



UNESCO-IHP
ISARM and PCCP Programmes

International Conference

TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS

Challenges and new directions

First announcement and call for abstracts

6–8 December 2010
UNESCO, Paris (France)

Convened by
UNESCO IHP and IGCP Programmes,
IAH and UNEP-DELIC

in cooperation with
AIDA, GEF-IW, GWP, IAHS, IGRAC, NGWA, OAS,
SIWI, UNWWAP, UNU-EHS, UNW-DPC, WWC

Seventh Phase of the UNESCO
International Hydrological Programme
(IHP 2008–2013)

Background

In recognition of transboundary aquifer systems as an important source of fresh water in some regions of the world, particularly those with arid and semi-arid climatic conditions, the 14th Session of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, June 2000, adopted Resolution N° XIV-12. By this Resolution, the Council decided to launch an initiative to promote studies with regard to transboundary aquifers entitled the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management (ISARM) Programme. Close cooperation for this programme was also established with IAH, UNECE, OAS, UNESCWA, FAO, and other regional and international institutions. In its first phase the programme was dedicated to a global inventory of transboundary aquifers, which has been compiled into a worldwide atlas. A series of analytical studies have been completed to assist Member States with guidance. ISARM activities between 2000 and 2008 have demonstrated that a multi disciplinary approach is essential for the sound management of aquifers.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted in December 2008 the Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the 'Law of transboundary aquifers'. With this resolution the UNGA encourages aquifer states to make appropriate bilateral or regional arrangements for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers, taking into account the provisions contained in the draft articles annexed to it. Considering the importance of the UNGA Resolu-

tion and capitalizing on the growing body of inter-State experience with the management and the development of transboundary aquifers, the Conference aims to provide a platform for discussion and consideration of ways to promote cooperation among States in managing and developing transboundary aquifers. The Conference will also consider the steps to be taken from the adoption of such policies to their implementation into practical operational actions.

The debates in the conference are expected to guide stakeholders in the management of the 'invisible' but essential groundwater resources and to meet the expectations of groundwater resources users in terms of water security.

This event marks the end of the first phase of the ISARM Programme and the start of its second phase and aims to look forward to the challenges and new directions required for the sustainable development and management of transboundary aquifers.

More information
on ISARM Programme:
<http://www.isarm.net>



Objectives of the Conference

- Presentation and delivery of the results and outputs of the first Phase of the ISARM programme. These results will assist in the design of the ISARM-II Programme.
- Bringing together leading transboundary aquifer management experts to discuss concepts and approaches for sound management under various settings, covering both developed and developing countries.
- Exchange of ideas for new directions in transboundary aquifer management, as well as drawing recommendations for the formulation of new strategies and implementation elements such as guidelines and educational tools.
- Consider the contribution of international law principles to the sustainable management of transboundary aquifers and the dependent ecosystems.
- Consider legal and institutional advances and issues arising from contemporary practices of States crystallized in treaties agreements and other legal instruments of cooperation.

Conference Topics

- 1 Global overviews of transboundary aquifer systems**
Regional inventories and case studies – Sharing data and information.
- 2 Managing transboundary aquifers: Challenges and opportunities**
Lessons learnt and best practices.
- 3 Building capacities and strengthening institutions**
Legal and institutional advances – Regional agencies and organizations – Multilateral agreements, interstate cooperation, training, education and technical assistance needs – Water law and environmental concerns – Globalization and virtual water flow.
- 4 Strengthening cooperation**
Benefits of cooperation and impacts of conflicts: techniques for conflicts anticipation, prevention mediation, negotiation and resolution.

High Level Panel

The UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the 'Law of transboundary aquifers'
General principles, recommendations – The way forward.

