



EDITORIAL

The XVI World Water Congress of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) (Cancun 29 May-2 June 2017) continues to reverberate on the AIDA community of water law practice, notably through the post-Congress joint AIDA/IWRA scientific initiatives and products described in the “News of the Association and its members” feature of this issue of Aquaforum. Moreover, AIDA has attracted official recognition of the outstanding work of four of its most distinguished members – Professors Lilian del Castillo, Mara Tignino, and Stephen McCaffrey, and Dr. Salman M.Salman - at separate world water events in the course of 2017. In the words of AIDA Executive Council member Professor Gabriel Eckstein, truly 2017 can be regarded as the year of water law!

On a separate but related note, I am proud to report that, after IWRA, AIDA is currently pursuing collaboration with the Milan-based Milan Centre for Food Law and Policy. Through the water-focused Forum they convened in September 2017, reported on in the Meetings and Conferences feature of this issue of Aquaforum, water governance and water law are increasingly attracting the Centre’s attention. AIDA is therefore well-positioned to collaborate in the Centre’s future initiatives and research projects regarding water policy and law.

The World Water Forum-8, styled “Sharing Waters” (Brasilia, 18-23 March 2018), looms potentially large on the AIDA horizon. The AIDA chair and a number of association members will be in attendance, in connection with a variety of events featuring attention to water governance and water law. In particular, and in addition to the events organized under the OECD lead on the Water Governance theme, I flag to your attention the “Judicial and Prosecutors Sub-process” of the Political Process (19-21 March), which for the first time in the history of the World Water Forums will attract attention to the role of the judiciary in the governance of water resources. The relevant programme includes also a non-competitive Moot Court, where issues of domestic and international water law will be argued by law students in front of a panel of justices invited from the four corners of the world. All indications are that water law will attract considerable attention at WWF8 – and that AIDA members in attendance there will contribute much of the required intellectual firepower!

As our Latin forefathers would say, “*ad majora*”!

Stefano Burchi
Chairman of the Executive Council

1. NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND OF ITS MEMBERS

- AIDA and the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) co-organized a **webinar focusing on “Legal Mechanisms for Water Resources in Practice”** on 7 August, 2017. The webinar built on themes from AIDA’s sessions at the XV World Water Congress (Edinburgh, Scotland, 2015) and was based on the special issue of Water International featuring in Volume 41, No. 6. One of the main results was agreement that law must function as part of a wider governance structure so that implementation and eventual enforcement can make a difference to people who live in these communities. Moreover, all panelists agreed on the need for in-depth and case specific fieldwork to understand how law functions on the ground. The webinar panel included Marcella Nanni (AIDA’s Deputy Chairperson) and AIDA members Mara Tignino, Laura Movilla Pateiro, Helle Munk Ravnborg and Sarah Hendry. The webinar was moderated by Scott McKenzie, PhD Candidate, University of British Columbia. The presentations and video may be downloaded from <https://www.iwra.org/waterlawwebinar/>

- The special issue of Water International mentioned above also inspired an IWRA Policy Brief, equally styled “**Legal Mechanisms for Water Resources in Practice**” (No.7, August 2017). The Brief extracts and articulates policy-relevant messages from the papers featured in the special issue of Water International, which issued from the IWRA Edinburgh congress mentioned above. The Policy Brief can be accessed at https://www.iwra.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/IWRAPB-N7_Finalweb.pdf.

- AIDA has spearheaded the preparation of a book styled “**Legal Mechanisms for Water Resources in the Third Millennium, Select Papers from the IWRA XIV and XV World Water Congresses**”, under the collective editorship of AIDA Executive Council members M.Nanni, S.Burchi, A.D’Andrea and G. Eckstein. The book will be published by Routledge, and it is due for release in April 2018. Relevant details can be found in the Publications and Sources of Interest to AIDA Members feature of this issue of Aquaforum, below.

