

SDC WATER NEWS - ISSUE N°16, March 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 thomas.zeller@deza.admin.ch. The news team is grateful for any input received.

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BREAKING NEWS

Main achievements from the 6th Water Forum in Marseille

The world largest water event took place from March 12th to 17th: around 20'000 people gathered to Marseille, coming from 180 countries. It is a unique platform bringing together governments, civil society, private sector and research. SDC as others federal offices (within IDANE Wasser), a lot of SDC partners and the Swiss Water Partnership were present and have largely contributed to the debates on key issues.

Regarding the ministerial process, for the first time the ministerial declaration (download [here](#)) highlights the right to water and sanitation and point up themes where Switzerland is at the forefront of research and action, such as the significance of ecosystems in water management, the decentralized cooperation (Solidarit'eau Suisse as an innovative financing mechanism), transboundary water cooperation and importance water for peace. However Switzerland regrets that within a green economy vision, some approaches have not been mentioned: payments for watershed services and water footprint. SDC's WI will launch a taskforce with key global stakeholders to promote these issues and include them in the Rio+20 outputs.

The Swiss Water Partnership had its stand in the exhibition hall during the whole event, with SDC coordinating the activities (40 presentations were shown). An estimated 250 person minimum per day visited the stand (visit length ranging from 10 to 40mn). SDC's Director and Peru's Vice-President ratified there the agreement between SDC's WI, the government of Peru and Forest Trend to commit to develop payments for watershed services. Many products raised interest, including the report of Switzerland water footprint and the video "Women's Voices across the water" (see knowledge product).

Regarding the thematic process, SDC together with Aquafed, Eau Vive, and WSP coordinated the core group 1.1 on "Guarantee access to water for all and the human right to water". The five takeaway messages from this group are listed below; the core group has committed to carry on the work on this issue.

	Targets	Takeaway messages
Target 1	national policies delivering on the major components of the right to water in practice	There is a need to translate the Right to Water into national policies considering all its dimensions with indicators and deadlines.
Target 2 & 3	Rural and urban water supply	All stakeholders need to commit to predictable and long term partnerships in order to move towards universal and sustainable access, both in rural and urban areas.
Target 4	Financial mechanisms that suit the needs of local authorities and local operators	Giving financial responsibility to local stakeholders creates an opportunity for i) additional resources, and ii) improved governance; this has to go in hand with clear roles, capacity strengthening & regulation and monitoring.
Target 5	Simple, inclusive and reliable reporting mechanisms for water supply	Monitoring performance needs to be fully linked to accountability and action.
Target 6	Key global indicators on all major components of the right to water	We need new global measurable targets that: i) take into account all aspects of the Right to Water, ii) foster progressive and effective implementation

The Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) coordinated the target and solutions group 1.1.2 on “Sustainable Access to Safe Water for the Global Rural Population” for the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille (part of the core group 1.1). The RWSN analyzed about 90 solutions for rural water supply that were submitted to the WWF, and invited 30 of them to share their solutions in a two hour session at the event itself. Commitments with respect to rural water supply were wide ranging and included: i) further documentation of the Basic Sanitation Model (SABA) in Peru will be undertaken so that other rural water supply implementing organisations and development partners can learn from it, and consider adapting it to their needs, ii) the Government of Ethiopia is committed to establish Self Supply as a service delivery mechanism for rural water within the national WASH programme. A series of video extracts that relate to RWSN's involvement are available on: [RWSN on youtube](#). The final report by RWSN will be published in mid April.

Within the core group « innovative financing for water for all », Solidarit'eau Suisse was mentioned as one of the decentralized cooperation model, to be up-scaled at European and Global levels. The core group “Good governance” highlighted the work of the Water Integrity Network (WIN); worth to mention that SDC is a member of WIN and signed WIN's code of conduct.

Beyond Marseille: more than a hundred commitments were taken, and within the 25 commitments chosen to be publicly mentioned during the closing, 3 resulted from Switzerland's work and 2 directly involving it. The World Water Council committed to convey the WWF's conclusions to 4 global events, including Rio+20, which has chosen water as one of its 9 main thematic.

