



International Hydrological Programme

43rd session of the IHP Bureau
(Paris, 3 – 5 June 2009)

PROGRESS REPORT ON COOPERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME (IHP) OF UNESCO WITH THE UNESCO-IHE INSTITUTE FOR WATER EDUCATION ¹

Item 5.1 of the provisional agenda

SUMMARY

This progress report covers the most recent developments concerning UNESCO-IHE, particularly with respect to its linkages to IHP and the recently renewed Operational and Cooperation Agreements between UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands.

The Council is requested to take note of these developments.

¹ Document prepared in collaboration with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

1. Since the entry of IHE into UNESCO in 2003, both UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands have stressed the importance of creating synergy and close cooperation between the work of the Institute and that of other UNESCO water programmes, notably IHP. Recent sessions of the IHP Bureau and Council, as well as the UNESCO General Conference have addressed this issue. A detailed report on this issue was presented to the 18th session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP (IHP/IC-XVIII/Inf.6). The current report provides an update of the status of the UNESCO-IHP/UNESCO-IHE relationship.

RENEWAL OF INSTITUTIONAL AGREEMENTS

2. In March 2003, a Seat Agreement, and an Operational Agreement were signed by UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands, and a Cooperation Agreement was signed by UNESCO and the IHE Delft Foundation. The inter-linked Operational and Cooperation Agreements expired on 30 April 2008, whereas the Seat Agreement remains in force indefinitely. After consideration of document 34 C/47 analyzing key issues related to the long-term financial viability of the Institute, the 34th session of the UNESCO General Conference held in October 2007 authorized the Director-General (34 C/Resolution 23) “to renew the Operational Agreement [...] for a period of five years (2008-2012), provided that no cost or financial risk is incurred by the Organization, and before the expiry date of the current agreement (1 May 2008)”. In 2007, the Director-General appointed an Intersectoral Task Force chaired by the Deputy Director-General to prepare two renewed agreements. The negotiations with the Government of the Netherlands lead to the signing of Interim Operational and Cooperation Agreements on 29 April 2008 for the period running from 1 May to 31 August 2008.

3. The 18th session of the Intergovernmental Council of IHP considered the urgent situation concerning the UNESCO-IHE agreements (reported in documents IHP/IC-XVIII/Inf.6 and IHP/IC-XVIII/6) and adopted Resolution XVIII-1, expressing its support to the Government of the Netherlands and the UNESCO Secretariat to exert all needed efforts to conclude in a timely manner the renewal of the operational agreement in accordance with the terms of 34 C/Resolution 23. In August 2008, UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands reached agreement and signed the renewed Operational and Cooperation Agreements for the period from 1 September 2008 to 31 December 2013. An important achievement was the increase of the subsidy by € 750,000 in 2008, and by € 1.5 million per annum in the consecutive years. The additional subsidy will allow UNESCO-IHE to invest in the modernization of its education, to strengthen its research programme, to intensify the integration within the UN-system and to build-up a sound financial reserve.

EVALUATION FOLLOW-UP

4. As per the Statutes of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, an external evaluation of UNESCO-IHE was conducted in 2007 by UNESCO and the Government of the Netherlands (see document IHP/IC-XVIII/Inf.6). As a follow-up to the evaluation results and recommendations, UNESCO-IHE started several concrete activities. One recommendation concerns the modernization of education. Processes were initiated to make the programmes more flexible and student-centered (more electives, credit-transfer options, different financing modalities) and to increase efficiency (combining modules from different specializations, joint degree programmes with partners). Terms of Reference for an Education Bureau have been developed. The Bureau will be established in 2009/2010 to catalyze change processes and to take away administrative burden from academic departments. In order to increase the integration in UNESCO, the IHP-secretariat and

UNESCO-IHE developed a joint Workplan for Tertiary Water Education. Details of this process are presented in the next section of this report.

5. Through the organization of internal calls for proposals, the Institute initiated a number of important new research projects. This could be achieved by allocating a larger part of the base subsidy to research and by supplementing this by funds received from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (programmatic cooperation contract) and other third party funds (most EC-contracts). It is also important mentioning the initiative to bring the facilities up-to-date by refurbishing the classrooms and modernizing the ICT infrastructure, including the virtual learning environment.

