The World Water Day (WWD) is held annually on 22nd March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. In Nigeria, the commemoration of the 2017 WWD with the theme "Water and Wastewater", was hosted by the Federal Ministry of Water Resources (FMWR) with active participation of relevant stakeholders including UNESCO Abuja Regional Office in Abuja, Academia, STI based research organizations, relevant MDAs, and the press.

Part of the activities for this year was the Awareness Walk organised by FMWR. This was held on the 21st of March through some major zones/areas of the Federal Capital Territory. The event of the 22nd March, witnessed goodwill messages from key stakeholders, address by the

UNESCO Launches the World Water Development Report 2017 at World Water Day Commemoration

This edition accounts for the first quarter of 2017. It covers very intense activities of UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja. Indeed, it highlights both sectors and countries main activities. During the period, UNESCO Abuja and Nigeria hosted the visit of ADG/AFR and ADG/SC, who came to impulse the proposed International Conference on Lake Chad. The celebration of World Water Day, which witnessed the launch of the World Water Development Report 2017 was also highlighted. Culture Sector undertook National capacity building on the Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Nigeria. Still in Nigeria, the Ebony State Governor visited the UNESCO Abuja team to enhance the sustainability of literacy achievements in the framework of the Revitalizing Adult and Youth Literacy (RAYL).

In Benin Republic, capacity building was focus on teachers’ ability to conduct Social Dialogue and Policy. Teachers were also honour in Liberia, with a workshop on ICTs support for Teachers and a meeting on TVET.

This edition appears to be the last Newsletter published under my leadership, as the Officer-in-Charge in Abuja. It has indeed been a great pleasure to work with such a dynamic and enthusiastic team of colleagues. I would urge you all to grant the incoming Regional Director your full support in his tasks.

Thank you.
management of FMWR and drama presentation. The goodwill message of the UNESCO Director General, Ms Irina Bokova was delivered by the Regional Science Advisor, Mr. Simone Grego.

The High point of the event was the presentation of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR), by the Director General of Nigerian Hydrological Agency and Secretary Nigerian National Committee for UNESCO-IHP. WWDR is the UN’s flagship report on water, published each year with a focus on different strategic water issues and the 2017 WWDR title is ‘Wastewater: the untapped resource’.

The report highlights the rise in water demand and concomitant increase in wastewater generation, which degrade water quality. The report also presents sets of sustainable and affordable options for improved wastewater management, which has benefits in terms of human health, socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability and is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda. After the WWDR presentation, the report was launched and copies were presented by the Regional Science Advisor Mr. Simone Grego to the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Engr. Suleiman Adamou, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs Rabi Jimet and the Chairman of Nigeria Senate Committee on Water Resources. The event had almost 500 participants in attendance.

Liberia, 22 March 2017: In her effort to strengthen the Liberian Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) capacities, UNESCO with other partners of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force appointed by the Liberian Presidency, organized a one-day planning meeting on 22 March 2017 to finalize the TVET Teachers Training Project Proposal.

The proposed project is expected to strengthen the Liberia’s TVET teaching and training capacities, which would assist the Liberia’s TVET teachers and trainers to develop their professional teaching skills as well as build a professional network of TVET teachers and trainers in the country for peer learning and experience sharing.

In attendance were representatives from the UNESCO HQ TEVT Section, Paris, the Inter-ministerial Task Force on TVET (IMTF) Technical Committee, the Embassy of Ghana and the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja.
UNESCO Supports Efforts Towards Achieving Water Security In Africa

UNESCO offices in Jakarta and Abuja, in collaboration with the Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management (RC-IRBM) Nigeria, organized an “Inter-regional Workshop on South-South Cooperation for Upscaling Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Ecohydrology as Tools for Achieving Water Security in Africa”. The workshop which was within the framework of the Malaysian Fund in Trust (MFIT) project titled “Upscaling water security to meet local, regional, and global challenges”, held in Abuja, Nigeria from 24th to 26th January 2017.

During the opening ceremony, the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Water Resources Mr. Suleiman HussainiAdamuin his remarks assured that the Federal Government of Nigeria through FMWR, will implement all recommendations made at the workshop for appropriate framework and work plan that promote water security.

Also at the event was Datuk Lim Juan Jin, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Nigeria, reiterated during his remarks that Malaysia will continue to support to UNESCO’s agenda through the Malaysia-UNESCO Cooperation Programme (MUCP) and Malaysia Funds-in-Trust (MFIT)towards the achievement of the UN Development Agenda 2030 alongside UNESCO key priority areas.

