
SDC WATER NEWS - ISSUE N°17, July 2012

YOUR NEWSLETTER - LINKING YOU 4 TIMES A YEAR WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES AND THE SECTOR

This is the electronic news bulletin of SDC's Water Initiatives Division sent out to Swiss international cooperation people we believe are involved or interested in water related aspects. This medium lives through interaction and active involvement: you are invited to send – at any time – your contributions, feedbacks, as well as subscription issues to [Manuel Thurnhofer](mailto:Manuel.Thurnhofer@sdw.ch). The news team is grateful for any input received.

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BREAKING NEWS

High visibility of Water in Rio+20

- The water agenda was discussed broadly but also controversially, giving too often too many spaces to a small number of countries which traditionally oppose the human right to water and sanitation, trans-boundary issues etc. The final text of the declaration represents a compromise between different views, but does not go as far as SDC and like minded partners had hoped. However, the recognition of the contribution of “*water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development*” and of the “*importance of integrating water in sustainable development*” makes that Water is a good candidate for a Sustainable Development Goal and that it is no longer viewed as a purely environmental issue.
- The commitment regarding the human right to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation was reaffirmed. It shall be progressively realized with full respect for national sovereignty. The concept of national sovereignty caused controversial discussions but turned finally out to be not negotiable. This was equally the case in the negotiations for trans-boundary co-operation and river basin or lake basin management and might be an additional burden in the future.
- The Rio+20 declaration is the first UN agreement that calls strongly on the emergence of pollution control and wastewater management: “*We stress the need to adopt measures to significantly reduce water pollution and increase water quality, significantly improve wastewater treatment*”. This can be considered significant progress. However, with this exception, the chapter on water lacks in comparison with previous agreements of UN Member States a decision for action and a sense of urgency or acceleration. At the same time trans-boundary issues have been avoided/neglected which is incompatible with a sustainable and efficient integrated water management vision.
- The principle to adopt global Sustainable Development Goals before 2015 (with progress assessed by targets and indicators) is one of the major outcomes of the Conference.
- Furthermore, Rio cannot be appreciated from its official part only. SDC has been active in the steering committee of the Payment for Watershed Services project, which is supported by SDC in partnership with Forest Trend. It was impressive to see the willingness of various major countries (Brazil, China, Mexico, Peru, etc.) to engage with this mechanism that permits as per today the flow of almost US\$ 20 billion per year from downstream beneficiaries to upstream caretakers. These positive developments contrasts with the weakness of how these issues have been discussed in plenary.

For further information please refer to the final declaration or contact [Manuel Thurnhofer](mailto:Manuel.Thurnhofer@sdw.ch)

The Swiss Water Partnership is on track!

The Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) was officially created on February 27th 2012: statutes were formally adopted and a steering board of 11 persons elected, representing all categories of stakeholders (for more information please refer to previous newsletters). In May 2012, SWP's secretariat, hosted by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (in association with Skat), organized bilateral meeting with the members in order to capture their expectations regarding the development of this new platform. On June 5th, the steering board members gathered for their first Steering Board meeting. The Chair & co-Chair of the board were elected, respectively Olga Darasz (CSD engineering, Swiss society of hydrogeology) and Thomas Zeller (former SDC staff and newly retired). A map of expectations resulting of the bilateral meetings was presented and discussed, as well as the strategic orientations of the SWP. On June 26th, more than 40 members convened for a member meeting. First part of the meeting was dedicated to the strategic orientations of the SWP: shared values, principles and functioning, vision and objectives. Some space was given in plenary for interactions and reflection and a strong consensus emerged at the end. Second part of the meeting focused

on the objectives and activities to be developed by the platform: after a first round in plenary, 4 working groups were organized to provide concrete outputs, milestones and responsibilities for the prioritised activities. The secretariat will compile all outputs and draft the working plan for 2012-2013, which will be revised by the steering board. Implementation will start without a break. *For further information, please contact SWP secretariat: swp@helvetas.org.*