FOLLOW-UP ON THE WORK PLAN FOR TERTIARY WATER EDUCATION

6. The Work Plan for Tertiary Water Education outlines the role of UNESCO-IHE in IHP's Theme 5 ('Water Education for Sustainable Development'), which in turn is strongly linked with the 'Thematic Programme on Education for Sustainable Water Management' of the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014). This work plan foresees four main actions, which were reported in document IHP/IC-XVIII/Inf.6 and were submitted for the consideration of the Intergovernmental Council (IHP/IC-XVIII/Inf.6), resulting in Resolution XVIII-2.

7. With regard to the creation of a 'UNESCO Tertiary Water Education Grants Programme', the programme was established and launched according to the rules adopted by the Council. The following offices are actively contributing to the implementation of the programme: IHP (UNESCO HQ), UNESCO Quito, UNESCO Jakarta, UNESCO Beijing and UNESCO Teheran. Two students, one from Latin America and the Caribbean and other from Asia and Pacific regions, have started a MSc based on recommendations from IHP Regional Hydrologists and with the full endorsement of their respective IHP National Committees. In addition, the Secretariat is currently working with field offices in other regions to identify funds to cover grants for additional students. In particular, a student from the Arab States is likely to be admitted under the 2009/2010 intake, with the support of UNESCO Cairo.

8. UNESCO-IHE and IHP have identified resources for the global water education and training needs assessment. Preparations for the survey have started. A first round is foreseen for March 2010. Methodology is currently being developed in consultation with UNESCO's education sector. The needs assessment will focus on quantitative issues on what is currently in place and existing needs. Selected qualitative issues will be researched in detail, particularly regarding what kind of water professionals are being trained and what is being covered in school curricula. The assessment will be global, with possibly further detailed research in case study countries.

9. For the stock-taking of best practices in tertiary water education, UNESCO-IHE has co-organized and hosted the UNESCO Regional Workshop on Water and Education in Europe and North America. The workshop was held on 26-27 February 2009 and counted with the participation of fifty international experts on water education at all levels. A draft list of recommendations were presented and further discussed during the UNESCO World Conference in Education for Sustainable Development (Bonn, Germany, 31 March – 2 April 2009), which also counted with the participation on UNESCO-IHE as the main rapporteur for Workshop 1 on "Education for Water Sustainability, where Decades meet", co-organized by IHP, UNW-DPC and the German Government. In addition, UNESCO-IHE has contributed to the regional workshops in other regions and actively participated in the UNESCO Regional Workshop on Water Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (Asuncion, Paraguay,

December 2008). After the editing process of the proceedings and recommendations is concluded, UNESCO-IHE will help in their dissemination to relevant stakeholders and media.

GOVERNANCE

10. The only update in the UNESCO-IHE Governing Board concerns the appointment as per 1 December 2008 of Mr. Louis de Quelerij, Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Applied Sciences at the Delft University of Technology. He replaced Mr. Chris Kalden, who retired from the Governing Board one year earlier. Mr. De Quelerij was also appointed member of the IHE Delft Foundation Board. As per the Statutes of UNESCO-IHE, two Board members hold double appointments. The other one is presently Mr. Bert Keijts.

11. In June 2009, the terms of three IHP-designated members of the Governing Board will end. This concerns Mr. Aparicio-Mijares, Ms. Brito and Mr. Shiklomanov. Their replacements have been endorsed by the IHP Intergovernmental Council at its 18th session: Ms. Cornejo de Grunauer, Mr. Bonacci, and Mr. Afouda. Two other Board members will also be replaced: Mr. Blanc, who represents the private sector, and Mr. Janssens, the representative of agencies and institutions. Their successors are yet to be confirmed.

