



**SUMMARY OF THE
4th WORLD WATER FORUM
ACTIVITIES**
(Version May 11. 2006)

Mexico City, March 16-22, 2006

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I. INTRODUCTION

- The 4th World Water Forum **stood out as a plural Forum, one that fostered the participation and dialogue of multiple stakeholders** with the objective of exerting an influence on the design of public policy at the global level that will lead to improved quality of life for all of humankind and more responsible social behavior concerning the use of water, in keeping with the goal of attaining sustainable development
- The Forum included a **diversity of participants**, such as governmental, civil and community organizations, companies, local authorities, legislators and enterprises, all distinguished members of the global water community.
- The Forum was enriched by the concerns of many other sectors, such as young people, children, women, civil society organizations, local authorities and legislators, all taking part in multiple encounters through fora and meeting in the framework of the 4th World Water Forum.
- The Forum was based on **a unique concept that proposed Local Actions for a global challenge** concerning the management of water, given that problems and possible solutions are at present being analyzed in a more tangible manner.
- In this way, the Forum was differentiated from others through its focus on the implementation of local actions. The experiences related to water management can be replicated in other parts of the world. A total of 552 local actions were presented, of the 1,631 registered. All actions were compiled in a CD distributed to the forum participants.

II STATISTICS

- The **preparatory process** for the 4th World Water Forum, which started two and a half years before the beginning of the forum, provided the **main input for the week-long Forum**:
 - **1631 local actions were compiled**, of which 552 local actions were presented during the Forum's thematic sessions. Of the latter, 120 actions were presented by Mexico and the remainder by 75 other countries.
 - **5 Regional documents: Americas, Africa, Middle East, Asia-Pacific and Europe**
 - **1 Position document on the 5 themes and 5 cross-cutting perspectives**

Summary of the 4th World Water Forum activities
Mexico City, March 16 – 22, 2006

- During the Forum, **206 thematic sessions were carried out**. These sessions were organized by **more than 300 organizations, representing 51 countries**.
 - Civil society groups participated in 35 sessions and a total of 71 organizations attended the thematic sessions.
 - Mexico participated exclusively in 44 sessions.

- 149 governmental delegations, 340 companies, 108 non-profit organizations, United Nations agencies, celebrities and over 1,300 journalists from all over the world participated.

- The total number of participants was approximately 19,800.

- In terms of communication, the Forum put the water debate on the agenda of national and international media, which was one of the objectives from the planning stage.

Summary of the 4th World Water Forum activities
 Mexico City, March 16 – 22, 2006

Concept	Amount
Total number of participants	19,766
Participating Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	
Number of organizations	880
CSO members registered	1,515
Countries of origin of the CSOs	101
Ministerial Conference	
Number of delegations	149
Number of ministers	78
Number of mayors	120
Number of legislators	150
World Water Expo♣	
Total number of participants	8,105
Number of companies	340 (53% national and 47% international)
Countries represented	25
Water Fair♣	
Number of exhibitors (governments, organizations and regions)	108 (50% national and 50% international)
Countries represented	21
Second Children's World Water Forum♣	
Participating children	107
4th Youth World Water Forum♦	
Participating youth	95 (34 from Mexico and the rest from 22 countries)
Number of journalists who attended	1,395

♣ Data provided by E.J. Krause

♣ Data provided by the Mexican Institute for Water Technology (IMTA)

♦ Data provided by the Mexican Youth Institute (IMJUVE)

*Summary of the 4th World Water Forum activities
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Thematic sessions	
Total sessions	206
Exclusive sessions for Mexico	44
International sessions	162
Civil Society Sessions	35
Gender	5
Youth	2
Children	1
Indigenous	3
Other	24

Sessions		
Total institutions participating in thematic sessions	323	
	Academia y professionals	113
	Inter-Governmental	48
	Governmental	82
	Companies	9
	Civil Society Organizations	71

Sessions per day		Sessions per theme	
March 17	42	I	35
March 18	41	II	43
March 19	41	III	53
March 20	43	IV	42
March 21	39	V	33

