-prone land in support of livelihood security. Loss of life from flooding is at an unacceptable level despite the availability of approaches to reduce flood risks. Economic losses are also high. Increased climate variability poses additional risks by affecting the magnitude and frequency of severe weather events. The shift from a 'flood control approach' to Integrated Flood Management has to be fostered in a sustained and sustainable manner. Flood management provisions in national IWRM plans must be given a more prominent place.

▶ GWP is also a convener of **Responsibilities of River Basin District Authorities and Financing**, a side event presenting case studies from the GWP/INBO *Handbook on Integrated Water Resources Management in Basins* on Wednesday, August 19 from 17:45 to 18:45 in Room T6.



GWP's vision is for a water secure world. Our mission is to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels.

Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) share a common interest in advocating smart water policies and sustainable solutions for managing the world's water resources. As a strategic partner, GWP participates in SIWI's Advisory Committee, the Scientific Programme Committee and the Junior Water Prize jury. SIWI contributed to GWP's Policy Brief on *Triggering Change in Water Policies* (2008). GWP and SIWI share office space and facilities in Stockholm.

Please visit our booth (EH02:20) to collect free material on managing the world's water resources and to find out more about becoming a GWP Partner.

Strategic Contributions to the Global Water Dialogue

GWP at Stockholm World Water Week 2009



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Putting Water at the Top of the Development Agenda

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) network is the convenor or co-convenor of several World Water Week 2009 sessions and side events. The network's participation has a broad geographical and thematic spread and is linked to the implementation of GWP's strategy.

GWP's strategic contribution to the global dialogue on water builds on three core strengths: its global technical leadership in the area of water resources management, its convening power as a neutral, multi-stakeholder platform at all levels, and its far-reaching international network of more than 2,000 Partners in 149 countries.

WORKSHOP 4: THE ROLE OF INTER-BASIN TRANSFERS IN ACCESSING WATER

Thursday, August 20 • 9:00 – 16:00 • Room K16/17

Water scarcity is a serious problem for large parts of the human population, and forces us to redistribute resources from areas of plenty to areas of stress. Growing populations increase water demand. Increased hydrological variability as a result of climate change exacerbates the problem.

The strain on land, water and

food resources means that pressure for large scale inter-basin transfers will intensify. Inter-basin transfers are often large and expensive, involving major infrastructure and in some cases significant use of energy for pumping. Transfers affect existing river flows and water quality and are almost certainly to impact aquatic ecosystems. Is there such a thing as sustainable inter-basin transfers?



Better resource allocation and more efficient water conservation technology and other alternatives—including improving water-use efficiency, recycling of waste water and optimising the use of local water supplies—should be considered prior to taking any decisions on inter-basin transfers. Decisions must take into account potential impacts on water quality, ecology and resource sustainability as well as the risk of exacerbating conflict. Taking water from one basin to another affects water rights at the local level and at the international level if the basin of origin is a transboundary river. An integrated approach to basin management and multi-national basin management agreements and institutions are needed for the sustainable management of these water resources.

RELATED PARTICIPATION:

➡ GWP Chair Dr. Letitia A. Obeng is moderator for the High Level Panel on Transboundary Waters on Monday, August 17, 15:30 – 17:30 in Victoria Hall.

➡ GWP Technical Committee member Prof. Patricia Wouters is a moderator for Workshop 1: Benefit Sharing and Transboundary Waters on Tuesday, August 18, 9:00 – 17:30 in Room K2.

➡ GWP Senior Advisor Prof. Torkil Jønh Clausen is a panelist at 16:00 at a seminar on Sharing an Invisible Water Resource for the Common Good, Thursday, August 20, in Room T3.

WATER AND CLIMATE: IWRM AS A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Wednesday, August 19 • 14:00 – 17:30 • Room K2

This seminar looks to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen later this year and considers how water resource management issues should be addressed there. Because many climate change impacts are transmitted through water, this session focuses on how integrated water resources management (IWRM) approaches can help communities adapt and build resilience. It will consider how adaptation measures are linked with water management, and identify key issues, actions and capacity building needs.

While energy is the focus for climate change mitigation, water should become a central focus for adaptation. While mitigation must seek to minimise the extent of climate change, adaptation efforts are vital to reduce its detrimental impact on lives and livelihoods. An important and often neglected aspect is the water-energy link that relates the energy needed for water use and the role water plays in energy production. Adaptation strategies must strengthen water resources management. They are a cost-effective way of delivering both immediate development benefits while building communities' resilience to longer term climate change. We must ensure that financial resources are available for both "hard" (infrastructure) and "soft" (institutional and management) interventions. GWP facilitates multi-stakeholders processes for leaders who can make this happen at various levels.

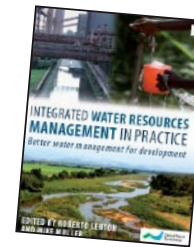


A NEW VISION FOR IWRM? LESSONS FROM PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Monday, August 17 • 17:45 – 18:45 • Room T6

There is wide agreement that an integrated cross-sectoral approach to water resources management is essential to sustainable development, but there is far less consensus about what that means in practice. Some critics have even suggested that although IWRM is a great ideal, it is too complex to be effectively implemented. GWP's review of successful water resource management interventions (see book, right) suggests that we need to get back to the basics. What is the confusion around IWRM? Do we need a new vision?

IWRM is an approach for countries and communities to achieve the goal of balancing social equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability in their use of water. It is not a prescription that can be applied by following a fixed checklist. But it does offer tools to address particular challenges in particular circumstances. These tools include the "software" of governance and the "hardware" of water management infrastructure. Countries and communities must develop approaches relevant to their development goals and governance systems. Where these "back to basics" principles have been followed, development progress has been achieved.



BEYOND AFRICAN DECLARATIONS AND COMMITMENTS: PERSPECTIVES FOR THE FUTURE AND WHAT IS REQUIRED

Tuesday, August 18 • 17:45 – 18:45 • Room T4



The African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the Sharm el-Sheikh Declaration on Water and Sanitation in June 2008. Progress has been made at the national level on developing IWRM plans, but implementation is uneven. Now the African Ministers' Council on Water, the African Union, and the African Development Bank are working with partners to deliver on African

Declarations. This session will focus on identifying the constraints to action, and agreeing concrete measures to address them.

The challenges are many, ranging from financing to institutional capacity constraints to inadequate infrastructure, all compounded by climate change and the global financial crisis. Nevertheless, political commitment and partnership—in word and deed—is the prerequisite to success. Nothing less than committing to a set of actions that will result in a significant improvement in managing Africa's water resources is required. This must now be supported by action on the ground.

EYE ON ASIA

Tuesday, August 18 • 9:00 – 17:30 • Room K21

Several hundred million people in the Asia-Pacific region have no—or inadequate—drinking water or sanitation, exacerbated by poor management, polluted rivers, floods and droughts. But the region is responding with new initiatives. This 'Asia Day' highlights lessons from the region's experience:

- Accessing Urban Water Supplies and Improving Sanitation
- Facing Up to Climate Change Impacts and Costs
- Advances in River Basin Management
- Panel Dialogue: Political Leadership is Essential for Water Security



Rapid population growth in the region is leading to ever increasing demands for water – for food, energy, industry and economic growth and for human consumption. The effects of climate change will exacerbate shortages. An integrated approach to water resources management provides the necessary framework for water security. The river basin is the critical unit for resolving problems associated with the management of fresh water and river ecosystems, and for addressing the negative impacts of climate change and population growth. Enlightened political leadership and cooperative regional processes must be supported by real action to achieve progress.