



EDITORIAL

As heralded in this issue of AQUAFORUM, the XVI World Water Congress of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) has been officially launched, and will be convened in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 May to 2 June 2017. Mark these dates on your calendar! As with the two prior editions of the IWRA Congress, held in 2011 and 2015, AIDA expects to play a key role in the scientific organization and delivery of the water law track of the Cancun congress. In anticipation of this, and with a view to encouraging a robust turnout of AIDA members, I am pleased to report that AIDA is arranging for the accommodation of a limited number of its members at a specially-rented AIDA House in Cancun. An announcement will be made in due course, inviting members to register their interest.

I am proud to announce that, as a direct spinoff of the XV IWRA Congress held in Edinburgh in 2015, a Special Issue of *Water International* is due for release later this year, featuring a selection of the legal papers which were presented at the congress, mostly by AIDA members. More on this in this issue of AQUAFORUM. I am equally proud to report that, at the initiative of the Executive Council of the association, work by AIDA is in progress towards the preparation of a training course on the “greening” of water law, domestic and international. The project is entirely funded by UNEP, something which has provided a welcome opportunity for the remuneration of work by the association, and by a number of AIDA members who are working under contract with the association.

You should also know that work is in progress towards a thorough restyling of the association website, with a view to modernizing it in line with contemporary dynamic-type website design, and adaptability to tablets and mobile phones for ease of consultation by visitors. While retaining its most distinctive features, restyling of the AIDA logo is also part of the same project. In this connection, perhaps I ought to draw your attention to the new PayPal & credit card payment facility which has been added to the available modes of payment of AIDA dues, for the convenience of association members. This new facility seems to have been appreciated by a number of members, and has helped keep the record of dues payments at a satisfactory level.

1. NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND OF ITS MEMBERS

Following the *XV World Water Congress* of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), which took place at Edinburgh, UK, on 25-29 May 2015, AIDA is pleased to announce that a special issue on water law is in the process of being published in *Water International*, IWRA's journal. This special issue, by the title "Legal Mechanisms for Water Resources in Practice", features eight articles authored by members of the Association, all dealing with contemporary issues and seeking to identify current legal developments. Details as to its publication will be soon provided through AIDA's website (Flash News), at www.aida-waterlaw.org.

AIDA has also been entrusted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNEP) with the preparation of a training course on the "greening" of water law, focusing on the implementation of environment-friendly principles in water treaties and domestic legislation. A number of AIDA members are involved in the development of the course modules. More information will be posted on our website once the course has been finalized.

2. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- IUCN's West and Central Africa Programme (PACO) and the Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable (IFDD) of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), in collaboration with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, organized the *2nd edition of the International Symposium on Environmental Law in Africa* on 25-27 July, 2016, at Marrakech, Morocco. The theme of this 2nd edition was: "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: What Challenges and Opportunities for Africa?" This theme was articulated into two sub-themes, namely: 1) Africa in the Post-2015 Climate Governance; 2) Implementation of the SDGs: What Innovative Mechanisms? For further information, contact: Yacouba Savadogo, IUCN: yacouba.savadogo@iucn.org; Faouzia Abdoulhalik, IFDD-OIF: faouzia.abdoulhalik@francophonie.org; Fouad Zyadi, Ministry of the Environment, Morocco: zyadi@environnement.gov.ma

- The *7th Meeting of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI)* was hosted by the Dutch Government in The Hague, on 23 and 24 June 2016. Several WGI partners were in attendance. AIDA was represented by the Chairman of the Executive Council. A few other AIDA members were also in attendance, representing other WGI partners. The chief purpose of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of the OECD Principles on Water Governance and, in particular, to consult on water governance indicators and on good practices in the field of water governance. The Principles and relevant information can be found at http://www.slideshare.net/OECD-GOV/oecd-water-governance-initiative?qid=9e3100ee-8565-4b21-85d6-0fbe7730566f&v=&b=&from_search=1

- The Mexican Government, through the National Water Commission (Conagua), hosted the *10th World General Assembly of the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)*, at Merida, Yucatan, on 1-4 June, 2016. The meeting focused on major strategic issues underlying the implementation of climate change adaptation programmes of relevance to river basins and aquifers. Further information may be retrieved at <http://www.riob.org/inbo/agenda/article/10th-general-assembly>.

