



Dear GIWA friends,

As spring returns to Europe, the trees get green, the flowers blossom and up north in Scandinavia the days get longer and the nights lighter, GIWA is entering into its most hectic period. GIWA workshops are ongoing all over the globe, people are trained in the GIWA methodology and they are creating results. And even more important for the sustainability of the GIWA process, every day new experts and scientists are recruited to the GIWA sub-regional task forces. GIWA is now definitely on the positive track!

Even during positive times some setbacks are due to occur. Unfortunately we had to reschedule the GIWA General Assembly until October 9-11. I know it is unpleasant for all of you who had set the days aside in your calendar, but I still look forward to see you all in Kalmar!

Dag Daler, Project Manager

Assessments in the Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Aral Sea are off the ground

A capacity building workshop was held in **Kharkiv**, Ukraine on March 26-29, gathering experts constituting the GIWA network in the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Aral Sea sub-regions. The participants were thoroughly introduced to the GIWA methodology, and thereafter they jointly conducted the first part of the assessment, the scaling and scoping exercise.

The workshop managed to gather 21 highly qualified experts from 10 countries belonging to one or several of the three sub-regions. The countries represented were Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Romania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Felix Stolberg, GIWA regional team leader, and hosted by the Kharkiv Academy of Municipal Economy. The participating experts represented environmental authorities, research centres and international programmes. In line with GIWA's strategy to join forces with other international water-related initiatives, special

efforts were undertaken to involve representatives from the Black Sea Environmental Programme (BSEP), and the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP).

The workshop was a demanding but fruitful exercise. The first two days were fully devoted to the presentation and mastering of the scaling and scoping methodology, and sub-regional team building processes. Considering the complexity of the sub-regions to be studied, a two-dimensional structure was suggested: expert co-ordinators of each sub-region will work closely with the regional team, and local focal points will ensure sound locally-based expertise.



Experts in the Black Sea sub-regional task team during the workshop, Dr. Kideys from Turkey, Dr. Chesmedijev from Bulgaria and Dr. Mihnea and Dr. Mara from Romania.

Further on, upon presentations by participants, the full scaling and scoping exercise was conducted. The work was significantly facilitated by the possibility to use the experiences from the Bangkok workshop (22-23 March) that were made available to the participants. Two days were dedicated to group work and plenary sessions, where both the assessment was performed and methodological aspects of the work were studied in depth and discussed. The management of the Academy warmly greeted the participants and underlined the importance of international co-operation in the field of environmental protection.

The Kharkiv workshop was the first major GIWA activity in the regions of the Black Sea, the Caspian Sea and the Aral Sea. A work plan for the coming steps was adopted, the experts network

established and strengthened, and the team spirit started to develop as a result of the hectic and challenging four days. The experts expressed their interest in the further development of the methodology, and emphasised the importance of a sound scientific basis, as well as the relevance of the GIWA project to their regions. Among the plans that developed during the workshop for coming activities are the participation of the Aral Sea team in the joint GIWA/UNESCO SABAS (Scientific Advisory Board for Aral Sea Basin Problems) meeting in Tashkent in May; the expanding co-operation with BSEP and CEP; and the preparation of the scaling and scoping reports.

Large number of sub-regions trained for the assessment work

Additional to the Kharkiv workshop presented above, three GIWA assessment methods training workshops were recently held in Bangkok, Moscow and Beijing. The meetings clearly benefited from each other, through an efficient exchange of information between devoted members of the GIWA network. These three meetings were focussed on giving the participants a better understanding of the methodology. Presentations of the scoping and scaling exercise, the detailed impact assessment and the causal chain analysis were made by members of the methodology development team and the GIWA core team. The assembled experts had thorough discussions on the implementation of the different parts in practice. The draft methodology reporting format was presented, and was much appreciated.



Dr. Teng Seng-Keh, Dr. DeVantier, and Dr. Huming Yu, during the training workshop in Beijing in April.

The **Bangkok** workshop, held 22-23 March, gathered representatives from five Sub-saharan African, and nine South-east Asian and South Pacific sub-regions. The workshop that was held in **Moscow** 9-10 April assembled Russian experts from seven sub-regions partly covering Russian areas; and the **Beijing** workshop 23-27 April was attended by representatives from four East Asian sub-regions. In connection to these workshops, the methodology has been translated into Russian, and a translation into Chinese is underway.

Upcoming workshops

In the middle of June a training workshop will be held in **Tallinn**, Estonia, for the Baltic Sea and possibly also other sub-regions. In July two more training workshops will be held, one in **Bangkok** for representatives from the remaining sub-regions in eastern Asia and the Antarctic; and one in **Townsville**, Australia, for the sub-regions in Australia, New Zealand and the Small Island States. The Aral Sea sub-regional expert group will finalise the scaling and scoping exercise in a workshop conducted jointly with the UNESCO SABAS, in **Tashkent** 19-21 May.

The first GIWA General Assembly in October

Please note the changed dates

We are pleased to announce the first **GIWA General Assembly to be held in Kalmar, Sweden, October 9-11, 2001**. The Assembly aims to facilitate the assessments in the sub-regions, and provide a forum for dynamic discussions on environmental problems in international waters. During the General Assembly, results from the scoping and scaling exercise and the detailed impact assessment conducted in the sub-regions will be reported, workshops on implementation of coming phases of GIWA methodology will be held, and international water-related programmes and projects related to GIWA will be presented. Further information will be posted at www.giwa.net.

GIWA Events and Milestones

- GIWA methodology training workshops have been held in
 - Bangkok, 22-23 March
 - Kharkiv, 26-29 March
 - Moscow, 9-10 April
 - Beijing, 23-27 April
- GIWA participated in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment's first Technical Design Workshop, Utrecht, April 8-11
- GIWA scaling and scoping workshop will be held jointly with UNESCO SABAS
 - Tashkent, 19-21 May
- GIWA methodology training workshops will be held in
 - Tallinn, 18-20 June
 - Bangkok, July
 - Townsville, July
- The World Environment Day, 5 June
- The first GIWA General Assembly, Kalmar, 9-11 October