CURRENT TOPICS

“WASHTech”- Technology Assessment Framework

A wide range of conventional and innovative water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) technologies are available to the sector agencies and communities. Cheap and affordable solutions for achieving sustainable WASH services are within reach, yet few have been implemented successfully. The sector is hesitant to take up new innovative technologies while conventional ones fail to deliver a sustainable service under many conditions. In the EU funded action research project “WASHTech”, Skat is developing a robust Technology Assessment Framework (TAF) which helps to assess if a specific WASH technology is sustainable and applicable - or not - in a specific context. The TAF framework is designed as a tool for decision taking and does not only focus on technology assessment, but also reflects risks and supportive factors for the technology introduction process. The target users of the TAF are national and local governments, development partners, NGOs, Research & Development institutions, private sector enterprises and academia. The TAF process follows a transparent stepwise process in 4 steps and uses a specific set of questionnaires. Data from the field are collected, verified and the results are generated through a workshop-based process that involves all relevant stakeholders. Through the design of the TAF methodology vested interests and perceptions can be made transparent and a dialogue between sector specialists from different backgrounds and levels is triggered. The results offer specific entry points to define mitigation measures in order to improve the technology or the introduction process. Currently the TAF methodology is being tested on different WASH technologies in Uganda, Ghana and Burkina Faso. *For more information please contact: andre.olschewski@skat.ch.*

Goals, Targets and indicators for global monitoring after 2015

A process of reflection has started to review options for the future sustainable development framework that will replace the existing MDGs. In the area of water and sanitation, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation is the formal instrument to measure MDG 7 target C: to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation. The 2010-2015 strategy of the WHO/UNICEF JMP includes the program's role to serve as the platform for the development of proposals for post-2015 goals, targets and indicators. In response, the JMP has initiated a coordinated consultative process, which started with a Consultation of stakeholders in Berlin (May 2011). The Berlin Consultation developed a roadmap and for its implementation four working groups (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene as well as Equity and Non-discrimination) were established and launched in January 2012. These working groups are responsible for assembling and evaluating target and indicator proposals for future global monitoring, which will be presented and discussed in a second global stakeholder Consultation in December 2012 (3rd to 5th of December 2012 in The Hague). SDC has been involved in this process since the beginning and contributes directly (through Water Initiatives participation) and indirectly (through partner organizations) to the working groups outcomes.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Working Groups - These groups are responsible for proposing water, sanitation and hygiene targets and indicators for global monitoring after 2015. They are made up of a core membership of experts (see webpage below), who meet in regular teleconferences as well as less frequent face-to-face meetings. A wider resource group of experts is drawn on as needed. To date the water working group has worked on a long list of indicators, the preparation of background documents (still in draft), and has undertaken an E-Survey in order to learn more from sector specialists. Equity and Non-Discrimination Working Group (END Working Group) has a cross-cutting nature and is tasked with giving advice on how proposed goals, targets, and indicators (GTIs) can be designed to capture information about inequalities and discrimination. The END working group is thus nourishing all the other working groups in order to ensure that they all integrate a non-discrimination and equity dimension in the drafting of targets and indicators for the sector. The working group is chaired by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque, and made up of experts from the water and sanitation sector, statisticians, and human rights specialists. The END WG's final report with specific recommendations will be available in summer 2012. *Information on the 4 Working Groups is available at <http://www.wssinfo.org/post-2015-monitoring/working-groups/> and for further information, please contact Manuel Thurnhofer (manuel.thurnhofer@deza.admin.ch) or Catarina de Albuquerque (catarina@gddc.pt).*

INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

The National Council confirmed the increase of the Swiss ODA

During the summer session of the parliament, the National Council approved unambiguously the Message on Switzerland's International Cooperation for the period 2013–16, transmitted by the Federal Council (127 versus 49 votes). It confirmed thus the decision taken last year to increase the Swiss Official Development Assistance to 0.5 of the Gross National Product. With a budget of 11,35 billion CHF, the principal objective of development cooperation remains poverty reduction, however in the future, Switzerland plans to work more closely in fragile contexts and to contribute to overcoming global challenges which seriously worsen the prospects of poor countries. For SDC's proposed credit, water is one of the 9 themes retained to achieve its goal, especially in order to guarantee access to resources and essential services to all. Last step for a complete approbation of the message 2013-16 is the validation by the second Swiss Chamber, the Council of States. For further information, see the press release at: [SDC news](#) and the related dossier at: [SDC dossier](#).