- The *Conference "Water in Conflicts"* was organized by the Geneva University Platform for International Water Law at Geneva, Switzerland on 14 June, 2016. It examined the results of the Geneva Water Hub Roundtable on the "Protection of Water During and After Armed Conflicts." The speakers discussed the use of water as a strategy and weapon of war in the current conflict in the Middle East. The situation with regard to the access to water and the control of dams in the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers was also examined. This Conference was part of the activities of the Geneva Water Hub and the Platform for International Water Law of the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva. The discussions will contribute to the reflection of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace. For further information, visit http://www.unige.ch/droit/eau/une/2016/waterConflict_en.html

- The *Strategic workshop on future priorities under the Protocol on Water and Health* was organized by UNECE at Geneva, Switzerland, on 7-8 March 2016. The workshop sought to obtain clear recommendations on the strategic objectives and priorities in the water, sanitation and health domain in the pan-European Region that would help define the programme of work for 2017–2019. To know more on this workshop, visit <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41693#/>

- The *National Workshop on the UNECE Water Convention: Key aspects and opportunities for Iraq*, which was organized by the UNECE at Amman, Jordan, on 13-14 January, 2016, contributed to the comprehensive understanding by the Iraqi competent authorities of the UNECE Water Convention, its provisions and obligations, its work on the ground, as well as the benefits and possible challenges for Iraq to accede to it, in order to facilitate the preparations for accession. During the workshop, Iraq confirmed its intention to accede to the UNECE Water Convention in 2016. Details on this event may be retrieved from <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41604>.

- A *Seminar on "Hydrodiplomatie et changement climatique pour la Paix au Moyen Orient"* (Hydrodiplomacy and Climate Change for Peace in the Middle East) was held in Paris at the French Senate on 1st December 2015. AIDA was represented by its Honorary Chairman, Dominique Alh riti re. Several members were also in attendance. France and Italy were behind the initiative. The former launched, within the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Regional Training Center for Water Professionals, an expansion of an OIEau initiative. The latter supported and financed a study on the transboundary water management of the Orontes River Basin, which is shared by Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. The book "Science Diplomacy and Transboundary Water Management: The Orontes River Case" is available in digital format, and may be retrieved at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002330/233031M.pdf>.

- The Platform for International Water Law of the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva and the Geneva Water Hub organized a *Round Table on Cooperation and Benefit-sharing in the Basins of the Senegal and Niger Rivers* at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva on 24 September, 2015. The Round Table, which was attended by experts from West Africa, was divided into two sessions devoted to "the evolution of the factors of cooperation" and "common water structures and the sharing of benefits in the Senegal River and Niger River", respectively. For further information, contact AIDA member Mara Tignino, at mara.tignino@unige.ch.

- The *First Informal Gathering of the Parties to the UN Watercourses Convention* was convened by the governments of Finland, Germany and The Netherlands, and hosted by UNESCO at its HQ in Paris on 15-16 September, 2015. It comprised a closed-door meeting on 15 September with discussions between the Parties only, followed by an open-door programme the following day. The gathering was attended by some twenty Parties to the Convention. In addition, non-Party representatives, and representatives of UN organizations, of international secretariats (Ramsar Convention and UNECE Watercourses Convention) and of NGOs were also in attendance on the second day of the gathering. The Chairman of AIDA's Executive Council and a few other AIDA members also attended. The day began with a brief report on the outcome of the previous day: the rapporteur mentioned the spirit of cooperation expressed by all present and indicated the discussions had been of a general nature. Later, of the non-Party States in attendance, Switzerland reported to be next in line to join the Convention, as the ratification process is already well underway. Ethiopia and Iran voiced support for the Convention and the principles crystallized in it. Iran, however, also voiced some concerns regarding, notably, the dispute settlement mechanisms, groundwater, and regional differences in the socio-economic development of countries. The Iranian representative further reported on the application of the Convention principles in the domestic context of his country, in relation to an inter-provincial river. The Ivory Coast representative reported that his country is considering joining the UNECE Watercourses Convention. No immediate and clear conclusions emerged from the day's presentations and limited discussions, except at a very high level of generality as regards the usefulness of continuing dialogue and exchange of experience and knowledge, with a view to fostering cooperation. In this particular regard, in her concluding remarks the meeting chair observed that cooperation – an "obvious" need in her words - is inspired by widely shared principles and vision; however the problems and focus are not the same everywhere.

3. DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRAMMES CONCERNING WATER LAW

- **Al-Disi Aquifer Agreement** – On 30 April 2015, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia entered into an agreement for the Management and Utilization of the Ground Waters in the Al-Sag /Al-Disi Layer. Through this Agreement, the two countries undertake to designate and protect a “prohibited area”, and to control the digging of wells in a designated “management area”. The agreement provides for the establishment of a joint Saudi/Jordanian Technical Committee. For more information, visit <http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/blog/2015/08/31/the-newest-transboundary-aquifer-agreement-jordan-and-saudi-arabia-cooperate-over-the-al-sag-al-disi-aquifer/>

- **International Court of Justice: Dispute over the Silala** - On 6 June, 2016, Chile instituted proceedings against Bolivia with regard to a dispute concerning the status and use of the waters of the Silala, a water feature along the border of both countries. Chile asserts the Silala qualifies as an international river under the UN Watercourses Convention and a long practice by both States of referring to the watercourse as the Silala River. Chile also claims that its use of the waters was authorized under the 1904 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and subsequent 1908 Concession. Bolivia is expected to respond to this application. Further information may be retrieved from <http://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/cases/icj.html>.

- **Mono Basin Authority** – On 30 December, 2014 the Heads of State and Government of Benin and Togo signed the Convention on the Statutes of the Mono River, which provides for the creation of the Mono Basin Authority (MBA). The mission of the MBA is to facilitate sustainable river basin management through the integrated, equitable and coordinated management of the shared water resources and of the environment, to promote poverty reduction and sustainable development in the two countries and to implement projects and works in their common interest.

- **Implementation of the Albufeira Convention (Portugal, Spain)** - At the 3rd meeting of the Parties to the 1998 Albufeira Convention, held in Oporto, Portugal, on 20 July, Portugal and Spain decided, among others, to implement measures for the control of river flows based on enhanced oversight and coordination. This, with a view to meeting the agreed river flow targets in the face of potential water shortages looming ahead. (see <http://www.cadc-albufeira.eu/es/>)

- **Tijuana River Basin Agreement** – On 5 October, 2015, the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico (IBWC) signed Minute 320 titled, “General Framework for Binational Cooperation on Transboundary Issues in the Tijuana River Basin,” which enables priority issues of sediment, trash, and water quality in the Tijuana River Basin to be addressed cooperatively. Minute 320 may be downloaded from http://www.ibwc.state.gov/Files/Minutes/Minute_320.pdf.

- **Lancang/Mekong Cooperation Mechanism** - At their meeting in Xishuangbanna in China’s southern province of Yunnan, on 12 November 2015, the foreign ministers of China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam launched the Lancang/Mekong Cooperation Mechanism (LMCM) (Lancang is how the Mekong is called in China). Reportedly, the new mechanism will cover five priority areas: interconnectivity of the power grids, power production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources and cooperation on agriculture and poverty reduction. The Mechanism is reported not to be in the nature of a river basin organization.

- **Principles for joint bodies for transboundary cooperation** - At its 7th meeting held in Budapest, from 17 to 19 November 2015, the MOP to the UNECE Watercourses Convention adopted “principles for effective joint bodies for transboundary cooperation”. The principles, numbering thirty in total, are with a view to the enhanced effectiveness of joint bodies for transboundary water cooperation and, in general, with a view to enhancing cooperation among riparian States. The Principles are available at http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2015/WAT/11Nov_17-19_MOP7_Budapest/ECE_MP.WAT_2015_6_joint_bodies_ENG.pdf.

- **New domestic water laws** – Comprehensive laws covering the management, development and protection of water resources from pollution have been enacted, among others, by Bangladesh (Bangladesh Water Act, 2013 (Act No.14 of 2013)), Ecuador (Organic Law on Water Resources, Uses and Abstraction of Water (*Ley orgánica de recursos hídricos, usos y aprovechamiento del agua*), No.SAN-2014-1178 of 31 July 2014), Namibia (Water Resources Management Act, 2013 (Act No.11 of 2013)), Palestine (Decree No.14 of 2014 Relating to the Water Law), and Japan (Basic Act on Water-cycle Policy, Act No.16 of 2014). Special-purpose legislation has been enacted by the state of California, USA, with regard to groundwater (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, 2014), Ethiopia, with regard to Water Users' Associations (Irrigation Water Users' Associations Proclamation, No.841/2014), and by the Indian state of Gujarat, in regard to irrigation & drainage (Gujarat Irrigation and Drainage Act, No.6 of 2013). A detailed review and comparative analysis of these statutes will appear in the "Year-in-review" feature of a forthcoming issue of *The Journal of Water Law*, Lawtext publishing.

