

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

## BREAKING NEWS

### World Water Week in Stockholm gets a strong Swiss flavour

The World Water Week in Stockholm took place from 23 - 28 August 2015. It is the annual focal point for the globe's water issues and attracts key players from the water and development sector. Staff from SDC and the Swiss Water Partnership (SWP) had a strong presence along with experts from the Global Programme Water Initiatives, the Regional Cooperation and the Humanitarian Aid. The large and bustling SWP stand, and three sessions in the programme, raised the profile of Swiss organisations and SDC's active role in the global WASH sector.



The SDC delegation participated in several panels in the official programme and was involved in many closed donor meetings, steering committees and discussions. The overall theme of the week was "water and development"; however, climate change was prominent, due to the upcoming [CoP 21 summit](#) in Paris. The main concern discussed was how to get funds dedicated to water sector adaptation; however, it was stressed emphatically that these funds should complement - not substitute – existing water sector funding streams. For further information on the Swiss involvement in Stockholm: <https://goo.gl/db3cMH> and more stories from Stockholm can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Next year the 2016 World Water Week in Stockholm will have the theme of "Water for Sustainable Growth".

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## HEADQUARTER ACTIVITIES

### Swiss Bluetec Bridge – three new projects in pipeline

Three companies have submitted a proposal for the last call in the pilot phase of the Swiss Bluetec Bridge: *AquaNetto Group GmbH*, *Swiss Intech Sàrl* and *ennos GmbH*. These three proposals are now going through a two-step screening and evaluation process, after which the most promising project(s) will receive an interest-free loan of up to CHF 250,000. The lucky winner(s) will be announced in late October or early November 2015.



Meanwhile, the *Swiss Fresh Water* project in Senegal is serving over 80,000 people with clean water and will be evaluated soon. *WECONNEX* has taken over the responsibility for the *Trunz Water System* project in Nepal and sales of clean water have reached 3,000 litres per day. Meanwhile, the hurdles faced by *NVTerra* in the Côte d'Ivoire have finally been overcome and the project will be launched soon.

For further information, see [www.swissbluetecbridge.ch](http://www.swissbluetecbridge.ch) or contact [manager@swissbluetecbridge.ch](mailto:manager@swissbluetecbridge.ch)

### Integrating monitoring of water and sanitation related SDG targets (GEMI)

This new initiative supported by SDC's Global Program Water Initiatives and led by UN Water aims at accelerating the achievement of the SDG targets on sustainable water and sanitation by: (i) establishing and managing, by 2030, a coherent and unified monitoring framework for water and sanitation to inform the post-2015 period; (ii) contributing to country progress through well-informed decision-making, based on harmonized, comprehensive, timely and accurate information.

The project supports the strategic framework of the Global Programme Water Initiatives and will contribute to the commitment of attaining "a water secure world for all". Switzerland did involve itself prominently to get a dedicated water goal in the post-2015 agenda. This initiative will contribute to have this water goal implemented and monitored in a coherent way. Moreover, with this initiative, Switzerland will continue to be influential on the post 2015-agenda by taking the lead of the water monitoring framework.

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### Access to water as an instrument to promote peace: Switzerland adopts lines of action

Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter has called on the countries of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to "engage to transform water from a source of crisis into an instrument for peace". Speaking in Prague before the OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, the head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) added that "The issue of water and security figures highly on the Swiss foreign policy agenda", announcing that Switzerland has adopted a set of 'water and security' lines of action that will guide the FDFA's water-related activities in future. The lines of action present the various tools Switzerland is using to transform water into an instrument for cooperation, as well as upcoming initiatives in this field.



For further information visit: [www.news.admin.ch](http://www.news.admin.ch)

**IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES****Strengthening the institutional framework in the water and sanitation sector in Moldova**

Since 2000, SDC has been working on improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation through decentralized rural water systems and on-site sanitation solutions. This has been achieved through actively getting involved with key stakeholders and eventually co-chairing the sector coordination. It became apparent that poor coordination within the sector and weak institutions threaten the sustainability of investments. A study carried out in 2014, during the entry phase, identified this as the main weaknesses and priority area of intervention. The first phase of the project, starting 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2015, builds on this to improve the management and performance of key sector institutions by working directly with the national institutions on sector capacity development, integrated water resource management and a comprehensive water information system.



