



Background

In the past few years, a group of Science Academies has been working effortlessly to stimulate Science Academies of the world to work collaboratively on water related issues. Since 2006 the IAP Water Program has organized several regional water workshops throughout the globe, bringing together water experts from more than 60 countries. As a result of these efforts IANAS established a very active regional water program in the Americas, NASAC decided to create a regional water program in Africa, the Asian Academies managed to organize a good number of workshops in coordination with the AASA Clean Water Program, and Europe organized a few successful workshops too.

This has been a part of the contributions of the Science Academies of the world to help cope with target 7c of the Millennium Development Goal: to reduce by half, the portion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by the year 2015. As we look at the *Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation Update 2012* recently issued by UNICEF and the World Health Organization, we see that although the target for drinking water has been met in 2010, there are still 780 million people in the globe without access to an improved drinking water source. In spite of the achievements listed in the report, huge regional disparities persist and even the figures that are presented require a more critical analysis. As recognized in the report, it is likely that the number of people using safe water supplies has been over-estimated. With regards to sanitation, the world is unlikely to meet the MDG target. In summary, as showed in the report, much has already been achieved, but the job is far from finished.

Program

In order to promote an interchange of experiences between the Academies and Regional Networks of Science Academies that implement action to contribute to the national and regional water policy debate, the IAP Water Program is convening an international symposium on “Enhancing Water Management Capacity in a Changing World: Science Academies Working Together to Increase Global Access to Water and Sanitation”. This symposium will assemble focal points of the program from different regions of the world to discuss the major issues that arose from the several regional workshops that were organized in the past years. This forum will allow for a unique opportunity for participants to debate key managerial problems and scientific challenges, and to share and learn from cross-regional experiences. The programme will focus on:

- Extending Global Access to Clean Water and Sanitation: an Unpostponable Commitment
- More with Less: Managing Water for Agriculture
- Water Governance for Development and Sustainability
- Transboundary Waters and Conflicts: Managing Water for Peace
- Water for Economic Growth and Development
- Managing Water in Urban Areas and Metropolitan Regions: an Ever-Growing Challenge
- Climate Change and Adaptive Water Management: Challenges for a Changing World
- Mining and Water Resources: Coping with the Impacts

- Challenges for Sustainable Groundwater Management
- Ecohydrology: an Ecosystem Approach to Water Management

In addition to the scientific agenda, the symposium will appraise the achievements of the program and discuss further opportunities of collaboration between Academies and Regional Networks of Science Academies in the effort to contribute to the enhancement of global access to clean water and sanitation services.

Scientific Program Committee

The Conference is coordinated by Prof. José Galizia Tundisi (Brazilian Academy of Sciences). The program and the organizational framework are being developed by a scientific committee composed by focal points of the IAP Water Program. The scientific committee is composed by Professors Alexander Zinoviev (Siberian Branch, Russian Academy of Sciences); Blanca Jiménez (Mexican Academy of Sciences); Daniel Olago (Kenya National Academy of Sciences); Henry Vaux (National Academy of Sciences, USA); Jun Xia (Chinese Academy of Sciences); Maciej Zalewski (Polish Academy of Sciences); Nisreen Al Hmoud (Royal Scientific Society of Jordan); Peter Fritz (German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina); and Rivka Kfir (Academy of Science of South Africa).

Local Organizing Committee

The local Organizing Committee comprises Professors Benedito Braga (University of São Paulo); Carlos Eduardo de Mattos Bicudo (Botanical Garden of São Paulo); Carlos Eduardo Morelli Tucci (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul); Ivanildo Hespanhol (University of São Paulo); Fernando Spilki (Feevale University); Francisco A. Barbosa (Federal University of Minas Gerais); José Almir Cirilo (Federal University of Pernambuco); Luiz Antonio Martinelli (University of São Paulo); Marcos Cortesão B. Scheuenstuhl (Brazilian Academy of Sciences); Ricardo Hirata (University of São Paulo), Sandra Azevedo (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro); and Virginia Ciminelli (Federal University of Minas Gerais).

Dates and Location

The symposium will begin at 8.00 am on **Monday June 25th** and will end at 6:00 pm on **Wednesday June 27th**, 2012. On the morning of **Thursday June 28th** there will be a technical visit to the Alto da Boa Vista Treatment Plant, which is responsible for providing water and sanitation services to around 5 million inhabitants of the city of São Paulo. The symposium will be held in São Paulo, Brazil, at the Latin America Memorial, which served as headquarters for the Latin-American Parliament from its establishment (1989) until its move to Panama (2007).

Participation is by invitation, to be sent by the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. Participants from around 30 countries are expected, coming from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. There is no conference fee. The expected attendance is of approximately 60 participants.

Contact for additional information: Mariana Ferreira (IAP_Water_Symposium@abc.org.br)