February 27th: Swiss Water Partnership foundation meeting

The SWP intends to bring together relevant stakeholders in the water sector, with the aim to ensure that the Swiss members and their partners abroad contribute in a coordinated and effective way to the promotion of a sustainable and equitable use and management of water resources and to the provision of universal access to drinking water and sanitation to citizens, particularly by working together in preparing and delivering for major international processes and events. Following the kick-off event in September 2011, which saw the launching of the SWP and a 2nd meeting in November where a charter was adopted (see newsletter n°14 and 15), this 3rd meeting was the formal foundation meeting. SDC's Director Mr Dahinden launched the event, reminding that the SWP intends to pool development policy and economic interests and to work to alleviate global water problems. The members approved formally the statutes and the steering board was elected. All stakeholders are represented within this executive board: public and private sectors, research/universities, NGOs. The secretariat of the Swiss Water Partnership was awarded to HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (in association with Skat); it will be based in Zürich, with however a contact centre in Lausanne for the French-speaking members. The member list as well as the members of the steering board, Mr Dahinden's speech and the press release can be found on: <http://www.swisswaterpartnership.ch/en/Home/Meetings>

IWMI won the Stockholm Water prize 2012

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has been named the Stockholm Water Prize Laureate for 2012. Awarded by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), this prestigious prize honors individuals, institutions or organizations whose work contributes broadly to the conservation and protection of water resources and to the improved health of the planet's inhabitants and ecosystems. In Uzbekistan, IWMI has worked actively since 2001 with many partners in the water sector, with SDC being a significant one, to address such pressing issues as the sharing of transboundary water resources, deterioration of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, disintegration of state farms and distribution of water to fragmented lands, and loss of professional capacity in irrigated agriculture. Some key achievements in the region have included: formation and strengthening of water resources institutions, improvement in equity and efficiency of water distribution at all levels, and water productivity improvement at field level. [SIWI website](#)

CURRENT TOPICS

Looking for an emerging business? Reusing waste generated by sanitation

The agricultural value of reusing both liquid and solid waste generated by sanitation is well recognized and it is a common reality; however success stories of waste managers and farmers in low-income countries remain of very small scale. In addition, unsafe use of wastewater and excreta poses significant public health and environmental risks, such as exposure to microbial or chemical contaminants. SDC's WI has just launched an innovative project addressing this issue. The intervention strategy is based on a two-track approach to reach the twin objectives of promoting resource recovery as a viable business model and at the same time reducing or eliminating health risks associated with the use of the recovered resources in agriculture and aquaculture. Regarding business models, the implementing partner is the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), with subcontracts to EAWAG/SANDEC and CEWAS for essential parts of the assignment. Regarding the Sanitation Safety Plan, the partner will be the World Health Organization (WHO) with subcontracts to the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (STPHI) and to external consultants. The

project will start by identifying existing or emerging reuse cases in Asia, Africa and Latin America to learn about their performance and analyze in depth the most promising and/or scalable cases. Jointly a Sanitation Safety Plan manual will be developed to facilitate the implementation of the WHO guidelines for safe waste reuse in low-income countries. Baseline surveys will guide the selection of at least 4 cities for testing the sanitation safety plan and business models. Based on the feasibility studies in these cities, both the business model catalogue and the initial SSP manual/framework will be updated.

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Water Benefit Certificates: a promising mechanism in order to raise additional funds for water projects in areas affected by water scarcity and water pollution.

Together with climate change, water is becoming the most pressing environmental and social issue of the 21st century. Against this background more and more companies are implementing comprehensive corporate water management strategies by primarily 1) reviewing their corporate water use and 2) reducing water consumption and water pollution as much as possible. Beyond that, many companies have started to engage in CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities by investing in water supply, purification and water conservation projects. Also consumers are asking for sustainably-manufactured products. Against this background, the firm First Climate has developed the concept of Water Benefit Certificates (WBCs), which allows corporations to implement the third step of their strategy. In order to develop this WBC market, a Public Private Partnership needs to be set up: SDC committed to support this PPP along with several corporations and First Climate as manager of this PPP. For further information, please see the project factsheet: [pdf](#)

INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Message on Switzerland's International Cooperation 2013-2016

On 15 February 2012, the Federal Council transmitted to Parliament the Message on Switzerland's International Cooperation in the period 2013 – 16. For the first time, the Message describes in one document the tasks of humanitarian aid, development cooperation, economic and trade policy measures within the framework of development cooperation, and cooperation with the countries of Eastern Europe. While the principal objective of development cooperation remains poverty reduction, 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 achieved its goal, especially in order to guarantee access to resources and essential services to all.

First report on the achievements of the 0.5 fund

February 28th 2011, the Swiss Parliament approved an increase of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.5% of the Gross National Product by the year 2015, crediting the water sector for additional CHF 197 million. Three main results are expected: 1) the sustainable management of water resource, at national and transboundary levels, is improved in big watersheds, including tools are designed to strengthen the global water governance, 2) access to water and sanitation is improved in rural areas and small towns, 3) efficiency of family agriculture is improved. The monitoring of this fund implied a first report by the end of March 2012. This report focuses on the main financial achievements (commitments of funds, outgoings) and its thematic and geographical repartition. Next report should detail the achievements towards the expected results. By end of year 2011, 180 million CHF were engaged within 60 projects (80% of the additional fund), and 72.2 million CHF were disbursed (89% of planned disbursement). In accordance with the message, additional funds target as a priority Africa (40%), followed by East and South Asia (25%); the remaining part is split between global projects (20%), Latin America, North Africa and Middle East. Within the message, up to 50-70% of the funds were aimed at improving access to water and sanitation in rural areas and small towns: by end of 2011, 74% of the financial resources were allocated to this result while 18% were assigned to family irrigation and the balance to watershed management. For further information on the 0.5 Fund, please refer to the shareweb: [0.5 Credit Water](#)

HEADQUARTER FLAGSHIP ACTIVITIES

“Financial sustainability of WASH services- *about mindset change and an eye for the future*” AGUASAN Workshop 2012

The 28th AGUASAN workshop will take place in Gwatt, Switzerland from 18 to 22 June 2012. This year's event is dedicated to identifying concrete answers to the key question of achieving long-term financial sustainability of rural and small town WASH services. Indeed in recent years, significant efforts have been directed towards scaling-up the spatial coverage of WASH services, but it remains crucial to ensure that these services are sustained in the long-term, which requires sound strategic financial planning to ensure that existing and prospective financial resources are commensurate with investment needs as well as the costs of operating and maintaining services.

The specific objectives of this workshop are the following:

- Learning about established and innovative financial concepts (for planning, capital investments and sustainable operations);
- Sharing individual experiences related to financing and financial sustainability;
- Developing practical recommendations and strategies towards a strengthened financial sustainability;
- Locating knowledge gaps, raising issues and relevant trends within the thematic.

Next to the participants' knowledge, the workshop will feature key inputs from thematic specialist and well-selected case studies from different contexts. The announcement outlines this year's concept more in depth and can be downloaded on SDC's shareweb ([RésEAU](#)) or at www.aguasan.ch.

For further information, please <mailto:roger.schmid@skat.ch>.

cewas - Start your own Business in the Water Sector!

cewas is the international Training Centre for Start-Ups in the water sector in Willisau (Switzerland). SDC has been supporting the development of cewas since its launching in 2010 as it is a unique institution aiming at supporting the creation of start-ups and mixing Swiss and foreign entrepreneurs from poor or emerging countries. The second cewas Start-Up program is directed at graduates who want to start their own business in the emerging water sector. Within the one-year training program beginning in April 2012, young entrepreneurs-to-be are supported in the foundation of their business with advanced training modules, business coaching and consulting by international experts and an extensive international network. For more information please read the [flyer](#) or visit www.cewas.org or contact diah.uhlmann@cewas.org

Swiss Water and Sanitation NGO Consortium, new mechanism launched within the 0.5 fund

