



International Association
for Water Law

Newsletter No. 55

March 2019

EDITORIAL

This issue of Aquaforum heralds the coming on stream of a renovated and modernized AIDA webpage and logo. The project has entailed a significant commitment of the Association's intellectual and financial resources, and is no doubt something we should all be proud of. In the Executive Council's vision, the successful webpage and logo renovation project has set the stage for a long meditated thorough overhaul of the association's current governance structure, moving from the present autocratic to a more democratic model where elected office-bearers will run the Association and members will have as a result a real opportunity for meaningful engagement with the life and activities of the Association.

The Executive Council envisions a future where a democratized AIDA will grow in influence, also through its partnership with other relevant actors. The International Water Resources Association (IWRA) stands out among such actors. An important step in this direction will be forging strong ties with IWRA, picking up from where the successful AIDA-IWRA collaborative experience of IWRA Congresses XIV (2011), XV (2015) and XVI (2017) has left off.

Stay tuned for more as AIDA gradually transitions to a new democratic governance structure! In the meantime, I urge you to renew your support for the association by paying your yearly dues in good time before your membership expires!

Stefano Burchi
Chairman of the Executive Council

1. NEWS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND OF ITS MEMBERS

- A renovated *AIDA website and logo* meeting current state-of-the-art design standards and functionality criteria have gone online on 4 November, 2018. The project has been a few years in the making, however, when a decision was eventually made to invest in it in mid 2018, it took only a few months to complete. The new graphic design is more appealing and suits the modernized looks of the new logo. On the other hand, the new structure of the website and the reorganization of menus and pages improves content usability. AIDA members are encouraged to visit the website at <https://www.aida-waterlaw.org>. Members who are in good standing with their dues will be able to access the new Member Zone by using their original credentials. Original credentials will be valid for all other members as well, but will be activated upon payment of dues outstanding.

- In October 2018 AIDA has joined the UN Environment Global Water Quality Assessment Initiative. Set in the framework of the UN Environment Freshwater Strategy 2017-2021, a main objective of the project will be to work with a network of partners globally and establish a platform for water quality information and services. The initiative aims to address the whole value chain of water quality information for policy and operational services, including aspects of governance. AIDA will engage with the initiative in the role of observer/adviser on the legal/regulatory and institutional aspects of water quality management.

- In February 2019 AIDA has joined the UN-Water Expert Group on Transboundary Waters. Among others, FAO, GEF, GWP, IUCN, UNECE and UNESCO are also members of the Expert Group. In that capacity, AIDA has begun to engage with the crafting of a Policy Brief on 'Widespread accession to the global Water Conventions for sustainable development and peace', under the joint leadership of UNESCO and UNECE.

2. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- The *1st World Water Summit on 'Leaving No One Behind - Human Rights Based Solutions for Access to Water and Sanitation'* was jointly organized by WaterLex, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) at Geneva on 7-8 February, 2019. Its focus was on human rights to water and sanitation, and on finding and implementing workable solutions with support from projects, governance leaders and funding agencies, the intention being to fill a need that is not yet met by other water conferences and to provide a kick-off event as part of the 2019 UN-Water campaign on this theme. The event is planned to be held annually for the next 11 years, for the duration of the SDG Agenda, and to form part of the wider campaign to achieve SDG 6. The outcomes from these events will be interlinked with other global water events, such as the High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW), the World Water Forum (WWF) and World Water Week (WWW), and form part of the UN-Water annual campaigns. More on this event may be found at <https://www.swisswaterpartnership.ch/swp-member-news/1st-world-summit-on-leaving-no-one-behind-geneva/>

- A *Roundtable on Transboundary Collaboration in the Management of the Senegalese-Mauritanian Aquifer* was organized jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and the Geneva Water Hub (University of Geneva) at Geneva, on 6 February, 2019. Its objective was to provide a platform for an exchange of experiences between the four states sharing the Senegalese-Mauritanian Aquifer and the transboundary basin organizations, for the discussion of the existing management challenges and for the identification of possible options aimed at strengthening cooperation so as to promote the sustainable management and use of the aquifer for the peaceful development of the region. Further information may be retrieved from <https://www.genevawaterhub.org/news/roundtable-transboundary-collaboration-senegalese-mauritanian-aquifer>

