

**Dear GIWA friends,**

A number of important events are taking place these days and in the near future. Recently I participated in the 11th Stockholm Water Symposium. We in the GIWA Core Team congratulate our colleagues in SIWI to a very successful symposium. Such events provide an excellent opportunity to meet with friends and colleagues to discuss and exchange opinions. UNEP presented on this occasion their report on the Mesopotamian wetlands. Documented with satellite remote images, it is shown a dramatic decrease in these wetlands over the past 20 years. By all standards this is a dramatic environmental disaster. It further demonstrated the important mission of GIWA to capture these issues and establish a global holistic assessment of the environmental status of the globe's water bodies.

Every week now there are GIWA workshops and meetings all over the globe. The GIWA General Assembly is soon to take place, mind the dates, October 9 to 11. The GIWA sub-regional focal points will meet to share their experiences and plan for the future work. It is also an event where anybody interested in the GIWA, donors, stakeholders and representatives from other water programs can learn the latest about GIWA and the assessment results. I would like to see you all in Kalmar.

In this newsletter you can also read about the connection between IREX and GIWA. A special section is devoted to the GIWA work in Latin America.

Dag Daler, Acting Scientific Director GIWA

GIWA Featured at 2001 World Water Week in Stockholm

The 2001 Stockholm Water Symposium from August 12-18 in Stockholm attracted more than 1200 scientists, decision makers and politicians from more than 123 countries who joined discussions and workshops around the world's water situation and challenges for achieving water security for the 21st century. The aim and theme of this year's Symposium was "Water Security for the 21st Century - Building Bridges Through Dialogue", which indicates the main objective of identifying the different competitors around water and creating a mutual understanding as a basis for negotiations and political decisions on integrated water resources management. GIWA presented itself during the poster session and staff from GIWA took part in several of the events during the Symposium. UNEP was represented with a poster and a press release from ED Klaus Töpfer on the problems of the Mesopotamian marshlands.

There were a number of additional events during the week,

one being the Stockholm Water Prize Award Ceremony when HM King Carl XVI Gustaf delivered the 2001 Water Prize to Professor Takashi Asano.

Sub-regional Focal Points and Workshops in Latin America

The following focal points in Latin America have been established and had the workshops booked to be held during August-October 2001:

Sub-region 38: Patagonia Shelf: Mr Alberto Calcagno, MSc, President of the Argentinean Institute of Water Resources-IARH, Argentina. The Scoping/Scaling workshop was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 16-18 August, 2001.

Sub-region 39: Brazil Current: Assoc. Prof. Marcia Marques, Department of Environmental Engineering, Rio de Janeiro State University-UERJ, Brazil. The Scoping/Scaling Workshop will be held in Rio, 03-05 October, 2001.

Sub-region 40b: Amazon: Dr Ronaldo Barthem, Senior Researcher expert in Amazon aquatic biodiversity, Emilio Goeldi Museum, Belém do Pará, Brazil. The Scoping/Scaling Workshop will be held in Belém, 13-15 September, 2001.

Sub-region 40a: Brazilian Northeast: Assoc. Prof. Irles Mayorga, Natural Resources Economy of Semi-Arid in Brazil, Department of Agriculture Economy, Federal University of Ceará, Fortaleza, Brazil. The Scoping/Scaling workshop will be held in Fortaleza, Brazil, 17-19 September, 2001.

Sub-region 64 Humboldt Current and Sub-region 65 Eastern Equatorial Pacific: Mr Ulises Munaylla, MSc Senior Advisor for the Action Plan for Marine Protection from Land based activities, Permanent Commission for South Pacific-CPPS, Quito, Ecuador. The Scoping/Scaling workshop will be held in Quito,



16-18 August, the **Scoping/Scaling Workshop for Sub-region 38 Patagonia Shelf** was held in Buenos Aires under the coordination of the President of the Argentinean Institute of Water Resources-IARH, Mr Alberto Calcagno, with the GIWA coordinator for Latin America, Prof. Marcia Marques, Rio de Janeiro State University-UERJ, Brazil.

IREX connects with GIWA

The GIWA Black Sea & Caspian Sea team headed by Prof Felix Stolberg has been awarded a grant from IREX for the project "De-eutrophication strategy for the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea Aquatic Ecosystems". This project will complement the GIWA work in the region and is directed towards providing recommendations to national and international programs and institutions working in the area.

The work will be done in collaboration with the GIWA Core Team and Prof Jim Perry, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota.

IREX is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of knowledge. Central to its mission is the empowering of individuals and institutions to participate meaningfully in civil society. See the IREX Web site www.irex.org.



Prof Felix Stolberg (right) and Prof Jim Perry discuss the GIWA project with Joyce Warner, IREX Director for Research.

Brazilian - Swedish collaboration in GIWA Sub-region 39, Brazil Current

Two Swedish students together with their professor, William Hogland of the Environmental Engineering, Department of Technology, University of Kalmar in Sweden received scholarships from the Swedish International Development Agency-SIDA to assist GIWA in the Brazil Current sub-region. They will carry out a field study related to the project "ASSESSMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN A DENSELY POPULATED CATCHMENT AREA: GUANABARA BAY BASIN, RIO DE JANEIRO". Guanabara Bay Basin is located in Rio de Janeiro State, part of Sub-region 38 and has about 4,000 km², 8 million inhabitants and 6,000 industries among them, 155 are the most important regarding pollution potential. This work will be an important input to the GIWA assessment in this sub-region.

The Swedish students will be testing and calibrating the World Health Organization WHO Model "Rapid Assessment of

Pollution Sources-RAPS" updated last year by GIWA to be used as part of the GIWA methodology to assess point sources of pollution in drainage basins.



From left to right: Jerker Jonasson, Prof Marcia Marques, Renato and Fabio (Brazilian students in Environmental Engineering, trainees of GIWA project) and Andreas Rehn. Rio de Janeiro State University-UERJ.

GIWA staff update

We are welcoming our new staff members:

Mr. Ye Chun M.Sc., Environmental Engineer and Ecologist from the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES) in Beijing China, who will work at the GIWA co-ordination office full-time with regional assessment work in China.
Ms. Åse Allberg will be working at the GIWA project as an information officer helping with the General Assembly preparations.

Ms. Maria Carlson, student of Department of Environmental Science at the University of Kalmar will work at the GIWA project part-time.

GIWA Events and Milestones

Some Recent Focal Point Agreements

- **Gulf of Guinea** (42)
- **East African Rift Valley Lakes** (47)

Scaling and Scoping workshops have been held for

- **Coral Sea Basin** (59), **Great Barrier Reef** (60), Townsville, 23-27 July

Scaling and Scoping workshops will be held for

- **Sea of Okhotsk** (30), **Oyashio Current** (31) and **Sea of Japan** (33) in Vladivostok 12-14 September
- **East Bering Sea** (28), **West Bering Sea** (29), Anchorage, 20-21 September

- **For workshops in Latinamerica, please see text**

The first GIWA General Assembly, Kalmar, 9-11 October

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