- The online **Training Course on the ‘Greening’ of Water Law: Implementing Environment-Friendly Principles in Contemporary Water Treaties and Laws**, developed by AIDA under contract with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA, formerly UNEP), and reported on in Aquaforum No.52 (March 2017), is now accessible at <https://e-learning.informe.org/course/view.php?id=34>

- AIDA Executive Council member Professor Lilian del Castillo, and AIDA member Dr. Salman M.Salman, were awarded special recognition of their work at the XVI IWRA World Water Congress (Cancun, 29 May-2 June 2017). In particular, Prof. del Castillo was awarded the “Distinguished Honorary Member” status by IWRA. Dr. Salman was awarded the Crystal Drop Award, also by IWRA (details of the latter are available in the post-IWRA Congress special issue of Aquaforum, No.53 of June 2017).

- AIDA member Professor Stephen McCaffrey was awarded the Stockholm Water Prize of the Stockholm Water Foundation, at the World Water Week held in Stockholm, 27 August-1 September 2017. The prize was awarded in recognition of Prof. McCaffrey’s outstanding contribution to the evolution and progressive realization of international water law.

- At the international conference ‘Rules of Water, Rules for Life’, organized by the Milan Center for Food Law and Policy at Milano, Italy, on 27- 28 September, 2017, AIDA member Mara Tignino, Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law and Coordinator of the Platform for International Water Law at the Geneva University Water Hub, received the award ‘Women Peacebuilders for Water’. This award marks the seventeenth anniversary of Resolution 1325, adopted by the United Nations Security Council to recognize the contribution of women to peacebuilding in post-conflict situations. The award was given to Ms Tignino by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Ms Hilal Elver, and was motivated by her research work on international water law and her dedication to the creation of new generations of international lawyers.

2. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- The *Global Workshop “Moving Forward Transboundary Water Cooperation: Building on its Benefits”* was convened by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) at Geneva, Switzerland, on 6-7 February, 2018. The workshop brought together professionals from all over the world working on transboundary water cooperation to discuss how the identification, assessment and communication of the broad range of benefits generated by transboundary water cooperation can prompt, support or strengthen cooperation in transboundary basins. Its aim was to provide a platform to share experiences, good practices, challenges faced and lessons learnt in the management of transboundary basins. More information may be retrieved from <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=46345>.

- The *OECD Water Governance Initiative* – in which AIDA is a partner institution - held its tenth meeting on 20-21 November, 2017, at the City Hall of Vienna, Austria. The meeting gathered practitioners, policymakers and representatives from major stakeholder groups. The discussion of global agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals, COP23 and the 8th World Water Forum, and the sharing of knowledge and experiences on recent water governance reforms, research and events were among the meeting’s objectives. To know more on the meeting, visit <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/10th-meeting-of-the-oecd-water-governance-initiative.htm>

- The *International Forum “Rules of Water, Rules for Life”*, which was held in Milan on 27-28 September 2017, was the first edition of what will become an annual event on water as a key element of sustainable development. It was organized under the auspices of the Italian G7 Presidency 2017 and promoted by the Milan Center for Food Law and Policy chaired by Dr. Livia Pomodoro, former President of the Milan Court. The Forum brought together representatives of the academia, lawmakers, regulators, private sector experts, international organizations and governmental bodies to share experiences and encourage debate on how water-related principles as defined in the 2030 Agenda - Goal 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation”; Goal 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”; Goal 5 “Gender Equality” - can be translated into practice. Scientific partners of the event were the OECD Water Governance Programme and the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). The AIDA Executive Chairman, Mr. Stefano Burchi, took part as invited panelist in a WWAP panel on ‘Moving beyond Inequalities’. He dwelled on the available and emerging regulatory mechanisms in mainstream water legislation to ensure that “no one is left behind” in the competition for water resources. At the end of the two-day event, participants jointly produced the Milan Declaration, which is available online at [http://rulesofwater.milanoglobal.org/contents/MILAN%20DECLARATION%20\(1\).pdf](http://rulesofwater.milanoglobal.org/contents/MILAN%20DECLARATION%20(1).pdf).

- On 25-26 September 2017, the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for Procedural Law hosted the *International Conference “A Bridge Over Troubled Waters: Dispute Resolution in the Law of International Watercourses and the Law of the Sea.”* Organized in cooperation with the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the Luxembourg National Research Fund, this conference focused on the resolution of international law of the sea and fresh water disputes. Through presentations and discussions, prominent international judges, arbitrators, lawyers and academics debated developments, as well as significant challenges facing the global community in settling such disputes today and in the future. The first day of the conference was devoted to the resolution of international freshwater disputes. The first panel marked the 20th anniversary of the landmark judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros case with speakers reflecting on its contributions to the field of international water law and dispute settlement. The second panel addressed the development of procedural rules of international water law and their role in the resolution of transboundary freshwater disputes. The third panel discussed the role of water agreements and institutions in such resolution. The fourth panel offered case studies of contemporary fresh water disputes around the world, including the Nile, Indus and Mekong Rivers. Day two was devoted to law of the sea dispute settlement, starting with a panel on questions of international procedural law before international courts and tribunals. The following panel explored the various methods from which parties may choose to resolve their maritime disputes. During the third panel, speakers offered perspectives on regional and global actors playing a role in resolving maritime disputes. The final panel provided a forum for discussing unresolved disputes in the Arctic region. More information on the conference may be retrieved from <https://www.mpi.lu/news-and-events/2017/september/25-26/dispute-resolution-in-the-law-of-international-watercourses-and-the-law-of-the-sea/report/>.

3. DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRAMMES CONCERNING WATER LAW

- **China** - On 20 June, 2017, China's top legislature passed a revised Water Pollution Prevention and Control Law to go into effect on 1 January, 2018. The law stipulates that emergency and reserve water resource facilities should be set up in cities with single water sources and that governments above the county-level should provide public information of drinking water quality at least once a quarter. Drinking water suppliers who fail to meet standards will be fined up to 200,000 yuan (about 32,000 U.S. dollars) and operations may be suspended until rectification. Stricter penalties are also set for those building sewage outlets in protected drinking water source areas. The law calls for the building of sewage treatment and garbage disposal facilities in rural areas, and for standards to be set for fertilizer and pesticide use. Finally, the law brings the "river chief" system into effect, with leading (government and party) officials assuming responsibility for addressing water pollution, including resource protection, waterline management, pollution prevention and control, and ecological restoration. Officials who achieve their goals will be rewarded, while those who fail in their responsibilities will be punished with fines and loss promotion opportunities

- **Cuba** - Law No. 124 of 2017, "De las Aguas Terrestres" (on terrestrial waters), published in Official Gazette No. 51 of 16 November, 2017, provides for the integrated and sustainable management of water resources taking the river basin as the resource management unit. Among other, it calls for the planning of water resources (through the national water resources plan and annual water allocation plans), the identification of minimum sanitary and ecologic flows in rivers, the establishment of a system of authorizations and concessions for the use of water and the discharge of wastewater, the implementation of measures for the protection of water resources, and for the management of droughts and floods, the implementation of measures for climate change adaptation and the establishment of the relevant monitoring networks. The use of water for water supply purposes enjoys priority over other uses. The National Institute for Water Resources is vested with responsibilities for the implementation of the law at the national level. The law also provides for the establishment of river basin councils at the national, provincial and municipal levels, and of specific river basin councils, to coordinate water resources management within their respective jurisdictions. Two chapters are devoted to the public services of water supply and sewerage, respectively. Decree No. 337 of 2017, sets regulations for the implementation of the law.

- **Dniester River Basin** - In June, 2017, Ukraine ratified the Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation in the Field of Protection and Sustainable Development of the Dniester River Basin, which was signed by the two countries in Rome on 29 November, 2012. Therefore, the Treaty is now in force. The ratification law was passed by the Ukrainian Parliament on 7 June 2017 and signed by the President of Ukraine on 26 June 2017. The Republic of Moldova ratified the Treaty in January 2013. The Treaty identifies principles and provides a framework for cooperation on water pollution prevention and control, water flow regulation, conservation of biodiversity and protection of the Black Sea environment. It also calls for cooperation in water resources monitoring and data exchange, public participation and cooperation in emergency situations. To know more on the treaty, visit <https://www.unece.org/?id=46219>.

- **India** – By Order of 20 March, 2017, the High Court of the State of Uttarakhand declared the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers, and their tributaries, as legal entities. According to the Court, the "rivers have provided both physical and spiritual sustenance to all of us from time immemorial. Rivers Ganga and Yamuna have spiritual and physical sustenance. They support and assist both the life and natural resources and health and well-being of the entire community. Rivers Ganga and Yamuna are breathing, living and sustaining the communities from mountains to sea". Accordingly, "the rivers Ganga and Yamuna, all their tributaries, streams, every natural water flowing with flow continuously or intermittently of these rivers, are declared as juristic/legal persons/living entities having the status of a legal person with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person...". Through a further Order dated 30 March, 2017, the Court conferred the same status to the "rivers, streams, rivulets, lakes, air, meadows, dales, jungles forests wetlands, grasslands, springs and waterfalls" in the state, and to glaciers, including the Gangotri and Yamunotri Glaciers, from which the Ganga and Yamuna Rivers take their sources, "in order to preserve and conserve them". To read more, go to Ariella D'Andrea's post on <https://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/blog/>. The 20 March decision was stayed by India's Supreme Court in July, 2017.

- **Israel and Palestine** – On 13 July, 2017, Israel and Palestine entered into a new “water-sharing” plan which may provide some level of relief to several Palestinian territories. Israel is set to sell 8.7 billion gallons of water to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at a reduced rate, with the West Bank receiving approximately two-thirds and Gaza the remainder. This latest deal is meant to expand on a 2013 agreement between Israel and Jordan where Jordan constructed a desalination plant within its borders. The plant takes water from the Red Sea and provides 8-13 billion gallons of fresh water to both countries each year. Israel provides the same amount of fresh water from the Sea of Galilee to Jordan, and receives the brine from the plant to help restore its evaporating Dead Sea. For further information, visit <http://www.ourwatersecurity.org/single-post/2017/07/18/Israel-and-Palestine-enter-into-new-water-sharing-agreement>.

- **Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)** – In May, 2017, the National Assembly of the Lao PDR passed a new Water and Water (aquatic) Resources Law. The new law contains updated provisions on water use rights, wastewater discharge permits, wetland and water resources protection, groundwater management, and river basin management. The law also clarifies the definition of large, medium, and small-scale uses and includes articles on environmental flows for hydropower production, as well as provisions related to water use for irrigation purposes.

- **New Zealand** – Through the Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017 (Public Act No. 7 of 20 March, 2017), New Zealand granted legal personality to the Whanganui River, with rights and duties and a legal representative. For further details, go to Ariella D’Andrea’s post on <https://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/blog/>.

- **Poland** – The Water Act of 20 July, 2017, was published in the Polish Official Gazette on 23 August 2017 and entered into force on 1 January, 2018. The act provides for the establishment of a new water authority – “Państwowe Gospodarstwo Wodne „Wody Polskie” to handle the matters dealt with therein. It also provides for the adjustment of the existing water permits to the new legal framework, and for the introduction of fixed and variable fees for water services (intake of groundwater or surface water, discharge of sewage or of wastewater into water or into the ground). A new administrative measure - the water consent - will apply to the issuance of water permits, notifications under the act, water assessments and other decisions under the act.

- **USA/Mexico** – On 21 September, 2017, at Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, officials of the USA and Mexican Sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) adopted Minute 323, "Extension of Cooperative Measures and Adoption of a Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan in the Colorado River Basin." This new agreement under the 1944 Treaty on the Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana River and of the Rio Grande aims at facilitating the long-term planning of water storage and distribution under variable climate conditions. It provides for substantial investment in conservation projects in Mexico in exchange for additional water allocations to the U.S. For more details, read Regina M. Buono & Jill Baggerman’s post at <https://www.internationalwaterlaw.org/blog/2018/01/15/mexico-us-continued-cooperation-on-the-colorado-river-under-minute-323/>