- *Shared Management of Resources: A Pioneer Experience on Water*, Geneva, 29 November, 2018. This one-day seminar was organized by the Joint Aquifer Management Committee in cooperation with the Canton of Geneva, the French authorities and the 'Services Industriels de Genève' (SIG), to celebrate the

40th Anniversary of the 1978 Geneva Aquifer Agreement. Four themes were discussed, namely the governance of the resource, the dynamic protection and management of groundwater, legal aspects and international law and transboundary water management. The seminar provided a unique opportunity to examine key aspects of the management of the aquifer, which is an important drinking water source for the Canton of Geneva, and to hear first-hand accounts of those involved in aquifer management and cooperation between the Swiss and French authorities. A particular set of circumstances led to the conclusion, and renewal 30 years later, of an agreement around the joint management of the Geneva Aquifer. Local pragmatism and a drive to find a sound solution to plummeting levels of aquifer recharge allowed the parties to find a common ground and a visionary way forward, which have stood the test of time. The ability to share key data and technical information played an important role as well. The extent and nature of this relationship have also empowered both sides to deal with new challenges regarding the quality of the waters of the Arve (which provides water for the natural and artificial recharge of the Aquifer) and of the Geneva Aquifer. AIDA member Ms. Zaki Shubber attended the event, and filed a report available at <https://www.aida-waterlaw.org/2019/01/09/aida-member-zaki-shubber-reports-on-a-seminar-celebrating-40-years-of-transboundary-governance-of-the-geneva-aquifer/>. A link to the seminar programme may be found at https://www.genevawaterhub.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/40_ans_programme_final_eng_20181005.pdf

- The ***Conference on 'Water Diplomacy: Building Bridges for Lasting Peace'*** was co-organized by the Geneva Water Hub, UN Environment and GeoExpertise at Geneva on 9 November, 2018, in the context of the Geneva Water Week. Its objectives were to discuss the opportunities of water as a resource for peace-building and good water management practices leading to the prevention of tensions at the local and international levels. To know more on this event, visit <https://www.genevawaterhub.org/news/conference-water-diplomacy-building-bridges-lasting-peace>.

- During the ***1st International Symposium of Transboundary Waters in Latin America***, which was co-organized by the Peruvian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture and Irrigation through the National Water Authority with support from OAS, UNECE, IUCN and SDC, and was held at Lima, Peru, on 8-9 November, 2018, Latin American countries exchanged experiences and discussed opportunities to strengthen transboundary water cooperation in the region, recognizing the necessity to align with international water law principles and the role of the UNECE Water Convention (1992) and of the UN Watercourses Convention (1997) as framework agreements supporting countries in the sustainable management of shared water resources. Further information may be accessed at <http://www.cooperacionsuizaenperu.org.pe/actividades/cosude-actividades-realizadas/4084-09%20de%20agosto%20de%202018>

- At the ***Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes***, which took place at Astana, Kazakhstan, on 10-12 October, 2018, the Secretariat of the Convention presented the first progress report on the implementation of the Convention. This document is based on a self-assessments submitted by 38 out of the 40 state parties. It shows that at the time of reporting (2017), most of the transboundary waters shared by the signatories have agreements and arrangements in place. Parties and non-parties shared their experience on reporting under the Convention and under SDG Indicator 6.5.2, respectively. The Meeting of the Parties adopted a new strategy for the implementation of the Convention that aims to strengthen cooperation and partnerships for the management of transboundary waters worldwide in order to promote sustainable development, peace and security. It further adopted revised rules of procedure, as well as a decision on the designation and responsibilities of focal points and a revised template for reporting under the Convention. The Meeting of the Parties also endorsed a draft programme of work for 2019-2021, including new measures for facilitating the financing of transboundary water cooperation. The approved budget is of US\$ 12.1 million. The progress report is available at <http://www.unece.org/info/media/presscurrent-press-h/environment/2018/new-report-highlights-progress-by-parties-in-the-implementation-of-the-water-convention/doc.html>. AIDA member Mr. François Touchais officially represented AIDA, and filed a report available at <https://www.aida-waterlaw.org/2019/01/04/eighth-meeting-of-the-parties-of-the-unece-water-convention-astana-kazakhstan-10-12-october-2018-report-by-aida-member-francois-touchais/>.