HEADQUARTER FLAGSHIP ACTIVITIES

SDC Water Team Days 2012: Face-to-face event of the RésEAU

This year's Water Team Days were held on June 25/26 downtown Bern and were attended by 35 sector practitioners from SDC, and implementing agencies and partners. Day 1 was dedicated to thematic issues, where beside the discussion in open space format of different topics submitted by the participants (e.g. blue schools, scaling-up sanitation, tariff setting & regulation, decentralised wastewater management, WatSan in fragile states, opportunities for action re. human rights to W&S), the audience got an update on SDC's Global Program Water as well as on the most recent developments regarding the implementation of the human rights to water and sanitation within SDC and the water sector in general. Day 2 of the event addressed the development of the RésEAU as such and the related work plan for 2012/2013 and was topped off by an excursion to the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant of Bern. *The minutes of the event will become available by August at http://www.sdc-water.ch/en/Home/About_us/Water_Team_Days.*

AGUASAN Workshop 2012: "Financial sustainability of WASH services - about mindset change and an eye for the future"

44 WatSan practitioners and wider development specialists from both humanitarian aid and development cooperation gathered in Gwatt, Switzerland from 18 to 22 June, 2012 within the framework of the 28th AGUASAN Workshop. This year's event was dedicated to the key question of achieving long-term financial sustainability of rural and small town WASH services. Presentations from resource persons, discussions in the plenary, topic cases, crash course, clinics and an excursion supported the exchange and learning process as well as the development of new ideas. At the end of the workshop, different outputs can be highlighted: a learning added value for the participants (training and practical exercise on the Life Cycle Cost Approach), peer assistance for the case and clinics presenters and the outlines of a framework for a successful approach to financial sustainability. Within this framework, 65 key elements were underlined: appropriate sector governance, comprehensive cost analysis, financially viable and socially equitable services, a solution suitable to the context, organisational capacity of relevant actors, ownership and commitments. *For further information, please see <http://www.aguasan.ch> or <mailto:roger.schmid@skat.ch>.*

The "Swiss Bluetec Bridge" is under construction

The Swiss Bluetec Bridge aims at accelerating sustainable access to quality drinking water for the people, and in particular for the poor, in rural areas and small towns of developing and emerging countries by putting at their service the high technology and the innovation in the field of water. The objective of the initiative is to allow innovating Swiss Start-ups and SMEs, which have developed a prototype of technological innovation in the water domain and a related business model aiming at the bottom of the social pyramid in the targeted contexts, to acquire the expertise and the relevance necessary to be able rolling out the technology with private financial support. It endeavors to put into effect an efficient and sustained mechanism which, in partnership with a network of qualified experts and institutions as regards technologies and finances:

- Defines, applies and adapts in a transparent way the conditions under which a Start-up/SME is eligible for a financial support;
- Establishes, applies and accordingly improves a purposeful methodology allowing to mobilize and evaluate applications and to select among them those with the best potential of success;
- Provides technical support to the selected Start-ups/SMEs for the adaptation of their technology and/or their related business plan to the requirements of the target customers;
- Co-finances, follows up and evaluates on the ground the pilot applications of the promising businesses plans in order to validate them and thus allow the rollout with private financings.

The credit proposal for the Swiss Bluetec Bridge has been approved recently and the tender for selecting and contracting the operational unit of the initiative has just been published (see [here](#) or [simap](#)). *For further information, please contact christian.eggs@deza.admin.ch.*

SSWM Toolbox (www.sswm.info): Results of the User Assessment and Monitoring

The Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management Toolbox user assessment and monitoring report measures the online use of the SSWM Toolbox quantitatively and qualitatively and provides information on how and by whom the Toolbox is mainly used and how the current version is rated regarding various aspects. The report supports the further improvement and future development of the Toolbox and related activities. It also serves as an impact measurement and monitoring instrument for the main supporting partners. Three instruments were used to gather all necessary information: **website analytics** (using the data collected with “Google Analytics”); **online user survey** (14 questions, more than 300 qualified batches of answers); **direct feedback** from partners (personal contact), online tool users (emailing) and training participants (personal contact).