The monitoring of the MDGs shows clearly that many countries will not be able to reach these goals in 2015 at current rate of progress. The consortium of Swiss NGOs is an innovative mechanism elaborated by the Water Initiative in order to support those countries off-track to improve their access to water and sanitation. The added value of the consortium is the sharing of resources and know-how between the NGOs as well as the synergies created increasing the success of the scaling up of innovative approaches and best practices. Extra added value is the possible stronger voice for advocacy and awareness as well as enhanced funding possibilities. 8 NGOs are part of this consortium: HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Caritas, Terre des Hommes, SRC, HEKS-EPER, Solidar Suisse, Swissaid and Fastenopfer; the 26 subprojects are implemented mainly in Africa (Senegal, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Togo, Benin, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Madagascar) and in Asia (Nepal, Bangladesh). This project aims at i) increasing the capacity for sustainable management of water, sanitation and irrigation services, ii) increasing access to clean water and sanitation, iii) improving efficiency of family farms and iv) positioning Swiss NGOs in the water sector. For SDC'WI, the challenge is to demonstrate to the parliamentarians that this mechanism is effective and to reach this goal, clear quantitative data should be shown. At stake is the continuation of this mechanism.

IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

First country wide assessment of water supply and sanitation coverage in Kosovo, produced by RWSSP.

The Rural Water and Sanitation Support Programme has produced a study that provides an overview on the overall coverage with water supply and sanitation systems in Kosovo and detailed technical and financial information on water systems in Kosovo that are currently not managed by regional utilities. The study is groundbreaking in the sense that it provides for the first time in Kosovo a complete overview on the situation of water supply and sanitation coverage, including locations that have small independently managed water system. The assessment and the report has been produced by Community Development Initiatives (CDI) in co-ordination with the other implementers of RWSSP and with support by Skat Consulting Ltd.

The report can be downloaded here: [pdf](#)

For further information contact Markus.Baechler@sdc.net

First face-to-face meeting of the Eastern Europe Sub-RésEAU

On March 19/20, 23 sector practitioners gathered in Prishtina (Kosovo) under the umbrella of the RésEAU for an exchange workshop among SDC projects/programs on rural water and sanitation in Eastern Europe. The event provided the NPOs of the Swiss Cooperation Offices in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Moldova, Kosovo and Ukraine, as well as representatives of the respective implementer teams of Gov-Wade, ApaSan, RWSSP and DESPRO and their backstoppers with the opportunity to share knowledge on technical and project management issues and to network among each other. Next to individual project/program presentations, a knowledge cafe tackled the issues around operational models for rural water supply systems and various open space sessions addressed topics such as (waste)water treatment, social mobilization, strategic sector planning, national CoPs, policy dialogue, M&E systems and backstopping support. Furthermore an action plan for the sub-RésEAU was developed. The workshop was rounded-off by

an excursion to RWSSP project sites in North-East Kosovo. Further information, including the workshop report, will become available soon at http://www.sdc-water.ch/en/Home/About_us.

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

SDC, 2012. "Women's Voices across the Water"

In this videos, ten women talk about their perceptions of water and their relationship to it, through their life experiences. These women's voices bear testimony to the need for urgent action to manage sustainably and fairly this vital resource. The videos are available in the [Info + media center](#). [Play Videos](#)

INBO- GWP. 2012. Handbook for Integrated Water Resources Management in the Basins of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers

More than half of the world population daily lives in the basins of 276 transboundary rivers and lakes or nearly 300 aquifers. Cooperation among the riparian countries to better manage water resources and the environments in these basins, in the interest of all users and all sectors, is becoming imperative as the pressure on water resources is increasing because of the global changes which are intensifying. To support this process, the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), UNECE, UNESCO, GEF, EVREN and AFD have worked together to produce the "Handbook for Integrated Water Resources Management in the Basins of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Aquifers," presented at the World Water Forum in Marseille. For further information, download the handbook, available in English and French: [pdf](#)

GWP, 2012. Perspective Paper: Increasing Water Security – A Development Imperative

A continuation of a fragmented approach will be disastrous for our planet. More clarity is needed, however, on how Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) can best be implemented as a set of principles and as a process. This requires an expansion rather than a narrowing of views and approaches, argues the Global Water Partnership (GWP). For further information, please download pdf: [here](#)

GEF, 2012. Contributing to Global security: GEF action on water, environment and sustainable livelihoods.

