

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

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to present to you the June edition of our newsletter, which as usual provides you with news on SDCs' many activities. These included support to global initiatives, such as the recently published "[Earth Security Index 2016 Report](#)" and our long-standing cooperation on the ground in Honduras, where 30 years of cooperation in water and sanitation just came to an end.

June is also the time when we gather for our main annual event in the network, the [Water Team Days](#). This year's event was attended by 65 network members and its main theme was to discuss how to shape SDC's water-related cooperation in the coming years and how to work towards the achievement of the SDGs. We had great discussions and the contributions of our members will help us start the process of the revising SDC's guidance document for cooperation in water, [Water 2015](#). The revision of this document will be done with strong participation

of the RésEAU community and it will be one of our main activities in the network for the rest of this year.

We are also happy to announce that last week we constituted the RésEAU core group of SDC water advisors in the head office and in the regions ([all names and contact details here](#)). These colleagues will be the main link between you - the members of the RésEAU - and us. The core group members will also lead networking in the regions, in the Sub-RésEAUs. Together with the core group, we will take up work to improve the various tools and channels of our network. Please do not hesitate to contact one of members of the core group or ourselves with your ideas and suggestions.

We wish you all the best - keep up the good work and fruitful networking!

Christian Eggs and Hanna Capeder, RésEAU Focal Points.

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	1	Universal Access to Water Through User Payments	
HEADQUARTER ACTIVITIES	2	KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS	7
Earth Security Report Launched		Launch of communication brief "Fostering Cooperation On Transboundary Waters"	
Setting a Diplomatic Baseline on the Yarmouk		A Network of Partners to Achieve Greater Influence – Learning Paper	
Geneva: Think Tank Roundtable and Conference on Water in Conflicts		How to Establish a Full Cost Recovery Water Supply System?	
Better data for better water and sanitation – monitoring SDG 6 and water related targets		Groundwater Assessment Platform launched	
Global Task Force on Cholera Control in Action		Effectiveness of Joint Sector Reviews (JSR) in WASH	
SuizAgua Colombia 2016-2019		Field Note on Domestic Rainwater Harvesting in Thailand	
First RésEAU Webinar Implemented: Water Safety Plans		CALENDAR	9
Establishment of a Global Hydrometry Support Facility (GHSF) and Innovation Hub		Online Course on International Water Law: Developing legal skills for negotiating and implementing water agreements	
IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES	5	7 th Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) Forum – Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire: 29.11 – 02.12.2016	
SDC East Asia Division supports the Mekong River Commission		ABOUT	10
Honduras' legacy of the AGUASAN program			
Empowering Women Through a Water Programme			

HEADQUARTER ACTIVITIES

Report Launched Pointing out Aquifer Depletion as Major Risk to Business

On 15 June, the Earth Security Group launched the 2016 [Earth Security Index 2016 Report](#) at a business breakfast event in London. A panel discussion featuring SDC deputy director Pio Wennubst delivered strategic views from corporate leaders in infrastructure, oil & gas, food & agriculture and the diplomatic sectors. It addressed the changing risk context that industry is facing due to multiple resource and the leadership opportunities for companies to cooperate with governments on sustainable growth.



Download the full report [here](#) or check out the [media release](#).

Setting a Diplomatic Baseline on the Yarmouk

The Yarmouk tributary of the Jordan River remains the source of life for tens of thousands in both Syria and Jordan. In what appears to be a 'race to the bottom', however, water is being pumped out at unsustainable rates, and cooperation has broken down. To establish the baseline for more effective transboundary water management, a team of seasoned researchers led by UEA Water Security Research Centre has begun exploring how water use and availability is influenced by regional political and climatic dynamics.



Yarmouk Hydropolitical Baseline project, which is part of GPWI's water security in the Middle East programme, conducted an inception workshop from 27-29 May 2016 in Amman, Jordan to lay the foundation for the baseline study. The workshop was followed by a field visit.

For further information: [Eileen Hofstetter](#)

Geneva: Think Tank Roundtable and Conference on Water in Conflicts

On 14 June, the [Geneva Water Hub](#), Secretariat of the [Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace](#) and the Platform for International Water Law of the University of Geneva, have organised two key events on the protection of water supplies and infrastructure during and after armed conflicts. The Think-Tank Roundtable on "The Protection of Water During and After Armed Conflicts" and its associated Conference on "Water in Conflicts" have underlined the in deep change of the nature of the conflicts, the importance to have a pre-existing network established in the countries before the conflicts and the need to reinforce international humanitarian law in protecting the access to water for the civilian population as well as the necessity to create a monitoring system for the exchange of data on water resources before, during and after armed conflicts.

