



CONFERENCE DAILY

Tuesday 8 January 2013

Welcome to Zaragoza!



The UN-Water Decade Programme on Advocacy and Communication and the Ebro River Basin Authority want to give a warm welcome to all participants joining the conference 'Preparing for the 2013 International Year. Water Cooperation: Making it Happen!'

By sharing and compiling lessons learnt on water cooperation processes in river basins, cities and rural areas, we want to contribute to the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013 and World Water Day 2013. We look forward to meeting you and rely on your active participation to make this conference a great success.



Xavier de Pedro, President of the Ebro River Basin Authority, will welcome you all this morning on behalf of the Spanish authorities.

20:30h Official Welcome at Aljafería Palace



What do you think about the lessons learnt? Let us know!

In preparation for the conference we have compiled the lessons learnt on water cooperation processes submitted by the case presenters. This synthesis will be presented as an input for the International Year of Water Cooperation and World Water Day 2013. We would appreciate your feedback. Please send your comments and suggestions to: gonzalez-meyau@un.org

I expect that the conference...



Brice Lalonde

Executive coordinator of Rio+20, UNDESA
..."will describe tools, institutions and practices that proved successful in enhancing cooperation. This will be invaluable information. The future generations will rely on water cooperation. They will be expecting a lot from the participants. in the Zaragoza conference."



Iulia Trombitcaia

Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE
..."forms a great opportunity to raise the awareness about the importance of transboundary water cooperation. There is a lot of experience accumulated by countries and stakeholders from all over the world on how to cooperate in transboundary basins. This will be clearly demonstrated by case studies prepared for the conference."



Blanca Jimenez

Director of the Division of Water Sciences at UNESCO
..."will define additional ways to increase cooperation through water, based both on case studies and in experiences among international and national private and public organizations concerned with water."



Ambassador Sirodjidin M. Aslov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Tajikistan to the UN

..."will succeed in finding a common approach towards how can we do 'better' in water cooperation through sharing lessons from experiences. The Zaragoza Conference recommendations will be given due consideration during the preparation to the High-level Dialogue and Dushanbe Conference."



Péter Kovács, Secretary of State for Water, Ministry of Rural Development, Hungary

"Being the last pre-event of the official launching of the International Year of Water Cooperation to be held in Paris later in January, the Zaragoza conference has the privilege of setting the scene for the Year. We particularly appreciate the increased focus on transboundary cooperation aspects."