

# CONFERENCE DAILY

Wednesday 5 October 2011

## What was said in yesterday's sessions...



### ...about water technology?

- In this world, there is no lack of water (resources); there is a lack of water management.
- Green technologies are not just good for the environment, they're also good for our cash income.
- We need high tech, but we also need low cost, so maybe in the end we need something like 'lean-tech'.
- Developing countries can do their own innovation and development. We mustn't be looking outside all the time, we must be looking at the resources we have in our own countries to solve our problems.
- The issue is not technology transfer; the issue is technology development.

### ...about investments for biodiversity?

- The proper recognition and valuing of ecosystem services is an essential requirement for greening economic growth.
- PES is not a solution to all problems, but we think it can contribute to supporting the transition to a green economy.
- We need a clear connection between the payment and the service being provided.
- We need to take ecosystems into account in our planning and strategic decision making.
- Approximately 60% of ecosystem services evaluated in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment are being degraded or being used unsustainably.
- In the process of preparing for Rio, we need to demonstrate how adequate these tools are in addressing the challenges related to the green economy.

### ...about the ESCWA region?

- Access to water and sanitation is a critical driver for a green economy as it cuts across the other Millennium Development Goals.
- We should think of how to find optimum solutions so people can believe that green economy is the concept that we should follow.
- We need to develop training modules to build capacity and help utility managers perform better. ACWUA acts as a platform for knowledge sharing.
- The transition to the green economy is not going to be such a smooth transition given the difficulties we are facing today on sustainable development. We are trying to fundamentally change the economy, in which a lot of people have a stake.
- All the challenges you can think of are being faced in Yemen. Solutions to water scarcity will come from countries such as Yemen.

*"We should rethink the future we want, and one without water cannot be envisaged." - Caridad Canales (ECLAC)*

# Highlights from the Market Place

**In the Market Place session...** 26 people from five continents presented their cases. They brought water and the green economy to life by providing examples of successful implementation of the tools and approaches discussed in the conference.

**Dimitry Díaz**, *journalist, El Diario newspaper, Panama*: "The presenters have given us very interesting insights about how to manage projects, how to create jobs. Things that we thought could never happen, are now being realized. Everything is possible."



**Olivier Bommelaer**, *French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing* **on the Toolbox**: "There should be a tool on evaluation and economic assessment of water resources and water ecosystems. Their economic values and the socio-economic benefits that they generate for society are either ignored or underestimated."

What is your opinion on the approaches and lessons learnt in the toolbox? Fill out the toolbox feedback form and let us know!

**Video interviews** have been recorded with case presenters. They introduce their cases and highlight their experiences on the conference. You can find them at our conference website. [www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green\\_economy\\_2011/](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green_economy_2011/)



Interviewing **Guillermo Rudas**, Economist. Guillermo is presenting a case from Colombia on 'Public management of water in Colombia'.



Interviewing **Rajiv Kumar Gupta**, Climate Change Department, Government of Gujarat, India. Rajiv is presenting a case from India on the role of water technology in development: a case study in Gujarat.

Also on our conference website: follow the conference online via **webcast** and read **interviews** with the session conveners.



## Session 7: Water and the green economy in the LAC region (ECLAC).



**Overview:** Caridad Canales Dávila, *Division of Natural Resources and Infrastructure of ECLAC*

"In our session we will talk about water charging and promoting financial sustainability for water prices. In the region these tools can have significant relevance for generating resources; the water sector cannot always depend on budgets or foreign investment. They can help internalize environmental costs and promote a more efficient use of water among users."

### Panelists:



José Salazar Bar-



Elisa Colom

### Today's key questions

- How can we build governance and institutional capabilities to agree on, design and effectively implement long term integrated water management plans to support the transition towards a green economy?
- How can water planning cope with the challenge of adapting to climate change impacts?
- How can we make sure that the transition to the green economy is inclusive, instead of aggravating inequalities?
- How to provide quality water and sanitation services to the urban poor in Latin America and the Caribbean?

## Session 8: Water planning to support the transition towards green growth (CHE).



**Overview:** Rafael Romeo García, President of the Ebro River Basin Authority (CHE)

"The green economy embodies the main challenge for all of us: to reconcile the economy and the environment. In fact, it forms the philosophy behind any new legislation related to water and the environment and it will be the cornerstone of water plans across Europe. The key is to make the best use of the scarce water resources through balanced management. Water planning is essential, because it allows us to clearly formulate our objectives and create instruments to achieve these objectives."