WATER HUB
POLE EAU
www.genevawaterhub.org

Conference on
Water in Conflicts

Tuesday 14 June 2016, 18:00 to 19:30

Maison de la Paix, Geneva
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2
Pétale 5, Room C1, Tram 15

Chair

- Francis Mürger, Geneva Water Hub Manager and Swiss Special Envoy for Water
- Laurence Boisson de Chazourmes, Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva

Key speakers

- Tobias von Lütow, PhD fellow, Middle East and Africa Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs
- Karen Hulme, Professor, School of Law, University of Essex
- Ronald Jaubert, Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Questions and answers

In collaboration with

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

For more information: [Geneva Water Hub Think Tank](#)

Better data for better water and sanitation – monitoring SDG 6 and water related targets

Credible data is essential to raise political awareness, guide decision-making, and ensure accountability between duty bearers and right holders. Improved monitoring is thus essential to ensure progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 6 on water and sanitation.

The Integrated Monitoring initiative GEMI – an inter-agency initiative operating under the UN-Water umbrella – seeks to harmonize and expand existing efforts in water sector monitoring, complementing JMP and GLAAS in tracking progress towards SDG 6. Supported by SDC, monitoring methodologies for SDG 6 indicators are now being piloted in six countries. First out in 2016 were Jordan, Peru and Senegal, where inception workshops resulted in a greater understanding of national priorities and existing monitoring efforts, as well as political endorsement of the upcoming work.



For further information: [Nathalie Rizzotti](#), [William Reidhead](#), [Draft Integrated Monitoring Guide for SDG6, special session at the World Water Week](#)

Global Task Force on Cholera Control in Action

Word has spread that the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) has indeed been 'revitalized', and is committed to multisectoral collaboration in order to reduce cholera's global burden of disease. Since the GTFCC held its first meeting in June 2014 stakeholders support has been growing. During that meeting, working groups were established in five key domains of cholera control and prevention/surveillance/ epidemiology; oral cholera vaccines (OCVs); case management; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and communication/social mobilization.



On 14–15 June 2016, the GTFCC Secretariat convened in Amman, Jordan, stakeholders for the third meeting to share what the working groups have done so far, share global and regional perspectives on cholera control and prevention, and detail areas of work for the future.

Contact: [Claudio Valsangiacomo](#), Swiss representative at the GTFCC

SuizAgua Colombia 2016-2019

SDC's initiative SuizAgua has contributed, since 2010, to the uptake of the water footprint concept in practice. Highlight results include: a fruitful public-private partnership with multinational companies and the application of water footprinting in Colombia's [National Water Study](#), communication that raised the international visibility and scaling-up in the region of Latin America (Peru and Chile). In this new phase from 2016 to 2019, four lines of action are prioritised:

- 1) Scale-up the water footprint indicator and corporate water stewardship strategies with the National Business Association.
- 2) Strengthening water criteria for agricultural planning and contributing to the water quality National Monitoring Program.

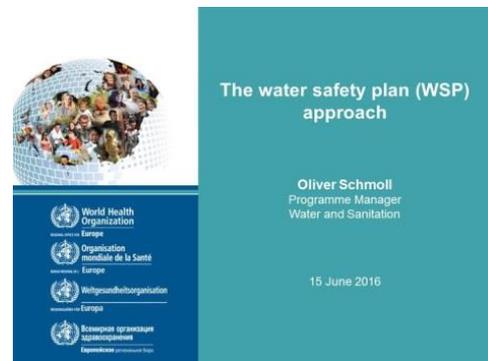


- 3) Development of a practical Water Benefit Certificate scheme for high mountain ecosystems.
- 4) Energise a community of practice to contribute to the global policy dialogue.

For further information visit www.suizagua.org or contact [Diana Rojas](#)

First RésEAU Webinar Implemented: Water Safety Plans

On 15 June, the first RésEAU webinar (on-line seminar) took place. The idea for this webinar emerged during the Water Team Days 2015, where several RésEAU members expressed interest in the tool of Water Safety Plans. The webinar included a presentation by Dr. Oliver Schmoll, an internationally renowned expert on the topic, two comments from institutional points of view, and a Q&A session which allowed the audience to ask questions and make comments. The [recordings](#) of the webinar, the [presentation](#) and [additional information](#) to the topic are available on the [SDC water blog](#).



If you have ideas on other topics which can be presented in this format, please contact [Christian Eggs](#).

