

Summary of Accomplishments Dundee IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science (under the auspices of UNESCO)

This document summarizes the achievements of the Dundee Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science. It is divided into three parts: Overall mission; Key achievements; and Value-added. Considered as a whole, this document demonstrates the significant and outstanding contribution that the Dundee Centre has made to enhancing cooperation and sound management in the development and use of water resources across the globe.

Overall mission – Water for all

The Dundee Centre for Water, Law, Policy and Science, which operates under the auspices of UNESCO, actively promotes cooperation, solidarity and the sustainable use of the world's water resources. Work undertaken by the Centre seeks to ensure an equitable and sustainable use of water resources delivered by river basin management based on effective partnerships between stakeholders, managers and scientists. Simply put, its core mission is "Water for all."

The field of water law and policy has long been an area of excellence in Dundee. In 2006 this was recognized by UNESCO, when it accredited the Centre under its International Hydrological Programme's 'Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy' initiative (IHP-HELP). The Centre's main purpose under IHP HELP is to serve as the global centre for the integration of scientific research into water policy and water law. The Centre also acts as the Regional Coordinating Unit for the European HELP river basins.

Key Achievements

Since its beginnings in 1996, the Centre has made a truly outstanding contribution to cooperation and sound management in the development and use water resources. Its three key sets of achievements are:

Research excellence – innovation and integration

The Centre's interdisciplinary research identifies critical water issues of local, regional and global importance on the basis of on-going assessments on the state of world water and raises awareness of results at all levels of decision making, from the highest authorities to the general public through project work and publication;

The Centre's expertise in water law and its integration with science and policy distinguishes it from other UK water centers and marks its unique contribution at a global level. The research clusters interact on issues related to water rights, governance and integrated water resources management, with due regard for stakeholder engagement.

The Centre's research activity is grouped into three specialist areas of Water Law (international; national; transnational) and Science & Policy, with significant interfaces across these areas; for examples of interdisciplinary projects, see the attached Curriculum Vitae, accessible at <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/water/projects/>

Teaching excellence – “Water Law, Water Leaders”

The Centre provides graduate education opportunities and regular global workshops to support a common strategic vision on integrated water resources management on a sustainable basis, and to promote the implementation of effective policies and strategies worldwide by training a new generation of water leaders around the world;

The Centre offers a unique graduate program in water law, providing training for a new generation of water leaders around the world. The Water Law, Water Leaders program (WLWL), the only one of its kind in the world, comprises two LLMs: one in Water Law and one in Water Governance & Conflict Resolution. Jointly delivered under the umbrella of UNESCO, this model program will be expanded across the UNESCO network of other water centers, its unique operation having been officially recognized by the 191 member states of UNESCO.

The LLM in Water Law, offers a flexible format for delivery that enables those working in water resources roles, to integrate the program into their existing career paths and to come together in a neutral forum to share experiences and build regional and international networks. The taught programs can also be delivered abroad in the regional context of those participating.

The Centre also offers the LLM in Water Resources Management (MSc/PGDip /PGCert), in partnership with the United Nations University - Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH). Finally, the Centre offers a distinguished PhD program.

The success, importance and recognition of the Centre are evidenced by the career paths followed by its alumni who have gone on to play major roles in water resource management around the world, such as national and international water law implementation in Kenya, policy advice on water reform in Namibia), water law in Saudi Arabia and regulatory frameworks in the Middle East and Europe.

Water leadership through expert advice and policy support

The Centre provides advice and relevant information to institutions and decision-makers on the development and implementation of comprehensive policies and strategies for sustainable water resources management; and contributes to the resolution of issues related to trans-boundary waters.

In the area of legal and institutional advisory services, a selection of the Centre's recent work includes an assignment with the National Security Commission to provide policy advice outlining legal/policy issues for the UK regarding water security issues and transboundary waters; and work with the SUEZ Research Advisory Contract to provide a comparative analysis of governance in water services provision - transparency, public participation and access to justice for water consumers in six European countries.

The Centre has advised a significant number of States on water law and policy matters, including Cambodia, Central Asia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Namibia, Norway, Palestine, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Tanzania, Uganda, the UK, Vietnam and Zambia.

The Centre has also provided leadership with its involvement with numerous international organisations and foreign aid agencies including GWP, DFID, IBRD, NATO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, WMO, WWAP, and the WWC amongst others.

Examples of some of the work the Centre has undertaken in this regard include its contribution to the recently released World Water Development Report (WWDR), launched at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul (March 2009). The Centre's staff co-chaired the Legal Experts group, created by invitation to contribute the legal elements of the WWDR. The Centre provided expertise in its three areas of water law. The Centre was actively involved in the drafting of the report, which consolidates expertise in water from all 26 UN agencies involved with water and is considered to be the leading report on the topic.