Key findings	identified opportunities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely good ratings for the overall performance; • Target groups are reached; • The largest regional user groups are East, South-East and South Asia (32%), followed by East, Middle and Southern Africa (22%); • High usage of the sections “Concept” and “Background” (51%) showing that the holistic, integrated approach of SSWM meets a demand and attracts users; • Number of visitors is constantly increasing (in the month of Feb. 2012: 14% increase); • High bounce rate and one-time visitors; • Low percentage of female users; • User navigation estimated as difficult by some user 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation projects will help to improve the understanding of the impact in the field; • There is a demand for specific trainings in Sub-Saharan Africa addressing utilities, the private sector and community-based organization; • Newly identified user groups can be reached with new Specific Topic Entry Pages (STEPS); • The use of the introductory tutorial „Understand your System“ is higher than expected and could be adapted to specific user groups; • A better visibility of the section “Related Contents”, in-text links to other factsheets, layout, etc. could contribute to a decrease of the bounce rate; • Visibility of the video user manual has to be increased.

For more information please download an extended abstract providing an overview of the report’s main outcomes: <http://www.sswm.info/library/5376>

IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

SDC’s project “Water & Sanitation in small towns and schools”, Nicaragua/Honduras

The Water and Sanitation Sectors in Honduras and Nicaragua are domains with many stakeholders and unclear responsibilities, a situation which may have led them off track in reaching the MDG 7. Small cities and schools have received too little attention and suffered from incoherent approaches of different actors. In order to contribute to narrow these gaps, SDC has launched its project “Water & Sanitation in small towns and schools”. 90’000 people will gain access to water and sanitation: half of them are pupils of primary schools and half inhabitants of small towns with a long history of poverty and non-access to basic services; 18 million US\$ are being invested in infrastructures and capacity building. After a preparatory phase where the portfolio was defined and the implementation structures set up, now the project has entered its operational phase. In May 2012 were selected 5 towns and 343 schools in Nicaragua and 4 towns in Honduras (selection of the schools is still ongoing). Receptiveness of the Ministries of Education in both countries has been a key point allowing progress. Regarding the school, the concept of “blue school” will be developed in collaboration with the national and local stakeholders ([Blue School concept](#)). For further information, please refer to [SDC website in Central America](#) (in Spanish) or contact directly carmen.pong@aguasan.org.

SDC to support the Government of Moldova for the development of secondary water legislation

The Republic of Moldova has developed a new Water Law aiming to harmonise national legislation with the respective EU legislation. 23 Regulations related to this Water Law need now to be revised or newly developed. The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova assigned highest priority to this challenging task and has requested to SDC for support. SDC, jointly with two other technical assistance projects funded by the European Union and the United States respectively, has now decided to provide such a support. SDC has mandated Skat Consulting Ltd. to deploy an expert team for implementing SDC’s support on developing Regulations on Environmental Quality Requirements; on Groundwater Quality; and on Prevention of Pollution from Agricultural Activities. The project has started at 14.06.2012 with the launching workshop in Chisinau. Draft regulations are expected to be submitted to the Government for the public consultation and approval process by September 2012. For further information contact Andrei.Cantemir@sdc.net

Remediation and Upgrading of Water Supply Networks in Palestine Refugees Camps in Lebanon

The Lebanese Agency of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA-Lebanon) has addressed a request of WES technical expertise support to SDC in the aim to evaluate the services of eleven of the twelve camps still existing in Lebanon since 1948. At the beginning of 2010 this support has been facilitated and has permitted to identify actions to reach missing quantity and quality of the water supply system in seven camps. In October 2011, SDC granted UNRWA with 2.6 Mio USD to permit the implementation of the necessary works to improve the water supply of these seven camps located in different regions of the country. Four of the seven interventions are mainly mechanical and electrical remediation and three consist in water desalination through reverse osmosis. The desalination will be solving the water supply of the three camps sited inside Beirut City. RO Water Treatment Plants (RO –WTP) of different capacities (120m³/day – 750m³/day & 1250m³/day) will be installed inside the camps. The RO – WTP's will be supplied by existing raw water production facilities already existing inside of the camps and will be reinforced by the drilling of additional shallow boreholes which will permit this separate daily production of a total 2000m³ of potable water. The water treatment solution will respond to the inability of a potential water supply from the Lebanese Government during the coming twenty years. The installation of the RO – WTP's will take about ten months. Two years of O&M and transfer of technology with training have been planned to empower the camps inhabitants to become their own water operator under the UNRWA supervision. The entire project will be improving the access to potable water for 80 000 persons from which 40 000 persons will benefit from the RO – WTP's. The SDC WES Assessment in place since 2010 is currently reinforced by a Project Manager and a Project Assistant. Further information will be disseminated during the project implementation. *For further information please contact: Georges Burri at g.burri11@unrwa.org.*