PARTICIPATION IN OTHER UNESCO-IHP PROGRAMMES

12. UNESCO-IHE is an active player in several UNESCO-IHP's themes and programmes. Recent collaboration include:

- 'From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential' (PCCP), UNESCO-IHE and the Dundee Centre jointly designed and launched (1) a MSc in Water Management – specialisation Water Conflict Management, and (2) a LLM in Water Governance and Conflict Resolution. The programmes focus on legal and institutional aspects of water management. It also introduces the basic concepts of water cooperation, conflict prevention and mitigation.
- UNESCO-IHP PCCP and UNESCO-IHE designed a special training programme for mid-level and high-level decision makers from the Mekong River Commission area. The training programme focuses on flood issues. PCCP's input to the programme is currently (3 to 10 June 2009) focusing on water cooperation, conflict prevention and mitigation related to flood situations, as well as provide in-depth skills training.
- IHP contributed with a lecturer (A. Lipponen) to the UNESCO-IHE course Management of Water Scarcity, which held in Delft, September 8-12, 2008.
- Experts from UNESCO-IHE reviewed and provided comments on the pilot university course on Integrated Water Resources Management, developed for Kazakhstan by the Center Cooperation for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan with the support of UNESCO IHP.
- IHP-LAC and UNESCO-IHE are identifying mechanisms for UNESCO-IHE students to develop MSc and PhD thesis in the context of ongoing IHP-LAC programmes.
- IHE and IHP – together with the International Water History Association (IWHA) and ICID have jointly developed and offered a course on the history of water management. This course was delivered in Delft in 2007 for the first time. Since then, the course was held on an annual basis, the third one being schedule in September 2009.
- In the framework of the SWITCH project on sustainable water management in the city of the future, IHE and IHP and jointly produced a movie showcasing the pilot projects in Accra, Beijing and Warsaw.

WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT/WORLD WATER FORUM

13. In support of the topic on Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development at the 5th World Water Forum, UNESCO-IHE has contributed to Chapter 5 of the third World Water Development Report (WWDR) on the topic of *Capacity Development*, including recommendations and linkages to knowledge management, data management and research.

14. At the 5th World Water Forum, UNESCO-IHE and UNESCO-IHP shared a combined stand in the UN-Water pavilion. UNESCO was overall responsible for theme 6 *Knowledge, Education and Capacity Development*. UNESCO-IHE's inputs in this theme consisted of the coordination of topic 6.1 *Knowledge, Education and Capacity Development Strategies* and being convener of session 6.1.3 *Empowering Organizations and People*. Through its project 'SWITCH', UNESCO-IHE also convened session 6.2.2 on *Collaborating and Problem-Solving Research in the WASH Sector*. Under other themes, UNESCO-IHE convened session 2.3.2 on *Food Market Measures to boost Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation* and contributed to session 3.1.3 on *New Design Criteria for Extreme Events / Climate Change*.

COLLABORATION WITH EXISTING AND PROPOSED UNESCO CATEGORY 2 CENTRES

15. At present, UNESCO-IHE is collaborating with a number of existing and proposed UNESCO's category 2 centres as follows:

- **RCUWM** (Iran): the Rector of UNESCO-IHE is member of the Governing Board of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management in Tehran. RCUWM is also member of G-PoWER.
- **ICHARM** (Japan): the Rector of UNESCO-IHE is member of the Governing Board of the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management. Both institutes cooperate in fields related to Water & Climate. There is an annual exchange of guest lecturers and an MoU was signed in 2008 to stimulate joint education and research, notably on the development of a Flood Hazard index. Both institutes are currently cooperating in the development of educational modules on *Urban Flood Modeling* and *Urban Water Systems Modeling*.
- **International Centre on Hydroinformatics for Integrated Water Resources Management** (Brazil and Paraguay): UNESCO-IHE is providing assistance to this centre at ITAIPU Binacional, particularly via training of their staff and advice in setting-up a local training facility. UNESCO-IHE and ITAIPU are jointly developing an education module on *International Hydro-informatics*, also with the involvement of the University of Minas Gerais.
- **Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science** at the University of Dundee (United Kingdom): UNESCO-IHE developed together with the centre in Dundee an MSc programme on Water Conflict Management. The first batch of students started the programme in October 2008.
- **HidroEx** (Brazil): UNESCO-IHE signed a MoU with HidroEx in 2008. The cooperation with the HidroEx Institute for Applied Water Sciences in Belo Horizonte is aiming at supporting HidroEx in developing education, research and capacity building capacities, and to jointly train Brazilian professionals. It is anticipated that the Brazilian Government will support this cooperation by establishing a special fellowship scheme for Brazilians, Latin Americans and Portuguese-speaking Africans for studies at UNESCO-IHE.