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**Ecosan toilets in Moldovan Schools**

Most rural schools in many Moldovan villages still rely on simple pit toilets in the school yards and are often unhygienic. Since 2007, the Swiss Cooperation has helped promoting an alternative option: Urine Diverting Dry Toilets (UDDT) — or 'ecosan toilets' as they are generally called in Moldova. Acceptance was excellent right from the beginning and demand for more such toilets appeared from everywhere, which convinced the Swiss Cooperation to integrate ecosan into their on-going support to improve school sanitation in Moldova in cooperation with school authorities and the districts authorities. By 2015, Swiss Cooperation has supported the construction of ecosan toilets in more than 56 schools, serving about 19,000 students and teachers and with lot of effort invested in monitoring and improving the toilets including the implementation approach.



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**Participatory assessment of ASIR-SABA project in Colombia**

As part of the identification phase of rural communities in the four municipalities covered by the ASIR-SABA project, participatory assessment is coming to an end with a high degree of acceptance and involvement of stakeholders. The assessment reviewed the physical, operational and organizational state of public services in rural communities of the municipalities of Trujillo, Buga, Caloto and Santander de Quilichao. Currently, the assessment is in the final stage with an implementation rate of 90%, in which deficit coverage, quality and continuity of services were evidenced in a large proportion: drinking water coverage (30%); continuity of service (50%) and quality (70)% of the rural population, approximately, in these communities. This assessment will be the starting point for selecting the communities covered by the project and to contribute in reducing the gap in water and sanitation coverage.



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or visit [www.suizagua.org/b/colombia](http://www.suizagua.org/b/colombia)



## SuizAgua Andina among top 500 socio-environmental projects in Latin America

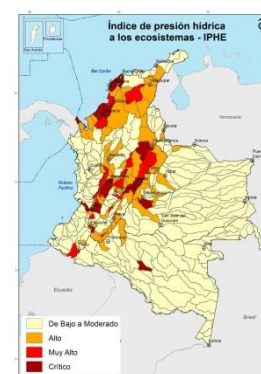
*SuizAgua Andina* will be part of the most important celebration of environmental projects in Latin America. On 23-24 September, Guayaquil-Ecuador will host the “*Latin America Green Awards 2015*”, a ceremony that recognizes the top 500 social and environmental projects from 24 countries of Latin America. Environmentalists, researchers, artists, investors, politicians, entrepreneurs among others will join in this important event. Participants will know in detail about the *SuizAgua Andina* project and its efforts to promote integrated water management in private sector. This is an important case study to show other stakeholders in Latin America region how companies in the region are assessing, reducing and compensating their water footprint for the benefit of people and the environment.



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## New Policy Perspectives: Colombia Water Footprint assessment in the World Water Week in Stockholm

Colombia periodically analyses the status of water resources through the National Water Study conducted by the *National Hydrological and Meteorological Institute (IDEAM)*. In its last version, recently published, the blue and green water footprint assessment was included — for the first time — for five economic sectors: agriculture, domestic, industrial, energy and oil extraction. Colombia’s 316 river basins were covered. The study was accompanied by economic scenarios for the main agricultural products in the year 2022, and the analysis of virtual water flows for the main export agricultural products. This is the result of a fruitful partnership among the *IDEAM*, *SDC’s Global Programme Water Initiatives*, the *Center of Science and Technology* and *Good Stuff International*.



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or visit [www.suizagua.org/b/colombia](http://www.suizagua.org/b/colombia)

## Water foot print assessment, scaling up in Latin America through SuizAgua Andina

*SuizAgua Andina* was part of the *International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment (CILCA)*, an event held in Latin America every 2 years and the biggest life cycle conference held in Latin America. CILCA 2015 aims to gather practitioners and users of life cycle thinking-based tools, government, companies, NGO’s, industrial sectors and universities and research institutes of the Latin American region. This event is very important for the economic development of the region, considering that Life Cycle Assessment can help with the design of regulations and more sustainable decision-making processes of organizations, companies and governments.



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## 24 countries take part in the VI Latin American Meeting on Community Water Management

Representatives of 24 countries from the continent took part in the VI Latin American Meeting on Community Water Management concluded in Chile. The president of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, opened the event, and emphasised the work of the community water organisations in rural areas. Its aim is to provide an opportunity to discuss and share experiences and improve the work of Latin America's Community Potable



Water and Sanitation Management Organisations (OCSAS). President Bachelet also said that "Chile has been suffering from water shortages in some areas for over eight years and that this is something that is here to stay". She added: "I am convinced that we must consolidate a new model for treating and regulating rural potable water, with a new institutional framework, for developing sustainable sanitation services".

