



CONFERENCE DAILY

Wednesday 9 January 2013

Messages from yesterday's sessions



Discussing messages for **World Water Day 2013** during the Side Event hosted by the Dutch Government and UNESCO

Key messages on water cooperation and the Conference

- Water cooperation is not new: this conference aims to facilitate and accelerate learning on experiences from cooperation processes.
- The Conference focuses on *how* rather than *why* we cooperate and on *processes* rather than *structures*.
- Conflicts and cooperation always coexist.
- Conflicts harbour opportunities for making a change towards improved water cooperation.
- Water cooperation can take many forms, there is no one size fits all solution.

UNESCO announced the winning slogan for International Year of Water Cooperation:

"Water, water everywhere, only if we share"

Lessons learnt from shared cases

Key elements of water cooperation between nations and stakeholders

- Identification and recognition of interests and development of common goals
- Trust between partners
- National champions
- Involvement of empowered stakeholders at different levels
- Patience and long-term commitment: cooperation is a long-term process
- Harmonizing and sharing information
- Being open and being transparent
- Clear communication
- Political commitment
- Identification of the appropriate levels of intervention
- Role of facilitator
- Legal arrangements
- Clear rules of the game
- Water cooperation requires human and financial resources

"Trust and good personal relationships between negotiators formed the basis for successful negotiations between Spain and Portugal" - Pedro Serra, Former Director Water Institute Portugal.



Sharing lessons learnt from cases around the world

Water cooperation in rural areas



Rudolph Cleveringa

Senior Technical Adviser, IFAD

"We, water professionals and practitioners, have amply demonstrated ways forward on water cooperation. Now it is time for scaling up and accelerating learning further lessons by applying decades if not centuries of water cooperation on 'business-as-not-usual'. We want to expand our horizons on water cooperation to include and be accountable to the 'forgotten' stakeholders (farmers, manufacturers, retailers, consumers, service providers) along the value chain of water in our institutions, information, infrastructure and innovations. This way we can focus on the subject, women and men, rather than the object, water. At the Conference I expect South-South Water Cooperation between water practitioners and professionals, i.e. farmers and related value chain service providers, is enhanced and takes shape in informal fora or communities-of-practice managed by them."

Rudolph chairs session 2 on water cooperation in rural areas

Water cooperation in cities



Jason Morrison

Technical Director, Water Mandate of the UN Global Compact

"There's a growing number of companies that recognize there's a real business case for working collaboratively with other segments of society to address long-standing water challenges. New forms of public-private partnerships stand to move the needle in terms of improved water management in urban areas – they take various shapes and involve a range of actors, but all build on the unique contributions and respective strengths of those involved. Businesses (as large scale water users) can bring a lot to the table in terms of contributing to solutions, and based on the number and variety of companies using the Mandate's Water Action Hub, there's significant appetite to work with others to address water problems."

Jason chairs session 3 on water cooperation in cities

My message for the International Year of Water Cooperation



Faraj El-Awar

Programme manager of the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA)

"Trust is essential to real cooperation. Very little comes out of relationships that are unequal or forced. Not-for-profit relationships are relatively free from the power disparities that prevent meaningful cooperation. We've seen through WOPs that committed, trust-based partnerships in which both partners have a real equal voice in decision making, can make a lasting difference. And be fun!

It is my hope that the conference will help us build the 'bones' for water cooperation. Cooperation can mean a lot of things, while it can mean nothing at all. This conference will help us ensure the discussions that will take place in the coming year are meaningful by giving us the framework to flesh out our ideas. What does water cooperation mean? Why do we need to talk about it? I think a better articulation of our various versions of cooperation and where they intersect will help us engage in more constructive dialogue and come up with practical solutions by the end of 2013."



Have a look at the Conference website!

www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/water_cooperation_2013/

On the Conference website you can find:

- Interviews with experts
- Information briefs
- Background information
- Press releases
- Water cooperation in the media
- Webcast