

June 1-3, 2009

Centre culturel, Université de Sherbrooke
Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada



International Forum on Integrated Water Management *Tools for ACTION*

Water: the one resource we cannot do without

All human beings need sufficient access to quality water for their survival and their environment. Need for water in every field of our existence makes this resource extremely precious. Constant growth in human consumption and natural disasters are now threatening the sustainability of our drinking water sources. Water scarcity is all over the planet and usage conflicts are in progression. We now understand the crucial need for managing this irreplaceable resource. Integrated Water Resources Management is now recognized worldwide as the approach for sustainable management.

Integrated watershed management in Quebec

In 2002, Quebec announced a reform of water governance with the release of the **Quebec Water Policy**. The Policy includes: territorial management at the watershed level instead of at traditional administrative limits; integrated management instead of sectoral management; an ecosystem approach; participative governance including private actors and communities; increased dialogue, etc. Basin organisations have been created. They are planning round tables that must prepare a water master plan along with an action plan to be implemented through the signing of basin contracts.

Integrated water management and collaborations around the world

France basin committees are developing Master Plans for Improvement and Water Management (SDAGE); Europe signs River Contracts for transborder basins; Brazil basin organisations are implementing hydro resources plans; many countries are developing master water plans; a main topic of the 5th World Water Forum in March 2009 is Management and Protection of the Water Resource; representatives from 52 countries are members of the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO). Initiatives for integrated water management are undertaken all over the planet and must be promoted to countries that are in the early stages of projects intended to improve water management.

A need for global collaboration and partnership

With a theme such as "Tools for action", the **International Forum on Integrated Water Management** wants to create solid foundations for developing transborder partnerships and increase opportunities to discuss sustainable solutions to the many challenges of water management.

The **St-François River Basin Organisation** (COGESAF) and the *Centre universitaire de formation en environnement* (**Université de Sherbrooke**) are partnering for the organisation of this event. This forum will be of interest for researchers and students, government officers, basin and environmental organisations as well as economic, political and community players from around the world. Talks on water challenges, proven or developing mechanisms, available tools, partnership and world water management issues will be central to this international meeting. Around 500 participants (including some 50 speakers) from a dozen countries are expected.

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3 main objectives

- **Developing international partnerships**
- **Reinforcing mechanisms for sharing information and experiences**
- **Understanding governance and integrated management structures and tools implemented around the world**

4 themes to give you tools for ACTION!

- **Characterization and diagnostic tools**
 - Characterization of the uses of water and socio-economic indicators of a watershed.
 - Ecological features of a watershed and natural phenomena (flooding, low water, spring break-up, etc.).
 - New technologies and approaches for the characterization of a watershed
 - Monitoring and control program for water quality in lakes, tributaries and aquifers.
 - Characterization monitoring indicators.
- **Governance and planning tools**
 - Organizational structures (watershed organizations), economic commitment, participation of civil society, financing, accountability and decentralization of powers.
 - Application of laws and policies, outline and water rights.
 - Land use plans and master plans: tools for water management.
 - Implementation of master plans for water: watershed contracts, voluntary agreements, etc.
 - Financing for characterization and planning: taxation and fees, incentives. Who pays? Who should pay?
- **Information and joint action tools**
 - Partnerships and mentorships for watershed organizations: experience for the profit of water management.
 - Training and capacity building for economic agents, deciders and the community.
 - Research and development in the service of water management: definition of needs, technology transfer and popularization.
 - Use of geographic information systems (GIS) about water.
 - Techniques and instruments for public consultation, mediation, negotiation, conflict management and joint action.

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● **Intervention tools for the major water-related issues**

- Adapting to climate change: solutions to changes in the water balance status.
- Adapting to climate change through land use planning and development.
- Innovative and effective approaches to reduce erosion, sedimentation and the proliferation of cyanobacteria in the urban setting and in the agricultural and forestry setting.
- Demonstration of innovative and effective methods for the protection at source of drinking water.

...and to answer your needs:

WATER MANAGEMENT AND BASIN ORGANISATIONS:

- **Tools** to help you undertake your master water plan;
- **Contacts** with international organisations implementing a master plan;
- **An opportunity** to present your projects and accomplishments

OFFICERS, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS, MUNICIPALITY OFFICERS AND ECONOMIC PLAYERS:

- **Actions** to protect and restore the water resource;
- **Solutions** to main water challenges such as cyanobacteria proliferation, climate changes and diffuse pollution.

RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS:

- **An occasion** to share and broaden your understanding of current issues for sustainable and integrated water management.

Key dates

October - November 2008 – Call for speakers

December 2008 - March 2009 – Early registrations (early bird price)

June 1st, 2, 3 2009 – International Forum on Integrated Water Management