Summary

- Water Management hesitates between public and Private ........ P. 2
- Ministers commit to improving access to water and sanitation ........ P. 3
- Portfolio ............. P. 4
- France stresses water as key factor for green growth ............. P. 6
- River Niger Basin: Nine countries make commitments ........... P. 7
- 4th World Water Development Report P. 8

> Mexico in Figures

- 115 million inhabitants
- $1/3$ of the population is not connected to a sewage network
- An additional $1/3$ is connected to a sewage network without treatment
- Water covered area: 20,430 m²
- Freshwater extraction: 747.6 m³/capita/year
  17.81% water stress
- Water price:
  0.49 USD/m³ (the cheapest of all OECD countries)
- 127 km of water pipelines in the Cutzamala System pumps
  14,900 L/s of water up to Mexico City

N°3 - Wednesday, 14 March , 2012

Editorial

More than 1,000 cities have signed the Istanbul Water Consensus pact

On 1400 participants from 60 countries, over 500 local elected officials, including 250 mayors, governors and presidents of public authorities, are much more present than in previous forums on the process of local and regional authorities (LRA). The mobilisation of international associations, including UCLG, is the main reason.

In 2006, the Mexico Forum has allowed to consecrate local authorities as the relevant level for water services and sanitation management. The Istanbul Forum in 2009 went even further through the creation of the Istanbul Pact that allows LRA to commit to the principles of sustainable management of water resources but also on quantified and verifiable targets.

LRA have the opportunity to discuss on various themes and benefit from best practices of local authorities present in Marseille. Water is a strong cultural element, inseparable from the issue of governance. The inclusion of this dimension, often overlooked, is one of the success factors of a smart and participative water policy. Finally, solidarity and cooperation are a great way to improve and accelerate access to safe water and sanitation. We will address this matter and others in terms of solutions. This is both our roadmap and our responsibility.

Rio+20 approaches. LRA are increasingly present and active in international debates on sustainable development. Their voice carries farther. Governments have understood this, and have enrolled their major role in the Ministerial Declaration of this 6th Forum.

The water, global issue, calls for local solutions. Tomorrow and after tomorrow, the local authorities will show that they have more than a role to play, they have solutions and they are a part of the solution to water challenge.

The coordinators of the process LRA
Serge Lepeltier, former Minister and Mayor of Bourges
and Pierre Victoria, World Water Council

> NEWSPAPER WORKSHOP REALISED WITH THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OF THE NETWORK PROJECTION

> GB-NL 3 BAT_Mise en page 1 13/03/12 23:47 Page1
Water management hesitates between Public and Private

Public or Private? That is the question which opposed the pro “public water management and sanitation services” to the liberal approach holders the 13 March during the 6th World Water Forum.

David Boys, “Public Services International” utilities officer pledges for water management to remain public. According to him, this system guarantees access to water for all thanks to social fares. Moreover, there is no commercial secret and transparency has become a well known reality in public management.

“Public and private water and sanitation operators are facing similar problems”, moderates Gérard Payen, President of Aquafed, The International Federation of Private Water Operators. And he added: “water supply and management induce minimum costs that need to be financed especially through fares which cover the costs: no money no water!”

Marie-Hélène Lauron, “Water for people” network coordinator testifies of the Philippines experience in the private water management. In 2007, she observed that commitments defined in contracts signed in 1997 were not respected. According to here, “reality is harsher than fiction”. Water prices have increased from 45% to 80% which excludes entire communities from accessing drinkable water, whereas water cuts are still extensive and recurrent. Furthermore, quality is insufficient. From a social perspective, several water supply company employees have lost their jobs due to profitability motives. Marie-Hélène Lauron goes one step further “water is not an economic commodity (…) its management should remain within the public sector.”

Half way between public and private, moderates Mamadou Dia, Sénégalaise des eaux Director General. As a national public operator, he entrusted the private sector with water management services.

“The mode of water and sanitation service management used is only a tool amongst several to reach the targets set by the State. The main objective is to satisfy users, secure water access and guarantee acceptable social fares to populations”. Access to water services in Senegal has increased by 120% between 1995 and 2011 due to joint cooperation between public and private actors.
The European Union (EU) commits even further to water challenges

On Tuesday 13 March, Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment, introduced the “Blueprint to Safeguard Europe Water Resources” to be published next November. It defines new strategic orientations. The Blueprint strengthens EU efforts towards water ‘prevention and preparedness’ with particular attention to people and natural ecosystems and the balance between demand and supply. In the afternoon, Janez Potočnik endorsed the Declaration on Water challenges during the Ministerial Conference.

Gender equality promoted by UNESCO report

For the launch of the 4th UN World Water Development Report (WWDR4), Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, presented the chapter on mainstreaming gender in water resources management. This is the first time since the launch of the first report in 2000 that this concept is explicitly taken into account. Various speakers stressed the importance of strengthening the decision-making power of women in the field of management and use of water. Equally women’s participation in all levels of water governance as well as information dissemination to stakeholders were emphasised.

Ministers commit to accelerating access to safe drinking water and sanitation

On 13 March, ministers from participating countries to the 6th World Water Forum made a common Declaration, based on preparatory discussions.

This declaration emphasises the acceleration of the implementation of obligations linked to Human right to water and sanitation, the guarantee of everyone well being and health, focusing on the most vulnerable. They insisted also on improving waste water management.

A global approach towards water, energy and food security is a guarantee of a sustainable economic growth and job creations. This cross-cutting approach allows a good functioning of ecosystems linked to water, a maximisation of public policies, the creation of synergies and a minimisation of competition between different economical sectors.

The Ministerial Conference reminds us to consider water in all dimensions.

The identification of solutions

Ministers agree that Ministerial Conference High Level Roundtables offer the opportunity to identify solutions and commitments about water issues.

They support that partnership, at the same time political and operational, made with parliaments and local authorities, have a central role about these questions. These partnerships should be continued, linked with thematic and regional processes, also with the “Grassroots and citizenship” commission of the 6th World Water Forum.

By this declaration, the Ministerial conference wishes solutions and commitments to be consolidated and spread, their implementation to be followed and evaluated by proper authorities, to contribute to the work of next World Water Forum.
The main players from the session on Innovative Financing for the Sustainable Rehabilitation of Lake Tchad.

Idriss Deby Itno, president of the Republic of Chad signs the declaration for financing the access to water and sanitation for all people living thanks to the waters from Lake Chad.

The actress Famke Janssen is the new “ambassador of the water” from NGO Green Cross International.

Idriss Deby Itno, president of the Republic of Chad signs the declaration for financing the access to water and sanitation for all people living thanks to the waters from Lake Chad.

The Verticality of Hydrogen in the Ballet “H2O-Memories of Water”

Sowat, graffiti artist, is decorating the Phocean Palace Wall.

Salam Fayyad, prime minister of Palestine, with Dr Shaddad Al-Attili, Palestinian water minister and Rabbi Al-Shiekh, deputy head of Palestinian water authority.

Salam Fayyad, prime minister of Palestine, with Dr Shaddad Al-Attili, Palestinian water minister and Rabbi Al-Shiekh, deputy head of Palestinian water authority.

Evan Abramson and Carmen Elsa Lopez, film makers, presenting Carbon for Water with their baby Luz Immamuel.

Julia Martínez-Lefevre, DG of International Forum for Conservation of Nature, Angel Gurria, Secretary-General of the OECD, Benedicta Sage, International Forum President celebrate with Jean Leonetti, French European Affairs Minister, the European engagement for water.

Artist Gris 1 (left) from Lyon puts water at the heart of the issue; Heng (right) from Marseille illustrates the need for a balance between civilization on the surface and the water that flows beneath us.

Julia Martínez-Lefevre, DG of International Forum for Conservation of Nature, Angel Gurria, Secretary-General of the OECD, Benedicta Sage, International Forum President celebrate with Jean Leonetti, French European Affairs Minister, the European engagement for water.

Sowat, graffiti artist, is decorating the Phocean Palace Wall.
Meet the Solutions provider at the Village.

Price of water: a scenography made by Sylvain Massot, Project Pavilion (Village of Solutions)

Zaffar Adeel (director of UN University), Christian Severin (GEF programme manager) et Alex T. Balzak INWE

At the library, ideas

High level round table on transboundary waters.

Volunteers welcome participants from all over the world

The well-known photographer Yann Arthus Bertrand presented his film, A Thirsty World, yesterday evening.