*Summary of the 4th World Water Forum activities
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Local actions		
Total local actions registered	1631	
Total local actions in sessions	552	
	National L.A.	120
	International L.A.	432
Total local actions published in posters	60	

Panelists	
Local stakeholders and experts*	1236

** Note: Average of 6 panelists per session. Confirmation of this figure pending summary report*

Special sessions**	
Total special sessions	21

*** Note: Forum-related events with atypical formats or focused on themes other than those dealt with in the Forum*

Components	Mexico	Japan
Participants	19,800	24,000
United Nations	8 agencies	8 agencies
Proposals per session	700	305
Forum sessions	206	305
Local Actions identified	1,631	3000 (approximately)
Local Actions presented	522	503
Official delegations	149	130
Participating celebrities	Prince of Japan	Prince of Japan
	Prince of the Netherlands	Prince of the Netherlands
	Prime Minister of Morocco	Prince of Morocco

III. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

FINANCING

For the Americas

- The **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** is in the process of approving a **donation fund for infrastructure projects in Latin America**, and expects most of these to be water-related. A 1.5 million dollar limit is planned for each infrastructure project. *(Source: AP "IDB prepares fund for infrastructure in Latin America", March 17, 2006)*
- The **North American Development Bank (NADBANK)** announced that it is in the process of authorizing 10 loans for a total of 100 million dollars for water **and sanitation** projects in the border cities of Sonora, Tamaulipas, Coahuila y Baja California. *(Source: Nadbank Press Release, March 20, 2006 on the proposals for modernizing water and sanitation for border municipalities)*
- Given the overexploitation of aquifers, the waste of 40% of the liquid and the possible structural collapse of several parts of Mexico City, Carlos Slim Helú proposed the creation of an autonomous agency to raise 50 to 60 billion pesos in investment in the course of the next three years.

Some of the characteristics of the autonomous agency would be:

- Conceived outside of the national budget and work as a link between the public and private sectors.
- Financing with local currency.
- Created and operated by Mexican experts and engineers.
- Operate in keeping with a subsidy framework: symbolic amount for low-level consumption and higher cost for those who consume more. *(Source: Press Release of the 4th World Water Forum and Conagua Presentation)*

For Africa

- Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director for UN-HABITAT (United Nations Human Settlements Programme), announced on March 19 loans and subsidies in the amount of **579 million dollars** through a **Memorandum of Understanding with the African Development Bank** for low scale urban water projects.

This institution authorized the allocation of 217 million dollars in subsidies and more than 362 million dollars in credit for investment in water and sanitation over the next five years.

(Source: Press release "Africa Day at the 4th World Water Forum", March 20, 2006, issued by AMCOW, ADB, AWF, UNECA, NEPAD)

- **France** contributed **215 million euros** in the **African Bank initiative on access to water and sanitation in rural areas**. (Source: Speech delivered by Jacques Chirac during the closing ceremony of the 4th World Water Forum, March 22, 2006)

For Asia-Pacific

- The **Asian Development Bank** informed that it planned to **double investment for the Asia-Pacific region** (including India) to reach the figure of 2 billion dollars per year in the coming five years, and thus meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Significant investment is expected in particular for China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Vietnam.
 - **The program “Water for All”**, which focuses in the initial phase on India, Indonesia, Pakistan, PRC and Vietnam, will be implemented through the departments of private and regional operations of the Asian Development Bank. (Source: Press release issued by the Asian Development Bank, March 21, 2006, and the brochure “Water for All”).
 - The objective of these projects is to provide clean water to over 200 million Asian people and improve irrigation and sewage systems to benefit another 40 million people. (Source: Asian Development Bank “Water Financing Program 2006-2010, Water for All: the Next 5 Years”).
- The governments of the **United States and Japan agreed to help India to improve water and sanitation services**. This is as part of the “**United States and Japan Clean Water for People Initiative**”, which will accelerate international efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

India is the fourth country to join this initiative as part of a pilot project. The amount of aid from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) rose to nearly **5 million dollars**.

