



GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL WATERS ASSESSMENT

NEWSLETTER No 3 August 2002



Dear
GIWA
friends

This newsletter is issued at the opening

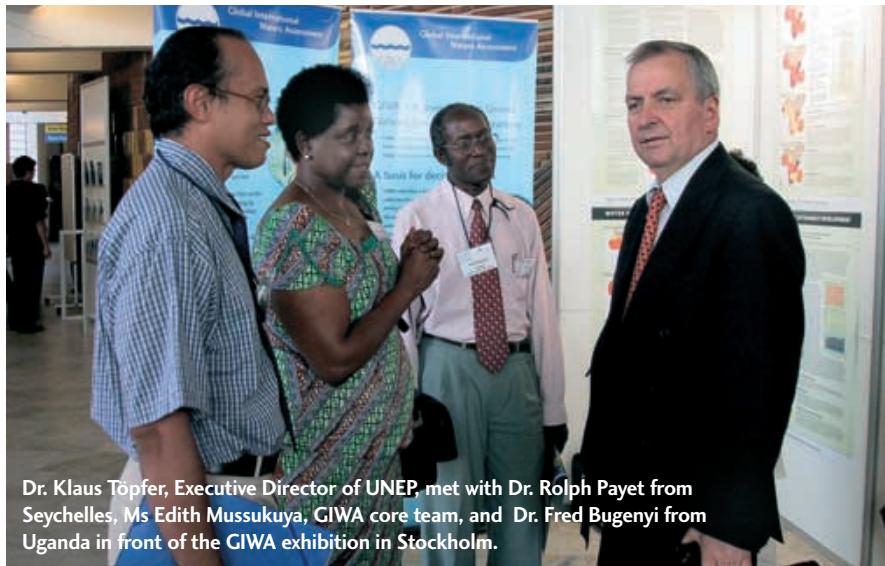
of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, WSSD. A very important venture indeed which will set the pace for the future work in the field of human development and the environment.

Water and environment is a key issue for the WSSD. GIWA is present and you may visit us in the Water Dome. This summer, flooding has taken place in major rivers in Europe, China and other places with severe destruction of agriculture, cities and human settlements. There is no doubt that these events are linked with human activities, emission of greenhouse gases, deforestation and land use practices and this underpin the importance of the WSSD and also the importance of the assessment being done by GIWA. Without factual knowledge there can be no action.

In this newsletter you can also read about the Stockholm Water Symposium and the GIWA seminar an important event where the first results of the GIWA assessment were presented.

Dag Daler
Scientific Director

GIWA results presented at the Stockholm Water Symposium



Issues related to the destruction and degradation of ecosystems and overfishing stand out as the areas showing the most severe impacts on the environment. This first result of the GIWA assessment was presented at the Stockholm Water Symposium, where GIWA hosted a seminar on August 11, 2002.



Panel participants on regional transboundary water systems: Fred Bugenyi, Igor Severskiy, Vadim Sokolov, Marcia Marques, David Obura (chair) and Kim Prochazka.

Overexploitation of fisheries and related issues such as excessive destruction of bycatch and the use of destructive fishing techniques are considered the most severe issues in more sub-regions than any other environmental problem. This was described

in the presentations made by Dr. Olof Lindén and Dr Juan Carlos Belausteguigoitia from the GIWA core team in Kalmar, Sweden. Dr. David Souter, also with the GIWA core team, informed about the environmental impacts of climate change.

The seminar was opened by Dr Klaus Töpfer, executive director of UNEP, who emphasized the importance of worldwide information networks on water-related issues.

The GIWA assessment throughout the world, done by local expert in the different sub-regions, was presented in a session on regional transboundary water systems. Dr. Igor Severskiy, Kazakhstan, described freshwater shortage in Central Asia. Dr. Fred Bugenyi, Uganda, talked about the change of ecosystem in Lake Victoria waters. Dr. Marcia Marques, Brazil, gave a presentation of the root causes of pollution in South America. Dr. Kim Prochazka, South Africa, gave her views on the dams and the downstream impacts on the freshwater shortage in Southern Africa. Dr. Vadim Sokolov, Uzbekistan, described water resource management in Central Asia.

Dialogue on water at Kalmar symposium

A symposium with focus on the dialogue needed to make integrated water resources management possible was held in Kalmar August 18-22, 2002. The 110 participants representing countries around the world were invited to a reception at Kalmarsund Laboratory, hosted by GIWA, the University of Kalmar and Kalmar municipality.

The Kalmar symposium was part of the international project "Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy", HELP, and additional to the World Water Week in Stockholm. Discussions focused on increasing the dialogue between scientist, policy makers and stakeholders. The participants took great interest in the GIWA project when meeting with GIWA staff at the reception.



GIWA co-ordinator Juan Carlos Belausteguigoitia in discussions with Jan Lundqvist from Linköping University, Sweden, and Prakash Nelliya, Madras School of Economics, India, at Kalmar seminar reception.

New at GIWA core team

The GIWA core team in the Kalmar office has new members. Dr. Ullali Zweifel is in charge of the project report, assisted by Malin Karlsson. New information officer is Elisabet Idermark. Raphael Magin is joining the staff to work with policy analysis.

Annual Report 2001

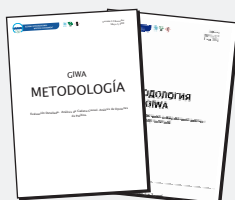
The GIWA Annual Report for 2001 has been distributed to a great number of members in the GIWA network worldwide. The Annual Report gives facts and figures on the activities during 2001 and also a presentation of the project methodology. If you are interested in a copy of the Annual Report 2001, send a message to elisabet.idermark@hik.se.

GIWA host is expanding

The department of Biology and Environmental Sciences at the University of Kalmar, hosting the GIWA office, has soon completed its new building. The new premises with classrooms, laboratories and offices are ready to use by spring 2003, adding new attraction to the already popular Swedish university. New students are now coming in as the university opens programs in GIWA-related subjects such as conservation biology and oceanography.

GIWA presentation in Johannesburg

The government of Sweden has invited GIWA to participate in the Swedish pavilion at the WaterDome, an event held in conjunction with the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September, 2002. GIWA is also represented in the UNEP/GPA H2O-pavilion at the WaterDome. "No water, no future" is the overall theme of the WaterDome, functioning as an exhibition and meeting place for public and private water organizations. Dr. Olof Lindén from the core team in Sweden will give presentation of the GIWA project in Johannesburg.



Methodology translations

The final version of the GIWA methodology for the remaining stages of the assessment is now available in English, Spanish and Russian.

Upcoming events.....

17-18 September, 2002, in Kalmar, Sweden: GIWA 1st Economic Task Team Meeting

16-19 September, 2002, in Beijing, China: International workshop on Environment.

23-24 September, 2002, in Shanghai, China: 24th Meeting of "Easter Forum"

25-29 September, 2002, in Dalian, China: GEF Second Biennial International Waters Conference.

8-9 October, 2002, in Kalmar, Sweden: GIWA steering group meeting

16-23 March, 2003, in Kyoto, Japan: 3rd World Water Forum.