Conference Chairpersons

A. Tejada-Guibert (Director of UNESCO Division of Water Sciences)
B. Kante (Director UNEP-DELC)
S. Puri (Secretary General IAH)

High Level Panel

Chaired by
A. Szöllösi-Nagy (Rector UNESCO-IHE)
Ambassador C. Yamada (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan- Former UN International Law Commission Special 'Rapporteur' on the 'Law on Transboundary Aquifers')

Organizing Committee

A. Tejada-Guibert (Secretary IHP)
A. Aureli (UNESCO-IHP)
A. Kreilhuber (UNEP-DELC)
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B. Neupane (New Delhi)
P. Pypaert (Venice)
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Scientific Advisory Committees

Inventories, case studies, management and environmental concerns (Topic 1 and Topic 2)

M. Ait Kadi (GWP)
L. Amore (IAH, Latin America)
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G. de Marsily (Univ. Pierre et Marie Curie)*
P. Hubert (IAHS)
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A. Rivera (Geological Survey of Canada)
O. Salem (GWA, Libya)
W. Struckmeier (IAH President)
O. Unver (UNWWAP)
Y. Xu (University of Western Cape)
H. Zaisheng (University of Geosciences, China)
D. Zimmer (Consultant 6th World Water Forum)

Building capacity, strengthening cooperation (Topic 3 and Topic 4)

S. Burchi (AIDA)
B. Barraqué (Comité Nat. France UNESCO-IHP)
F. Bernardini (UNECE)
P.K. Bjørnsen (UNEP-DHI)
M. Daoudy (University of Geneva)*
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A. Duda (GEF-IW)
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A.W. González (Embassy of Argentina at the UN, Vienna)
T. Jarvis (Oregon State University)
B. Kante (UNEP/CSLD)
J. Lundqvist (SIWI)*
A. Nicol (WWC)
J. Rucks (OAS)
S.M.A. Salman (World Bank)*
R.M. Stephan (Consultant UNESCO-IHP)
B.-M. Taal (AMCOW)
C. Tortajada (IWRA)
R. Varady (University of Arizona)
P. Wouters (UNESCO IHP-HELP Centre, Dundee)
M. Zeitoun (London School of Economics)

* to be confirmed.



The movie "One Water",
directed by Ali Habashi,
will be presented during the Conference

Pre-registration

Deadline for pre-registration: **30 December 2009.**

Participants should pre-register via email to:

ISARM2010@unesco.org

Abstracts can be received until **end of March 2010.**

The number of participants will be limited to 200.

Information to be provided

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms)

Name

Institute/Organization/Company

Postal address

Fax

E-mail

Telephone

I plan to present under topic number ...

I plan to attend the Conference

I wish to submit a poster that will be also available as electronic file (to facilitate inclusion in the Conference Proceedings)

No registration fees will be required to participate in this Conference

Call for participation and submission of the abstracts

Experience shows that a multidisciplinary approach is essential to tackle the management of trans-boundary systems. Scientists, academics, civil servants, social scientists, development economists, managers, decision-makers, governmental officers dealing with transboundary aquifers issues wishing to make a presentation in the Conference are invited to participate and submit abstracts. The abstracts should be in English, one page length, contain author's name, affiliation, address and keywords, and address a subject on one of the topics of the Conference.

The Scientific Advisory Committee will select from the abstracts a number of authors, who will be requested to

prepare full-length papers. The Proceedings will include keynote lectures and accepted papers and will be published by UNESCO-IHP.

Authors of accepted contributions will be notified by end of May 2010. There is a limit of 6 pages for each paper, and of 3 pages for each poster, including figures, tables and references.

The participants are kindly requested to submit their abstracts by 30 March 2010 to the following e-mail address:

ISARM2010@unesco.org

Venue, dates and organizational aspects

- The Conference will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France) from 6–8 December 2010
- The language of the Conference will be English.
- There may be a limited number of travel grants for participants from developing countries with accepted papers.
- Abstracts submission deadline: end of March 2010
- Letters of acceptance: end of May 2010
- Second announcement: end of June 2010
- Final registration: 5 September 2010

Contact information

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More information
will be available later at
<http://www.isarm.net>