Swiss Bluetec Bridge – Call for Proposals for Phase Two in Preparation

After a successful pilot phase, during which access to quality drinking water to 75,000 base-of-the-pyramid customers was provided, SDC has decided to fund a second phase and to enlarge the scope of the Swiss Bluetec Bridge. The 6th call for proposals will be published on 15 August and will include innovative Swiss technology projects that improve access to safe drinking water, render water use more efficient or preserve water quality, e.g. in irrigation, small industries, small-scale wastewater and sludge treatment or energy generation.

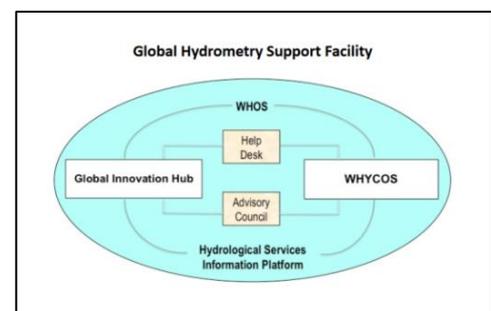


In the media: [24heures](#), [Le Temps](#) and [Ostschweiz am Sonntag](#)
On YouTube: water entrepreneurs in [Senegal](#) and in [Nepal](#)
For more information: www.swissbluetecbridge.ch

Establishment of a Global Hydrometry Support Facility (GHSF) and Innovation Hub

Reliable hydro-meteorological observations and forecasts are critical to implement better water resources management practices and policies. A new project supported by SDC's Global Programme Water Initiative and implemented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the iMoMo consortium will combine traditional with innovative monitoring approaches (e.g. using mobile phones) to bring decision-relevant information faster to the users.

The project aims at enhancing the base of hydro-meteorological data to foster evidence-based policy and decision-making and conflict resolution in water resources management at global, transboundary, national and local levels.

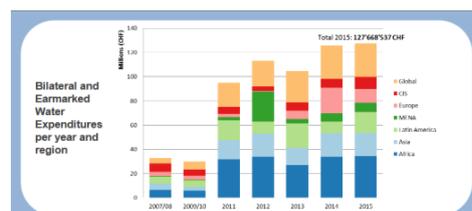


For further information contact: [Andreas Steiner](#)

Insights into SDC activities in 2015

SDC is well known for its long lasting support and its innovative and comprehensive approaches in water-related projects. It aims to stay an innovative and leading actor in the water sector and to contribute to the discussion of global water problems by showing promising approaches and in supporting problem-specific activities in its focus countries and on the global level.

The Water Portfolio 2015 summarizes the focus of SDC activities in the water sector in terms of expenditures in strategic areas of the water sector in 2015.



More information: [SDC Water Portfolio 2015](#)

Contact: [Sandra Brühlmann](#)

Water Team Days 2016

The Water Team Days 2016 were held at 23.-24. June 2016 in Bern and were dedicated to the joint reflexion on the policies, approaches and instruments that will shape SDC's cooperation for water in the next 15 years. 65 RésEAU members have participated.



Find all documentation of the event on the Shareweb:

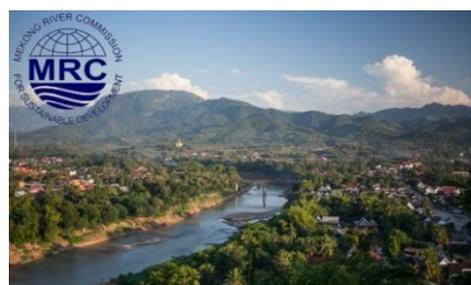
[Water Team Days 2016](#)

IN-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

SDC East Asia Division supports the Mekong River Commission

The SDC Operations Committee approved a contribution of CHF 7.5 Million to the Mekong River Commission (MRC) over the coming 4.5 years starting June 2016. With this contribution SDC supports the MRC in promoting cooperative and Integrated Water Resources Management of the Lower Mekong Basin through coordinated planning and capacity building of Member Countries. SDC's support to the MRC focuses specifically on a major organizational reform and contributes to a multi-donor basket fund for the implementation of MRC's Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

Further information: [Catrina Schwendener](#)



Honduras' legacy of the AGUASAN program

"You never say good bye to your friends..." SDC's AGUASAN program is entering its 30st year of presence in Honduras. A tight partnership, reciprocal collaboration, knowledge sharing, thousands of people living in better conditions are part of the legacy of the program. During this time, SDC and the Honduran WASH's stakeholders and authorities have built a strong relationship and as a result, dozens of toolkits, manuals, innovative technologies, updated norms and a legal framework for the



WASH sector have been developed and applied in this Central American country. From the rural villages and municipalities to the national and regional level, AGUASAN Honduras has contributed to improve the living conditions of the poorest. After six continuous phases, which started in the 1980's, the program now concluded its interventions. As of the next steps to be taken, the experiences and knowledge will be shared with local stakeholders, cooperation agencies and sectorial organisations.