Value-Added: The Rule of Law

Bringing law to the table

Introducing water law to the water domain, which is primarily populated with scientists and policy-makers has been the Centre's true value-added. The Centre is unique in the world, with its critical mass of water law experts, and its offering of a dedicated graduate teaching / training program, introducing water law to thousands around the globe. This focus has helped to main-stream water law, which now is embedded within the global water policy agenda. Noted leadership in this arena includes the Centre's substantive legal inputs on the current international campaign for the entry into force of the UN Watercourses Convention. The Centre has contributed to every World Water Forum and has been instrumental in making water law more accessible to those that need it most.

The Water Law, Water Leaders programme offers a range of user-friendly entry points (LLM, MSc, PhD) that combine water law, policy and science and enhance the expertise of water leaders from around the world. The partnership with GWP has been effective in introducing the innovative GWP Knowledge Chain scholarship, which brought a new cohort of water practitioners to Dundee to share learning experiences and advance their knowledge of water law.

These participants will now be able to build their way towards a UK-accredited Masters of Laws degree (for water experts, not only lawyers) offering residual capacity enhancement for these local water leaders. The innovative Legal Assessment Model provides a pragmatic framework for national governments to prepare their national water policy, where most of their water is transboundary. The Centre's publications for UNESCO make international water law more accessible to the broader community – sharing knowledge in meaningful ways.

Advancing cooperation and sound management in the development of water resources

By building international networks, providing mentoring, seeking funding to support advanced scholarship and practice in water law, policy and science, the Centre is contributing to promoting regional peace and security and the fundamental freedoms of all, in accordance with the fundamental tenets of the UN Charter.

The Centre's unique overall contribution in this area is its work to promote a better understanding of the (often missing) role of international law in the peaceful, cooperative management of the world's shared water resources. Equally, the Centre's development of graduate education in water law, policy and science, including the international networks that are built as a result – especially under the innovative GWP Knowledge Chain Scholarship program – is a significant contribution to building confidence, trust and consolidating cooperation.

There are more examples of the way that the Centre has contributed to advancing cooperation and sound management in the development of and use of water resources at national, regional and global levels.

At the national level, for example, Centre staff have advised the Scottish Government on how to implement 'sustainable flood management', under which traditional reliance solely on expensive engineering structures such as walls and embankments is being replaced by better warnings, flood risk maps, emergency action, urban planning and insurance – all designed to minimize losses when floods occur. This has culminated in the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Bill currently before the Scottish Parliament which will completely reshape governance in this area for a generation.

Through its advisory work, the Centre has used its expertise to support water law reform around the world:

- Assisting Kazakhstan in improving the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to create and develop Water User Committees, analyzing water legislation and advising on building stakeholder involvement in basin management.
- Providing legal advice to devise national water policies for China, Namibia, Uganda and Zambia during water reform programmes.
- Helping to devise a strategy for the management of transboundary waters in Central Asia; the Middle East and North Africa.

At the international level, the Centre contributes all six components of the UNESCO International Hydrology Programme 2008-2013. Projects undertaken in Scotland, Europe, Central America and South Asia are already generating new knowledge which will assist local adaptation to the impacts of global changes on river basins and aquifer systems. The Centre has also provided leadership on the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, which provides an overarching legal framework for states to co-operate on the use, management and protection of international watercourses; this leadership is illustrated by its work on encouraging states to accede to the Convention in order for it to enter into force.

Perhaps the Centre's greatest influence at the global level comes through its work with high-level global policy forums, such as the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the Global Agenda Council on Water Security (GAC) World Economic Forum (WEF) and the UN water-related organs (UNESCO and others). The Director of the UNESCO Centre has served for several years as a member of the GWP's Technical Experts Committee (TEC) and has direct influence on the work of the Partnership. Similarly, the Center's Director is a member of the GAC, which at its November 2008 meeting in Dubai agreed a draft discussion paper for discussion at the World Economic Forum at Davos in January/February 2009. In addition, the Centre was a member of the UN High Level Expert Panel on Water and Disasters which presented its report to the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009.

Pioneering innovative approaches and truly integrated water resources management

The Centre is a pioneer of innovation. The Centre has taken the lead in the integration of diverse strands of the water agenda into a focused mission to improve local solutions to water resources problems is unique in the international higher education sector. In particular, the inclusion of water law into political and scientific debates provides a holistic approach to addressing the water crisis. At a regional level this equips agencies and governments with a stable framework for negotiating and resolving disputes. This inclusive approach to solving disputes is groundbreaking in the field of water resource management, particularly given the juxtaposition of complex transboundary politics alongside emotive humanitarian concerns.

For further information on the outstanding selection of innovative, integrated research projects, see <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/water/projects/>