



5 July 2011

## Launch: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition “Water for Life” UN-Water Best Practices Award 2012

### “Water for Food Security”

***UN-Water calls for nominations from across the world  
Deadline 30 September 2011  
Award winners will be announced on World Water Day 2012***

**UNITED NATIONS, Zaragoza, Spain, July 2011:** The annual prize aims to highlight those projects and initiatives displaying outstanding merit and achieving particularly effective results in the field of water management or in communicating and raising awareness in water issues.

The second award edition focuses on water for food security, reflecting the theme of the 2012 World Water Day. Application period is now open from 30 June to 30 September 2011.

The “**Water for Life**” **UN-Water Best Practices Award** is organized by the United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action “Water for Life” 2005-2015, which implements the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC), and the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP).

Water is essential for life. No living being on planet Earth can survive without it. It is a prerequisite for human health and well-being as well as for the preservation of the environment. The link between water and food security is key for development: Over the period to 2050 the world's water will have to support the agricultural systems that will feed and create livelihoods for an additional 2.7 billion people. It takes 2000 to 5000 liters of water to produce one person's daily food. Irrigation increases yields of most crops by 100 to 400 percent, and irrigated agriculture currently contributes to 40 percent of the world's food production.

“This award raises awareness of the need to make the link between water and food security visible, accessible and sustainable for all and honour those which have made the most progress”, states Ms. Josefina Maestu, UNW-DPAC coordinator.

### About “Water for Life” UN-Water Best Practices Award

The annual prize aims to highlight those projects and initiatives displaying outstanding merit and achieving particularly effective results in the field of water management or

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in communicating and raising awareness in water issues. Each year, related to the World Water Day theme, the award celebrates and showcases the most successful initiatives and practices in two categories: **best water management practices (category 1)** and **best participatory, communication, awareness-raising and education practices (category 2)**.

In 2011, the first Award edition focused on urban water, reflecting the theme of the 2011 World Water Day. A total of 74 applications were evaluated by the international and inter-institutional Technical Advisory Committee and Jury. The geographical distribution of applications was as follows: Africa 15%, Asia 22%, Europe 24%, Latin America and the Caribbean 35%, Northern America 4%, with a total of 39 entries for category 1, and 35 for category 2.

In category 1, the prize was awarded to Las Pinas-Zapote River System Rehabilitation Program, the Philippines. The Participatory and Learning Based Approach to Raising Awareness on Water and Sanitation, Durban, eThekweni Municipality, South Africa won the Award in category 2.

**For further information on the Award and application process please consult:**

[www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/waterforlifeaward.html](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/waterforlifeaward.html)

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**Water Decade 2005-2015.** *The primary goal of the 'Water for Life' Decade is to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments on water-related issues by 2015. These commitments include the Millennium Development Goals to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015, to stop unsustainable exploitation of water resources.* [www.un.org/waterforlifedecade](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade)

**UN-Water** is an inter-UN-agency mechanism formally established in 2003 by the United Nations High Level Committee on Programmes. It has evolved out of a history of close collaboration among UN agencies and was created to add value to UN initiatives by fostering greater co-operation and information-sharing among existing UN agencies and outside partners. The 28 member entities of UN-Water support Member States worldwide in their efforts to achieve water and sanitation goals and targets. Other organizations outside of the United Nations are partners in UN-Water. [www.unwater.org](http://www.unwater.org)

**The United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015 (UNO-IDfA)** based in Zaragoza, Spain, implements the **UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)**. UNW-DPAC facilitates and implements communication, information and awareness raising activities in the framework of the 'Water for Life' Decade. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) hosts and leads UNO-IDfA/UNW-DPAC. [www.un.org/waterforlifedecade](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade)

The **World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)**, founded in 2000, is a UN-Water programme. Housed in UNESCO, WWAP monitors freshwater issues in order to provide recommendations, develop case studies, enhance assessment capacity at a national level and inform the decision-making process. Its primary product, the World Water Development Report (WWDR), is a periodic, comprehensive review providing an authoritative picture of the state of the world's freshwater resources. [www.unesco.org/water/wwap/](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/)

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