4. TRAINING AND RESEARCH CONCERNING WATER LAW

- A second *Training Course on International Water Law in Africa* was jointly organized by the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science at the University of Dundee (Scotland), the Centre on Water Law and Policy of Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Network for Basin Organizations (ANBO) in Kampala, Uganda, on 5-12 June, 2016. The course was attended by 40 participants from all over Africa. To read more, go to <http://www.gwp.org>.

- The Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science (under the auspices of UNESCO), University of Dundee, organized its *7th International Law and Transboundary Freshwater Training Workshop* at Dundee, Scotland, on 27-30 June, 2016. Through a series of lectures from experienced water law experts, case studies and group exercises, the workshop provided participants with the opportunity to: a) gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of key legal rules and principles that apply to transboundary waters, including the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, the 1992 UNECE Water Convention and the 2008 ILC Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers; b) examine both the challenges and lessons learnt in the implementation of law relating to transboundary waters across a range of settings; and c) share experiences and best practice in the negotiation, design and implementation of laws relating to transboundary waters. The workshop was designed to benefit lawyers and non-lawyers working on transboundary water issues across the world, including those from government, international organisations, civil society groups, universities, research institutes and private companies. For additional information on this event, visit <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/water/events>

- Also organized by the Centre for Water Law, Policy & Science, the *Water Security for Policy Makers and Practitioners Short Course*, which was held at Dundee, Scotland, on 20-24 June, 2016, brought together key strengths in water politics, climate change, agricultural water management and water allocation, thereby providing the participants with a chance to acquire an understanding of water security. The course provided participants, including policy-makers and professionals, with comprehensive background knowledge relevant to the increasingly important policy challenge of 'water security'. It explored how the multiple levels of water security – human, community, state, international and global – require broad but considered policy inputs. Emphasis was placed on the inter-dependencies of different sectors (climate security, food security, energy security) that interact within a 'web' of water security. The importance of shifting global climate and trade patterns in the international political economy was also highlighted. Read more at <https://www.dundee.ac.uk/water/news/2016/article/forthcoming-opportunities-to-study-water-security-and-international-water-law-in-the-uk-.php>.

- The Platform for International Water Law and the Geneva Water Hub, in collaboration with the DiploFoundation, has the pleasure to launch the first edition of the *Distance Learning Course on International Water Law and the Law on Transboundary Aquifers*, which will be held from 12 September to 4 December, 2016. The course, which will be coordinated by AIDA member Mara Tignino, includes six

thematic modules and a final module consisting of the resolution of a case study. The completion of the programme corresponds to 4 ECTS credits. The course programme may be downloaded from <https://www.genevawaterhub.org/resource/distance-learning-course-international-water-law-and-law-transboundary-aquifers>.

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

- Dante A. Caponera's basic textbook on water law and administration, *Principles of Water Law and Administration – National and International*, 2nd edition, revised and updated by AIDA's Vice-Chairperson Marcella Nanni (published by Taylor & Francis, 2007), was translated into Spanish by AIDA member Alejandro Vergara Blanco (Chile) and was published by Universidad Externado de Colombia, Bogota, in December, 2014. The Spanish version, by the title *Principios de derecho y administración de aguas*, may be purchased online, at <http://www.libreriadelau.com/principios-de-derecho-y-administracion-de-aguas-derecho-ambiental.html>