4. TRAINING AND RESEARCH CONCERNING WATER LAW

- The Global Water Partnership (GWP) will organize a training course on *Water Governance and International Water Law (IWL) in Africa* together with Makerere University (Uganda), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Network for Basin Organizations (ANBO), WaterNet and the Geneva University Water Hub. The course, the objective of which is to improve transboundary water management in Africa by strengthening the capacity of institutions and basin organizations, will take place in Kampala, Uganda, on 25-27 June, 2018. Up to 40 people may participate, with funding available for 20 Africa-based participants. Primary candidates for the course are mid- to high-level practitioners and professionals from river basin organizations and governments (foreign affairs

ministries, ministries in charge of water affairs, legislators, water management agencies, etc.), who have a role in negotiating, drafting or reforming treaties and legislation, planning, and decision-making on transboundary waters. The training will also consider a limited number of GWP Africa Partners who are in position to contribute with specialized knowledge and experience on water governance in international watercourses. Applicants must have a university degree in hydrology, environmental sciences, earth sciences, law, agriculture, international relations, or a related field, and must be recommended by IGAD or other African regional economic communities, based on support from their respective institutions. The course will be conducted in English and French with simultaneous translation. The application form, together with a complete list of requirements and instructions on how to apply, is available online, at <http://www.gwp.org/en/About/more/news/2018/water-governance-and-international-water-law-training-in-africa---apply-now/#.WmDgG4Fkh5U.facebook>. Applications, together with all supporting documents, are to be e-mailed to kenge.james.gunya@gwp.org by 2 March, 2018.

- The ***Massive Online Course (MOOC) on International Water Law***, which was developed by the Geneva Water Hub's Platform for International Water Law (Faculty of Law, University of Geneva) in the French language with funding by the Global Water Programme of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), is now available in English. The course aims at providing the foundations required to examine and understand the rules applying to transboundary freshwater resources, especially to rivers, lakes and aquifers. It illustrates the legal principles and standards governing the use, sharing, management and protection of these resources. The MOOC is composed of 5 modules, each followed by an evaluation quiz. The course is available on the Coursera Platform, at <https://www.coursera.org/learn/international-water-law>.

- The ***UNITAR E-Learning Course on Introduction to Water Diplomacy*** (6 November - 3 December 2017) aimed to raise participants' awareness of the current state of freshwater resources worldwide and highlight the need for modern diplomatic solutions to mitigate conflict and enable water's potential for cooperation at the transboundary level. Upon completion of the curriculum, participants should be able to describe some of today's major water stressors, identify the world's "water hotspots", recognize the benefits of transboundary water cooperation based on negotiation and mediation, and comprehend the importance of transnational water management institutions for sustainably supporting the benefits of cooperation. For more information, visit: <https://www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/introduction-water-diplomacy-3>.

- ***Online Course on the Law of International Freshwater Resources*** - The objective of this course is to provide a basis for the analysis and understanding of the legal framework for the management of transboundary fresh water resources, including rivers, lakes and aquifers. It illustrates the principles and rules applying to the utilization, sharing, management and protection of these resources, and includes a module on the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. The course was developed by members of the Platform for International Water Law of the Law Faculty of the University of Geneva. The course is available online, at: <https://www.coursera.org/learn/droit-international-eau-douce>.

- The second edition of the online course on ***"International Water Law and the Law of Transboundary Aquifers"***, taught by experts of the Platform for International Water Law/Geneva Water Hub, was launched on 19 September, 2017. The course included six thematic modules and a final module consisting in the resolution of a case study. It was developed with the support of the Center for Continuing and Distance Education of the University of Geneva, in partnership with DiploFoundation, and was funded by the Global Water Programme of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). For more information, visit <https://www.unige.ch/formcont/waterlaw>.

- The online ***Training Course on the 'Greening' of Water Law: Implementing Environment-Friendly Principles in Contemporary Water Treaties and Laws***, developed by AIDA under contract with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA, formerly UNEP), and reported on in Aquaforum No.52 (March 2017), is now accessible at <https://e-learning.informea.org/course/view.php?id=34>

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

- *Legal Mechanisms for Water Resources in the Third Millennium, Select Papers from the IWRA XIV and XV World Water Congresses*, edited by Marcella Nanni, Stefano Burchi, Ariella D'Andrea and Gabriel Eckstein, Routledge, April 2018 (forthcoming). Legal mechanisms for the management, development and protection of water resources have evolved over the years and have reached unprecedented levels of complexity and sophistication. This phenomenon is largely in response to the global community's sustainable development agenda, to the challenges and limitations imposed by climate variability, and to scientific and technological advances. Bringing together diverse experiences from across the world, this book analyses existing water law and governance solutions, their shortcomings, as well as developments and trends in the light of changing circumstances. The legal mechanisms examined range from international treaties, agreements and arrangements on cooperation over transboundary water resources, to the onset of novel issues arising out of technological advances, and from domestic regulation of water abstraction and groundwater management, to domestic regulation of the water industry. The articles in this book were originally published in the journal *Water International*, following the XIV and the XV World Water Congresses of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), which were held in 2011 and in 2015, respectively. The book will be available for purchase online, from <https://www.routledge.com/Legal-Mechanisms-for-Water-Resources-in-the-Third-Millennium-Select-papers/Nanni-Burchi-DAndrea-Eckstein/p/book/9780815363637>.

- *Le Code de l'eau (The Water Code)*, Editions Johanet, Paris, in its updated version, is now accessible online, at code-eau.info. This publication contains information on water law and its evolution in France.

- *Transboundary Water Cooperation - Principles, Practice and Prospects for China and Its Neighbours*, Patricia Wouters, Huiping Chen, James E. Nickum (Eds.), Routledge Special Issues on Water Policy and Governance, 2018. Grounded in international experience, this comprehensive volume provides readers with an up-to-date overview of current international transboundary water resource sharing policies and practices, including detailed case studies at both domestic and international levels. The authors discuss existing international laws, treaties, and principles that may stimulate transboundary water cooperation and dialogue, and then analyse a number of international experiences with treaties in North America, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. They take stock of China's water resource issues, legal practices and options, examine case studies of China's southern shared rivers, and explore some innovative approaches to cooperative management of shared waters within China. The articles in this book were originally published in the journal *Water International*. The book may be purchased online, at <https://www.routledge.com/Transboundary-Water-Cooperation-Principles-Practice-and-Prospects-for/Wouters-Chen-Nickum/p/book/9781138288836>.

- *The International Law of Transboundary Groundwater Resources*, by Gabriel Eckstein, Earthscan Water Text Series, Rutledge, 2017. This book provides a comprehensive review of the state of international law as it applies to transboundary groundwater resources and aquifers. The main focus is on recent developments and the emerging international law for transboundary aquifers as reflected in the practice of states and the work of the UN International Law Commission, UN Economic Commission for Europe, and International Law Association. The author takes an interdisciplinary approach to the subject matter and provides the scientific hydro-geological underpinning for the application of law and policy to transboundary groundwater resources. The book also addresses the growing global dependence on this hidden resource, as well as both the historical and scientific context for development of the law, and provides case examples to illustrate the various concepts and their development. These include more detailed examinations of the few existing transboundary aquifer agreements in operation, such as for aquifers between France and Switzerland and Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as well as aquifers in North Africa and in South America. The book may be purchased online, at <https://www.amazon.com/International-Transboundary-Groundwater-Resources-Earthscan/dp/1138842990>.

- In December, 2017, WaterLex launched its handbook *"The Human Rights to Water and Sanitation: An Annotated Selection of International and Regional Law and Mechanisms"*, published in English and Spanish. The handbook, which is structured into two parts, compiles and annotates extracts from

international law and institutional mechanisms, to illustrate the manner in which the various frameworks contribute to the realisation of those rights. The first part deals with topics of international relevance, including the international human rights framework, soft law, the international humanitarian law framework, international environmental law and international labour law. The second part takes a closer look at different regions: the African continent, the Americas, the Asia-Pacific region and Europe. The pdf version in English may be obtained from https://www.waterlex.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Waterlex_HRWS-Publication_EN_Final.pdf, while the Spanish version is available at https://www.waterlex.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Waterlex_HRWS-Publication_ES_FINAL.pdf.