The GEF International Waters area has helped countries work together to secure a wide range of economic, political, and environmental benefits from shared surface water, groundwater, and marine systems. But the GEF action on water does not stop there. Together with its many partner agencies the GEF is also helping to integrate sustainable water solutions into other areas such as sustainable land management, biodiversity, chemicals management, the energy sector, and climate change adaptation. These GEF operations address the water crisis by integrating water considerations into other sectors and have shown countries a path to achieve greater water use efficiencies and a more balanced approach to competing water uses. Download the pdf (English/ Spanish/French): [here](#)

JMP, 2012. Update report.

The MDG target has been met for **drinking water**. Between 1990 and 2010, over two billion people gained access to improved drinking-water sources. The drinking-water target is thus one of the first MDG targets to be met. While there is cause for celebration, we must also face a number of drawbacks. One is, that global figures mask massive disparities between regions, between countries in regions and within countries between urban and rural settings as well as between rich and poor. Finally, while the 2012 progress report of the JMP indicates signs of acceleration in progress towards the **sanitation target**, in 2010 some 2.5 billion people remained without access to improved sanitation facilities. [English report](#)

OECD, 2012. Meeting the Water Reform Challenge"

Building on the main water challenges identified by the OECD Environment Outlook to 2050, this report examines financing of the water sector; the governance and institutional arrangements that are in place; and coherence between water policies and policies in place in other sectors of the economy. Now available from the Online Bookshop. Other reports in the series: [OECD Studies on Water](#).

RWSN

- **Strategy 2012-2014:** the new RWSN Strategy for 2012 to 2014 is now available.. It is a major step forward for the network as new partners get involved. It has been jointly developed and is officially endorsed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, Skat Foundation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC, WaterAid, the Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) of the World Bank and UNICEF. Download it : [RWSN Strategy](#)
- **Field note 2011, A vision for achieving sustainable rural water services for all:** This document sets out the Rural Water Supply Network's broad vision for the next two decades by defining the core principles upon which reliable, safe and equitable services can be provided. The purpose of this document is to provide national policy makers, practitioners, development partners and water consumers with an overarching framework which can help them consider their own respective roles and approaches to the provision of water supply services to rural populations. The RWSN's vision is of a world in which all rural people have access to a

sustainable and reliable water supply which can be effectively managed to provide sufficient, affordable and safe water within a reasonable distance of the home. A cornerstone of this vision is that once made available, such services must continue to serve their users indefinitely. Download the field note: [Field note](#)

WHO, 2011. Valuing water, valuing livelihoods, guidance on social cost-benefit analysis of drinking-water interventions, with special reference to small community water supplies

Economic criteria shape investments in drinking-water supply systems and services. Yet, often they may be defined in a narrow sense and economic returns may be evaluated in strictly financial terms. The result is an emphasis on large, urban infrastructural works. Yet, a large part of the world's population in rural and peri-urban areas relies on small community water supplies. This publication addresses the broader issues of social cost-benefit analysis performed on options to invest in drinking-water supplies, with a focus on small community suppliers. It was written by a multi-disciplinary team, bases itself on experience on the ground and provides many practical examples of how to deal with economic issues of drinking-water supply in the context of the livelihood strategies and public health priorities of people living in small communities, from policy to practice. [Pdf](#)

UNICEF/WHO (JMP), 2011. Drinking water Equity, Safety and sustainability.

This report investigates access to and use of drinking water in greater detail than is possible in the regular JMP progress reports, and includes increased disaggregation of water service levels and analyses of trends across countries and regions. It focuses on the three key challenges of equity, safety and sustainability. For further information, please download the report [here](#)

Worldvision Mali. 2011 Water, sanitation and disabilities in rural west Africa- enhancing access and use of WASH facilities

The Mali Water and Disabilities Study was established to examine issues of access to and use of clean water and sanitation facilities by disabled people within targeted communities of the West Africa Water Initiative. This report provides the findings of the Study and is intended to serve as a practical guide for WASH practitioners who seek to develop community WASH programs that are inclusive of disabled people in the West African region. The report provides a review of specific issues encountered people who have disabilities, and provides low-cost recommendations, as well as guidance for engaging the disabled and the communities where they live. The three-year Study (2007-2009) was supported by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and jointly implemented by Messiah College and World Vision Mali. Download the publication:

[pdf](#)

WSP, 2011/2012:

- **Identifying the Potential for Results-Based Financing for Sanitation**

Results-Based Financing (RBF) refers to a broad family of financial instruments. With RBF, public funding is provided only if pre-specified results have been achieved. Its use in the sanitation sector has so far been limited, as opposed to in other sectors such as health or education. This working paper aims to identify practical ideas for advancing the use of innovative financing mechanisms focused on results and performance, with a view to supporting the delivery of sustainable sanitation services. For further information, please download the publication [here](#)

- **Delivering water and sanitation in fragile states: the transition from emergency to development**

Fragile and post conflict states face multiple barriers to service delivery. In addition to leaving infrastructure damaged, the aftermath of conflicts, economic crises or natural disasters often results in a 'capacity conundrum', with government capacity too weak to deliver a peace (or post-crisis) dividend that meets basic service delivery standards or donor accountability requirements. This note captures the main points and messages from a conference held in Nairobi on 3-5 May 2011 that initiated a community of practice bringing together water supply and sanitation (WSS) sector actors with actors involved in building core country systems.¹ The aim was to develop action plans for resolving the capacity conundrum and transitioning the WSS sector from emergency interventions to country-led development programs. For further information refer to the [publication](#)

WWF, 2012. The Swiss Water Footprint report

In this report, WWF-Switzerland, in partnership with the Water Initiatives section of SDC, sets out to explore the water footprint of Switzerland and its highly globalized economy. The intention of this report is to begin a more meaningful debate in Switzerland about the role of water in the economy. The findings of this report support the dialogue on water use in recipient countries of Swiss foreign aid. A water footprint perspective informs decisions on where and how Swiss funds are best invested in the water sector. A final and important intention is to inspire Swiss companies to reflect on future water trends and water risks their global operations face. Available in English/ French/ German/ Italian: [here](#).

CALENDAR

27 March 2012. Zürich (19:30 Uhr, Kulturhaus Helferei, Kirchgasse 13)

Water event with projection of SDC's film „Water runs deep, local insights, global challenges”, followed by a debate with Thomas Zeller (SDC), Marianne Spiller-Hadorn (founder/ executive director abai Brazil), Martin Moll (film producer) André Marty (moderator). The WI will elaborate a strategy for diffusion of this film and it will be available soon.

April- June 2012, RWSN-WB Webinars

From April 3rd to June 12th, RWSN and the World Bank will organize webinars on various subjects such as “implementation of the human right to water and sanitation”, “life cycle costing approach”, “PPPs in Madagascar's rural towns”. For further information and registration, please refer to: [WB website](#)

RWSN learning project : In preparation for the RWSN-World Bank webinar on 5th June 2012 on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, the equity and inclusion group of RWSN will host a three week e-discussion from 16th April to 4th May 2012. This will enable RWSN members and others to articulate their hopes, fears and questions about how the Human Right to Water affects the finance, planning and implementation of rural water supplies projects and programmes. The UN Special Rapporteur, Ms Catarina Albuquerque will respond through a webinar on 5th June 2012. The E-Discussion can be accessed by joining the Equity and Inclusion Theme of RWSN on D-Groups. This can be accessed through <http://next.dgroups.org/RWSN/equity>.

14-17 April 2012, New Delhi, India. India Water Week “Water, energy, food security: call for solutions”

This conference plans to tackle issues such as: i) securing water for crucial purposes like drinking water and food production through innovative and more water-efficient technologies, ii) actions taken by the industry to minimize risks of water pollution, iii) rules/obligations linked to a human right approach to water provision, iv) measurement and management of the water-food-energy nexus.