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## Household Water Treatment systems discussed for the first time at Stockholm World Water Week

"Scaling up Safe Water Enterprises for the Base of the Pyramid (BOP)", SDC's Safe Water Programme, was presented by Antenna Technologies Foundation at the 25<sup>th</sup> World Water Week in Stockholm. Ten panellists representing the private sector, NGOs, civil society and international development agencies discussed topics like Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage, smart subsidies, and creating customer demand. The room was full, with an audience of 130 participants who also shared their experience and suggestions on the role of government in setting quality standards, the need for additional funding, jointly financed programmes, microfinance options and appropriate pricing, as well as the design and marketing of aspirational and trustworthy products focused on customer needs.



For more information visit: [http://www.antenna.ch/en/www\\_2015](http://www.antenna.ch/en/www_2015)  
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## CURRENT TOPICS

### Water Crisis in Jordan

Jordan is the second most water scarce country in the world. Perhaps they will soon be in the number one spot. The current Syrian crisis has increased Jordan's population from 6.7 million to over 8.1 million people or perhaps more. This does not account that Jordan has taken in an estimated 700,000 from Iraq since the 2003 conflict, not to mention those fleeing Yemen and Libya or before from Palestine. There is no groundwater regulation, and it is told that parts of the country where borehole drilling depths have gone from 250m to 500m in 20 years in order to keep on tapping sufficient water. This is leading to an acute water scarcity and the danger of an unimaginable crisis. Jordan's Prime Minister and Minister for Water and Irrigation have clearly asked the international audience of the World Water Week in Stockholm for assistance and support to build a "resilient water sector". You can read the full story and comment on the Rural Water Supply Network blog at <https://goo.gl/n2IJaK>.

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## Swimming From Locarno to EXPO Milano 2015 for Water Solidarity

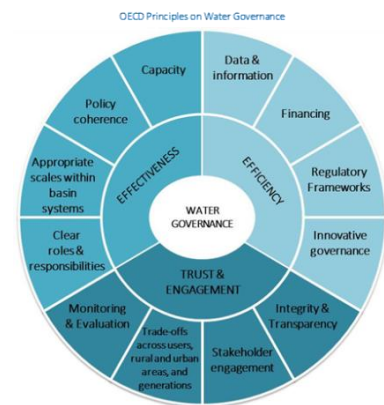
One year on from his successful Rhine expedition, the Swiss swimmer Ernst Bromeis once again tested his limits. The plan was to swim 122 kilometres from Tenero near Locarno in Southern Switzerland to the city centre of Milan in one go. After over 30 hours with counter currents in the Lago Maggiore he had to walk 14 kilometres due to too low water levels in the river Ticino and only twelve kilometres away from the targeted destination he had to give up. As goodwill ambassador of the initiative *Solidarit'eau Suisse*, Ernst Bromeis dedicates his deed to acts of solidarity in the cause of water issues. *Solidarit'eau Suisse*, supported by SDC, is a platform that generates additional funds and know-how for development aid projects in the water sector.



For more information visit: [www.solidariteausuisse.ch](http://www.solidariteausuisse.ch)

## Ministers back OECD Principles water governance

Ministers from OECD's 34 member countries welcomed the OECD Principles on Water Governance, which set standards for more effective, efficient and inclusive design and implementation of water policies, and encouraged governments to put them into action. The 12 Water Governance Principles provide a framework for governments to put in place better water policies and they will be used to develop a broader OECD perspective on water management over the coming years. The principles were developed using a multi-stakeholder approach and were endorsed by a large number of public, private and non-profit organisations at the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in April in Korea through the *Daegu Declaration*. Next steps will include identifying and scaling-up best practices and developing water governance indicators to support the implementation of the Principles.



