

World Water Council

PRESS RELEASE

Mexico selected as the host country of the 4th World Water Forum

For immediate release - Marseilles, France - October 3, 2003 - The World Water Council, a cross-sectoral water policy think tank aiming to promote global water awareness at the highest political level, announces the selection of Mexico as the venue of the 4th World Water Forum to be held in 2006.

The World Water Forum is an initiative of the World Water Council. Organized every three years in close collaboration with the authorities of the host country, it is the largest event aimed at placing water higher on the international agenda.

"The Council expresses its recognition towards the government of Mexico for its generous offer to host the 4th World Water Forum, and is confident the Mexican Forum will make a major contribution to solving the world's water problems," said William J. Cosgrove, President of the World Water Council.

As an interdisciplinary meeting, the World Water Forum provides a unique platform for exchanging ideas and approaches on a global scale, bringing together the private and the public sectors, combining the professional and the political levels. It is accompanied by a Ministerial Conference, the main objective of which is to developing firmer commitment to water issues at the government level.

Marrakech hosted the first Forum in 1997, which was attended by 250 people. The second edition took place in The Hague, the Netherlands in 2000 and brought together 6,000 participants. In March 2003, in Kyoto, the 3rd World Water Forum's attendance was over 24,000.

"Mexico is practically a desert in all of its central and northern regions, while the entire southern region enjoys sometimes in excess the vital liquid which is water," explained President Vicente Fox in one of his recent speeches. "This makes us understand the two faces of water and led our administration to consider water a national security issue," he continued.

In October 2002, Mexico contributed to the preparatory process of the 3rd World Water and held *Water for the Americas in the 21st century*, a forum attended by 1500 participants, which involved 23 countries in its ministerial conference.

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