Subsequently, Mr Benoit Sossou, Regional Director and Representative, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office, Abuja, and Dr E. A. Adanu, Executive Director NWRI delivered the opening and welcome remarks respectively. The keynote speech of Mr. Shahbaz Khan, Director and Representative, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific was delivered by skype and it highlighted the common issues of water quality and quantity in Africa and Asia Pacific.

The keynote also presented the UNESCO Ecohydrology and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and further introduced UNESCO programmes which are related to water security, such as the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) VIII and Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP), one of IHP’s cross-cutting programmes. After the opening ceremony, the workshop witnessed expert presentations from various participants and country representatives on different topics relating to the theme of the workshop, including case studies from Asia and the Pacific, West Africa, Regional River Basin Organizations (RRBOs), as well as from water related centres in Africa.

The workshop attracted over 62 participants including representatives of various water resources agencies, river basins organizations, institutions from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, as well as the mass media.

Citant les propos du Général Charles de Gaulle qui déclara que : « Une arme n’est utile que par l’usage qu’on en fait », le Ministre a exhorté les différentes structures du ministère à faire une exploitation judicieuse du document reçu, pour le bonheur du système éducatif béninois.

Prenant la parole, le Directeur de la Programmation et de la Prospective, Monsieur James Agbo, a indiqué la période au cours de laquelle la collecte des données a été réalisée en utilisant le logiciel SatEduc 2.

Pour sa part, le Coordinateur du programme CAPED, Monsieur Mohamed Madougu, a présenté les 4 axes d’intervention du programme CAPED et estime que l’Annuaire Statistique donnera une visibilité au sous-secteur de l’EFTP.


The Executive Governor of Ebonyi State, Nigeria, His Excellency, Engr. David Umiah, was in UNESCO Regional Office Abuja, on 21st February 2017 for a courtesy call. The Regional Director of UNESCO, Mr. Benoît Sossou with his team received the Governor.

The meeting availed the Director to give an overview of UNESCO’s areas of competence, which was followed by short presentation from each sectors’ heads on their areas of focus. The highlight of the presentation was on the achievements of just concluded Extra Budgetary Project, Revitalizing Adult and Youth Literacy in Nigeria (RAYL) where Sossou recalled some significant roles played by Her Excellency, the wife of the State Governor.

He further used the opportunity to solicit for the Governor’s intervention to the State Agency for Mass Education. He called on the Governor, to support the project in the following areas to bring about sustainability; payment of monthly allowances to the facilitators, overhead allocation to the State Agency for Mas Literacy, provision of solar light for the literacy centres; production of additional learning materials, opening of more model learning centres and provision of monitoring vehicles and motor cycles to facilitate monitoring of Literacy programmes.
While responding, the Governor thanked the leadership of UNESCO for its work in the country. On the request for more support to the RAYL project in the State, the Governor directed his Special Assistant on Special Duties, Mr. Kizito to work with the First Lady of the State and State Agency for Mass Literacy in addressing some of the challenges that were outlined.

In his request, the Governor called on UNESCO for more collaborations in the following areas: conducting a study to determine the illiteracy level in Ebonyi state, work with Market Associations to achieve literacy among the huge number of illiterate traders in the state, robust training for youths on vocational skills for self-employment and establishment of e-library.

The UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova visited Nigeria from 10th to 11th of August 2016. During the visit, the Director-General met with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, General Muhammadu Buhari, who expressed deep concern about the depletion of Lake Chad and called for UNESCO’s assistance for the organization of an international conference to reflect on the future of the Lake and support the preservation of the surrounding environment.

As a follow up to the meeting of the DG, the UNESCO Assistant Directors General for Africa and Natural

**UNESCO Reaffirm Commitment to assist Nigeria in the Organization of the proposed International Conference on Lake Chad**

Hon. Minister FMWR, ADG/SC, ADG/AF, Nigeria PD to UNESCO
Science (ADG/AF and ADG/SC) visited Nigeria from 23rd to 24th February 2017. The purpose of the two ADGs was to hold a bilateral meeting with the Honorable Minister for Water Resources and attend a meeting of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the proposed lake Chad Conference. UNESCO colleagues from HQ (SC/EEES), Yaoundé office (SC and ED) and from Dakar office (SC) joined the mission.

In line with protocol, the ADGs paid a courtesy visit to the Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Anthony Anwukah. The Honourable Minister commended UNESCO’s response to Nigeria’s request for assistance in organizing the Lake Chad Conference and having passion for Africa’s development. He also commended UNESCO cooperation with Nigeria on the Special Plan of Cooperation.