This will enable the residents of Bangalore, India, to organize and learn how to make critical water decisions. In like manner, USAID provided a partial guarantee in the amount of **23 million dollars**. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation has provided **an additional loan of 750 million dollars**, aside from technical assistance to take water from the Cauvery River to the metropolitan zone of Bangalore. (Source: USAID Press release, issued March 20, 2006)

Global

- The **World Bank** announced that it is ready to **support innovative ways in approaching the fundamental issue of financing**. “In addition, all investment, whether public or private, needs to be supported by robust regulations and monitoring, and designed with the active participation of water users and civil society.”
(Source: Catherine Sierra, Vice President for Infrastructure, The World Bank, during her keynote speech, “Water for Responsible Growth and Development”).
- The **government of France doubles public aid for the development of the water sector in the world**. The French government strengthened support to those governments interested in implementing national water strategies, promoting appropriate governance of the resource, involving local stakeholders and assessing progress and the appropriate use of the funds through follow-up and evaluation mechanisms. *(Source: speech by Minister Nelly Olin at the 4th World Water Forum, March 21, 2006; webpage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, in reference to the 4th World Water Forum)*

AGREEMENTS AND INITIATIVES LAUNCHED

At the 4th World Water Forum there were many announcements and proposals of diverse nature on innovative aid programs, agreements for technical cooperation and others to solve specific water problems.

Agreements

- The representatives of the Asian countries announced the creation of the **Asia-Pacific Water Forum**. The Asia-Pacific region in particular often suffers from natural disasters.

Kim Huk Su, Executive Secretary for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, considered two major priorities for the new regional forum:

- Tools to support Integrated Water Resource Management
- More effective management of water and risk prevention in the region.
(Source: 4th World Water Forum press release “Intolerable, the risk of climate change and the inappropriate management of water intensifying global warming...”, issued March 21, 2006)
- **The Follow-up Committee** of the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Water Commission (CONAGUA) and the Ministry of the Environment of Spain was created to further bilateral cooperation in the field of water resource management. The following lines of work were established:
 - Sustainable water use and modernization of agriculture.
 - Strengthening entrepreneurial relations in the water sector.
 - Implementing sustainable water policies for each basin.
- The **European Union and the countries of Latin America** signed on March 21 the **Joint Declaration on the Implementation of the Strategy for Water Resources and Sanitation**, under the leadership of Spanish Minister of the Environment, Cristina Narbona, and the Mexican Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, José Luis Luege, heading the ceremony.

This initiative, promoted by Spain, Portugal and Mexico, intends to reduce the number of people who do not have access to clean water and at the same time foster an exchange of water management models.

The 4 lines of work in the agreement are: water and sanitation; integrated water resource management; water and agriculture; and programs to mitigate situations resulting from extreme events. *(Source: Press release from the Coordination of Communications Department of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, March 21, 2006, and Hispagua, Spanish Water Information System – webpage)*

- The **Spanish Association for Water Supply and Sanitation** and the **National Business Association for Water and Sanitation in Mexico** signed an **agreement** through which both organizations established a commitment to **exchange information** on different technical and operational experience of its members, and to submit information on Public Policy for Integrated Water Management at all levels of government and to establish links for direct communication. *(Source: Agreement, March 21, 2006)*
- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, a specialized United Nations agency, **decided to establish a Project Office in Mexico** to support the **National Water Commission of Mexico (CONAGUA)** in its objective to attain the integrated management and sustainability of water in Mexico.