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## The global poor as customers instead of recipients of charity – a considerable potential, also for Switzerland-based organizations

In developing and emerging economies, some 3 billion people live on less than USD 2.50 per day. In spite of a combined purchasing power of USD 5,000 billion, only a few enterprises have dared to enter water market and developed innovative and affordable products and services. On 2 July 2015, an event took place at *Eawag*, organized by the *Swiss Bluetec Bridge*, to showcase the huge potential of this market, which also can be tapped by Switzerland-based organizations. The keynote was given by Paul Polak, founder of *iDE*, and a pioneer of this approach. Furthermore, several case studies with a strong relation to Switzerland were presented which included initiatives to provide safe drinking water in Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda, water kiosks in India and sanitary services for the slums in Peru's capital Lima.



For further information contact: [info@swisswaterpartnership.ch](mailto:info@swisswaterpartnership.ch) or visit <http://www.swisswaterpartnership.ch/events/bop/> or <http://www.swissbluetecbridge.ch/>

## Institutional articulation for a better quality of water and sanitation delivery services

SABA PLUS conveyed a presentation at the CLOCSAS Meeting and highlighted the importance to work in coordination and articulation through the different levels from local to national for a better quality delivery services. The Peruvian delegation was made up by the Ministries of Social Inclusion-Housing and Sanitation-Members of Community Steering WASH Committees, SABA PLUS project and SDC Global Program in the Andes. Institutional coordination and articulation remains key areas of concern in water and sanitation service delivery in most developing countries.



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## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### Hydro-Economical Analysis and Prioritization of Water Resource Initiatives in Peru

The 2030 Water Resources Group (WRG) partnership with the Global Green Growth Initiative has developed this report to raise awareness and mobilize new actors from the private sector to engage in water activities and new partnerships. Additionally, an international workshop, organized by the 2030 WRG, took place in Lima to promote economic incentives for water sustainable management.

The report can be accessed at the [2030wrg.org](http://2030wrg.org) website.

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### Sector report on water and waste water services in Danube region

The *State of the Sector* is an analysis of the Danube region's progress and challenges in providing sustainable water and wastewater services for all. The [report](#) is a flagship World Bank product under the *Danube Water Program* and aims at documenting and informing water services policies and their outcomes in 16 countries of the Danube region. The review was prepared by World Bank staff and a team of more than 25 contributors, with support from many institutions and individual experts throughout the watershed.

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## CALENDAR

### Water and disasters: Integrated flood management: acting locally linking beyond

This is the topic of the face-to-face event of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, in Thun, Switzerland. Water-related disasters - mainly floods - account for 90% of all disasters, jeopardizing sustainable development especially in low and middle income countries. Nevertheless floods are manageable; Tools, models, forecasts, structural measures etc. to substantially reduce damages exist but are often not effectively used and incorporated into integrated approaches. The workshop offers water, disaster risk reduction (DRR) practitioners and interested experts to exchange good practices, to identify synergies and entry points for improvements to broaden the focus of local projects towards more integrated approaches.

For further information visit: [www.drrplatform.org/index.php/events](http://www.drrplatform.org/index.php/events)



## Summit to adopt the 2030 agenda and UN General Assembly: Switzerland commits to sustainable development

The President of the Swiss Confederation, Simonetta Sommaruga, will represent Switzerland at the UN summit meeting from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York to adopt the sustainable development goals for the period to 2030. On 28 September, at the opening of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly, she will present Switzerland's priorities in the context of the UN for the coming year. Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter will represent Switzerland during this ministerial week in New York at various events on current themes and will hold bilateral talks.

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## Adoption of 2030 Agenda – embarking on a sustainable global future

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2015, the member states of the United Nations reached a consensus on the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (earlier referred as post 2015 agenda). It will be formally adopted by heads of the state and government at the Sustainable Development Summit from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September, in New York. SDC will look back at the outcomes of the summit as well as the results of the Swiss involvement in the three year preparatory process and discuss how this comprehensive agenda will be put into effect. The event will be held on the afternoon of 23<sup>rd</sup> October at the Kulturcasino in Bern.

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## ABOUT

“SDC Water News” is the electronic news bulletin of SDC’s Global Program Water Initiatives (GPWI) sent out to Swiss international cooperation people who are loosely organised in the water network “Réseau”.

RésEAU aims at assuring the sector knowledge management within SDC and with its partners. It’s anchored in the Global Programme Water Initiatives and the network’s focal point is Christian Eggs.

“SDC Water News” lives through interaction and active involvement and you are invited to send – at any time – your contributions, feedbacks, as well as subscription issues to the editor. The news team is grateful for any input received.

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