

## **SIDE EVENT:**

# **“The basins, new territories for better water resources management”**

**French pavilion**  
**Park of the Athletes - Barra da Tijuca - Rio de Janeiro**  
**Monday 18 June 2012 - 11:00 - 12:00**

The establishment and strengthening of river basin organizations, in the most appropriate forms, facilitate dialogue, cooperation, information exchange and implementation of joint projects and actions, allowing sharing the benefits, anticipating the future and preventing potential conflicts between the concerned stakeholders.

### **EVENT AGENDA:**

The experience gained for more than 40 years in more than 70 countries which have already adopted basin management or which are experimenting it on their own territory or through agreements with neighboring countries in shared basins, shows the effectiveness of this approach and all its benefits: the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers, whether local, national or transboundary, are territories well suited for organizing joint management of water resources, aquatic ecosystems and all water-related activities.

The European Water Framework Directive, the 1992 Water Convention in Europe, the SADC Protocol, the ISARM program of UNESCO on transboundary aquifers are examples showing that, when there is a common will, basin management allows rapid and significant progress in the management of water resources and aquatic ecosystems.

Special attention should be paid to the major challenges of the management of 276 rivers and lakes and nearly 300 aquifers in the world, which must be managed with dialogue among all riparian countries concerned to avoid the conflicts that will inevitably occur because of global changes and to better promote the advantages of joint management and share all the benefits."

### **FACILITATOR:**

**Mr. Jean-François DONZIER**, General Manager  
of the International Office for Water

### **KEY DEBATE QUESTIONS:**

- Has the experience gained for 50 years in managing national and transboundary basins been conclusive?
- What are the necessary tools for better river basin management?
- How can water users, local authorities, citizens usefully participate in river basin management?
- What are the possible contributions of research?
- Can the required financial resources be mobilized and how?
- Are the implemented regional policies facilitating the projects?
- Can the specificity of islands be better taken into account?
- Can cooperation between basin organizations around the world be strengthened?

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#### **PROVISIONAL LIST OF SPEAKERS:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ➔ Mr. Sanusi Imran ABDULLAHI            | CBLT Executive Secretary  |
| ➔ Mr. Hans GUTTMAN                      | Chief Executive Officer<br>Mekong River Commission  |
| ➔ Mr. Francisco Carlos CASTRO-LAHOZ     | Executive Secretary of PCJ Consortium<br>Brazil   |
| ➔ Mario Flavio MOREIRA                  | REBOB Vice-President<br>Consórcio Intermunicipal Lagos São João<br>Brazil                   |
| ➔ Mrs. Tiaré LE GOFF                    | New Caledonian Government   |
| ➔ Mr. Garcin MALSA                      | Member of the Basin Committee<br>The Martinique - France                                    |
| ➔ Mr. Arnaud COURTECUISSÉ               | Representative of the Water Agencies<br>Artois-Picardy Basin - France                       |
| ➔ Mr. Mertkan ERDEMLI (to be confirmed) | General Directorate of Water Management<br>Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs<br>Turkey |
| ➔ Mr. Xavier URSAT                      | General Manager of Hydraulic Production<br>EDF - France                                     |
| ➔ Mr. Frédéric HUYNH, Director          | UMR ESPACE-DEV<br>Research Institute for Development - IRD                                  |

#### **FACILITATION:**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ➔ Mr. Jean-François DONZIER | General Manager<br>International Office for Water<br>INBO Secretary |
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