At the meeting with the Ministry of Water resources, the ADGs met with the Minister of Honourable Minister of Water Resources Engr. Suleiman Hussaini Adamuto give a broad discussion on their mission to Nigeria. The Minister of Water Resources opined that the Lake Chad issue has to be looked at in a global perspective in terms of water security, degradation of environment, security and their links to conflicts, migration. He recommended that any intervention in the area should be prevention oriented.

In the same vein, the AGDs had a meeting with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the Conference, to discuss the detail of the conference’s concept note and proposed dates.

At the end of the meetings, ADGs reaffirmed UNESCO’s commitment to assist Nigeria in the organization of the International Conference on Lake Chad at technical level, fund raising and awareness raising of relevant stakeholders.

Other dignitaries that met with the AGDs included Nigerian Ambassador/Permanent Delegate to UNESCO Mrs. Mariam Katagum, the representative of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, representatives of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the Lake Chad Conference, and representative of Regional Center for Integrated River Basin Management (UNESCO Category II center).
Liberia: In light of the increasing acceptance of the use of ICTs in the delivering of education, UNESCO with the support of the Chinese Government in the framework of the China-Funds-in-Trust organized skill acquisition for teachers’ educators in some Teacher Training Institutes in the country.

The ICT project geared towards improving the quality of education with enhanced pedagogical skills in technology to enhance learning and contribute to enhancement of teacher training across in Liberia. The training attracted over 70 teacher educators, school administrators and academic support staff of the Institutes.

UNESCO in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Culture has just completed the workshops on the implementation of the 2003 convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the three pilot communities - Calabar, Oyo and Bida.

The last community based inventorying workshop was held in Bida, Niger State, from 20 to 24 February 2017. The activity aimed at building capacities of the participants on inventory of intangible cultural heritage in their respective communities.
the training and pledged his support for the project whenever the need arises.

The activity brought together participants from the Ministry of Information and culture, National Gallery of Arts, National Council for Arts and Culture, and National Institute for Cultural Orientation as well as selected members of Bida community and the Project Advisory committee Members.

During the official opening of the workshop, Dr. Hajara Njida who represented the Minister of Information and Culture urged the participants to utilize the opportunity effectively to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage in Nigeria.

In the same vein, the Director, UNESCO Regional Office, Abuja, through Ms. Nseno Emiem, highlighted the importance of taking inventory, and used the opportunity to thank the Royal Majesty Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar the entire community for accepting to participate in exercise. Consequently, the representative of the community, Ambassador Solomon Yisa spoke on behalf of His Royal Majesty commended the efforts UNESCO in undertaking project and promised to ensure efforts would be made, effective delivery of the project.

In his remarks, the Etsu Dupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar expressed appreciation to UNESCO. He urged the trainees to put to bear the experience acquired during
Atelier Sur le Renforcement des Capacites des Enseignants Pour le Dialogue Social et La Reforme de Politiques

L’atelier des enseignants et de leurs représentants sur le renforcement des capacités pour le dialogue social et la réforme des politiques a eu lieu à l’hôtel Novotel de Cotonou, sous la présidence du Ministre des Enseignements Maternel et Primaire, en présence de la cheffe de file des PTFspour l’EFTP et de la représentante de l’UNESCO.

Un atelier et un projet initiés par l’UNESCO pour des enseignants et leurs représentants au profit des autres pays, en vue de renforcer leur capacité de participer efficacement au dialogue social, engager avec les gouvernements nationaux sur les politiques destinées à améliorer l’efficacité et la qualité de l’enseignement.

Le projet a été initié pour corriger l’observation et la recherche empirique qui donnent à penser que les participations des enseignants aux processus susmentionnés ont souvent très peu d’importance. L’insuffisance des compétences techniques des enseignants et/ou de leurs représentants fait partie des causes les plus fréquemment citées notamment en matière d’analyse des politiques, de dialogue social ou de sensibilisation, lorsque l’on s’appuie sur des données factuelles.

L’atelier a permis d’identifier des besoins de formation en matière de participation des enseignants au dialogue social et aux politiques d’éducation, de faire l’inventaire des capacités existantes pour former et accompagner les enseignants et leurs organisations dans les aspects pertinents du dialogue social et de la réforme des politiques d’éducation et, enfin, d’identifier des pistes de réflexion pour mettre en place un cadre national pour la formation et le soutien nécessaire au renforcement des capacités des enseignants en matière de dialogue social et de politique d’éducation.

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