- The *XXII Jornadas de Derecho de Aguas*, which were held in Zaragoza, Spain, on 26-27 April, 2018, were devoted to droughts and floods as extreme hydrological events and to the legal and institutional tools available to address these events, taking into consideration the effects of climate change. Particular attention was paid to the role of river basin organizations. To know more, go to <https://www.feuz.es/congreso/jornadas-de-derecho-de-aguas-2018/>

- At the *8th World Water Forum*, which was held at Brasilia on 18-23 March, 2018, the Conference of Judges and Prosecutors on Water Justice approved the ‘Brasilia Declaration of Judges on Water Justice’. The Declaration is the result of three days of discussions, where more than 50 senior judges and prosecutors from around the world joined together with diplomats, experts and other leaders in the field to address current challenges to the utilization, management and protection of freshwater resources. Its aim is to sensitize and educate justices and public prosecutors around the world to the complexities of rendering justice in the matter of water resources, in the larger context of the environmental rule of law, by offering ten ‘principles’, derived from contemporary water law and environmental law, that seek to capture and unravel such complexities, and to offer a reference template for substantive and procedural justice in regard to water-related disputes. AIDA members O. McIntyre and S. Burchi had a major role in the crafting of the Declaration. Mr. Burchi also represented AIDA in the above-mentioned Conference of Judges and Prosecutors on Water Justice. In addition to multiple panel discussions involving over 130 speakers, a special session of the conference addressed developments toward possible negotiation of the Global Pact for the Environment under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly. The text of the Declaration on Water Justice may be retrieved from <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-environmental-law/wcel-resources/brasilia-declaration-judges-water-justice>.

- The *OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI)*, in which AIDA participates, held its eleventh meeting on 12-13 November, 2018, at the Palacio de Congresos of Zaragoza, Spain. The meeting gathered practitioners, policymakers and representatives from major stakeholder groups. Its objectives were to update delegates on WGI contributions to Global Agendas, to discuss the 2019-2021 programme of work, as well as the content and outputs of the working groups, to share knowledge and experiences on recent water governance reforms, research and events, to draw lessons from Spain’s water governance and to discuss the role of water governance in circular economy. To know more on the meeting, visit <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/11th-meeting-of-the-oecd-water-governance-initiative.htm>.

3. DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRAMMES CONCERNING WATER LAW

- **Albania/Montenegro** - On 3 July, 2018, at Shkodra (Albania), Albania and Montenegro signed the Framework Agreement on Mutual Relations in Transboundary Water Resources Management, which covers all water resources of common interest. The focus of this agreement is on water use, water protection and flood management. According to its provisions, the parties undertake to cooperate based on the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, reciprocity, mutual benefits and good faith and, in particular, to use their transboundary waters in a reasonable, equitable and sustainable manner, to prevent water quality deterioration, to conduct joint or coordinated water resources monitoring, to take measures against the harmful effects of water, to regularly exchange data and information, to consult each other on the granting of water permits and the construction of hydraulic infrastructure and to promote stakeholder participation. The agreement makes explicit reference to the principles enshrined in the EU Water Framework Directive, as both countries are candidate to become EU members. The agreement also provides for the establishment of a joint commission.

- **European Union** - A proposal of the European Commission for a new Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse was adopted on 28 May, 2018. The proposal aims to help alleviate water scarcity and promote sustainable irrigation across the EU. This is a particularly pressing issue given water scarcity and droughts resulting from climate change, and the increasing demands on water supply. The proposed minimum quality and monitoring requirements are based on the JRC Science for Policy Report – *Minimum quality requirements for water reuse in agricultural irrigation and aquifer recharge*. The proposed Regulation also introduces key risk management tasks to identify other risks that should be addressed to ensure the safety of water reuse, and new transparency rules so that consumers can obtain easy

access to water reuse practices in EU Member States. Essentially, the proposal will offer farmers an alternative supply of water for irrigation. For further information, go to http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/pdf/water_reuse_regulation.pdf

- **Lebanon** – Law No. 77 of 13 April, 2018, containing the Water Code, aims at regulating the use of water resources and protecting them from depletion and pollution. After listing the objectives to be pursued, which include the satisfaction of drinking water needs and other water requirements, the protection of water resources, the prevention of the harmful effects of water, water conservation (including resort to non-conventional water sources) and the preservation and restoration of water and related ecosystems, it subjects the use of water resources to prior administrative authorization. Particular emphasis is placed on groundwater protection from depletion and degradation. The law recognizes the right of every person to obtain the water necessary to satisfy basic needs and considers sanitation as an element of the right to water. Water management functions, including the granting of authorizations, the setting of water quality standards, pollution control, the implementation of water conservation and flood and drought management measures and the maintenance of the water resources inventory and register, are vested in the Ministry of Energy and Water. A National Water Authority (chaired by the Prime Minister and composed of members of the Ministries of Energy and Water, Environment, Industry, Agriculture, Health, and Tourism) is to provide advice on the development of objectives, policies and guidelines for sustainable water management. The Ministry of Energy and Water, in cooperation with other public authorities, is responsible for producing a General Water Master Plan setting objectives for sustainable water management and providing for the satisfaction of drinking and other water needs and the relevant hydraulic infrastructure on the basis of available water resources. The law also deals with water services for drinking water supply, sewerage and irrigation. Irrigation services are to be provided by public institutions such as the National Authority of the Litani River, in cooperation with irrigation associations. Finally, the law provides for the establishment of a ‘water police’. The text of the law (in Arabic) is available at https://www.pseau.org/outils/ouvrages/ministere_de_l_energie_et_de_l_eau_code_de_l_eau_2018.pdf

- **Rwanda** – Law No. 49/18 of 13 August, 2018, on the use and management of water resources in Rwanda, contains important provisions relating to integrated water resources management and planning within river basin (catchment) contexts and stakeholder participation within the framework of catchment water resources management committees. Since water resources management is a cross-cutting issue, it also calls for the creation of a collegial advisory body at the national level. The use of water and the discharge of wastewater are subject to a permit and to the payment of a fee. The permit system is meant to replace the pre-existing and cumbersome system of declarations, authorizations and concessions. The law further provides for the protection of vulnerable water resources from depletion and quality degradation, including the establishment of groundwater protection areas, for the establishment of protection perimeters around drinking water sources and for the establishment of water reserves to maintain minimum ecological flows for the conservation of biodiversity. Flood and drought management issues and dam safety are also dealt with.

- **UNECE Water Convention** – On 22 February and 31 August, 2018, respectively, Chad and Senegal became the first countries from outside the UNECE region to accede to the Convention. At the 8th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (10-12 October, 2018), 20 countries announced their intention to accede to it.

4. TRAINING AND RESEARCH CONCERNING WATER LAW

- *Course on Water and Environmental Law*, IHE Delft, The Netherlands, 11 February -1 March, 2019 – The purpose of this course was to introduce students to the theory and practice of water and environmental resources management from a policy and legal perspective. The course covered subjects of international water law, including general principles of international water law in general, and of international water and environmental law in particular, the analysis of multilateral water and environmental agreements, environmental and water disputes and cases, negotiation and dispute resolutions and the UN institutional framework relevant to water and environmental management, and national water and

environmental law and institutions. The course, which was meant for top and mid-level decision-makers, technical experts and professional trainers and researchers, will be replicated in 2020. Further information may be retrieved from <https://www.un-ihe.org/water-and-environmental-law>.

- IHE has also organized a ***Course on Water Conflict Management I*** to be held at Delft on 4-22 March, 2019, aiming to provide a framework for the analysis of conflicts and in-depth training in key skills to engage and deal with such conflicts, specifically through negotiations, conflict transformation and mediation. Contemporary issues and examples of water conflicts at different levels (international, regional, national and local) are also discussed to illustrate the skills and concepts presented. The course, which was designed for water managers, decision-makers and others involved in water-related conflict management and conflict resolution, will be held again on 2-20 March, 2020. Additional information, including instructions as to how to register, is available at <https://www.un-ihe.org/water-conflict-management-i>