The Project Office is part of the Agreement for Cooperation signed by both parties on September 2, 2005. Michael Jarraud, Secretariat General of the WMO, and Cristóbal Jaime Jáquez, Director General of CONAGUA, **signed the expanded agreement during the 4th World Water Forum.**

As part of the areas of cooperation envisaged in the Agreement, the efficient management of water for all users is included (population at large, agriculture, industry and others). *(Source: Press release, World Meteorological Organization, March 20, 2006)*

- **Mexico and France** signed an **Agreement for Technical and Scientific Cooperation** for the management of the resource at the basin level so as to establish planning and financing processes for the disposal and treatment of wastewater, as well as supplying water to the metropolitan area of the Valley of Mexico. The agreement was signed by the National Water Commission of Mexico (Conagua) and the Seine-Normandy Basin Organization. *(Source: Press release issued by the National Water Commission (Mexico), March 20, 2006)*

The agreement includes improving “good governance” methods such as:

- ***Processes for negotiating basin rates***
- ***Efficiency of subsidy distribution systems***
- ***Communications, awareness, training and exchange of legislative information***

- During the session “Education and water culture for children and youth” a **Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Project WET International foundation, the Mexican Institute for Water Technology (IMTA) and UNESCO** to work jointly on water education projects in Latin America.

The importance of education as a tool to facilitate understanding was underscored, as well as a tool to reduce conflict and build cooperation among communities, particularly for transboundary basins. (*Source: 4th World Water Forum press release, “Lack of training and social learning add to the spiraling obstacles that hamper the appropriate management of water resources”, issued March 20, 2006*)

- The Founder, President and Director General of the Autonomous Institute of Ecological Research of Mexico (INAINE) , chemist Luis Manuel Guerra, announced on March 18, the establishment of the ***Colegio Mexicano de Comunicadores Ambientales*** (Mexican College of Environmental Communicators), to operate as a timely, serious source of information on water issues.

This College will help to make the work of environmental journalists more professional so that the public at large can receive reliable information, avoiding sensationalism and grouping environmental communicators and journalism professionals together.

The objective will be to operate as a node of timely, serious information on water subjects. (*Source: INAINE press release, March 18, 2006*).

INITIATIVES

- **Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council** announced the launch of the **WWC's initiative "Water for Schools"**, seeking to provide access to water for one thousand schools in ten countries and to create training schools for high level technicians. *(Source: Opening Speech for the Ministerial Conference at the 4th World Water Forum, March 21, 2006)*
- The **Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development of France, Nelly Olin**, advocated **mobilization to benefit women and young people**; the former are profoundly affected by lack of access to clean water and sanitation in the poorest countries, and recalled that French aid has doubled with the primary objective of providing access to water for 9 million people in Africa, between today and the year 2015. *(Source: Press release "The Voice of France in Mexico" issued March 21, 2006, Embassy of France in Mexico)*
- **UNESCO official, Alice Aureli**, stressed the need to create a **Research Center for Water Tables and Groundwater Management**, under UNESCO, for which the Netherlands could offer its support given its experience through a center of this type for monitoring and studying the behavior of water on a day to day basis throughout the entire territory of the Netherlands. *(Source: 4th World Water Forum press release "Underused Groundwater", issued March 21, 2006).*
- **Programme Solidarité Eau, United Cities and Local Governments and the World Water Council** have launched a **global Solidarity financing initiative based on solidarity between users in the North and South and decentralised forms of funding**. Such mechanisms have already been developed over recent years. They can complement bilateral and multilateral aid especially to respond to the need to build sustainable local management capacities in order to secure the investments made. The potential financing that could be raised through such initiatives is 100 million Euros in France, 650 million Euros if extended to the all of western Europe (15 countries) and 2 billion Euros if extended to all OECD countries.
- **The International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)** has proposed a **Global Groundwater Policy Initiative** implemented through the World Bank as a Global Environment Facility medium-size project to identify key groundwater policy needs at the macro-level. These would be agreed to through thematic workshops at regional centers, and policies would be redefined as coherent and integrated messages delivered to the appropriate political instances for regional development and environmental action.

DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

- Representatives of **24 international UN agencies** linked to water, including UNU, ESCAP, UNEP, WHO, FAO, UN-ISDR, UNDP, presented the second edition of the **UN World Water Development Report**.
- This triennial UN report comprises the most comprehensive assessment on freshwater undertaken to date. The second edition of this report, titled “Water, a shared responsibility” focuses on the importance of good governance to manage global water resources and combat poverty.

The World Water Development Report is published by the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP). (*Source: 4th World Water Forum press release, “Water is the indissociable element”, March 22, 2006*)

- **Presentation of the UN Water Actions and Networking Database.** This new database contains information compiled during the 2003-2005 CDS cycle, in the Portfolio Water Actions and the database on local actions recorded by participants at the 4th World Water Forum.

The Session to launch the CSD WAND, followed by the CSD 13 and PWA Initiatives, was held March 20. This session was organized by the governments of the United States, Mexico, Japan and UNDESA.

The database is intended to disseminate information on implementation and best practices, so as to support international efforts to meet water and sanitation goals.

- The **World Water Council** launched the publication and presented the **Report on financing water for all**, led by José Ángel Gurría, the incumbent Secretary General of the OECD. This document also includes many global water financing actions. (*Source: Inaugural speech at the Ministerial Conference during the 4th World Water Forum, March 21, 2006*).

The **World Water Council** also released two other reports “Official Development Assistance for Water from 1990 to 2004: figure and trends“ and Costing MDG Target 10 on Water Supply and Sanitation: comparative analysis, obstacles and recommendations.”

- **Ryutaro Hashimoto**, former Prime Minister of Japan and Chairman of the **United Nations Secretary General’s Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation**, reported on the creation of a compendium of actions: “**Your Action, Our Action**” with the purpose of achieving progress in six vital areas for the resource: financing, building skills of water and sanitation operators, monitoring and reporting, integrated

management of water resources and water-associated disasters. The Advisory Board will focus its efforts on implementation and follow-up. “Your Action” refers to key stakeholders, some already identified. “Our Action” refers to the individual and collective work of members of the Advisory Board with stakeholders to eliminate the bottlenecks and achieve internationally agreed-on goals. (*Source: Compendium of Actions- March 2006*)

- The **World Water Council published a synthesis report entitled “The Right to Water: From Concept to Implementation”**. This document has been prepared with the support of a panel of experts and in partnership with ALMAE, The French Academy of Water, Green Cross International and the International Secretariat for Water.

The report explains the scope of the Right to Water and shows how it has been implemented in various countries. It explains that the right to water is both the recognition of an individual right and a collective right, that demands the right to protect said resource. (*Source: press release, the World Water Council, March 19, 2006: “Right to Water: From Concept to Implementation*)

BILATERAL MEETINGS

The Forum fostered encounters and synergy between the ministries and agencies of the Mexican government and participating countries by means of bilateral meetings on the subject of water resources:

With the National Water Commission (CONAGUA)

- The foundations were established for an agreement with Côte d'Ivoire.
- The foundations were established for an agreement with the Russian Federation.
- Representatives from Colombia proposed to Cristóbal Jaime Jáquez, Director General of Conagua, that a water cooperation agreement be signed.
- The Ambassadors of Algeria and Tunisia proposed projects for technical cooperation.
- The Representation for Italy's Foreign Trade Institute proposes holding a technical seminar on water issues next June.

With the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)

- Cooperation agreement with the Czech Republic
- Bilateral meeting with the Minister for the Environment of France, Mrs. Nelly Olin
- Bilateral meeting with Mr. Juha Korkeaoja, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Resources of Finland

DECLARATIONS

- The Forum included a **Ministerial Conference** in which the Ministers of the Environment or those Ministers responsible for Water in the participating countries took part, together with water stakeholders from around the world. A total of 149 delegations and 78 ministers took part. Through broad consensus, the Ministers arrived at a **Ministerial Declaration**.

The Declaration underscores the crucial importance of freshwater for all aspects of sustainable development: the importance of involving other stakeholders, particularly women and young people, in water planning and management; the importance of national and international policies that encourage and assist in the development of capacity and cooperation at all levels, and the launching of the CDS Water Database and Networking to disseminate information on the implementation and best practices for water and sanitation, among others. The important role played by local authorities and parliamentarians to increase sustainable access to water and sanitation services is stressed.

The document is accompanied by a series of technical annexes that encompass the positions expressed through the Local authorities' Forum, the Legislators' Forum, the Children's Forum, and the work of regional committees and civil society organizations. (Source: Ministerial Declaration, March 22, 2006)

- Bolivia proposed a complementary declaration, developed jointly with Cuba, Venezuela and Uruguay, establishing, among other things, that “access to water, with quantity, quality and equity, constitutes a fundamental human right” and that “the States, with the participation of communities, must guarantee this right for its citizens”. (Source: IISD REPORTING SERVICES, WWW.IISD.CA/YMB/WORLDWATER4/)
- The EU released a statement stressing 3 issues to be taken into consideration in the final report: public authorities must take adequate measures to make **the right to access to water and sanitation** affordable and effective; reaffirmation of the EU commitment taken at the CSD13 to enhance the sustainability of **ecosystems** and the necessity of considering all aspects of sustainable development in planning and management of **hydropower projects**
- With more than 100 legislators in attendance, representing 17 countries, the **World Encounter of Water Legislators** was held. In the **Mexico Declaration, based on the World Encounter of Legislators**, it is reiterated that water must no longer be a source of conflict; the commitment to promote a legal framework that responds appropriately to the policies and perspectives of each country is established; water is declared to be a public good, and all programs for water supply and sanitation must promote gender and ethnic equity, among other factors. The legislators recognized the enormous political and action challenges that water represents, as well as its

social, environmental and economic value, constituting an essential resource and a public good. The legislators committed to:

- Promote a legal framework that responds more appropriately to the policies and perspectives that each country faces, that might encourage and recognize citizen participation in addition to contributing proposals for public policy and legal frameworks in the international sphere.
 - Take back to their parliaments the initiative to build a coalition of water-related legislative committee members in national parliaments.
 - Enrich international legislation in water themes, provide follow-up to the commitments established and seek more solid budgets to solve part of the problems.
 - Organize a second world meeting. (*Source: 4th World Water Forum Press release “Local Authorities and Legislators”, Press release March 20, 2006 released by United Cities and Local Governments, Press Release March 19, 2006 of the 4th World Water Forum “World Legislators Forum begins in Mexico in the framework of the 4th World Water Forum”*).
- For the first time ever, an Encounter of Local Authorities was held, presenting the **“Declaration of Mayors and Local Authorities”** (Mayors from 120 cities around the world) in which the signatories committed to developing local policy to attain the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water, by the year 2015. United Nations and national governments have been asked to increase financing for local water infrastructure and sanitation, in order to respond to the needs of the poorest populations, as well as to work jointly to attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. (*Source: Declaration of Local Governments on Water, March 22, 2006*)
 - The Youth World Water Forum (95 young people) produced a **“Young People’s Declaration on Water”**, encompassing the conclusions for their work and underscoring the strategic importance of the participation of young people in future actions for water conservation.
 - The Youth Declaration is based on the Framework Themes of the Forum, proposing concrete actions that center primarily on education and involvement of young people in plans for the management of the resource to ensure continuity and effectiveness.
 - The young people put forth specific recommendations on the need to improve the structure and organization of the Youth World Water Forum so as to take part within the same context as the World Water Forum
 - They requested the importance of continuity of the Forums be emphasized, so that past experiences may help build future plans. They propose that all ideas expressed be put into action through a network of young people.