**Panelists:** Oudomsack Philavong, Yoon-Jung Cha, Marco Antonio Núñez del Prado Coll Cárdenas

### Key approaches for water planning:

- Making a social agreement on the desired balance between water use and water resource conservation
- Tackling development opportunities and coping with water and development challenges
- Building Governance and Institutional capabilities
- Coordinating public policies
- Stakeholder engagement and public participation
- Aligning private decisions with collectively agreed goals.
- Establishing collective Responses to Scarcity and Risk

**What do you think? Fill out the toolbox feedback form and let us know!**

### TODAY'S TECHNICAL VISIT: The Ebro River Basin Authority and its Automatic System for Hydrologic Information. 14.00-16.30

**Venue: SAIH Control Centre at the CHE Headquarter**

Since its creation in 1926, the Ebro River Basin Authority has had a very important role in socio-economic development. In the past, it focused on promoting irrigation and hydroelectricity to achieve economic growth. Nowadays, a more holistic approach to water is taken, with integrated management contributing significantly to green economic growth. During the visit we will see how this shift in approach has occurred and learn about the important role River Basin Authorities can have in achieving a green economy.

The visit will include a thorough demonstration of the Automatic System for Hydrologic Information and will be arranged into two consecutive groups, one in English and one in Spanish.

### TODAY'S SIDE EVENT (*in Spanish*) . Spanish Business Dialogue on water and green economy (Foundation Botin)

**16.00-19.30. Venue: Paraninfo, University of Zaragoza**

The objective of this meeting is to discuss the challenges of water and the green economy with Spanish business representatives. Conclusions drawn from debate will be used for the Rio+20 conference. As starting point, the seminar will focus on the project Water, Food Security and Nature Conservation, implemented by the Water Observatory of the Botin Foundation. This project is a good example for the green economy.



# ON THE ROAD TO RIO+20... WHAT'S NEXT ?

"Rio+20 will be one of the most important global meetings on sustainable development in our time. At Rio, our vision must be clear: a sustainable green economy that protects the health of the environment while supporting achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through growth in income, decent work and poverty eradication."

**United Nations Secretary-General  
Ban Ki-moon**

## ROADMAP TO RIO+20

The roadmap to Rio+20 involves an extensive preparatory process led by an 11-member Bureau of UN Ambassadors and supported by United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA). The formal preparatory process involves a number of meetings already underway for governments and stakeholders to engage and contribute to the development of the conference.

- October–December 2011: Regional Preparatory Meetings
- December 2011: 2nd Intersessional Meeting  
–Start discussing inputs to the Zero Draft
- January 2012: Zero Draft made public  
–Followed by further informal discussions on the Zero Draft in February, March and May
- March 2012: 3rd Intersessional Meeting
- May 2012: 3rd Preparatory Committee Meeting

The major outcome of the Rio+20 Summit will be a "focused political document" on the objectives and two themes of the conference. This as yet vaguely defined output will be the subject of intense discussion and negotiations in the months to come, and of course during the conference itself.

## Upcoming Events on the Road to Rio

**Towards the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20): Water Cooperation Issues**  
19-20 October 2011, Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**OECD Global Forum on Environment: Making Water Reform Happen**  
25-26 October 2011, Paris, France

**Bonn 2011 Conference: The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus. Water Resources in the Green Economy.**  
16-18 November 2011, Bonn, Germany

**6th World Water Forum**  
12-17 March 2012, Marseille, France

**World Water Day**  
22 March, 2012

**UNCSD: United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: Rio+20**  
4-6 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## INPUT FOR RIO+20 CONFERENCE

The Second Preparatory Committee invites member states and other stakeholders to provide their inputs and contributions in writing by **1 November 2011** for a working document which will form the basis for the outcome document of the conference. Everyone with an interest in the Rio+20 agenda therefore has an opportunity to influence the outcome.

Deadline: All submissions are due by 5 pm Eastern Standard Time (close of business in New York) on 1 November 2011. Submissions can be sent electronically by e-mail to the UNCSD secretariat ([dsd@un.org](mailto:dsd@un.org)), with copies to Ms. Tonya Vaturi (e-mail: [vaturi@un.org](mailto:vaturi@un.org)) and Mr. Arthur de la Cruz (e-mail: [delacruz@un.org](mailto:delacruz@un.org)) or by fax + 1 212 963 12572.

For more information, please consult: [www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/?page=view&nr=149&type=230&menu=38](http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/?page=view&nr=149&type=230&menu=38)

**Conference daily.** You can send your contributions to:  
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**Blog.** Add your postings to the conference discussion forum.:  
[waterinthegreeneconomyinpractice.wordpress.com](http://waterinthegreeneconomyinpractice.wordpress.com)

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For more news, information and interviews, please visit our conference website: [www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green\\_economy\\_2011](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green_economy_2011)

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