- ***Groundwater and Climate Change: Multi-Level Law and Policy Perspectives***, by Philippe Cullet and AIDA member Raya Marina Stephan (eds), Water International Special Issue, Vol. 42, No. 6, August 2017. This Special Issue of Water International undertakes a scholarly assessment of the state of the art of the law and policy on groundwater and climate change at the international, regional and national levels. It was produced out of research papers presented at workshops organized within a partnership project between the Law, Environment and Development Centre of SOAS, University of London, and the National Law University of Delhi under the auspices of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative. These include the following: “*Regulating the interactions between climate change and groundwater: lessons from India*”, by P. Cullet, L. Bhullar & S. Koonan; “*Assessing India’s drip-irrigation boom: efficiency, climate change and groundwater policy*”, by Trevor Birkenholtz; “*Climate change, groundwater and the law: exploring the connections in South Africa*”, by AIDA member M. Kidd; “*Groundwater law, abstraction, and responding to climate change: assessing recent law reforms in British Columbia and England*”, by B. Ohdedar; “*EU legal protection for ecologically significant groundwater in the context of climate change vulnerability*”, by AIDA member O. McIntyre; “*Groundwater use in North Africa as a cautionary tale for climate change adaptation*”, by M. Kuper, H. Amichi & P-L. Mayaux; “*Global climate change and global groundwater law: their independent and pluralistic evolution and potential challenges*”, by J. Gupta & K. Conti; and, “*Climate change considerations under international groundwater law*”, by AIDA member Raya M. Stephan. The Special Issue is available online, at <http://www.tandfonline.com/>

- ***Inter-State Water Law in the United States of America: What Lessons for International Water Law?*** by AIDA member Rhett B. Larson, Brill Research Perspectives in International Water Law, Volume 2, Issue 3, pages 1-82, 2017. This monograph analyzes the three general approaches to water allocation between riparian states to certain shared watercourses in the United States, namely equitable apportionment, congressional apportionment, and inter-state compacts. This analysis is accompanied by a discussion and evaluation of the different cases of shared watercourses that applied these approaches, and a comparison of each of them to similar approaches in international water law. The monograph draws lessons for international water law from inter-state water law, highlighting the successful inter-state approaches that can be adopted by international water law, as well as the approaches that failed, and which should be avoided. The monograph may be purchased online, at <http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/10.1163/23529369-12340007>.

6. FUTURE EVENTS

- Convened by the American Water Resources Association (AWRA) in Forth Worth, Texas, on 9-11 July, 2018, the ***2018 Summer Conference: The Science, Management and Governance of Transboundary Groundwater*** will discuss the newest developments in transboundary groundwater research and practice, as well as innovative approaches for developing sustainable governance and management systems at the local, regional and international level. The conference will provide attendees the opportunity to learn about and engage in discussions on *The Science, Management and Governance of Transboundary Groundwater*. The program will stimulate conversations on innovative approaches for identifying transboundary groundwater resources and the methods to develop sustainable governance and management agreements. The Conference Planning Committee is seeking abstracts on any and all topics dealing with, or related to, the science, management and governance of transboundary groundwater. The term 'transboundary' is not limited to 'transnational', but refers to situations when groundwater crosses or underlies two or more political jurisdictions, international or not, so that it must be managed as a transboundary resource. Abstracts for both

oral and poster presentations are to be submitted online, through <https://awrasummerconference.secure-platform.com/a/>, by 28 February, 2018.

- The Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance will host the 2018 edition of the *IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium*, titled “*The Transformation of Environmental Law and Governance: Innovation, Risk and Resilience*”, at Glasgow, Scotland, on 2-6 July, 2018. Technology and innovation are often heralded as a source of solutions to global environmental problems. There is no doubt that they create opportunities, but they also pose challenges and carry risks. This Colloquium will explore the role of law and governance in better leveraging the opportunities created by technology and innovation, distributing the benefits that arise therefrom, and managing the associated challenges and risks. In particular, the Colloquium will focus on the following areas: biodiversity and traditional knowledge; climate change; energy; freshwater; land, food and agriculture; oceans; and, sustainable development. Freshwater will feature prominently in the Colloquium. To be kept abreast about any developments regarding the Colloquium, contact the organizers at iucn2018-conf@strath.ac.uk.

- The OECD, together with INBO, Women for Water Partnership, Mexico’s CONAGUA and ANA-Brazil, will lead the overall *Water Governance Theme of the 8th World Water Forum*, which will take place at Brasilia on 18-23 March, 2018. The theme will be structured into 3 sub-topics and 9 sessions, covering, *inter alia*, interstate cooperation for reducing conflict and improving transboundary water management, institutional frameworks and approaches to the setting up of transboundary basin organizations and the negotiation and implementation of global, regional and bilateral transboundary water agreements.

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.