The event is likely to be attended by more than 1000 delegates from India and abroad, eminent national and international water professionals who are working on the various issues of water sector, sharing their experiences and the use of high technology in the developed countries, the resulting problems and the solutions adopted for their mitigation and about the actual performance on ground. The conclusions will draw to recommending concrete action both on a short-term as well as long-term perspective.

For more information please visit the website <http://mowr.nic.in/iww>

13-18 May 2012 IWA World Congress on Water, Climate and Energy, Dublin, Ireland.

Climate change is forcing us to reassess our energy usage and will have real substantial impacts on the water cycle as well as energy production. Solving the interlinked challenges of water, climate and energy in a sustainable manner is one of the fundamental goals of this generation. For a full detailed listing of Topics and Sub-Topics: [Click here](#). The Congress will attract over 2000 like-minded water, climate and energy professionals from across the globe to exchange ideas, explore the state of the art and debate the key issues underlying the science and practice of these inextricably linked natural, utility and infrastructural issues of our time. For more information, please visit www.iwa-wcedublin.org

29-31 May 2012. EPFL International Conference “Technologies for sustainable development: a way to reduce poverty?”, Lausanne-Switzerland. Convenors: UNESCO Chair in technologies for development, Cooperation and Development Center (CODEV). Whilst scientific research can be crucial in guiding innovation and development throughout the world it remains often too detached from reality, particularly in developing and emerging countries. Thus, the challenge is to link scientific research and development practices in order to develop a win-win situation in which science and technologies can assist practitioners as well as reply to social needs. The guiding themes are the following: i) Appropriate Technology (Needs and Participation), ii) Towards a Sustainable Integrated Development (Partnerships and Systems) and iii) Technology: Transfer or Co-Creation (Knowledge Sharing and Empowerment).

For further information, please refer to: <http://cooperation.epfl.ch/2012Tech4Dev>

20-22 June 2012, Rio – Brazil: United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development- Rio+20

The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges. The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development. SDC will be part of the Swiss delegation.

For further information, please see: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?menu=14>

25-26 June 2012, Bern. Water Team Days 2012- Face-to-face event of the RésEAU

Discussions and themes include: 1) Development progress of SDC's regional water networks (Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America...), 2) Discussion with Catarina de Albuquerque, UN special Rapporteur for Human Right to Water and Sanitation, 3) Review of RESEAU's activities, 4) excursion. Detailed program coming soon.

1-5 July 2012, Singapore International Water Week

Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) is the global platform for water solutions. It brings policymakers, industry leaders, experts and practitioners together to address challenges, showcase technologies, discover opportunities and celebrate achievements in the water world. In the face of global urbanisation and climate challenges, the 2012 theme "Water Solutions for Liveable and Sustainable Cities" reinforces the pressing need to integrate sustainable water management strategies into the urban planning process. Singapore International Water Week 2012 provides the platform to address these challenges and explore opportunities in the integration of water solutions and urban planning in cities around the world. Opportunities abound for global water leaders and practitioners from the public and private sectors to debate in water dialogues, network with key industry players, showcase leading-edge technologies and best practices and identify viable solutions to address this common challenge. For further information please go to: <http://www.siww.com.sg/> ([Program](#), [registration](#))

17 August 2012, SDC/SECO Annual Conference, Switzerland (venue not yet communicated)

Preparatory processes are still ongoing, however the 2012 Annual Conference should focus on aid effectiveness, with the concept of effectiveness understood as the set of actions guaranteeing long-term effects. First part of the conference should highlight results gained in West Africa with significant cases studies (probably "agriculture/food security in Burkina Faso"- SDC) and "building an effective state in Ghana"- SECO), while the second part of the conference would focus on the strategic processes that form the effectiveness of SDC and SECO actions. More information available soon.

26-31 August 2012, World Water Week, Stockholm-Sweden

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 the WWW home page: [WWW](#) (especially [announcement](#) and [registration information](#))

16-21 September 2012, Busan Korea: the World Water Congress and Exhibition, organized by the International Water Association

It is 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

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

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