



Newsletter No. 45

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EDITORIAL

As heralded in the two previous issues of Aquaforum, preparations for the XIV World Water Congress of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) www.worldwatercongress.com, which will be held in Porto de Galinhas, Pernambuco State, Brazil, 25-29 September 2011, are well under way. As you all know, AIDA features as co-convenor of the Governance and Water Law theme of the Congress. Am happy to report in this connection that UNESCO-International Hydrological Programme has recently decided to associate itself to the Congress by, in particular, featuring as official “participant” in the Governance and Water Law theme of the Congress. Moreover, UNESCO-IHP will “participate” alongside IWRA in the delivery by AIDA of sub-theme GL9 on “The legal dimensions of transboundary waters in the face of the climate change challenge”. While the structure of the Congress is, at the time of writing, work in progress, I can anticipate that the GL9 sub-theme will be structured as a Special Panel on Transboundary Groundwater Law in view of the strategic importance of groundwater in general, and of the abstracts which have been submitted for the GL9 sub-theme in particular.

Selection of the abstracts for presentation at the Congress is, at the time of writing, about to be completed by the Congress International Scientific Committee, of which AIDA Honorary Chairman Dominique Alhéritière is a member on AIDA’s behalf.

AIDA is fully committed to deliver on its partnership role with IWRA in connection with the Governance and Water Law theme of the Congress. In this regard, I am happy to report that AIDA has taken the initiative of securing some, albeit perforce limited, accommodation within walking distance of the official Congress venue, for the convenience of eligible AIDA members, free of charge. The response to the announcement your Chair has made to this effect has been so enthusiastic that we are considering securing additional accommodation, also free of charge. Moreover, AIDA is considering other ways of helping qualifying members defray the cost of their attendance.

I, and fellow members of the AIDA Executive Council, do so hope to see many of you at the Congress in Porto de Galinhas. I very much hope that the Congress will serve as a catalyst of renewed enthusiasm amongst the AIDA membership, and as a springboard for a successful membership drive.

In this connection, please remember to pay your dues in time! As the number of members up-to-date with the payment of their dues is a good indicator of AIDA’s vitality, we have inaugurated a new system of automated reminders for those of us whose membership is about to expire. Your support by paying your €30 (or roughly US\$ 45 equivalent) dues for 2011 (and, for those who have not done so yet, for 2010) will no doubt be a booster to AIDA’s standing at the IWRA Congress later this year (for payment modalities see www.aida-waterlaw.org).

Stefano Burchi
Chairman of the Executive Council

1. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- The international conference on '*Transboundary Aquifers – Challenges and New Directions*' was convened jointly by UNESCO, UNEP and the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on 6-8 December, 2010. AIDA featured as a cooperating institution, and was officially represented by S. Burchi, chair of the Executive Council. A number of AIDA members were in attendance, including professors Eckstein, McCaffrey, McIntyre, Del Castillo, Smets and Tanzi, and gave presentations. The conference was set against the background of the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 63/124 of December 2008 on the '*Law of Transboundary Aquifers*', and sought to pave the way for its dissemination and eventual uptake by states. The principle of state sovereignty in particular, which features among the basic legal principles posited by the draft articles prepared by the UN International Law Commission and appended to the resolution, was the subject of sometimes very heated debates. Some participants supported the draft articles' language as a correct reflection of customary international law, whereas others read it as a step backwards compared to the 1997 UN Convention on the law of the non-navigational uses of international watercourses, which asserts the community of interests of watercourse states. Another issue which came up in the discussions was the relationship of the draft articles and the convention, which is not addressed in the former. Mr Burchi drew attention to the role of domestic groundwater legislation in effecting compliance with the international obligations which will stem from the draft articles if these become a binding instrument. Mr Smets dealt with the most recent developments of the human right to water and sanitation. The conference also marked the conclusion of the first phase of the ISARM (Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management) programme and the dawning of its second phase. Therefore, it sought to map out the challenges ahead and new directions required for the sustainable management and development of transboundary aquifers. The conference was attended by about 300 participants representing international intergovernmental organizations, professional NGOs and academia. All presentations, abstracts and papers will be available on the Conference website <http://www.isarm.net/publications/360>.

