



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

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

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

Background

In June 2000, in recognition of the importance of transboundary aquifer systems as a source of freshwater in certain regions of the world, particularly those located in arid and semi-arid zones, the 14th Session of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) adopted Resolution N° XIV-12. By this Resolution, the Council decided to launch an initiative, entitled the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management programme (ISARM), to promote studies into transboundary aquifers. Close cooperation with the ISARM Programme was also established with IAH, UNECE, OAS, UNESCWA, FAO as well as other regional and international institutions. The first phase of the programme was dedicated to compiling a global inventory of transboundary aquifers..

In December 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the 'Law of Transboundary Aquifers'. Through 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 annexed draft articles. The draft articles were prepared by the United Nations International Law Commission (UNILC) with technical support of UNESCO-IHP. Considering the importance of the UNGA Resolution and capitalizing on the growing body of inter-state experience related to the management and development of transboundary

aquifers, the *International Conference, Transboundary Aquifers: Challenges and new directions*, aims to provide a platform for discussion to consider ways to promote cooperation amongst States in the management and development of transboundary aquifers. This Conference will also consider the various steps to be taken to achieve this - from the adoption of such policies, to their implementation into practical, operational actions.

The debates taking place during the conference are expected to guide stakeholders in the management of '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 the second. It aims to consider the challenges and new directions required for the sustainable development and management of transboundary aquifers.

More information on ISARM Programme: <http://www.isarm.net>
Text of the UNGA Resolution: http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/pdf/Transboundary_Aquifers-Managing_a_Vital_Resource.pdf



Objectives

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

Topics

- 1 Global overview of transboundary aquifer systems**
Regional inventories and case studies – Sharing data and information.
- 2 Managing transboundary aquifers: Challenges and opportunities**
Lessons learned and best practices – Assessing the impacts of global changes to groundwater resources and managing aquifer system's response
- 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 impact of conflicts: techniques for conflict 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, a.i., UNESCO Division of Water Sciences)
B. Kante (Director, UNEP-DELCO)
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)
P. Letitre (IGRAC)
M. Miletto (UN-WWAP)
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A. Amani (Accra)
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A. Makarigakis (Addis Ababa)
B. Neupane (New Delhi)
P. Pypaert (Venice)
J. Ramasamy (Beijing)

Scientific Advisory Committees

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

M. Ait Kadi (GWP)
L. Amore (IAH, Latin America)
B. Braga (ANA, Brazil)
E. Braune (University of Western Cape)
M. Campana (Oregon State University)
G. Christelis (Ministry of Agriculture, Namibia)
G. de Marsily (Univ. Paris VI, French Acad. of Sciences)
P. Hubert (IAHS)
A. Khater (NWRC, Egypt)
R. Klingbeil (UN-ESCWA)
N. Kukuric (UNESCO/WMO IGRAC)
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R. Llamas (Univ. Complutense de Madrid)
D. Pennequin (IAH, BRGM)
P. Ramoeli (SADC)
A. Rivera (Geological Survey of Canada)
O. Salem (GWA, Libya)
C. Springer (OAS)
W. Struckmeier (President, IAH)
O. Unver (UN-WWAP)
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)

R. Ardakanian (UNW-DPC)
B. Barraqué (LATTS-ENPC, Université Paris-Est)
F. Bernardini (UNECE)
P.K. Bjørnsen (UNEP-DHI)
S. Burchi (AIDA)
M. Daoudy (University of Geneva)
L. del Castillo-Laborde (Universidad de Buenos Aires)
J. F. Donzier (RIOB)
A. Duda (GEF-IW)
G. Eckstein (Texas Tech University)
A.W. González (Embassy of Argentina, UN, Vienna)
T. Jarvis (Oregon State University)
B. Kante (UNEP)
J. Lundqvist (SIWI)
A. Nicol (WWC)
F. Renaud (UNU-EHS)
J. Rucks (OAS)
R.M. Stephan (Consultant, UNESCO-IHP)
B.M. Taal (AMCOW)
A. Tanzi (Università di Bologna)
P. van der Zaag (UNESCO-IHE)
R. Varady (University of Arizona)
P. Wouters (UNESCO IHP-HELP Centre, Dundee)
M. Zeitoun (London School of Economics)



**"One Water",
directed by Ali Habashi,
will be projected during the Conference**

Pre-registration

Deadline for pre-registration: **30 January 2010**

The number of participants **will be limited to 200**

Participants should pre-register **sending an email** at
ISARM2010@unesco.org

Information to be provided in the pre-registration mail

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 also be available as an electronic file (for 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 transboundary systems. Scientists, academics, civil servants, social scientists, development economists, managers, decision-makers and governmental officers dealing with transboundary aquifers issues, wishing to make a presentation at the Conference, are invited to participate and submit abstracts. The abstracts should be in English, one page in length and include author's name, affiliation, address and keywords. It should 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 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

- The Conference will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), 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 whose papers have been accepted by the Scientific Advisory Committee

The Second Circular will be issued in June 2010 and will contain details concerning the programme.

Important dates

- Submission deadline for abstracts: **30 March 2010**
- Letters of acceptance: **30 May 2010**
- Second announcement: **30 June 2010**
- Final registration: **5 September 2010**

Contact information

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More information
will soon be available at

<http://www.isarm.net>

UNESCO-IHP website:
<http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp>