



International Annual UN-Water Zaragoza Conference 2012/2013

Preparing for the 2013 International Year. Water Cooperation: Making it Happen!

ZARAGOZA, SPAIN

8-10 JANUARY 2013

“Water is a key foundation whose importance can hardly be overestimated. It is a common denominator of the leading global challenges of our time. Water management can reduce the risk of disasters, such as droughts and floods. With transboundary river basins and aquifer systems representing almost half the earth's surface, water cooperation is vital for peace”

Irina Bokova
UNESCO Director-General

Organized by:
UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication (UNW-DPAC)

- In collaboration with:**
- Ebro River Basin Authority
 - Global Compact CEO Water Mandate
 - Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance (GWOPA)
 - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
 - International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC)
 - UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
 - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 - World Bank

Conference objectives

To ensure that water security and sustainability is achieved, concerted efforts must be made to promote **water cooperation** at river basin and local scale, including in transboundary river basins, irrigation districts and cities. Cooperation is necessary to deal with some of major issues such as water allocation decisions, upstream and downstream impacts of water pollution and water abstraction, construction and management of new infrastructures, dealing with illegal

abstractions and overexploitation of surface and groundwater, deciding on financing



An aerial view of the Panama Canal. UN Photo/Yutaka Nagata

management of water resources and water services, among others. In this regard, negotiation, mediation and

other dispute resolution mechanisms including the role of water diplomacy as well as participatory tools or procedures will be the main themes of discussion in the conference.

The conference will introduce the key skills required, with particular attention to their important role in the process of negotiation and mediation, with examples of their application in national and international water settings.

More information about the Conference at the following website:
www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_cooperation_2013/

Main themes for discussion

Mediation, as well as other Alternative Dispute Resolution Techniques, is one mechanism that must be more thoroughly incorporated at all levels, yet many institutions lack the necessary knowledge and capacity to do so.

Stakeholder platforms act as venues in which to enhance cooperation by improving participation and addressing all concerned parties at various levels.

Water Diplomacy encourages negotiation at the international level and builds a global framework which supports transboundary cooperation and multi-lateral and bilateral agreements and treat-

Day 1. Tuesday, 8 January 2013

Water cooperation among nations and stakeholders

Making it happen!



UN Photo/JC McIlwaine

09:00-10:30 Opening

Welcome

The International Year of Water Cooperation and expectations from the Conference

Overview of the Conference

The International Water Conventions

Mediation and dispute resolution techniques and approaches

10:30-13:15 Session 1

Water Diplomacy for furthering water cooperation among nations in transboundary river basins.

UNECE and World Bank

Cases: The Sava Commission, Finnish-Russian Commission, The Chu-Talas Commission, Spanish-Portuguese cooperation, The Nile, Senegal, Zambezi (tbc)

14:30-18:30 Session 2

Mediation and dispute resolution for furthering water cooperation among stakeholders in river basins.

UNESCO and UNEP

Cases: Guaraní, Mekong, Jordan(tbc)

Workshop. Water Message Game. Role play on the value of trust in negotiations

18:30-20:00 Side events

“Water is central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Raising awareness of the central role of water cooperation in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals calls for continued communication and outreach campaigns.”

Recommendations of the Preparatory Conference

“Towards the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20): Water Cooperation

Day 2. Wednesday, 9 January 2013

Water cooperation in rural areas and cities. Making it happen!

09:00-13:00 Session 3

Furthering water cooperation in rural areas: making it happen!

IFAD, ICID and FAO

Cases: Peru, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Guatemala/India/Madagascar

14:30-18:30 Session 4

Techniques and models to further water cooperation to improve water efficiency and water services in cities

CEO Water Mandate, IRC and GWOPA/UN-Habitat

Cases: Cities, Companies and Water operators

18:30-19:00 **Wrap up** and take away lessons

Day 3. Thursday, 10 January 2013

Side event. The case of stakeholders platforms in Spain and the Ebro River Basin

National and River Basin platforms

The National Water Council

The Ebro River Basin Council.

The Spanish-Portuguese Albufeira Convention

The Water Operators cooperative associations

Local cooperation platforms

Irrigation cooperatives

The city water stakeholders platforms

Field trip

Riegos del Alto Aragón. Huesca

The Zaragoza Water Cluster

The Lower Llobregat Aquifer near Barcelona