- Also organized by IHE, Delft, on 1-18 April, 2019, the ***Course on Water Conflict Management II*** will provide participants with comprehensive knowledge relating to water conflict management and cooperation. The focus of the course is on key theories and concepts of water law, water policy, water institutions/river basin organizations, conflict and stakeholder analyses. Relevant tools and approaches for water diplomacy, water-related negotiations and conflict-resolution will be illustrated. This includes the discussion of specific examples of water conflict and cooperation at different governance levels, as well as the consideration of the roles of different actors (diplomats, civil society, media, etc.). A second edition of the course is planned for the period 30 March-17 April, 2020. For more information, visit <https://www.un-ihe.org/water-conflict-management-ii>

- The third edition of the distance-learning ***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 organized on 24 September – 9 December, 2018. Like its previous edition, the course included six thematic modules and a final practical module consisting in the resolution of a case study. Its goal was to provide professionals involved in the negotiation or implementation of treaties related to transboundary water resources with advanced knowledge of the principles and norms that govern the use, equitable sharing and sustainable management of these resources. The course was conducted in partnership with DiploFoundation, and was funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). For more information, visit <https://www.genevawaterhub.org/resource/distance-learning-course-international-water-law-and-law-transboundary-aquifers>.

- A training ***Workshop on Climate and Water Law and Governance in Central Asia and Afghanistan*** was organized by the German-Kazakh University (GKU) and the Central Asian Regional Environment Centre (CAREC), with the support of, among others, UNESCO and OSCE, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 24-26 September 2018. Young civil servants from water-related agencies from Central Asian states and from Afghanistan, including civil society representatives, were exposed to the linkages between climate change adaptation/mitigation and water law and governance, including financing and investment, and the climate-water-food security nexus.

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

- As a direct result of the XVI IWRA World Water Congress (Cancun, 2017), and of AIDA’s close association with the event, a Special Issue of the respected IWRA magazine ***Water International*** has been prepared by an AIDA team of guest editors consisting of AIDA members Mara Tignino, Raya Stephan, Renee Martin-Nagle, and Owen McIntyre. The Special Issue will feature a selection of the best legal papers contributed to the Congress, some by AIDA members (Burchi, Curran, Garner, Movilla, Quadri). The Special Issue is scheduled to be published online in April, as issue 44 No.3 of ***Water International***.

- The ***Final Report of the XVI IWRA World Water Congress*** (Cancun, Mexico, 29 May-3 June, 2017) has been published and is available online, at <https://www.iwra.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/IWRAXVIWorldWaterCongressReport-final.pdf>. The report provides an overview of the Congress and of its various components, activities, and achievements.

- ***Research Handbook on International Water Law***, by S. McCaffrey, C. Leb and R.T. Denoon (eds.), Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019. This book surveys the field of the law of shared freshwater resources. In some thirty chapters, it covers subjects ranging from the general principles operative in the field and international groundwater law to the human right to water and whether international water law is prepared to cope with climate disruption. Its comprehensive survey of international water law links international law principles to case studies and examples from specific basins, to bring research into real-world relevancy. Different regional traditions and frameworks of international water law are presented in order to provide a global overview. The book is meant for academics and researchers, students, relevant government agencies, and practitioners interested in water law and humanitarian law. It is available for purchase at <https://www.elgar.com/shop/research-handbook-on-international-water-law>

- ***The International Law Association Helsinki Rules, Contribution to International Water Law***, by AIDA member Slavko Bogdanovic, Brill Research Perspectives in International Water Law, Volume 3, Issue 4, 2019. Although the International Law Association (ILA) was established in 1873, it only turned its attention to internationally shared water resources in 1954, when its study of the applicable principles and rules of international law thereon began. The first ILA committee assigned to this task was the Rivers Committee, which, after a decade of intensive study and through several resolutions and statements, arrived unanimously at a set of articles reflecting customary international law, known as the Helsinki Rules on the Uses of the Waters of International Rivers. The Helsinki Rules approved at the ILA Helsinki Conference in 1966 were soon widely accepted across the globe as a non-binding authoritative source of international water law. This monograph traces the work of ILA leading to the approval of the Helsinki Rules, analyzes the Rules and identifies their influence on, and contribution to the evolution of international water law. This monograph is available for purchase at https://brill.com/abstract/journals/rpw1/3/4/article-p1_1.xml

- ***Legal Rights for Rivers: Competition, Collaboration and Water Governance***, by Erin O'Donnell, Routledge, 2018. In 2017 four rivers in Aotearoa New Zealand, India, and Colombia were given the status of legal persons, and there was a recent attempt to extend these rights to the Colorado River in the USA. Understanding the implications of creating legal rights for rivers is an urgent challenge for both water resource management and environmental law. Giving rivers legal rights means the law can see rivers as legal persons, thus creating new legal rights that can be enforced. When rivers are legally people, does this encourage collaboration and partnership between humans and rivers, or establish rivers as another competitor for scarce resources? To assess what it means to give rivers legal rights and legal personality, this book examines the form and function of environmental water managers (EWMs). These organizations have legal personality and have been active in water resource management for over two decades. EWMs operate by acquiring water rights from irrigators in rivers where there is insufficient water to maintain ecological health. EWMs can compete with farmers for access to water, but they can also strengthen collaboration between traditionally divergent users of the aquatic environment, such as environmentalists, recreational fishers, hunters, farmers, and hydropower. This book explores how EWMs use the opportunities created by giving nature legal rights, such as the ability to participate in markets, enter contracts, hold property and enforce those rights in court. However, examination of the EWMs unearths a crucial and unexpected paradox: giving legal rights to nature may increase its legal power, but in doing so it can weaken community support for protecting the environment in the first place. The book develops a new conceptual framework to identify the multiple constructions of the environment in law, and how these constructions can interact to generate these unexpected outcomes. It explores EWMs in the USA and Australia as examples, and assesses the implications of creating legal rights for rivers for water governance. Lessons from the EWMs, as well as early lessons from the new 'river persons,' show how to use the law to improve river protection and how to begin to mitigate the problems of the paradox. The book may be purchased online, at <https://www.routledge.com/Legal-Rights-for-Rivers-Competition-Collaboration-and-Water-Governance/ODonnell/p/book/9781138603257>

- ***Shared Watercourses and Water Security in South Asia: Challenges of Negotiating and Enforcing Treaties***, by Salman M.A. Salman & K. Uprety, Brill Research Perspectives in International Water Law, Volume 3, Issue 3, 2018. Shared water resources have influenced South Asia's geography and history, as well as riparians' responses to the challenges of utilizing, managing, and protecting such

resources. Because of scarcity, population growth, and climate change impacts on all the riparians, national calls for water security have become louder. Consequently, collaboration among the nations of South Asia for ensuring equitable sharing of such water resources has not been optimal. While most countries do not have reliable systems for data generation, those possessing some hydrological data consider them state secrets, restricting their exchange. Even when treaty obligations exist, data-sharing practices are *ad hoc*, and the range of information shared is limited. Thus, negotiating new transboundary water treaties amongst South Asia's riparian countries has become a daunting task, and enforcing existing ones remains a real challenge. This article may be purchased online, at https://brill.com/abstract/journals/rpwl/3/3/article-p1_2.xml

- ***Research Handbook on Freshwater Law and International Relations***, by M. Tignino & C. Bréthaut (eds.), Edward Elgar Publishing, 2018. Recent decades have seen pivotal changes in the management and protection of water resources, with human rights, environmental and water law each developing a strong interest in the conservation of fresh water. This surge in interest has meant that dispute settlement mechanisms, along with diplomatic tools, are becoming increasingly necessary for conflict resolution. This handbook offers an analysis of the interaction between law and various forms of knowledge and expertise, ranging from economics to environmental and social sciences. Leading scholars examine general and specific water legal regimes and analyze the interplay between various disciplines in order to establish the extent to which law is informed by each. The book is available online, at <https://www.elgar.com/shop/research-handbook-on-freshwater-law-and-international-relations>

- ***Lake Governance***, by V. Grover & G. Krantzberg (eds), CRC Press, 2018. This book provides a comparative analysis of governance structures by examining policy, legal and institutional structures of current transboundary commissions to develop a common framework for good governance of transboundary lakes. Cooperation among nations sharing natural resources is important for sustainable use of the shared resources. Lakes contribute a big part to GDP in most of the countries and in some cases are also responsible for providing fisheries (for food, source of protein and livelihood). Climate change and associated risks and uncertainties add more complexity to the problems. This book explores current water governance challenges, knowledge gaps and provides recommendations as to a framework for good lake governance. The book may be obtained from <https://www.crcpress.com/Lake-Governance/Grover-Krantzberg/p/book/9781138633759>

- ***The Water Police – Regulating Water Uses: A Permanent Challenge***, by Anthony Mergey & Frantz Mynard (eds.), Editions Johanet, Paris, 2018. This publication is a collection of twelve papers presented at the seminar 'Regulating water: a permanent challenge. Forms and types of water police', which was held at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences of the University of Rennes, France, on 21 March, 2014. These papers focus on the developments and present status of the water police at the national and European levels, and look into its future. The book may be purchased online, at <http://www.editions-johanet.net/police-de-eau-reglementer-usages-de-eau-un-defi-permanent-o78>.

- ***A Hybrid Approach to Decolonize Formal Water Law in Africa***, by B. Van Koppen & B. Schreiner, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) Research Report 173, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2018. In recent decades, many countries in sub-Saharan Africa have pursued national water permit systems, derived from the colonial era and reinforced by 'global best practices.' These systems have proved logistically impossible to manage and have worsened inequality in water access. The authors of this report propose a hybrid water use rights system to decolonize Africa's water law, lighten the administrative burden on the state and make legal access to water more equitable. This would strengthen smallholder irrigation, which is vital for boosting Africa's food production and making it more resilient in the face of worsening drought. The report may be downloaded from <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/publications/iwmi-research-reports/iwmi-research-report-173/>

- The OECD report ***Implementing the OECD Principles on Water Governance***, 2018, takes stock of the use and dissemination of the OECD Principles on Water Governance, which were adopted in 2015. It provides a water governance indicator framework and draws lessons from experiences from different countries and contexts. Based on an extensive bottom-up and multi-stakeholder consultation process within the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI), of which AIDA is a partner, the report seeks to help interested countries, regions, cities and basins assess their water governance performance to improve their

water-related policies. The document may be consulted online at https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/implementing-the-oecd-principles-on-water-governance_9789264292659-en#page3.

- *Survey of Legal Mechanisms Relating To Groundwater along the Texas-Mexico Border*, by '16 TAMU Law graduate J. Foster, Texas A&M University School of Law, 2018. The purpose of this report is to present a factual picture of the multiple groundwater governance frameworks that cover transboundary aquifers on the Texas-Mexico border. It examines, catalogs, and compares the various approaches taken by communities along the border towards managing and allocating groundwater resources. It also presents a comprehensive survey of the existing rules, regulations, practices, and guidelines at the federal, state and local levels applied by users and institutions on both sides to govern groundwater usage within their jurisdictions. The goal of the study is to lay a foundation for additional research and even coordination across the frontier in an effort both to improve knowledge and information about groundwater on the Texas-Mexico border, as well as to ensure that this critical resource is governed and managed in a manner that ensures its availability into the future. The report is available for download at <https://scholarship.law.tamu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=nrs-publications>

6. FUTURE EVENTS

- AIDA members are invited to visit the *new XVII World Water Congress website* (<https://worldwatercongress.com:6446/index.php>) to learn more about this congress, which will be held in Daegu, Korea, on 11-15 May, 2020. The website features welcome messages from the congress organizers, congress sub-themes and cross-cutting issues under the main theme '*Foundations for Global Water Security and Resilience: Knowledge, Technology and Policy*', the preliminary congress programme, and information on key dates for the call for abstracts, special sessions, side events and registration, the setting-up of personal accounts for abstract submission, registration, the uploading of presentation, the congress venue, visa requirements, accommodation and logistics and other details.

- The Center for Environmental Pollution, Climate & Ecology (CEPCE), in collaboration with the Law Unit of the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER), will hold a *Stream on Water Law* in Athens, Greece, on 15-18 July, 2019, as part of the 7th Annual International Forum on Water and the 16th Annual International Conference on Law sponsored by the Athens Journal of Sciences and the Athens Journal of Law. The aim of the stream is to bring together academics and researchers on all areas of law related to water resources (international and national water law), including water rights and allocation, water quality law, drainage law, water conservation law and groundwater law. For further information, go to <https://www.atiner.gr/watlaw>.

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.

To contact AIDA, write to info@aida-waterlaw.org

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 PayPal payment facility is also available, 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.