

WWC Members Meeting

AND 42nd BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING



INTERNAL
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➤ Marseille, France, 8-10 June 2011



WORLD
WATER
COUNCIL

WWC Members and Board Meetings

Some 120 World Water Council participants attended the 2nd Annual International Members Meeting held on 8 June 2011 in Marseille, France. One full day was dedicated to reviewing the Council's activities since the 2009 General Assembly and exchanging with each other around issues such as Green Growth, Energy, and Transboundary Cooperation. Members also discussed their involvement in the Council and their engagement in the upcoming World Water Forum. On the two following days, members were given the opportunity to attend the Board of Governors Meeting as observers, a great experience, according to the participants who supported this transparent way of understanding the operations of their governing bodies.



The Members' Day began with a welcome speech by the World Water Council President, Mr. Loïc Fauchon, where he stated the Council's commitment to transparency with its members and asked members to use the Members' Day and the following two days of Board of Governor meetings to learn more about the work of the Council and to make comments, proposals and recommendations. With members from 35 different countries present, Mr. Fauchon also took the opportunity to welcome the most recent new members to the organisation.

Presentations

Four presentations were made during the morning session. The first two focused on the role water plays in economic development, specifically focusing on the way green growth can lead to more sustainable green economies, with speeches delivered by Helen Mountford, Deputy Director for Environment at the OECD, who spoke about the OECD Green Growth Strategy; and Thomas Stratenwerth Head of Division in the German Federal Ministry for the Environment who evoked solutions to the Green Economy in relation to the Bonn+10 conference scheduled for 16-18 November, 2011.



The second two presentations examined more closely different water issues facing two countries, namely China presented by Jiao Yong, Vice Minister of Water Resources; and Tajikistan presented by Rahmet Bobokalonov, the Minister of Water Resources. Member interest in the presentations was strong, with many questions coming from the floor after each presentation. These presentations linked closely to work being carried out in connection to the World Water Council and the thematic and regional processes for the 6th World Water Forum to be held in Marseille in March 2012.

Partnerships

The WWC President made a commitment to continue to work with the OECD on water and green growth issues as the WWC continues its work through a dedicated partnership with the Korean Government on this subject and the OECD begins its own water and green growth programme. Mr. Fauchon also stated that the WWC is eager to contribute towards the Bonn+10 meeting, in the perspective of bringing solutions for water to the 6th World Water Forum and then on to Rio+20. The President also announced continued collaboration with the Chinese Government through the establishment of a team to work jointly on emerging issues of particular importance. Finally the President offered thanks to Tajikistan for participating in its first WWC meeting, and offered his support to an ongoing dialogue in the region on transboundary water issues.

Membership

The morning finished with a summary of the results of the Members Survey presented by Governor Kenneth Reid, which examined how the World Water Council is viewed by its members. There was a good response to the survey and one of its main findings was that members would like to be more involved in Council activities and receive more targeted information. In the discussion that followed, Governors were reminded that when they attend international events, they are representing the Council as well as their own organisations. Governors were also asked to keep the Council headquarters up to date on their activities.



World Water Forum

At the beginning of the afternoon, the various processes of the 6th World Water Forum were presented by the President of the International Forum Committee (IFC), Mr. B. Braga. The Forum will emphasise solutions for water. Dr. E. Park reminded the participants that each region has its own diversity and its own regional solutions. In addition to the 4 regional continental processes and 2 cross-continental processes, Arab countries will also be given particular opportunities to demonstrate its regional-specific solutions. It was underlined the importance of these solutions to lead to firm commitments for project implementation, capacity development, etc. Many participants were desirous of more information on how to bring forth solutions that they themselves have identified for the Forum. Other partners who are not water specialists (e.g. bankers, industrialists) must also be brought together at the Forum, so as to represent a great diversity of stakeholders (politicians, operators, etc.). One participant declared that the official sessions were always put in place by the same organisations and that only side events gave an opportunity to new arrivals, which is why she felt an alternative forum is useful for hearing from the field. In response, Mr. Braga recalled that the Forum is open to all and that the alternative forum participants were warmly invited to participate in the 6th World Water Forum programme. In addition, a programme of labelling was established to financially support actions/events organised within the framework of the 6th World Water Forum. The Roots and Citizenship Commission, chaired by Mrs. M. Vassal, is in charge of this process.

This interactive panel was followed by group work around solutions related to the Forum's 12 Priorities for Action. Nine strong groups emerged, with the heaviest participation concentrated on the topics of Sanitation/Health; IWRM/Multiple Use; Access/Right to Water; and Water & Energy.

The evening gave way to a festive atmosphere where members competed in the President's Challenge Pétanque Tournament, followed by a barbecue and jazz music.



42nd Board of Governors Meeting

The 42nd Board of Governors meeting commenced on Thursday, 9 June, with a slideshow of the last 18 months in the life of the World Water Council, much appreciated by the participants. The President then proceeded to review the Council's numerous activities since the last Board of Governors meeting, which was held in March in Cape Town, South Africa. The Board also examined the Council's current financial status, which is overall very stable, excepting the late reception of payments of the fees related to the 6th World Water Forum. The Board, then, accepted 7 new members and approved the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with the Arab Water Ministers Council, an agreement recognizing the important history shared with World Water Council members in that part of the world. After lunch, the Governors and members were invited to a technical visit of the Marseille Sewage Treatment Facility, before being received in the evening by the Mayor of Marseille in his official residence, Villa Pastré. Mr. Gaudin, indeed, expressed his most emphatic support for the organisation of the 6th World Water Forum and declared his intention to host a World Summit of Mayors for Water in Marseille during the 6th World Water Forum.

The Board meeting reconvened the next day with discussions around the 6th World Water Forum, Governors drawing particular attention to balancing the Forum budget and increasing communication efforts. Within its discussions on various thematic issues, J. Delli Priscoli formulated a few messages that the Council could transmit during the climate negotiations at CoP17. Finally, Dr. I. Ko presented the progress on the World Water Council's Water and Green Growth project, which had organised a number of successful side events and would be collecting case studies to nourish their reflections. J. Xia also spoke about his work related to integrated water supply and demand management.

The Governors then listened to a short report by K. Reid on the progress of the selection process for the 7th World Water Forum host country. A number of upcoming international events were evoked, and Mr. M. Toh and S. Tay incited Governors and members to attend the Singapore International Water Week during the first week of July. Finally, the President discussed a few areas of priorities for the remainder of the mandate and asked that the Governors take a few moments during their summer vacations to express their ideas on what should be accomplished in the next 18 months. In addition, M. Lopez Estebarez announced the creation of a water education centre, ENA, in Spain, meant to educate future global water leaders. The meeting closed with reactions from the participants, who were all appreciative of their experience over the three days and looked forward to attending the members meeting the following year.





WORLD WATER COUNCIL - CONSEIL MONDIAL DE L'EAU - CONSEJO MUNDIAL DEL AGUA

Espace Gaymard - 2-4 Place d'Arvieux - 13002 Marseille - France

Tel: +33 4 91 99 41 00 - Fax: +33 4 91 99 41 01

wwc@worldwatercouncil.org

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org>