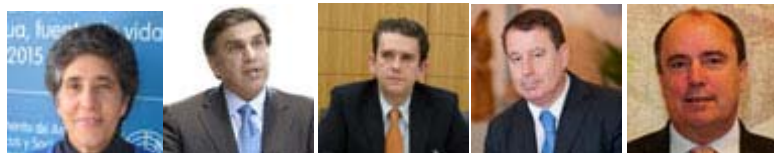


# CONFERENCE DAILY

Monday 3 October 2011



## Welcome to Zaragoza!

UN-Water, the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication, the Ebro River Basin Confederation and the Session Conveners want to give a warm welcome to all participants joining the conference 'Water in the Green Economy: Towards Rio+20'.

This international conference brings together stakeholders, representatives of regional and international organizations, representatives of the successful initiatives in water and the green economy and journalists to share lessons learnt from practical implementation experiences. We will hear cases from around the world that have successfully used 'tools for change' to move towards a green economy.

Your presentations and discussions over the next few days will contribute to a toolbox which will provide direct input for the preparations for Rio+20. We look forward to meeting you and rely on your active participation to make this conference a great success.



## On the road to Rio+20. Messages from milestone conferences and meetings

### World Water Day - Cape Town, South-Africa.

22 March 2011

UN-Habitat Final report 'Water and Cities: Responding to the urban challenge':

- Green growth is not a replacement to sustainable development, but a way of operationalizing sustainable development and developing green economies.
- Water and green growth is a cross-cutting basis for sustainable economic development, and so there will be no one-size-fits-all solution. Rather, a policy framework to guide policy makers will be required.
- There is a need to bring business and industry into this debate with policy makers, as green growth should be market-led with government support.

### Stockholm Statement, World Water Week

Stockholm, Sweden. 21-27 August 2011

Call for a commit to the following targets for 2020: *20% increase* in: total food supply-chain efficiency; water efficiency in agriculture; water use efficiency in energy production; quantity of water reused and *20% decrease* in water pollution.

For the Rio+20 theme 'green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication', a call for the following outcomes:

## Your expectations for the conference



**Colin Green, United Kingdom**

"What I would like people to come away with are some practical tools and measures that they can use and knowledge of how they can use them, which will help their country, city, or region move towards a green economy. As the song from My Fair Lady goes, 'don't talk to me of love, show me, don't give me the words, tell me how we can do it.'"



**María de Jesús Márquez Dorantes, Mexico**

"I would like to learn how green jobs can overcome the general economic environment characterised by unemployment and low investment."



**Roel Espiritu, Philippines**

"I hope that I can bring home to Maynilad practices that will protect the environment, will positively affect our business, and help us deliver our commitment to our customers."



**Anwer Sahooly, Yemen**

"I wish that the conference will come up with concrete and implementable proposals to Rio+20 to help poor countries achieve the MDGs relevant to water supply and sanitation."

- All governments commit to sufficient investments in safe drinking water and sanitation services and hygiene education for its people
- The current measurements of economic performance are expanded and complemented by indicators on environmental and social sustainability
- Economic and social incentives are created to promote water use efficiency and protect freshwater ecosystems.

### 7th "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference - Astana, Kazakhstan. 21-23 September 2011

Draft Ministerial Declaration: "Save water, grow green!" :

"We stress the need to strengthen efforts, including through cooperation with the private sector, for the transition to a green economy by supporting the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation, including through the internalization of externalities, as well as stimulating green investment in various economic sectors, applying effective mixes of policy instruments to promote resource efficiency and supporting research, innovations, education and training to secure the achievement of a green, and competitive economy. Natural capital and ecosystems are critical economic assets. Environmentally harmful subsidies are obstacles for greener economies and investments in sustainable policies."

# What's for today?

*"A green economy must recognise that water is one of the essential inputs that rolls right through almost everything we do in society and every part of the economy"*

Mike Young, Executive Director, Environment Institute, University of Adelaide

## Today's key questions

- How can economic instruments, green jobs and sustainable financing contribute to realizing a green economy?
- How to promote growth patterns that avoid the environmental costs experienced in the past, to prevent us from locking ourselves into unsustainable consumption and production patterns in the future?
- What is the real scope for water-related job creation in the green economy strategy?
- Which economic incentives can promote change towards a green economy?
- Which reforms should be carried out to create green jobs?
- What are the challenges and opportunities in cities?

## The Green Economy and... Thomas Chiramba



Thomas Chiramba is Chief of the Freshwater Ecosystems Unit in the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) of UNEP.

### Which change is necessary in the transition towards a green economy?

For me, the most important thing is that we should no longer focus on the question if the transition to a green economy is necessary or not. Instead, the key question should be: how can we transition to the green economy, given the environmental challenges that we are facing? I am very happy that the Zaragoza conference is exactly addressing this important question by highlighting case studies from around the world and showing that is possible to make a change.

In the transition to a green economy, we should focus on the issues that matter most. For me, these issues are the resources that are critical for the survival and future of mankind and for the world as a whole—water being clearly one of them. We should think about how we can use these resources in a sustainable manner and take measures to protect them so we can continue using them.

### What are the barriers in this process of change?

The biggest barrier is that water resources managers still focus very much on water allocation. They don't recognize that by managing water, they are in fact managing a whole range of ecosystem services. When managing water resources, we need to evaluate all the ecosystem services that we are influencing. I think it is important that the evaluation of water resources ecosystem services becomes part of all business and of what we do every day.

The tools that we are using now are the traditional water allocation tools. Since we have to recognize that we are actually managing a whole range of ecosystem services, we need to incorporate ecosystem services evaluation tools into water resources management. The evaluation of ecosystem services will assist decision makers in undertaking the trade-offs related to water resources management in an informed manner.

### What are your expectations for the Rio+20 process and how can the Zaragoza conference contribute?

I hope that by the end of the Rio conference we will have clarified all the abstract concepts that are related to the green economy. More importantly, I hope that these concepts will have been translated into a practical down-to-earth document that gives guidance on how decision-makers and practitioners can transition to the green economy. The Zaragoza conference can contribute to this by showcasing case studies that indicate how the green economy can be put in practice.

## Let us know what you think about the toolbox!

The conference has prepared a draft toolkit that will be presented as input for the UN Conference for Sustainable Development. The objective is to provide proposals based on the analysis of existing practice, reflecting specifically on lessons from implementation, scaling up and the relevance for LDCs, developing and transition countries.

For every tool we present in the toolkit we have identified a set of approaches and lessons learnt, based on the documents and papers submitted and prepared for the conference.

We would appreciate your feedback. Which approaches do you think are most important? Which approaches have been highlighted at the conference, but are missing in the toolkit? Please fill out the toolkit feedback form and hand it in at the conference registration desk.

## TODAY'S SIDE EVENT. 19.00–20.30

**VENUE: PARANINFO**, University of Zaragoza  
Plaza Basilio Paraíso 4, Zaragoza city centre

### From theory to practice: Ways to foster inter-sectoral coordination and planning for better addressing water, energy and food security. Convened by the German government.

The side event is organized by the German Government as one of the so-called satellite discussions that lead up to the Bonn2011 Nexus Conference. These discussions seek to provide a link between Bonn2011 and already existing initiatives and conferences and to open up the preparatory process of the conference to regional and subject-specific discussions. Particularly, ideas and proposals from satellite discussions will form one input to the elaboration of recommendations which will be one important outcome of the conference

In this side event the Bonn2011 Conference on "The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus" will be presented. After that, the themes and questions related to the conference will be discussed in plenary and working group sessions. Being inextricably linked, water energy and food security necessitate an integral way of planning and coordination. But what does this mean in practice? What needs to be done at different levels to make an integral nexus thinking a reality? The German Government would like to seize the opportunity of the UN-Water Conference to discuss these implications for policy-makers and other sector actors and to get feedback from conference participants to facilitate the formulation of the Bonn2011 Nexus Conference Recommendations.

Follow the conference online via the **webcast** and read **interviews** with session conveners at our conference website:

[www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green\\_economy\\_2011/](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green_economy_2011/)

# Highlighting today's sessions

"We should stop thinking about human resources and start thinking about resourceful humans."  
Carlos Carrion-Crespo (ILO)

## SESSION 1: ECONOMIC INCENTIVES in water management to support change towards green growth (OECD) 11.30-13.00



**Overview:** Gérard Bonnis, *Senior Policy Analyst, Environment Directorate, OECD.*

In this session, I expect to see how policy approaches to drive water security can work as an engine for growth. For example, implement water trading with a view to allocate water to the highest economic use (we should get interesting insights from Australia's experience with the Murray Darling basin); spend public money to expand infrastructure in areas in need (South Africa sees a lot of gains from inter-catchment transfers); and /or reduce demand through water pricing (last year tariffs in the domestic sector were raised by 40% in Israel, partly to recover the cost of the recently built large-scale seawater desalination facilities)."

### Panelists:



James Horne



Sinaia Netanyahu



Thinus Basson

## SESSION 2: What reforms for GREEN JOBS? (ILO) 14.00-15.30



**Overview:** Carlos Carrion-Crespo, *Senior Specialist in Public Services, ILO.*

"Labor issues are essential in the green economy. Realizing the transition to the green economy involves meaningful participation by workers and employers. They are the most important actors in this transition. This conference can be a good opportunity to share the lessons learned from around the world."

### Panelists:



Roel Espiritu



Vicenta Trotman

## SESSION 3: COST-RECOVERY and alternatives for SUSTAINABLE FINANCING (World Bank) 16.00-17.30



**Overview :** Maria Angelica Sotomayor, *Senior Economist, Urban, Water Supply and Sanitation Unit, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region, World Bank.*

"Providing reliable services to people is an essential part of the green economy. Our experience is that the best way of providing good services to customers is to treat them like paying customers".—**Julia Bucknall**, Sector Manager, Water Department, World Bank

### Panelist:



Gayitri Handanahal Venugopa

**What do you think about the key approaches?  
Fill out the toolbox feedback form and let us know!**

### Key approaches for economic instruments

- Environmental or green taxes
- Water and sanitation charges
- Fees
- Subsidies
- Trading
- Market based instruments such as payment of ecosystem services
- Consumer driven accreditation and certification schemes
- Arrangements to send scarcity signals (including trading of water and emission rights, and offset schemes)
- Insurance schemes

### Key approaches for green jobs:

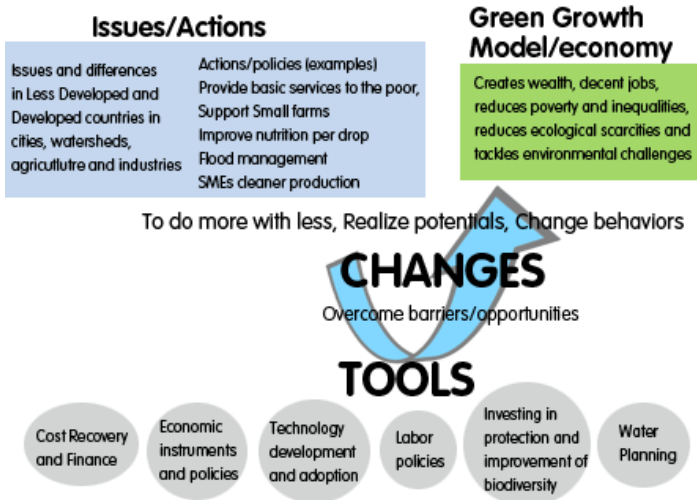
- Active labor policies and actions to:
  - Maximize the potential of green growth to push the demand of new green skills from the labour force.
  - Foster labour market dynamism.
  - Promote an inclusive labour market.
  - Create opportunities for productive employment and decent jobs for all.
- Active education and human capital policies to:
  - Adapt workforce skills in advance to the transition from the grey to green job market.
  - Promote investments in "green skills".
  - Minimize the costs of acquiring competence in green technologies.
- Improvements of governance/institutional arrangements to:
  - Enhance social dialogue and collaboration.
- Improve management practices.
- Promote participatory approaches and empowerment for

