

Open sessions

Recap

Open public sessions

December 14th, 2010

Cooperation in action: the Water Alliance

- M^a JESÚS CAJAL, Water Alliance Secretary/ECODES: Small rural projects in Central America. IWRM and the Right to Water are the Alliance two main guidelines. New initiatives like technical assistance online platform for NGO projects.
- MANUEL CALDERÓN, Mayor of Leon (Nicaragua): Convenience of creating Citizens Committees for Water and Sanitation with local government's technical assistance. A paid service becomes more efficient and appreciated.
- AITOR GABILONDO, International Cooperation Department of Vitoria (Spain)/AMVISA: Objective of 110 l per day and person is reached by establishing progressive tariffs and awareness campaigns.
- JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ MELÓN, Social participation, Municipality of Zaragoza: Public institutions can do more than financing projects but also be part of them, for democracy quality and increasing capacities by joining efforts.

Open public sessions

December 15th, 2010

Change in action: integrated solutions for the cities of the future

- Moderator: TOMÁS SANCHO, World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)
- MANUEL OMEDAS, Ebro River Basin Authority (CHE): EU Water Framework Directive introducing new principles: basin management, public participation, cost recovering, cooperation between regions.
- GUNTHER MERZTHAL, IPES Promoción del Desarrollo Sostenible, Lima (Peru): Water reuse is a great opportunity for urban agriculture and reducing social inequality, by means of capacity building and legal reforms.
- MÓNICA SANZ, UNESCO IHE, Bogotá (Colombia): The Bogota river tanners case: social mediation and community leadership can help bring solutions for sustainable and eco-friendly development.
- ALBERTO GALVIS, Instituto CINARA, Universidad del Valle, Cali (Colombia): SWITCH action in Cali was focused on water quality, together with parallel projects like early warning system and work on spreading the message.

Open public sessions

December 16th, 2010

Target 2015: Water to fight poverty

- Moderator: Lola Campos, Counselor of Zaragoza City Council
- ALBERTO TEJADA-GUILBERT, Director a.i. Division of Water Sciences, IHP – UNESCO: Water is a cross-cutting issue for achieving all MDG. It stands not just for a sustainable environment but for basic human rights.
- ANTONIO EMBID, Professor of Water Law at the University of Zaragoza: Need of defining concepts and give the adequate solution to each specific situation. The achievement of water goals cannot be considered separately from general economic growth.
- HELENA CABALLERO, Adviser on Water and Environment, UNO-IDfA/UNW-DPAC : The reality is 1billion people live in slums and have no access to drinking water or improved sanitation, and the solution depends on economic growth but also on political and a fair pricing system.