You can find more information on: www.cosude.org.ni (in Spanish only) or contact [Alfonso Flores](#)

Regional celebration of Menstrual Hygiene Day in Tanzania

'Menstruation matters to everyone, everywhere' is this year's theme of Menstruation Hygiene Day 2016. MKAJI (SDC funded, Simavi implemented) and UMATA (GSF funded, Plan International coordinated) projects joined hands to break the silence surrounding menstruation, creating awareness on the importance of menstrual hygiene management at rural schools and health facilities in Kongwa district. On May 27, there was a panel discussion at a local radio station with a team of experts, to receive questions from the audience and discuss their opinions. May 28, Menstrual Hygiene Day was celebrated with songs and dances. Guests of honour were Kongwa District Commissioner and the National Sanitation & Hygiene Coordinator.



For more information: www.simavit.org

Empowering Women Through a Water Development Programme

The Governments of Switzerland and Kosovo are funding a major rural water services improvement programme throughout Kosovo. Implementers Dorsch/CDI (JV) recognized the important role women play as main users of water, particularly in rural communities and also the potential of women within the water industry, who are currently under-represented at all levels. An honorary Water Ambassador has been appointed to deliver two messages: treated water is essential to healthy family life; and women must be enabled to contribute to water sector management. Dr. Selvete Krasniqi takes part in public events, TV debates and community meetings to spread these crucial messages.



Download the [project document here](#).

For more information, contact [Alan Brown](#).

Universal Access to Water Through User Payments

In the Ukraine, SDC is supporting the construction and development of rural water supplies with strong participation by households. This was achieved through social mobilisation to facilitate financial contributions from households. However, for families with very low income this may be a major hurdle for accessing improved water supplies. A "social cases" approach was developed by the DESPRO project (Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support Project, financed by SDC and implemented by Skat Consulting Ltd.) and introduced in 20



partner villages. It considers equity and inclusion and contributes to universal access to improved water supply at community level.

A [short paper](#) describing this approach is available for download.

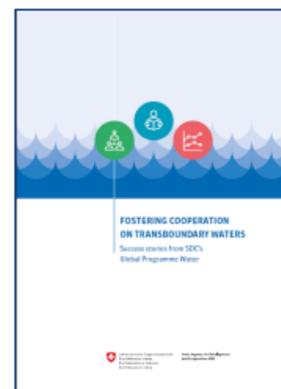
For more information, contact [Viacheslav Sorokovskyi](#).

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

Launch of communication brief “Fostering Cooperation On Transboundary Waters: Success stories from SDC’s Global Programme Water”

Wherever water resources are shared, conflicts might arise between the users that depend upon that water. When rivers, lakes and aquifers cross national borders, these conflicts could threaten national and international security. International cooperation to manage transboundary water resources thus forms an essential building block of global and regional stability. The "Water Diplomacy and Governance in Key Transboundary Hot Spots" programme, which was established in 2011 by SDC's Global Programme Water, seeks to foster cooperation among countries and communities that share water resources.

The communication brief aims at decision makers involved in programming and planning development projects and policy initiatives related to transboundary river basin management. In addition, the publication can be of relevance for practitioners and any other experts in the field as well as the interested public.



Download the brochure [here](#)

A Network of Partners to Achieve Greater Influence – Learning Paper

This learning paper was developed within the framework of the TajWSS (Tajikistan Water Supply and Sanitation) project, which is funded by SDC and implemented by OXFAM. The paper examines how networking and networks can be used as a tool to develop partnerships. This analysis aims to answer several key questions, such as: 'Why is networking important?' 'How will networking impact the development of projects and activities?' translate into effective service delivery.



The [full report](#) is available for download.

For further information, please contact [Bekhruz Yodgorov](#).

How to Establish a Full Cost Recovery Water Supply System?

This paper draws on the experiences of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project implemented in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, financed by SDC and implemented by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW). It explains the details of the model which allows for full cost recovery and analyses the factors for success and replication. Even though SDC still struggles to scale up this model, the document clearly shows that there is potential



for taking it up and replication in other places, in Central Asia and elsewhere.

[Download the document](#)

For further information, write to [Olivier Magnin](#).

Groundwater Assessment Platform launched

As previously reported (Newsletter No. 31), SDC supports Eawag, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, to develop a global Groundwater Assessment Platform (GAP). For this platform Eawag developed a method whereby the risk of contamination in a given area can be estimated using geological, topographical and other environmental data without having to test samples from every single groundwater resource. The research group's knowledge is now being made available free of charge on an interactive Groundwater Assessment Platform (GAP). www.gapmaps.org enables authorities, NGOs and other professionals to upload their own data and generate hazard maps for their areas of interest. Eawag invites all users to contribute articles to GAP Wiki and join online discussions, with a particular interest in learning about mitigation options and their application.