### Key approaches for financing

- Financial strategies adapted to the context of economic development.
- Incentives and funding to cover basic water and sanitation needs.
- Focused subsidies for poverty reduction and equity improvement.
- Social contract formulas of financing in urban areas and rural areas
- Funding in response to climate change and water scarcity.
- Funding diversification and demand management.
- Funding governance, institutional reform, management and information.
- Small-scale financing
- Improving the effectiveness of existing financing
- Pro-poor cost recovery
- Output-Based Aid

# The Road to Rio+20

## Water in the Green Economy in Practice: Towards Rio+20. The Zaragoza conference framework



The Zaragoza Conference aims to contribute to the preparatory process leading to Rio+20, building on the results of the Side Event held during the 2nd UNCSD Preparatory Committee (Prepcom2) on 'How the Green Economy depends on Water', organized by UN-Water and UNSGAB.

As a contribution to the Rio+20 process, the conference aims to showcase how different tools can promote CHANGE and the role of water as a key factor in the green economy. This will be illustrated through specific practical examples of the use of the tools to facilitate change in different regions of the world. The aim is to focus on those tools that support the transition, reflect on lessons learnt from practical implementation experiences, and highlight the importance of the specific context. This will support the process of moving to action in preparation for Rio+20 and contribute to the compilation of the toolbox or best practice guide of actions. The cases presented in the conference will focus on the use of specific 'tools for change' to help move towards a green growth model.



### The Green Economy and... Eunkyung Park

Eunkyung Park is President of the Korea Water Forum and Governor and Bureau Member of the World Water Council

### How are the Korean Water Forum and World Water Council contributing to Rio+20?

At the Korean Water Forum, we regard the green economy as a very important issue and we are very happy that this topic is a priority in the Rio+20 process. We are all working together now with our partners to make sure that water is put high on the agenda. We try to be engaged in the Rio+20 through the 6th World Water Forum (WWF). The theme for the WWF in 2012 is 'Time for solutions'. We will focus on practical solutions for water-related issues. We have spent a lot of time talking on how to solve the existing water issues, now we should really tackle them.

'Promote green growth and value ecosystems' is a key priority within the thematic process. Furthermore, green growth is a cross-cutting issue through our four WWF processes; the thematic, regional, grass-root and political process. Basically, the whole forum is about green growth. We aim to transfer our outcomes on water and green growth to the Rio+20 conference. We try to be engaged in the Rio+20 process as much as possible.

### How can we really make a green economy happen?

Realizing a green economy is **not easy**. It involves taking risks and nations are afraid of losing their competitiveness. Until now, we don't have many examples of successful green growth strategies. We are not sure what the impacts will be of certain green policies. Therefore, it is very important to collect evidence of successful green policies. So it is very interesting that the Zaragoza conference will showcase many projects that can teach us about changes on the ground. **Evidence is a good teacher for a change.**

In Korea, we have experienced that a **three-pronged approach** is most effective to overcome the barriers for green growth. Firstly, we have set up a legislative frame to foster low carbon green growth. This law encourages the development green technologies and the creation of new green jobs. Secondly, we started a five year green growth program which runs from 2009 until 2014. Thirdly, we have created green tax-system. We think that these tree policies will contribute to a green society. I always say that in a few years the ground of Korea will turn green, because all we talk about is green, green, and green!

**Conference daily.** You can send your contributions to:  
[andrea.vanderkerk@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.vanderkerk@gmail.com)

**Blog.** Add your postings to the conference discussion forum.:  
[waterinthegreeneconomyinpractice.wordpress.com](http://waterinthegreeneconomyinpractice.wordpress.com)

**Follow us on Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/#!/unwaterdpac>

For more news, information and interviews, please visit our conference **website:** [www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green\\_economy\\_2011](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green_economy_2011)

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