Summary of the 4th World Water Forum activities
Mexico City, March 16 – 22, 2006

- The 112 boys and girls at the Second Children’s World Water Forum, representing 30 countries, reaffirmed the **Boys and Girls’ Water Manifest**, drafted by 109 boys and girls in Kyoto, Japan, in 2003. This document reiterates a call on the adult world to involve boys and girls in local actions to overcome the critical global challenges posed by our environment, water and sanitation to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.
 - “UNICEF states that there are 400 million children in the world without enough clean water to live. This is killing our future. Please act.”
 - This call to action asks for adults to comply with the rights of boys and girls on an equal basis, as well as participation in projects, the creation of a parliament for children in each country, fostering an exchange of ideas between adults and children, supporting the exchange of experiences, amending legislation and supporting education, among other things. (*Source: Call to Action*)

AWARDS

The 4th World Water Forum also recognized the international water community that has so outstandingly, ardently and successfully devoted their efforts to water-related themes.

- **King Hassan II Prize goes to Torkil Jonch-Clausen (Denmark)** for excellence in scientific work and support for international cooperation in water issues.

The Prize was created in March of 2000, and is granted every three years during the World Water Forum to an institution, organization, individual or group of individuals in recognition of their outstanding achievements in any field related to water; this includes scientific, economic, technical, environmental, social, institutional, cultural and political achievements.

The theme of this Forum was “*Cooperation and Solidarity in the fields of management and development of water resources*”. The winner received the amount of \$100,000 US dollars, a trophy and a certificate. Mr. Jonch–Clausen donated the award to women’s organizations in Africa. (*Source: IISD REPORTING SERVICES, WWW.IISD.CA/YMB/WORLWDWATER4/*)

- **The winner of the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize** was the NGO *Gram Vikas*, for its work in the state of Orissa, India.

This prize selects an individual or organization whose work and activities are focused on seeking solutions to the water needs of communities and regions. The prize is in the amount of 5,000,000 yens, and is to be used in the winning project. (*Source: IISD REPORTING SERVICES, WWW.IISD.CA/YMB/WORLWDWATER4/*)

PARTICIPATION OF MEXICAN GOVERNORS

The governors of several states of Mexico took part in various meetings in which they expressed their comments and expectations concerning the national water problem.

- **Governors from the following states took part in the thematic sessions:** Aguascalientes, Baja California, Durango, Mexico State, Guanajuato, Mexico, Federal District, Nayarit, Veracruz, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Tabasco, Veracruz and Zacatecas.

The governors stated the importance of coordination between the different levels of government concerning water management, the need for communication and bilateral cooperation in the management of transboundary watersheds, and other matters.

They also touched on the subject of access to drinking water and the payment for services in irregular settlements, and called for the sustainable use of the resource and international financing for states and municipalities for the development of infrastructure.

The resulting key ideas include:

- The establishment of Water as a priority for the development of countries
- The right of all Mexicans to access water
- The need for a change of culture and for cooperation among the various stakeholders that comprise society
- The establishment of investment as a priority aspect
- Emphasis on the need to analyze water themes from an integrated perspective. (Source: IISD REPORTING SERVICES, WWW.IISD.CA/YMB/WORLWDWATER4/ y Conagua)

State	Governor
Aguascalientes	Luis A. Reynoso
Baja California	Ernesto Elorduy
Durango	Ismael Hernández
Federal District (Mexico City)	Alejandro Encinas
State of Mexico	Enrique Peña Nieto
Nayarit	Ney González Sánchez
Oaxaca	Ulises Ruíz Ortiz
Quintana Roo	Felix González Canto
Veracruz	Fidel Herrera Beltrán
Guanajuato	Juan Carlos Romero Hicks
Tabasco	Manuel Andrade Díaz
San Luis Potosí	Marcelo de los Santos Fraga
Zacatecas	Amalia García Medina

IV. OTHER COMPONENTS

WORLD WATER EXPO

- The Water Expo brought together many offers of technological options and sustainable solutions, putting them together with those demanding these services, and announced the various instances of progress and new technologies available for water throughout the world.

A total of 340 companies participated at the Expo and 7,500 visitors were registered.

- Moreover, there were international pavilions from Spain, Portugal, France, Japan and the Netherlands. Cultural and business activities were carried out during the Expo.

CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC

The 4th World Water Forum included various cultural and educational activities that contributed so that citizens –especially children and young people– from different countries of the world could become aware of the water problem and take part in actions to attain sustainable development.