- AIDA was represented by G.E. Radosevich (USA) at the *UN-Water Meeting on Rio+20*, which took place at Bangkok, Thailand, on 20 January, 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to start preparations for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), which will be held at Rio de Janeiro on 4-6 June, 2012. The meeting was attended by a wide range of UN and interested partners and was structured into working groups on various topics. Working Group 2 was devoted to the topic '*Institutional Framework for Sustainable Water Management*', and focused on the need for a UN water convention to be adopted at Rio+20, amongst other things. Such convention would give visibility and credibility to the UN programme on water. It was pointed out that other UN programmes (climate change, biodiversity and RAMSAR) have a convention. AIDA expressed its doubts as to the viability of such a proposal, given the long time spent on the drafting and adoption of the 1997 Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses. The issues addressed by the other environment-related conventions are specific and therefore it was easy to reach agreement, while the field covered by the UN Watercourses Convention is wide and requires a careful study of the international law on the subject. AIDA reminded the participants that this convention is not in force yet. AIDA also stressed the need for greater visibility of 'water' in the UN system and for closer cooperation among UN agencies. Finally, it conveyed to the meeting its interest and willingness to participate in Rio+20 and make presentations.

- The Institute for the Study of Federalism and Regionalism of the Bolzano European Academy (EURAC) and 'Gruppo 183' (Association for the Protection of Soils and Water Resources) organized a roundtable '*On the Prospects of Water Services, between Reforms and Referendum – The Role of the Regions and of the Local Authorities*' in Rome, Italy, on 27 January, 2011. The purpose of this roundtable was to provide a critical analysis of ongoing water-service reforms in Italy, of the problems arising in connection therewith and of possible solutions. Discussions focused on recent legislation and institutional arrangements for water resources management and service provision. The Chairman of the Executive Council attended this event. For more information, explore www.gruppo183.org

- The *Regional Conference 'Building Commitment, Efficiency and Equity for Water Supply and Sanitation Services in Latin America and the Caribbean'* was held at the headquarters of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, Chile, on 15-16 March, 2011,

within the framework of the 'Building Commitment, Efficiency and Equity for Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean' project, which is being implemented jointly by ECLAC and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It was attended by governmental water supply and sanitation authorities (agencies, ministries, etc.) of the countries of the region, water utilities, international and regional organizations, civil society, non-governmental organizations, universities and experts. Its main objectives were: (i) to discuss and analyze the results of the research and technical assistance activities undertaken under the project; (ii) to discuss and improve draft 'Public policy guidelines for efficient, equitable and sustainable water supply and sanitation services', which summarize lessons learned from project activities; and (iii) to analyze the current situation of service provision in the region with a view to define priorities for future activities. The debates focused on: benefits (and costs) that service provision imply for the society; efficiency and public model of service provision; information and indicators for efficient regulation, control, supervision and management; economic regulation and contracts with private and public service providers; industrial structure for efficient service provision; implications of globalization (investment protection treaties, human right to water, etc.); public policies for service provision for rural population; and, institutional structure and financial sustainability. For further details on this conference, visit <http://www.eclac.cl/drni/>.

- The Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe convened a ***Conference on Conventions on international waters: need for updating*** at Monaco on 22 March, 2011. The aims of this Conference, which was organized within the framework of World Water Day, were to take stock of the existing water conventions, to consider possible additions to them and to look at perceived obstacles to their implementation. Attention was paid in particular to the Convention on the Danube, the Helsinki Convention, the UNECE Water Convention and the Convention on the Mediterranean. The Chairman of the Executive Council attended this event.

- The First Meeting of the CSCAP (Council on Security for Asia and the Pacific) ***Study Group on Water Resources Security***, which was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, on 22-23 March, 2011. G. Radosevich (USA) made a presentation at Session 5 on behalf of AIDA on the international legal foundations of water resources management. Among other topics, the session focused on the assessment of regional and international agreements on water resources and on the international norms and practices that may be applied to Southeast Asia.

- The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, together with the Hungarian Ministry of Rural Development and the SCENES (Water scenarios for Europe and neighbouring countries) Project, organized the ***Conference 'The Futures of European Waters'*** at Budapest, Hungary, on 23-25 March, 2011. The conference aimed at identifying potential water resources management scenarios in Europe in terms of both resource quantity and quality, as well as policy recommendations, strategies and plans to better implement the European legal framework. Policy makers, water managers, NGOs, and representatives of the scientific community attended. For additional information, visit www.environment.fi/syke/scenes

2. DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRAMMES CONCERNING WATER LAW

- **Botswana** - Survival International reports an important victory for the Kalahari Bushmen in Botswana in their court case involving the right to water. On 27 January, 2011, Botswana's Court of Appeal quashed a ruling that denied the Kalahari Bushmen access to water on their ancestral lands. With support from Survival, the Bushmen appealed a 2010 High Court judgment that prevented them from accessing a well which they rely on for water. The panel of five Appeal Court judges has found that: (a) the Bushmen have the right to use their old borehole, which the government had banned them from using; (b) the Bushmen have the right to sink new boreholes; (c) the government's conduct towards the Bushmen amounted to 'degrading treatment'. The full text of the final appellate judgement can be found at: <http://assets.survivalinternational.org/documents/545/bushmen-water-appeal-judgement-jan-2011.pdf>

- **Brazil** - The Brazilian government has issued a 'partial' installation license allowing the Belo Monte Dam to break ground on the Amazon's Xingu River despite flagrant disregard for human rights and environmental legislation, the unwavering protests of civil society and condemnations by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF). The license was approved by Brazil's environmental agency IBAMA despite evidence that the dam-building consortium Norte Energia (NESA) has failed to comply with social and environmental conditions required for an installation license. Read more at http://www.waterlink-international.com/news/id1666-Approval_for_Belo_Monte_Dam.html?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20110202+-+WL

- **France** – Law No. 2011-156 of 7 February, 2011, relating to solidarity in the field of water supply and sanitation, authorizes the public water supply and sanitation agencies to subsidize the solidarity fund for housing in order to contribute to the financing of aid grants for water supply services.

- **Nile Basin** – Burundi has become the sixth signatory to the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework, which was first signed by Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda on 14 May, 2010, and then by Kenya. Burundi's signature brings the total number of signatories to six, which is the minimum number of States needed for the Agreement to come into force. All that is needed now is that the signatories ratify the CFA in accordance with their own domestic procedures. The Democratic Republic of Congo, which took a lead role in promoting the agreement, is expected to sign soon, perhaps later in 2011.

- **Orontes river** - On 7 January, 2011, Turkey and Syria signed an accord to build a 'friendship dam' on the Orontes (Al-Asi) river, close to the countries' mutual border. The dam's potential uses in the future will not be limited to irrigation and flood prevention. Turkey and Syria will also jointly use the electricity that it will produce. In addition, it will be possible to carry out fishery activities, water sports and other recreational activities. The costs of the dam's operation and maintenance will be covered by the two countries, and each will have an equal share of the responsibility.

- **Serbia** – A new Law on Waters was enacted on 5 May, 2010, to provide a framework for the management of Serbia's water resources, including mineral and thermal springs. The main purpose of the law is to harmonize the Serbian system of water management with the one introduced by recent EU directives in the water sector and, in general, to adjust the legal framework to the technical and other changes intervened in this sector since the adoption of the Law on Waters in 1991. While the new Law on Waters retains the general licensing system for the use of public waters established under the old law, it introduces a certain level of liberalization and regulates the procedure for the issuance of these licenses in more detail.

- **Togo** – Law No. 2010-004, on the Water Code, was enacted on 8 June, 2010, to regulate water use and provide for the protection of water quality and aquatic ecosystems. The code also provides for a definition of the respective roles of the state, the local authorities, the national Water Council and the river basin organizations, and for water resources planning by river basin. It further introduces important provisions on the financing of integrated water resources management, based on the 'user pays' and 'polluter pays' principles.

- **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** - The second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention) took place at Bucharest, Romania, on 23–25 November, 2010. A wide variety of topics that have been the focus of work over the past three years were discussed, including: (a) ratification and implementation of the Protocol; (b) development of national strategies on water and health by setting targets and target dates; (c) surveillance of and response to water-related disease; (d) water supply and sanitation in extreme weather events; (e) the specific challenges of small-scale water supply; (f) equitable access to drinking water; and (g) access to information and public participation under the Protocol. The meeting adopted *Guidelines on the Setting of Targets Evaluation of Progress and Reporting*, aiming at facilitating the implementation of the Protocol. The Guidelines illustrate the steps that need to be taken when setting targets, implementing relevant measures and reporting on the progress achieved with respect to protecting human health and well-being and the sustainable management of water resources, in accordance with Articles 6 and 7 of the Protocol. The meeting also adopted a *Policy* and a manual on *Technical Guidance on water-related disease surveillance*, which illustrates legal

obligations with regard to disease surveillance under the Protocol and other international frameworks, and provides advice on how to set up and maintain an effective and efficient disease surveillance system. In order to learn more on this event, visit <http://www.unece.org/env/water/whmop2.htm>

- **UN Watercourses Convention** - On 2 December, 2010, and 24 February, 2011, respectively, Greece and France have ratified the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (UN Watercourses Convention), thus bringing the number of contracting parties to 22 and reducing to 13 the number of additional ratifications needed for entry into force. For updates on the status of ratification of the convention, visit http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-12&chapter=27&lang=en

- **USA/Mexico** – Minute 318, which was agreed upon by the International Boundary and Water Commission at El Paso, Texas, on 17 December, 2010, based on the 1944 Water Treaty between the U.S. and Mexico, allows Mexico to temporarily defer delivery of up to 260,000 acre-feet of its annual allotment of Colorado river water through December, 2013, while repairs are made to the irrigation system in the Mexicali Valley of Baja California as a result of the earthquake of 4 April, 2010. Beginning in 2014, Mexico will begin recovery of the amounts of Colorado river water deferred during the three-year period, subject to the progress of reconstruction and the status of Colorado River reservoirs. Meanwhile, the negotiations on a comprehensive agreement between the two countries have been identified as a top priority for 2011 in the light of ongoing droughts in the Colorado river basin and continuing declines in reservoir levels. The text of Minute 318 may be retrieved at www.ibwc.gov/Files/Minutes/Min_318.pdf

- **International Court of Justice** - On 18 November, 2010, Costa Rica instituted proceedings in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Nicaragua, alleging unlawful '*incursion into, occupation of and use by Nicaragua's Army of Costa Rican territory as well as breaches of Nicaragua's obligations towards Costa Rica*' under a number of international treaties and conventions. Nicaragua claims it is merely seeking to restore a part of its territory, which in the 1600s and 1700s was covered by the Río San Juan delta. It asserts that as the zone has dried, the river has moved and Costa Rica has advanced, taking possession of terrain that doesn't belong to it; and, if the river continues to move north and join with the Río Grande of Matagalpa, Costa Rica will claim its territory extended accordingly. Therefore, Nicaragua claims the right to dredge the river to recover the flow of waters that existed in 1858, year of the Treaty of Territorial Limits between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. According to the treaty, while the southern bank of the river was declared Costa Rican territory, the river itself was given to Nicaragua. Costa Rica, however, was afforded the right to use the river for commerce. Following disagreement over the interpretation of this treaty, the two countries agreed to have U.S. President G. Cleveland arbitrate the dispute; it was concluded that the border at the mouth of the Río San Juan lies at Punta de Castilla. A precise delineation took place in 1897 in the *First award under the Convention between Costa Rica and Nicaragua of 8 April 1896 for the demarcation of the boundary between the two Republics*. Despite these rulings, the two countries continued to quarrel over both the location of the border and their water use rights. In 2005, Costa Rica instituted proceedings in the ICJ claiming that Nicaragua had unlawfully restricted Costa Rica's right to navigate and have access to the Río San Juan by requiring passengers and tourists on Costa Rican vessels to obtain Nicaraguan visas. The ICJ ruled against Nicaragua, but this did not prevent the country from continuing to assert its claims to the river. In recent years, Nicaragua has been dredging older channels of the Río San Juan, asserting that the border should follow the river as it flowed back in 1858. Hence, the latest dispute. The text of the relevant documents are to be found on the Court's website (www.icj-cij.org). For a discussion of international law rules applicable to this and other similar cases, see <http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/blog/>

3. TRAINING AND RESEARCH CONCERNING WATER LAW

- The UNESCO IHP-HELP Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee, Scotland, together with the Global Water Partnership, will offer scholarships for 30 participants to undertake a **module in International Water Law**, in Dundee, on 1-19 August, 2011. The module is aimed at water resources professionals wishing to acquire specialist knowledge of international water law, especially as it

relates to transboundary water challenges. It will be most appropriate for those with a law degree who wish to specialize in transboundary water issues. Applications will be accepted from 4 March to 30 April 2011. More information may be downloaded at <http://www.gwp.org/Global/Activities/News/February%202011/GWP-Dundee%20Scholarship%20Annoucement.pdf>