Feedback from the countries previous to the WSP Global council meeting, Helsinki June 12-14

In preparation for the WSP Global Council Meeting 2012 in Helsinki (June 12th - 14th, 2012), targeted RésEAU members engaged over the period May 16th to June 5th, 2012 into an e-discussion on the WSP-SDC collaboration, conducted over two moderated discussion rounds. The aim of the exchange was to provide the SDC-WI representative in this meeting with a recent and comprehensive feedback from SDC operational/field staff and partners on the main drivers and challenges of the current WSP-SDC cooperation as well as on improved cooperation mechanisms and relevant thematic orientations for the future. The document provides the questions raised, the respondents, the analytical summary, the related resources made available and the full individual contributions posted for each of the discussion rounds: [SDC-WSP Cooperation: E-Discussion 16.05-05.06.2012 - Consolidated Reply](#)

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

SDC/Skat, 2012. Minutes of the 1st Easter European RésEAU meeting

The minutes of the SDC/Skat Easter European RésEAU Meeting held on 19/ 20 of March, 2012 in Pristina, Kosovo are now online. You can download the document [here](#).

OHCHR - Catarina de Albuquerque, 2012. “On the right track / Droit au but”.

In March 2012, the UN special Rapporteur for Human Right to Water and Sanitation presented a detailed book of good practices in realising the rights to water and sanitation, On the Right Track, which discusses the practices in great detail, and debates some of the more difficult issues. This book is currently available in [English](#) and [French](#), and will shortly also be available in Spanish.

RWSN, 2012.

- ✓ Sustainable groundwater development is absolutely fundamental for universal access to safe drinking water. And yet this is poorly understood. Groundwater is a finite resource that in some countries is under serious threat from pollution causing permanent aquifer damage while in others over-abstraction is resulting in reduced water availability. This new perspective outlines a vision for sustainable groundwater development for rural water supplies. *Further reading at <http://www.rural-water-supply.net/en/sustainable-groundwater-management>*
- ✓ Products from the WB-RWSN webinars: <http://water.worldbank.org/node/84117>

Global Water Partnership, 2012. “Water in the Green Economy”

In the Perspectives Paper “Water in the Green Economy”, prepared for Rio+20, GWP argues that water is not just part of the economy; it is embedded within the economy. Without it the economy could not function. Thus water will be central to the innovative thinking and effective solutions required to establish the green economy. In this paper, GWP sets out the case for an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach to water security and its potential to lead the process of ‘greening’ the world’s economies. *For further information, please download the document [here](#).*

UN Water, 2012. “4th World Water Development Report”

The fourth edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR4), 'Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk' was launched at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille. The WWDR4 is a comprehensive review of the world's freshwater resources and seeks to demonstrate, among other messages, that water underpins all aspects of development, and that a coordinated approach to managing and allocating water is critical. The Report underlines that in order to meet multiple goals water needs to be an intrinsic element in decision-making across the whole development spectrum. *Download the 4th edition of the WWDR4 [here](#).*

WHO / UN Water, 2012. "GLASS Report"

The objective of the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) is to monitor the inputs required to extend and sustain water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems and services. This second UN-Water GLAAS report presents data received from 74 developing countries, covering all the Millennium Development Goal regions, and from 24 external support agencies, representing approximately 90% of official development assistance for sanitation and drinking-water. *Download the document at http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/glaas_report_2012/en/index.html.*

WSSCC, 2012. "Progress Report on the Global Sanitation Fund (GSF)"

This program has impacted some 102,970 people so far. Details of programmes being implemented in Cambodia, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda, together with People's Voices telling their stories are just some of features of this publication. *For further information download the publication: [2012 Progress Report on WSSCC's Global Sanitation Fund \(GSF\)](#).*

WSP, 2012. "Africa - Economic Impacts of Sanitation"

Traditionally, sanitation has not received the priority it deserves. It has not been widely recognized how good sanitation policies and practices can underpin socio-economic development and environmental protection. This study provides an estimation of economic impacts on populations without access to improved sanitation in order to provide information on the losses to society of the current sanitation situation. While not all these economic impacts can be immediately recovered from improved sanitation practices, it provides a perspective on the short- and longer-term economic gains that are available to countries through a range of policies to mitigate these impacts. *For further information on a specific African country, please refer to <http://www.wsp.org/wsp/content/africa-economic-impacts-sanitation>.*

IBRD/WB, 2012. "Energy efficiency for water supply and sanitation"

Electricity expenditure often accounts for 20 to 50 percent of total operating costs in water and wastewater utilities (WWUs) in low-income countries, contributing to unsustainable operating costs. Such high energy costs affect the financial health of WWUs and the affordability of services, and put strains on public/municipal budgets. Because of increasing electricity prices and limits on water tariff adjustments, improving energy efficiency (EE) is important to sustaining and improving services to the growing urban population in developing countries, where WWUs are in great need of funds to finance expansion.

- ✓ *[A Primer on Energy Efficiency for Municipal Water and Wastewater Utilities](#) prepared by the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP). The primer surveyed recent global trends in energy management at WWUs, reviewed the World Bank urban water and sanitation lending portfolio over the last 10 years, and advocates for greater efforts to mainstream EE in WWUs.*
- ✓ *Conference on March 19th 2012 at the WB including the case study "Energy Audits of Water Supply Utilities - Findings from 6 towns in Moldova". Recorded Adobe Connect at <http://worldbankva.adobeconnect.com/pzhen0or0j/>*

The Rockefeller Foundation, 2012. "A guide to multiple-use water services"

The Rockefeller Foundation is exploring opportunities to expand a multiple use service approach to water delivery. A new approach to water service delivery has emerged in recent years, which holds great potential to help create better health outcomes and generate income based on improved water service delivery. The multiple use services concept (MUS) focuses on the premise that poor people's livelihoods and well-being require water for a variety of purposes, such as drinking, washing and cooking, livestock rearing, watering home gardens or for other small-scale productive uses. While traditional systems tend to focus on improving health or agricultural productivity through single-use domestic or productive services (e.g. irrigation), the multiple-use-services approach applies a wider livelihood perspective to water services. This exploration focuses on understanding the barriers that limit the scaling of MUS, their comparative importance, and possible approaches to overcoming challenges and supporting opportunities for scaling. *For further information, download the guide [here](#).*

World Bank, 2012. Rural Water Supply in the Philippines – Volume I "Design Manual"

The manual is the first of three volumes from the Small Water Providers Work for the Poor project funded by the Water Partnership Program that provides key concepts and guidance in the design of small waterworks facilities in the Philippines. It's a ready resource for owners, operators, technical staff, consultants, government planners and contractors. It also aims to provide assistance to non-technical readers involved in the management and operation of small water supply systems. Its overarching goal is to help these groups

to better understand the nature of the water supply business, its responsibilities to stakeholders, and the role of government agencies and regulatory bodies toward sustainable operations. It also intends to facilitate participation in the planning and decision-making of more effective water systems in rural areas and small towns in the Philippines. *The manual is available at <http://water.worldbank.org/node/84129>.*

CALENDAR

17 Aug. 2012, Bern, Switzerland: SDC/SECO Annual Conference 2012

Based on concrete examples, the Annual Conference organized by the SDC and SECO seeks to provide an insight both into the efforts of Switzerland in its pursuit of effectiveness, and into the instruments and mechanisms that it deploys to cope with today's global challenges and those still to come. The food and water crises, the consequences of climate change, financial and economic instability, and the conflicts that plague fragile States are indeed exercising a significant influence on the operations conducted by actors in development cooperation. *For further information, including program and registration, please refer to <http://www.deza.admin.ch/en/Home/Effectiveness>.*