- *The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam: Legal, Political and Scientific Challenges*, Water International, Special Issue Vol. 41, No. 4, 2016. This Issue articulates the opportunities and challenges surrounding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) through multiple disciplinary lenses: its possibilities as a basis for a new era of cooperation in the Eastern Nile basin; its regional and global implications; its benefits and possible drawbacks; the benefits of cooperation and coordination in dam filling; and the need for participatory and transparent decision making. The Issue, which contains the first collection of articles exclusively devoted to the GERD, is the result of a special session at the 25th World Water Congress of the International Water Resources Association, which was held in Edinburgh on 25-29 May, 2015. In the first article, Salman M. A. Salman explores the relevant legal instruments and the history of dams in the Nile basin. He provides a detailed account of the sequence of negotiations that led to the Declaration of Principles in March 2015 and the December 2015 Khartoum Document, which endorsed the decision to have the French firms BRLi and Artelia conduct an impact study on GERD. The second article, by Z. Yihdego and AIDA member A. Rieu-Clarke, examines the fairness principle both as a framework for substantive and procedural equity and as a tool for promoting compliance with international commitments. In the third article, A. E. Cascão and A. Nicol follow with a comprehensive critical assessment of GERD as both an outcome of change and an opportunity to enhance cooperation in transboundary water resources management, as well as to expand regional development and integration in the Eastern Nile Basin region. In the fourth article, R. Tawfik questions whether the steps taken for GERD coordination imply the application of benefit sharing in the sub-basin, while the fifth article, by Y. Zhang, S. T. Erkyihum, and P. Block addresses from the technical side the critical issues of initial dam management. In the sixth article, K. G. Wheeler et al. apply a "river basin planning model", to analyze potential coordination and adaptation strategies among the dams of Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt during the initial filling of the GERD reservoir. The final article, by AIDA's Vice-Chair M. Nanni, illustrates recent efforts made by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), of which six out of eight member states are also Nile riparians, towards the adoption of a regional water resources policy and the formulation of a draft regional water protocol. On the one hand, these two instruments draw lessons from the Nile basin experience. On the other, they may encourage those IGAD member states which are also Nile riparians but have not yet signed and ratified the CFA, to do so, thus enabling the CFA's entry into force. The Special Issue is available online, at <http://www.tandfonline.com>.

- *Transboundary Offshore Aquifers: A Search for a Governance Regime*, by AIDA member Renee Martin-Nagle, in Brill Research Perspectives in International Water Law, Vol. 1(2), 2016. This monograph explains the geologic origins of offshore freshwater aquifers and proposes a governance regime for offshore aquifers that are shared by two or more nations. While the existence of freshwater offshore aquifers under continental shelves has been known for decades, none discovered thus far straddle an international border. In the event that an offshore aquifer shared by two or more nations is identified and targeted for development, selection of a governance regime for the aquifer will present a unique challenge, and several current legal systems could provide valuable guidance. While laws addressing transboundary land-based aquifers are still in a nascent stage, customary international law for surface water has evolved over centuries and could

provide analogous rules for development of another freshwater resource. This publication may be purchased online, at <http://www.brill.com/products/book/governance-regime-transboundary-offshore-aquifers>.

- ***Trans-Jurisdictional Water Law and Governance***, by Janice Gray, Cameron Holley, Rosemary Rayfuse (eds.), Routledge, 2016. Focusing on the concept of trans-jurisdictional water governance, the book diagnoses barriers and identifies pathways to coherent and coordinated institutional arrangements between and across different bodies of laws at local, national, regional and international levels. It includes case studies from the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States and Southeast Asia. Leading specialists offer insights into the pretence and the promise of trans-jurisdictional water governance and provide readers, including students, practitioners, policy-makers and academics, with a basis for better analysing, articulating and synthesising standards of good trans-jurisdictional water governance, both in theory and in practice. The book may be ordered online at <https://www.routledge.com/Trans-jurisdictional-Water-Law-and-Governance/Gray-Holley-Rayfuse/p/book/9781138928275>.

- ***L'eau dans les pays en développement*** (Water in Developing Countries), by F. Rousillon, Ed. Johanet, Paris, 2016, is the result of over 20 years of research on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Europe and in developing countries. Its aim is to determine whether this approach, which is based on the participation of stakeholders, may apply globally. The analysis starts in Belgium and then focuses on seven developing countries, namely Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, the Congo DR, Morocco, Bolivia and Haiti, and on the challenges encountered in each of them. The book may be purchased online, at <http://www.editions-johanet.net/l-eau-pays-developpement-073>.

- ***Le fleuve Indus et ses usages : l'arbitrage relatif aux eaux du fleuve Kishenganga*** (The Indus River and its Utilizations: the Arbitration Case relating to the Waters of the Kishenganga River), by AIDA member Mara Tignino, in *Annuaire français de droit international*, vol. 60, 2014, pp. 519-542, deals with the arbitration case on the Kishenganga Indus Waters between India and Pakistan, which was initiated by Pakistan in May, 2010. Between 2011 and 2013, an arbitral Tribunal established in accordance with the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 issued four decisions, namely the Order on the Interim Measures of 23 September 2011, the Partial Award of 18 February 2013, the Decision of 20 December 2013 on India's Request for Clarification or Interpretation dated 20 May 2013, and the Final Award of 20 December 2013. These decisions relate to a hydroelectric project planned by India on the Kishenganga River, which is part of the Indus River basin. The Kishenganga decisions are the first for which an arbitral Tribunal was established to resolve a dispute concerning the application and interpretation of the 1960 Treaty. This Treaty is an emblematic example of cooperation on an international watercourse: it has continued to be applied despite hostilities in the Kashmir region and the three wars fought between India and Pakistan since its adoption. From an environmental perspective, the recognition of the principle of the minimum environmental flow of a river is the most significant aspect of the 2013 Award. India has the right to divert the waters of the Kishenganga River for the production of hydroelectric energy, but while doing so it must ensure a minimum flow to protect water resources.