4. PUBLICATIONS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO AIDA MEMBERS

- ***Towards the concerted management of transboundary aquifer systems: a methodology*** published by the French Development Agency in partnership with UNESCO-IHP's ISARM project, the French Water Academy, the International Office for Water and the French Geological Survey, 2010. This guidebook consists of recommendations targeted to political decision-makers and managers, and includes case studies. In Part I, the main issues at stake and the need for a more comprehensive approach in the management of transboundary aquifers are recalled, based on IWRM principles. Part II describes the technical, legal, organizational, economic, training and cooperation tools that can help improve the knowledge and management of transboundary aquifers. Finally, Part III proposes a progressive, multi-pronged approach for implementing the concerted, equitable and sustainable management of transboundary aquifer systems, and establishing the relevant institutional structures, as required. The guidebook is the third part of a more global study, of which the first part contains a preliminary assessment and general analysis, including the identification of ongoing dynamics at the legal, institutional and technical levels, as well as of major challenges, and an analysis of experiences relating to selected aquifer systems, such as the North-Western Sahara, Iullemeden, Guarani, Nubian sandstone, Upper Rhine, Carboniferous, Genevese and Stampriet aquifer systems. The second part deals with case studies relating to the aquifer systems of the Mekong River basin, the coastal aquifers of Ghana, Togo and Benin, the Lake Chad basin, the Senegal-Mauritania aquifer system, the Taoudeni-Tanezrouft and the Iullemeden aquifer systems and the Mountain and Coastal aquifers between the Palestinian Territories and Israel. These two parts will be available soon. The Guidebook can be downloaded at <http://www.isarm.net/publications/391>

- ***Guide de l'Eau (Guide to Water) 2010-2011***, Editions Johanet, Paris, 2010, contains updates on water resources legislation and institutions in France. In particular, it covers the Grenelle Law II, the river basin management plans (SDAGE) for the period 2010-2015, the new programmes of the water agencies and the newly decentered water services. More than 20,000 addresses of water professionals may be downloaded by using a personal code. In order to know more or to place your order, click on <http://www.editions-johanet.net/ouvrage/?id=20>

- ***Le Droit à l'eau: une urgence humanitaire*** (the right to water: a humanitarian emergency), by AIDA member B. Drobenko (France), Editions Johanet, Paris, 2010. This book dwells on the need to consider the right to water as a fundamental right, in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in July, 2010. The book analyzes constraints to the recognition of this right and attempts to identify modalities for its progressive implementation. It may be ordered at <http://www.editions-johanet.net/commander/>

- ***La mise en œuvre du droit à l'eau: les solutions à Paris*** (the implementation of the right to water: solutions adopted at Paris), by AIDA member Henri Smets (France), Editions Johanet, Paris, 2011. First to deal with the implementation of the right to water in a French municipality, this book describes the actions that have been taken in Paris with regard to water pricing in order to implement the principle 'right to water and sanitation for everybody'. In brief, it has been decided that (a) household expenses for water and sanitation must be limited to 3% of the entire household budget; (b) water prices must be controlled; (c) 'water correspondents' will intervene in all cases in which access to water is at stake. In 2009 it was decided to introduce a system of water subsidies and to strengthen the system of public fountains and toilets. The book may be ordered at <http://www.editions-johanet.net/ouvrage/?id=49>

5. FUTURE EVENTS

- The ***Second workshop on water and adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins: challenges, progress and lessons learnt*** will be convened by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) at Geneva on 12-13 April, 2011. This is the second event organized on this theme, within the platform for exchanging experiences on adaptation to climate change in the transboundary context. It will build on the results of last year's workshop on the same topic and illustrate recent developments in this area. The workshop aims to exchange practical experiences on the technical and strategic aspects of adapting to climate change; identify best practices, success factors and lessons learnt; share experiences between the pilot projects on adaptation to climate change in transboundary basins under the Water Convention as well as other similar initiatives; and support governments, organizations and joint bodies engaged in the process of preparing national or regional adaptation strategies. The following topics will be discussed: responding to climate change impacts on water uses such as hydropower, navigation, and irrigated agriculture; addressing conflicts of interest in adaptation; awareness-raising; synergies and trade-offs between adaptation and mitigation measures; ecosystem-based adaptation; financing of adaptation; practical examples of adaptation under uncertainty. More information is available at http://www.unece.org/env/water/meetings/transboundary_climate_adaptation_workshop.html

