



GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL WATERS ASSESSMENT

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Dan Claassen chairs steering group

Experts from governments and international organisations in twelve different countries were assembled when the GIWA steering group held its fifth meeting in Kalmar 8–9 October.

The new chairman for the steering group Dan Claassen from Environmental Information Assessment and Early Warning, UNEP, led discussions on a number of issues, ranging from the results from the scaling and scoping exercise to the format of the final report.

Also new at the steering group meeting were Alexei Maximov from GEF in Russia, Anders Jägerskog from the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency and Inesis Kiskis, Lithuania, representing the World Bank.

The steering group listened to reports from the different parts of the GIWA project and had discussion on the peer review process. The outline of the global report and the implementation plan were analysed. The steering group expressed satisfaction with the development of the GIWA project and the results obtained.



Dag Daler, Scientific Director of GIWA, at steering group discussions with Salif Diop from DEWA and Chairman Dan Claassen, UNEP.

GIWA appointed Ambassador

– The world's water issues are complex and pressing in many parts of the world and their assessment is urgent.

These are words by the newly appointed ambassador for GIWA, Professor Emeritus Gotthilf Hempel. He represents SCOPE in the steering group of GIWA and was named Ambassador at the fifth steering group meeting in Kalmar on October 8–9.

As ambassador professor Hempel will assist in the process of tailoring the GIWA assessment and advice, to the needs of GIWA's implementing agency, of local and regional administration and of the interested part of the public. He will also make an effort to make GIWA better known in the science community.

Professor emeritus Gotthilf Hempel was born in 1929 in Göttingen, Germany. He received his Ph.D. in 1952 in Heidelberg and turned from general zoology to marine ecology and fisheries research. He worked in various marine laboratories in northern Europe and North America, and for UNESCO/IOC and FAO until he became full professor in Kiel, Germany. From 1981 to 1997 he became the founder of four marine science institutes in Germany. Over the years he had a great number of students from Europe and developing countries. He was in charge of many expeditions to all parts of the Atlantic. He published about 250 articles and various books on fisheries biology, marine ecology and science policy.

Since 40 years Professor Hempel is engaged in international organisations and kept leading positions in ICES, SCOR, IOC IABO, ICSU/IGBP and European Science Foundation. Since he retired in 2000 he is still busy in fostering partnership projects with

marine science institutions in the Middle East and Southern Africa.

He took part in the creation of GIWA and is pleased to see that GIWA is bringing together the marine, coastal and terrestrial



The newly appointed Ambassador for GIWA, professor Gotthilf Hempel.

aspects. On the long-run he expects GIWA's contribution to be threefold:

– GIWA is producing the assessments for all parts of the globe, making full use of efforts of other agencies and projects, he

says. It is also establishing a network for monitoring with water issues, both marine and freshwater. A third task is to strengthen the scientific, technical and administrative

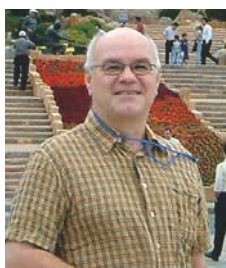
capacity to cope with water issues in all parts of the world. Training on the job will be an important part of this activity.

– I myself am particularly interested in scientific capacity building, says Ambassador Hempel.

"I am pleased to see that GIWA is bringing together the marine, coastal and terrestrial aspects."



Dear GIWA friends,



Snow is falling in Kalmar and winter is here. In this dark time of the year I would like to enlighten you with a report from the GEF 2nd Biennial IW which took place in Dalian, China, 25 – 29 September. The conference provided an in depth overview of GEF's involvement in the International Waters. More than 250

representatives from all the GEF IW projects were present to report on the status of their projects.

The conference was conducted as plenum sessions and breakout workshops. The agenda and the conduct of the conference provided ample time and opportunities to exchange experiences and lessons learned across projects and geographical areas, but also and not least to network with others active in the field of environment and water, to build partnerships and initiate collaborations for the future.

GIWA was represented by Professor Marcia Marques, the GIWA Latin American coordinator, and Professor Felix Stolberg, coordinator for the GIWA work in the Black Sea, Caspian Sea and Aral Sea sub-regions, and myself.



Al Duda, GEF Secretariat, Vladimir Mamaev, UNEP/DGEF, and Laurence Mee, Plymouth University, meeting with GIWA coordinators Marcia Marques and Felix Stolberg at the GIWA exhibition in Dalian.

GIWA presented the status of the project, the global comparative matrix and the results from the Black Sea and the Latin American sub-regions. The presentations were given in plenum sessions and GIWA also presented an exhibition with posters detailing the sub-regional work. Great interest was given to the major findings of the GIWA indicating that on the global scale, the most severe problems in the aquatic ecosystems are unsustainable exploitation of fisheries and habitat destructions in the coastal zone.

Good news provided from the conference was also the message that the replenishment of the GEF now was approved by USA, the EU and major donor countries. This gives hope and opportunities for the future.

Dag Daler
Scientific Director

Students take interest in GIWA

UN Day on October 24 was celebrated also in Kalmar, hometown of the GIWA headquarters. A GIWA exhibition was presented at the public library, along with local groups working for international organizations such as the Red Cross and Amnesty International.



Students in Kalmar take an active interest in the work of the United Nations and GIWA. Here they are celebrating the UN Day October 24.

On this UN Day a new youth section of the local UN Association of Sweden was launched. University students have organized this group in collaboration with two internship students at GIWA, Raphael Magin and Renato Jose de Queiroz Leite.

Raphael Magin, age 22, is a student in politics and management at the University of Konstanz in Germany. Renato Leite, age 26, is studying at the environmental engineering department at Rio de Janeiro State University in Brasil. Raphael and Renato are assisting the GIWA staff on the political analysis process.

Upcoming events...

18-20 November in Mexico: 1st International Congress of Transboundary Waters.

Mid-November in Mombasa, Kenya, and Maputo, Mocambique: Training in CCA and discussions on scaling/scoping report.

19-21 November in Pretoria, South Africa: EIS-Africa Meeting (Environmental Information Systems Databank)

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

11-14 August 2003: Stockholm Water Symposium

18-20 August 2003, in Kalmar, Sweden: Joint GIWA-University of Kalmar Conference on Transboundary Waters.

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