- ***Transboundary water governance and climate change adaptation: International law, policy guidelines and best practice application***, by AIDA member A. Rieu-Clarke, A. Moynihan, and B. O. Magsig, WWAP. Paris, UNESCO, 2015. The policy guidelines proposed in this paper address fundamental factors related to transboundary water governance and climate change adaptation. The central notion is to reinforce water governance capacities as well as the ecosystem-based approach to climate change adaptation policies and measures in river basins across the globe. Accordingly, the guidelines are of prime value to policy-makers, governments, academia, international and national organizations, institutions and civil society groups, who recognize the essential role of ecosystem-based climate change adaptation. The paper may be downloaded from <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002356/235678E.pdf>

- The ***Revista de Derecho, Agua y Sostenibilidad*** (Law, Water and Sustainability Journal) is a new electronic law journal that specializes in water, environment and sustainable development. It contains articles on these subjects and is edited by the Faculty of Law of the University of Vigo, Spain. For more information, visit <http://redas.webs.uvigo.es/index.php/es/>

6. FUTURE EVENTS

- The IWRA XVIth World Water Congress has been officially launched!!! Please see: <http://www.worldwatercongress.com/>. AIDA looks forward to welcoming you to Cancun, Mexico, 29 May – 2 June, 2017. We also encourage you to review the thematic structure of the Congress, which is encompassed by the overall theme of Bridging Science and Policy, and to note that we will have a substantial number of law, law-policy, and law-policy-science oriented panels, special sessions, and other programs. We kindly invite you to consider submitting an abstract for oral or poster presentation, or to submit a proposal for a special session or side event. Of course, we are at your disposal if you have any questions about the Congress. SEE YOU IN CANCUN!

- The *Water and Society Conference* will be organized by the Wessex Institute of Southhampton, UK, at Seville, Spain, on 5-7 June, 2017. It follows the success of previous meetings, which were held in 2011, 2013 and 2015, respectively. The Conference aims at encouraging interdisciplinary communication on issues related to the nature of water and its use and exploitation by society. It is motivated by the need to bridge the gap between the broad spectrum of social political sciences, law and humanistic disciplines and specialists in physical sciences, biology, environmental sciences and health, among others, to facilitate the development of water management solutions, policies and legislation. For more information on this Conference, visit http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2017/water-and-society-2017?utm_source=wit&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ws17cfp&uid=457466

- The *43rd Congress of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)*, to be held at Montpellier, France, on 25-29 September, 2016, will devote its Session 7.05 to the topic “The Challenges for Transboundary aquifer management”. Soon the UN General Assembly will be called to decide upon the fate of the UN International Law Commissions’ Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers. The Draft Articles, in the development of which the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) took the scientific lead, represent arguably the most authoritative international legal instrument that specifically addresses the governance of these aquifers. It is becoming imperative to ensure that there is adequate regulation over transboundary aquifers, as their integrity and surrounding ecosystems are threatened by over exploitation, land-use changes and pollution. The science behind these drivers needs to be made more explicit and prominent. This session of the IAH Congress, in its 60th Anniversary year, calls for papers from the science, the law and social science fields, to come together and provide the background and the justification that could be submitted to the UN General Assembly with a view to ideally turning the Draft Articles into a legally binding international instrument, or alternatively to giving the Draft Articles some other final status. The session will be co-convened by Alice Aureli (Chief Groundwater Section, UNESCO-ISARM, a.aureli@unesco.org), Neno Kukuric (Director IGRAC, neno.kukuric@un-igrac.org), Karen Villholth (IWMI, S Africa, k.villholth@cgiar.org), Gabriel Eckstein (Prof of Law, Texas A&M University, gabrieleckstein@law.tamu.edu). More details on the Congress can be retrieved from: <http://www.60iah2016.org/en/>.

7. 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 50 EURO or the equivalent in US\$, follow the instructions provided on the Association's website, at <http://www.aida-waterlaw.org/payments.php>. Please note that a new PayPal payment facility has been added, for the convenience of members. 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.