

# Re-cap from Day 1

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# Introduction

- The key issues and approaches in the green economy (and an overview). General and specifics about water in cities and the Green Economy
- The process of preparation for Rio+20 and how the conference outcomes feed into this.
- The Bonn Conference and expected outcomes.
- The WWForum and Specially the target on Green Economy



# Economic incentives: Approaches

- Recommended EIs for achieving water security and enabling water to be an engine for growth:
  - Marginal pricing (incorporating the scarcity value of water), water and pollution rights markets, buy-back of water use rights for the environment
- Various EIs available – select instruments according to the country's stage of development and institutional framework (e.g. prices work in Israel, markets more appropriate in Australia)



# Economic incentives: Lessons from implementation

- The progressive implementation of economic incentives accompanied by institutional development can enable society to respond to water security challenges (e.g. prices to reduce water consumption in Israel-specially during droughts-, markets to secure water for the environment in the Murray-Darling basin)
- Els can be useful even when they fail! (e.g. drought tax in Israel bringing water issues to the attention of the public)
- Good cost-benefit analysis can assist with water allocation decision-making (South Africa inter-basin transfers), but lack of information is not an excuse for inaction.
- Els can be a powerful tool for introducing new water sources, e.g. water reuse, desalinisation



# Lessons from implementation

- Implementing EIs is more challenging when the political priority is social equity and poverty reduction rather than increasing water efficiency(South Africa)
- EIs are not ends in themselves, but means (incentives) to an end (increased efficiencies or social goals)



# Green jobs: Approaches

- Workers and communities can be empowered through participation to provide water services and solve social problems and reduce environmental impacts (Panama). But this requires support, e.g. training programmes, social dialogue programmes
- Conflict and negative impacts on the labour market can be anticipated and addressed in advance, e.g. through social dialogue, participation, social protection policies
- A just and inclusive transition to a green economy requires new skills and training that need to be supported by labour and education policies



# Green jobs: Lessons from implementation

- The green economy will reduce employment in some areas, but has greater potential to create employment in other areas.
- A green economy can result in job creation, social inclusion and poverty reduction, provided that supportive measures and policies are put in place
- Sectoral policies should take into account potential to leverage job creation
- Benefits from increasing the efficiency of water provision can be shared between workers and service providers, thereby enhancing cooperation, reducing conflicts (the Philippines) and insuring achievement of environmental goals.



# Sustainable financing: Approaches

- The challenge for the GE is more than just attracting funding. It is about improving effectiveness of existing financing to make better use of the resources available.
- Approaches to improve efficiency and effectiveness of government spending:
  - public expenditure reviews,
  - targeted subsidies,
  - results-based financing,
  - social contracts





# Lessons from implementation

- Efficiency in services provision is a precondition for cost recovery, attractive funding and long-term financial sustainability
- Outstanding question: how to ensure long-term financial sustainability after connections are made? How to deal with social policies (free minimum consumption).
- Increasing effectiveness in use of public funds and efficiency in services provision is essential for achieving the green economy as it can:
  - Strengthen political will
  - Make a better case for public investment in water
  - Make more financial resources available for targeting the poor
  - Make service provision more financially sustainable (less reliant on public funds).
  - Attract other financing



# Highlights - Coffee place event

- **CONTEXT MATTERS:** Integration of energy, water and food security needs to take into account of what levels and contexts, regional, national, or international contexts?
- **GOVERNANCE MATTERS:** Given the stress of water resources, such as climate change, we cannot afford to have bad water governance, if we want to achieve energy, water and food security nexus for ourselves and future generation.
- **NO ONE SIZE FITS ALL IS IMPORTANT:** Instead of subsidizing water for all, allow water top-up for marginalized population (socialized pricing).
- **INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE IS IMPORTANT:** Increase understanding and education are the key to change behavior and regulation.
- **IT IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS:** Technology innovation not enough, change of consumption patterns and behavior change are needed.



# Communications:

[http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green\\_economy\\_2011/](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green_economy_2011/)

- Interviews with session conveners

- Interviews experts:



- Conference Daily

UN-Water International Conference. Zaragoza, Spain - 3/5 October 2011  
WATER IN THE GREEN ECONOMY IN PRACTICE: TOWARDS RIO+20

## CONFERENCE DAILY

Monday 3 October 2011

**Your expectations for the conference**

**Colin Green, United Kingdom**  
"What I would like people to come away with are some practical tools and measures that they can use and knowledge of how they can use them, which will help their country, city, or region move towards a green economy." As the song from My Fair Lady goes, "don't talk to me like that, show me, don't give me the words, tell me how we can do it."

**María de Jesús Márquez Dorantes, Mexico**  
"I would like to learn how green jobs can overcome the general economic environment characterised by unemployment and low investment."

**Rol Espinosa, Philippines**  
"I hope that I can learn lessons in successful water management in other countries."

**Welcome to Zaragoza!**

UN-Water, the UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication, the Euro River Basin Confederation and the Session Conveners want to give a warm welcome to all participants joining the conference "Water in the Green Economy: Towards Rio+20".

This international conference brings together stakeholders, representatives of regional and international organizations, representatives of the successful initiatives in water and the green economy and journalists to share lessons learnt from practical implementation experiences. We will hear cases from around the world that have successfully used 'tools for change' to meet targets in their respective

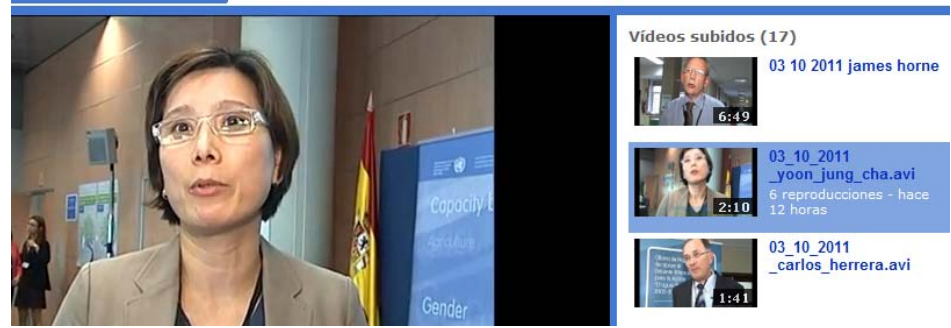


UN-Water International Conference Zaragoza, Spain. 3-5 October  
WATER IN THE GREEN ECONOMY IN PRACTICE: TOWARDS RIO+20  
[www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green\\_economy\\_2011](http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green_economy_2011)



# Communications

- Video interviews in the web



Also in the Conference Blog:

- Discussion Forum
- Videos



# Live webcast

IN THE GREEN ECONOMY IN PRACTICE:  
TOWARDS RIO+20 Zaragoza, Spain. 3-5 October 2011



INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION  
WATER FOR LIFE, 2005-2015

International UN-Water Conference. Water in the Green  
Economy in Practice: Towards Rio+20

**Live webcast**



>> [Full screen and Power Point presentations](#)

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## International media coverage

- Sustainable Development Policy & Practice: <http://uncsd.iisd.org/events/2011/10/03/>
- Periodista Digital: Expertos de Naciones Unidas debaten en Zaragoza sobre el agua y la economía verde: <http://www.periodistadigital.com/ciencia/medioambiente/2011/10/03/expertos-de-naciones-unidas-debaten-en-zaragoza-sobre-el-agua-y-la-economia-verde.shtml>
- World water forum: UN-Water conference: Water and the Green Economy in Practice, towards the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille and Rio+20 <http://www.worldwaterforum6.org/en/news/single/article/un-water-conference-water-and-the-green-economy-in-practice-towards-the-6th-world-water-forum-in-m/>
- IW: Learn (International waters learning exchange and resource network: <http://iwlearn.net/events/rio-20-united-nations-conference-on-sustainable-development>
- World Water Assessment Programme: <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/news/>
- International institute for sustainable development: <http://www.iisd.ca/upcoming/upcomingmeetings.aspx?id=7>
- Asia Pacific Mountain Network: <http://www.icimod.org/?q=4340>
- International centre for Trade and Sustainable Development: <http://ictsd.org/i/news/bridgesweekly/114547/>
- Congresos y Jornadas de Medio Ambiente Escrito por UN-Water: <http://www.cienciasambientales.com/es/congresos-y-jornadas-de-medio-ambiente/international-un-water-conference-water-in-the-green-economy-in-practice-towards-rio-20/>
- Agua y Economía Verde en la práctica - Humania.tv: [http://www.humania.tv/agenda\\_conferencia\\_agua\\_y\\_economia\\_verde\\_en\\_la\\_practica\\_el\\_camino\\_hacia\\_rio\\_20](http://www.humania.tv/agenda_conferencia_agua_y_economia_verde_en_la_practica_el_camino_hacia_rio_20)
- Expertos de Naciones Unidas debaten en Zaragoza sobre el agua y la economía verde. <http://www.periodistadigital.com/ciencia/medioambiente/2011/10/03/expertos-de-naciones-unidas-debaten-en-zaragoza-sobre-el-agua-y-la-economia-verde.shtml>
- UNCSO: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/index.php?page=view&nr=286&type=13&menu=23>
- Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water sector International portal: <http://www.emwis.net/thematicdirs/events/2011/10/water-green-economy-practice-towards-rio-20>
- RALCEA (Centros de Excelencia en America Latina): <http://www.aquaknow.net/ralcea-centros-de-excelencia-en-america-latina/event/international-un-water-conference-water-green-economy-practice-towards-rio20-3-5-october-2011-zarago>
- IW: Learn (International waters learning exchange and resource network: <http://iwlearn.net/events/rio-20-united-nations-conference-on-sustainable-development>



# All accessible

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# Today

- Investments in Biodiversity – UNEP
- Technology
- ESCWA
- Market place