Project website: www.gapmaps.org

For further information: [Andreas Steiner](#)

Effectiveness of Joint Sector Reviews (JSR) in WASH

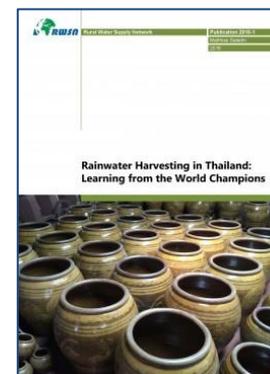
The World Bank has just published a Global Study of the Effectiveness of Joint Sector Review, undertaken by Skat. The Study Report and associated Learning Note and Poster provide an understanding of JSR processes and practical guidance on how to introduce and improve them. The study sets out a methodology in the form of visual checklists to reflect and take stock of WASH JSR processes. This could also form the foundation for subsequent cross-country comparisons of the JSR process. The publications provide an analysis of JSRs as well as practical guidance on how to introduce and effectively manage them.



Download the [JSR publications](#).

Field Note on Domestic Rainwater Harvesting in Thailand

This field note provides an overview and analysis of the historic developments of promoting Domestic Rainwater Harvesting (DRWH) in Thailand between 1980 and 2015. Based on a literature review and interviews with stakeholders a series of factors were identified which made the promotion of DRWH in Thailand an exceptionally successful example of diffusion of innovations. Among the key factors identified were market mechanisms, pre-existing habits, affordability, supply chains, adequate policies, and climate. In spite of its large-scale success, the Thai Jar Experience is not a blueprint for replication elsewhere but points out to the importance of cultural and economic aspects, as well as to an enabling environment in general.



Download the [full report](#).

CALENDAR

Online Course on International Water Law: Developing legal skills for negotiating and implementing water agreements

Governance and protection of freshwater is one of the biggest challenges facing the planet over the next decade. The [Geneva Water Hub](#), the [Platform for International Water Law](#) and DiploFoundation have joined forces to develop an [online course](#) on international water law at the University of Geneva. This course aims at training professionals working in the water sector. The participants who will pass the course will obtain 4 ECTS and will become part of the community of practice of the Platform for International Water Law at the Geneva Water Hub.

For more information contact [Francois Münger](#)

7th Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN) Forum – Abidjan, Côte D'Ivoire: 29.11 – 02.12.2016

The Rural Water Supply Network Forum is only held every five years and thus is a real special global event. The whole event will be in English and French so it is a great opportunity to bridge the gap between Anglophone and Francophone Africa, and there will be substantial inputs from Latin America & Caribbean and from across Asia and Eastern Europe. The overall theme of the Forum is "Water for Everyone" - how do we, on a practical level, achieve universal access to safe drinking water.

Swiss input is already high – SDC is a Gold Sponsor; the lead organiser and Silver Sponsor is Skat; Helvetas and Caritas are Bronze Sponsors; and there will be special sponsored seminars lead by Helvetas, Antenna Technologies and WHO Geneva. There have also been numerous inputs to the main programme from the Swiss NGO WASH Consortium partners, Eawag and others. It is a great sharing and networking opportunity with strong support from The World Bank, African Development Bank, WaterAid, IRC and USAID, among others.

The early bird deadline is 15 July - <https://rwsn7.net/participate/register/>

**cewas is looking for motivated entrepreneurs**

cewas is still accepting applications for its annual start-up programme. Starting in August, participants will be trained in sustainable sanitation, water and resource management as well as on business development. Participants create their business model and write a business plan according to the "Lean Start-Up" method. They will become part of the large cewas community and connect with the gatekeepers, experts and investors on the largest event of the sector – the World Water Week 2016 in Stockholm. With only two places left, applicants are advised to hurry.



More information on www.cewas.org

ABOUT

“SDC Water News” is the electronic news bulletin of SDC’s Global Programme Water Initiatives (GPWI) sent out to people who are loosely organised in SDC’s water network “Réseau”. Skat Consulting Ltd. is supporting GPWI for the logistics of the newsletter preparation.

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

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

[SDC’s Global Programme Water Initiatives](#)

[Réseau Shareweb](#)

[SDC Water News Archive](#)

Réseau Focal Points: [Christian Eggs](#) and [Hanna Capeder](#)

Send articles and comments to the Editor: [Matthias Saladin](#)