- The Center for Water Law, Policy and Science of the University of Dundee will hold a ***Symposium and Workshop on National Strategies for Promoting Security and Sustainability within a Rapidly Changing World*** at Dundee, Scotland, on 20-24 June, 2011. The symposium will be devoted to national water law and institutions and will examine the potential effects of global change on resource management and the relevant legal and institutional frameworks. It will then raise the question of implementation, where financial or human resources, for example, are in short supply. Finally, the symposium will address the potential impact of transboundary waters on a state's water management regime. Details are available at <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/water/symposium/>

- The ***IUCN Academy's Ninth Annual Colloquium - Water and the Law: Towards Sustainability*** will be organized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Academy of Environmental Law jointly with the Universities of Cape Town, KwaZulu-Natal, North-West and Witwatersrand and will be held at Mpekweni Beach Resort, Eastern Cape, South Africa, on 3-7 July, 2011. The aim of this Colloquium is to share experiences in the field of water law and administration in order to gain insight into what needs to be done, what has been tried, what is working and what might work, among other things. For more information, contact the Secretariat at + 27 28 316 2905 or kruger@kruger-associates.com, or visit www.iucnael-watercolloquium-2011.com/home/default.asp

- The ***2011 World Water Week***, which will be convened by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in Stockholm, Sweden, on 21-27 August, 2011, will be devoted to the special theme "Responding to Global Changes - Water in an Urbanising World" and will focus on concrete examples, policies and ideas of how wise water management contributes to better life and prosperity for all citizens within and around cities. Information on this event may be retrieved at <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

- The ***Centro de Pesquisas de Águas Subterrâneas*** of the Institute of Geosciences of the University of São Paulo, the Environment Secretariat of the State of São Paulo and the University of Surrey, UK, are jointly organizing the conference ***The Management of the Guarani Aquifer System: An Example of Cooperation***, São Paulo, Brazil, on 21-23 September, 2011. The conference will provide a forum for discussion of the actions that have been taken after the signature of the agreement on the management of the Guarani Aquifer System (GAS) on 10 August, 2010, and of the challenges lying ahead. It will be structured around three sessions: (a) an assessment of the scientific knowledge on the GAS; (b) current use and protection of the Guarani Aquifer System; and (c) the GAS and regional cooperation. For further information, click on :

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/errg/pdf/ENGLISH%20-%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf> [English],

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/errg/pdf/PORTUGUESE%20-%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf> [Portuguese], or

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/errg/pdf/SPANISH%20-%20Call%20for%20Papers.pdf> [Spanish].

- The *5th European Water and Wastewater Management Conference* will be organized by Aqua Enviro, in cooperation with the European Water Association (EWA), the Institute of Water, British Water and other organizations, on 26-27 September, 2011, at London, UK. Focus will be placed on case studies, including experiences in the operation of utilities and problems, outcomes of successful research, process innovation, the application of legislation and future legislative changes. Further details may be retrieved from <http://www.ewwmconference.com>.

- The *International Conference on Integrated Water Resources Management - Management of Water in a Changing World: Lessons Learnt and Innovative Perspectives* will be organized by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, under the sponsorship of the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), at Dresden, Germany, on 12-13 October, 2011. Its aim will be to present the results of research funded by the Ministry, as well as world experience in the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM), and discuss lessons learnt together with possible innovative approaches. Details are to be found at <http://www.bmbf.iwrm2011.de/>

- The *Second UNESCO/UCI 2011 Conference on Groundwater Resources Management: Adaptation Measures to Water Scarcity - Science and Policy Responses* will be organized by UNESCO-IHP, the University of California-Irvine and other partners at Irvine, California, USA, on 30 November – 3 December, 2011. Its purpose will be to evaluate the progress made in groundwater management since a first conference on the subject, which took place in 2008. It will also explore the areas where further progress can and should be made, as well as identify the needs for legal, institutional and policy instruments and their links to science. Further information may be downloaded at http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/events/uci_2011_flyer_260111.pdf

6. COMMUNICATION OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND E-MAIL

Please communicate any change of address and e-mail address to the Association and, possibly, provide us with information on what is happening in your part of the world in the field of water law and administration. *AquaForum* should continue to be a product of the Association as a whole.

AIDA is reachable via e-mail at: aida-waterlaw@gmail.com.

8. PAYMENT OF ASSOCIATION DUES

To pay the annual association dues, which now amount to 30 EURO or the equivalent in US\$, follow the instructions provided on the Association's website, at <http://www.aida-waterlaw.org/payments.php>. To ensure better record keeping by the Secretariat, please inform the Chairman of the Executive Council of payments made, by e-mailing to stefano.burchi@gmail.com.