Joint commitments of nine states for the sustainable management of the Niger Basin.

Water commitment in the City Hall of the Village of Solutions

Volunteers welcome participants from all over the world

High level round table on transboundary waters.

Price of water: a scenography made by Sylvain Massot, Project Pavilion (Village of Solutions)

The well-known photographer Yann Arthus Bertrand presented his film, A Thirsty World, yesterday evening.

Joint commitments of nine states for the sustainable management of the Niger Basin.

Water commitment in the City Hall of the Village of Solutions

Meet the Solutions provider at the Village.

Price of water: a scenography made by Sylvain Massot, Project Pavilion (Village of Solutions)

Zaffar Adeel (director of UN University), Christian Severin (GEF programme manager) et Alex T. Balzak INWE

At the library, ideas

High level round table on transboundary waters.

Volunteers welcome participants from all over the world

The well-known photographer Yann Arthus Bertrand presented his film, A Thirsty World, yesterday evening.

Joint commitments of nine states for the sustainable management of the Niger Basin.

Water commitment in the City Hall of the Village of Solutions

Meet the Solutions provider at the Village.

Price of water: a scenography made by Sylvain Massot, Project Pavilion (Village of Solutions)

Zaffar Adeel (director of UN University), Christian Severin (GEF programme manager) et Alex T. Balzak INWE

At the library, ideas

High level round table on transboundary waters.

Volunteers welcome participants from all over the world

The well-known photographer Yann Arthus Bertrand presented his film, A Thirsty World, yesterday evening.

Joint commitments of nine states for the sustainable management of the Niger Basin.

Water commitment in the City Hall of the Village of Solutions
France stresses water as key factor for green growth

The French Ministry of Ecology discusses the sustainability of the current economic system and the solutions at the disposal of citizens, communities and companies to create a “green” economy.

Green growth is economic growth intended to use less and/or more efficiently nonrenewable energy resources and raw materials. The management and safeguarding of water resources thus constitutes one of its principal aspects.

Sino-French cooperation in integrated water resource management

In closing the first day of the Forum, Chinese and French governments introduced a cooperation project in the field of integrated water resource management. The agreement focuses on sharing learnt experience around the watersheds of Seine Normandie and River Hai. Launched in Marseille, the second cooperation phase spans from 2012 to 2015. Chen Lei, Chinese Minister for Water Resources and Serge Lepeltier, French Ambassador for Climate Negotiations underline the strong potential for synergies between two regions that provide both countries’ capitals with water.

To create general public awareness, calculating the water footprint is an essential step for promoting green growth. France has undertaken this with its own perspective (differing from the international WaterFootPrint approach) that incorporates large indirect quantities of water (virtual water) used in the service sector. France has emerged as a significant importer of virtual water, and encourages reflection on how every country can reduce their water footprint.

To conclude, Dominique Dron singled out the industrial laundry company, Elis, as an example of good water management and environmental performance. The participation of private companies is seen as indispensable for dynamic green growth.

Wetlands provide many services to society free of charge
Niger River Basin: Nine countries make commitments

Nine countries bordering the Niger River make a series of commitments to improve access to water and sanitation. Over 100 million people are concerned.

Developing the right to water and sanitation, integrating priorities of access to water and sanitation in national budgets, optimising water consumption, and encouraging irrigation all represent firm commitments made on Monday 12 March 2012 during the 6th World Water Forum by Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Chad.

The Heads of State of the Niger River Basin, 4,200 km long and covering 210 million ha, look to establish a common vision for river basin development. Thus, they call for a strong favour access to water and sanitation and integrated water resources management. The Niger River basin assures the livelihood of around 100 million inhabitants distributed among the nine countries.

Joint commitments

Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger; and Henri de Raincourt, French Minister of Foreign and European Affairs and in charge of cooperation, presented a synthesis of the recommendations adopted during the forum “Solidarity for water in the Niger River Basin countries” held on 17 and 18 October 2011 in Bamako.

Habib Ouane, Minister of Energy and Water of Mali; Michel Camdessus, Governor of the Bank of France and Marc Gentilini, General Delegate of the Chirac Foundation for access to quality health all reaffirmed the joint commitments for a sustainable management of the Niger River. “If it is difficult to starve to death, it is easy to die from thirst,” mentions Professor Gentilini.

On behalf of the Niger Basin countries heads of State, Idriss Déby Itno, President of Chad and President of the Niger Basin Authority, assures that “the signature of these commitments marks the outcome of works made by politicians, experts and members of civil society during the forum of Bamako.” The member countries also promise to further their commitments at the upcoming Rio +20 summit.

The BRIDGE project of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) deals with the management of water in the transboundary hydrologic basins in Central America, South America, and in the Mekong Region of Asia. There are more than 270 transboundary water regions around the world.

According to Alejandro Iza, Director of the Center for Environmental Law of IUCN, “The rivers and streams often establish boundaries between countries and cultures. This causes water conflicts. Conversely, diplomacy and sound management of resources promote peace and cooperation.” BRIDGE aims to establish transboundary management of water under the principle Water Without Borders.

EEA’s new report highlights the necessity of a better water use efficiency in Europe

The European Environment Agency – EEA new report Towards Efficient use of water resources in Europe, launched on 13 March describes the state of Europe water resources and proposes mechanisms to increase the water use efficiency.

“Water resources are under pressure in many parts of Europe, and it is getting worse,” says EEA Executive Director Jacqueline McGlade. Some vital efforts to avoid water scarcity in Europe are orientated to potential efficiency gains in irrigation systems and in the public water supply and the coordination between water and energy legislation.
Solutions

A solution for a better water transboundary management

The UN University Institute for Water, Environment & Health (INWEH) presents IW:solution no. 3029. It consists of an online platform where 180 projects results (8 billion USD / 20 years of work) are assembled. These worldwide projects deal with transboundary management of freshwater and marine environments. This synthesis report can be used for better global policy guidance.

INWEH stands up for its solution during the roundtable Science and Water Policy Interface on March 14 at 11 a.m. in the Palais des Congrès. A conference will also be held in Bangkok in September 2012. www.inweh.unu.edu

Water Security in Asian Cities

Sanitation issues remain crucial in Asian countries. UN-Habitat and the Asia Pacific Water Forum invited different regional actors focused on finding solutions to take the floor. The sanitation network has been improved in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, by means of financial reassurance and local administration involvement. The population in Karnataka, India, has got continuous access to water due to an experiment implemented by Veolia Water India. The awareness campaigns conducted in Singapore on the reuse of treated water as drinking water are also included in this list of best practices.

The 4th World Water Development Report (WWDR4):

"A roadmap to move forward"

Ahead of the Rio + 20 Conference, the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and UNESCO present the WWDR4: a new approach for reflecting on global water reality and future.

Water as a factor in many global crises is a key message of the WWDR4. This "roadmap to move forward" (Irina Bokova, Director-General UNESCO), presented on Monday by speakers involved in its conception, represents the concerted efforts of 28 UN-Water agencies.

As with previous editions, the centrality of water is a driving force behind the report—however, the WWDR4 approach to exploring and analysing its global dimensions is different. During the launch, Olcay Ünver, WWAP Coordinator, discussed some of the triennial report’s novelties. These included: 17 areas/topics/sectors, a new regional component, a look inside and outside the “water box”, a glimpse of possible futures, and a gender-mainstreamed component.

"Managing water under uncertainty and risk", is addressed in the report’s first of three volumes. Its first section provides an overview of recent developments, trends and key challenges from different perspectives, and in the second, emphasis is placed on water management under risk and uncertainty. A collection of reports prepared by UN-Water members and partners, constitutes the factual base for the previous volume. Finally, ‘Facing the Challenges’ features 15 case studies describing the progress made in meeting water-related goals, as well as their successes, failures, and lessons to be learned.

"Water... is a common denominator for most of the world’s challenges", Irina Bokova, Director-General UNESCO

The WWDR4 also underlined strengthened cooperation in water initiatives. When one considers that 40% of the world’s population depends on transboundary water, and that projected population growth (70% by 2050) will lead to increases in global food demand (70% by 2050) and energy consumption (49% by 2035), it is evident that there must be a socio-economic dimension considered when approaching water management. Managing competing water demand amidst increasing water scarcity, and achieving sustainable economic development: such is the WWDR4’s vision for the world’s collective future.