22-25 Aug. 2012, Tampere, Finland: 4th International Dry Toilet Conference

Providing people with safe and sustainable sanitation has proven to be a challenge on both global and local scales. The issue of sanitation touches us all, no matter where we are, and thus the main theme of the Dry Toilet 2012 is **Drivers for ecological dry toilets in urban and rural areas**. It's about hearing of new ideas and success stories, but also the limitations of ecological sanitation, how to tackle difficulties and bring sustainable sanitation into everyone's reach. *For further information see <http://www.drytoilet.org/dt2012>.*

26-31 Aug. 2012, Stockholm, Sweden: World Water Week

The theme for World Water Week 2012 is **Water and Food Security**, which will allow for further exploration of the intricate relationship between water and food highlighting the challenges and opportunities for feeding our thirsty world. WWW in Stockholm, with an expected 2000-3000 participants meeting for an entire week, will bring professionals and decision-makers from a wide range of relevant sectors and stakeholder groups together to address the critical role of water for the world to achieve food security for all, with special focus on the "bottom billion" hungry. *For further information, please refer to <http://www.worldwaterweek.org> (especially the [announcement](#) and the [registration information](#))*

16-21 Sept. 2012, Busan, Korea: IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition

A high-profile international event that attracts 5,000 water professionals, companies and institutions from across the globe. The [seven key themes](#) of the congress are:

- Science and application of water treatment and management
- Water, climate, food and energy
- Cities of the future
- Managing utilities and their assets
- Securing new and traditional water resources for the future
- Water, ecosystems and catchments
- Water and health – microbiological and chemical

Don't miss this chance to stand with other leading members of the world's water community

Further information is available at <http://www.iwa2012busan.org>.

20-23 Nov. 2012, Nagpur, India: IWA Conference on Decentralized Wastewater Management in Asia

Population densities in Asian cities are much higher than other parts of the world, and the predominance of poverty in urban slums is ubiquitous throughout the region. Against this backdrop, the lack of wastewater management continues to be a huge challenge. Conventional centralised approaches to wastewater management have largely failed to address the wastewater disposal needs of poor communities due to high capital investment, poor operation and maintenance or low connection rates. The decentralised approach – referred to as DEWATS - has been demonstrated to be a cost-effective and efficient way of wastewater treatment to improve environmental health conditions as well as providing opportunities for re-use and resource recovery. This conference will examine the decentralised approaches, from a technical and engineering perspective, but also taking into consideration the social, institutional and financial aspects that determine the success of these systems. *For further information, please refer to <http://www.iwadewats-nagpur.com>.*

29 Oct. - 2 Nov. 2012, Chapel Hill, USA: Water and Health Conference - Science, Policy & Innovation

Jointly organized by the Institute for the Environment and the Water Institute at UNC, the conference brings together academic research with policy, practice and networking events and will consider drinking water supply, sanitation, hygiene and water resources in both the developing and developed worlds with a strong public health emphasis. Main themes are: "Monitoring and Evaluation for Sustainability", "Ecosystem Protection and Drinking Water Safety", "WaSH and Child Health", "Beyond 2015: Realizing Universal Access

and Human Rights”, “Water, Energy and Climate”, “Making Sanitation Benefits Achievable and Sustainable for All” and “Household-centered WaSH”. For further information, see <http://whconference.unc.edu>.

9-11 April 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: IRC Symposium 2013 - monitoring sustainable WASH service delivery

As water and sanitation coverage expands, the need to know the status of systems and services becomes even more critical. Governments are increasingly realising the importance of good monitoring information at multiple levels to ensure services are sustainable and investments are not wasted. The number of initiatives to strengthen WASH service monitoring is growing, new tools are being developed, and international indicators are being refined. The 2013 IRC Symposium will provide a global platform for sharing these initiatives and experiences. Please mark your calendars for 9 to 11 April 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A first official announcement with more details will be circulated in early July. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact IRC with your suggestions or questions at symposium@irc.nl.

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