- **The Water Fair.** This was a space for governments, international, national and local organizations, local, national and international educational institutions, and other water stakeholders to show the world the actions they have undertaken to contribute to the sustainable use of water, as well as to share knowledge, publicize research and show the different tourism and cultural aspects of their respective countries and regions.

108 organizations were present and 7,500 visitors were registered. Pavilions exhibiting included: Mexico, world financial institutions, United Nations, NGOs, civil society, international awards, research and academia, the Global Water and Education Village, the Citizens' House, and the Papalote Children's Museum.

Some 3,500 people, both children and adults, visited the Global Water and Education Village, as well as the Water School (the latter had 800 children participating, from private and public schools in Mexico City).

- **The Global Water and Education Village.** It was coordinated by the Project WET International Foundation, in collaboration with the IMTA and UNESCO, and was a space that compiled educational programs on water and shared successful local actions from more than 20 countries.

- **Citizens' House.** The Citizen's House was a meeting place, a place to hold discussions and meetings, as well as to enjoy the many cultural expressions on the subject of water around the world. Among other activities, two preparatory workshops were carried out, presenting case studies on behalf of local stakeholders involved in Empowerment and Democratization processes, as well as discussions centering on the right to water.

- **Second Children's World Water Forum.** This Forum was coordinated by UNICEF, in collaboration with the Mexican Institute for Water Technology (IMTA), the Japan Water Forum and the Project WET International Foundation. For this Forum, there were 107 children from 29 countries taking part; they exchanged successful local experiences in which children are both the creators and the main stakeholders. A total of 55 local actions were presented by the children.

- **Youth World Water Forum.** This was a forum for 95 young people to participate, ranging in age from 12 through 29, representing 21 countries, where technical and social proposals related to obtaining, conserving and caring for water were presented.

This Forum resulted in the "Youth Declaration on Water", encompassing the conclusions of the works and indicating the strategic importance of the participation of young people in future actions for water conservation.

- **TheInstitute@WWF4 Learning Center.** The Center imparted courses on the development of capacities for the management of water resources. The coordinators were: the Smithsonian Institute, the US Navy Corps of Engineers, the Mexican Center for Training in Water and Sanitation in Mexico (CEMCAS) and the United Nations Development Programme. This was the 14th Institute to be held since the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. Main conveners and sponsors of sessions were the Netherland Water Partnership, UNESCO-IHE, World Water Council in partnership with the French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, Universities of Aberdeen, Osnabrueck, Villanova,...

- **Photo Exhibit.** Mexican photographers Francisco Mata, Eniac Martínez Ulloa and Héctor García all participated in the expo "*Matiz azul*", Blue Hue, in the hallway of the *Palacio de la Canal at the Banamex Center*. Spaces, places and people close to water were featured various parts of Mexico, covering several eras.

This Expo was organized by *Consejo Consultivo del Agua, A.C.*, in coordination with the Center for Image and the National Council for Culture and the Arts (CONACULTA) for Mexico. The expo will be shown in several cities of Mexico, with the purpose of fostering citizen awareness concerning water problems.

Summary of the 4th World Water Forum activities
Mexico City, March 16 – 22, 2006

- **1st International Water and Cinema Encounter.** This event registered 195 films from over 50 countries. The first place in the spot category was given to “*Aguas con el Agua*”, by Mexican Rubén Silva Ruiz, who received \$3,000 USD. The first place for the short film category was shared by two films: “*Agua el espejo del mundo andino*” by French producer Luc Bazin and “*La presa de agujas del río en Lucerna*” by Swiss producer Nora de Baan, in the amount of \$5,000 USD.
- **Ninth International Poster Biennial.** This exhibit featured posters by Mexican and international graphic designers, offering renditions of water under the theme “Water Reflections”. The purpose of these works was to create awareness on water conservation. The **complete** collection is exhibited at bus stops in different areas of Mexico City and other cities of Mexico.