

Background of the Workshop

As water is our number one aliment, the quality of drinking water directly influences public health and plays a major economic role both as a tradable good and a cost factor in our healthcare system.

The workshop focuses on key topics of the current phase (VII) of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Water and Life Support Systems, and the work under the UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health. Water quality issues in Europe are not as eye-catching as in many other parts of the world, yet there is a lot of concern about emerging pollutants, water and health in the context of societal and environment change. Deterioration of water quality, overexploitation of freshwater resources, hydrological hazards, climate change and adverse effects of landscape degradation and sectoral management all pose risks to human health, and potentially impact ecosystem values and services.

Human health and well-being are strongly dependent on safe and readily available water. Their promotion at national, transboundary and international levels is the objective of the UNECE/WHO-Europe Protocol on Water and Health.

The EU Water Framework Directive states in its preamble that "Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such". The implementation of the Directive will help to prevent further pollution of waters.

International Advisory and Organizing Committee

- R. Aertgeerts, WHO, Rome
- J. Cullmann, IHP/HWRP, Koblenz, Germany
- R. Helmer, Zuchwil, Switzerland
- T. Juszczak, UNECE, Geneva
- S. Khan, IHP Secretariat, UNESCO, Paris
- Th. Kistemann, IHP / WHO CC, Bonn, Germany
- U. Schröder IHP/HWRP, Koblenz, Germany
- M.R. van der Valk, The Netherlands National Committee IHP-HWRP, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Participation in the Workshop and Pre-registration

Interested participants are invited to contact Mr. Ulrich Schröder, schroeder@bafg.de, <http://ihp.bafg.de>



International Workshop

Koblenz, Germany
8 to 9 December 2009



Water and Health

A European Perspective

jointly organized by

- The National Committees of Germany and the Netherlands for the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO and the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme (HWRP) of WMO
- Institute for Hygiene & Public Health (IHPH), Bonn
- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)



German IHP/HWRP National Committee



in cooperation with

UNESCO's IHP, UNECE and WHO



Objectives and Key Aspects of the Workshop

The Workshop aims to present current water and health issues in Europe, and identify policy needs based on scientific analysis of the status quo. It is addressed at researchers as well as members of operational hydrological services and water managers.

The Workshop is focused in three parts:

1 Achievements and State of the Art

General overview of national, regional and international organizations.

2 Case Studies

Country-specific problems, regional aspects, drinking water supply, bathing water, contaminants, sanitation, water-borne diseases, administrative aspects, etc.

3 Future Challenges

Climate change, adaptation strategies, epidemic plagues, sea-level rise, mega-cities, population development, etc.



Language

The working language is English.

Publication

A report will be prepared containing the conclusions of the Workshops and abstracts of the presentations.

Registration Fee

€ 40,-

Accommodation

A list of hotels can be downloaded from the web page <http://ihp.bafg.de/servlet/is/4236/>

Venue

Federal Institute of Hydrology,
Am Mainzer Tor 1,
Koblenz, Germany

Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, 8 December 2009

9:00 Registration

9:30 Official Opening

10:00 – 12:30 Achievements and State of the Art

Aims of the Workshop – *Johannes Cullmann, IHP/HWRP NC, Koblenz, Germany*

WHO's Plan on Water and Health in the European Region – *Roger Aertgeerts, WHO, Rome*

Protocol on Water and Health and IWRM – *Tomasz Juszczak, UNECE, Geneva*

Coffee break

The importance of water and health in the VIth phase of IHP of UNESCO – *Shabaz Khan, UNESCO, Paris (to be confirmed)*

Water and infectious diseases in Europe, what do we know? – *Gertjan Medema, KWR Watercycle Research Institute, Nieuwegein, The Netherlands*

12:30 – 13:40 Lunch

13:40 – 17:00 Case Studies

The multi-barrier principle – basis for a safe and sustainable drinking water supply – *Claudia Castell-Exner, DVGW, Bonn, Germany*

Investigation on microbiological contamination in distribution systems applying molecular biological methods – *Susanne Grobe, Gabriela Schaule, Jost Wingender, Hans-Curt Flemming, IWW Water Centre, Mülheim an der Ruhr/Biofilm Centre at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany*

Implementation of water security programmes in rural settlements in the Republic of Moldova – *Ion Shalaru, Ministry of Health, Chisinau, Moldova*

Water borne diseases, risks and adaption needs in Sweden – *N.N., Sweden*

Coffee break

Spatial analysis of water-related disease incidences – *Thomas Kistemann, University Bonn, Germany*

Trace metals and pharmaceuticals in transboundary waters, and its monitoring, toxicity and regulation in Ukraine – *Yuliya Vystavna, National Academy of Municipal Economy, Kharkiv, Ukraine*

Model tools for prediction of probability of infections: scenarios for European water works – *Thor Axel Stenström, Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control, Stockholm, Sweden*

Meeting the MDGs and access to safe water: the case of Tajikistan – *Oliver Schmoll, UBA, Bad Elster, Germany*

GreenFacts digest on water and health – *Denis Richir, GreenFacts, Brussels, Belgium*

Discussion

17:00 Reception

Wednesday, 9 December 2009

9:00 – 12:00 Future Challenges

The BCA Programme – *Roger Aertgeerts, WHO, Rome*

Water Safety Plan Assessment Tool – *Jennifer De France, NSF International, Zaventem, Belgium*

Experience with water safety plans: a benefit for German suppliers? – *Wolf Merkel, IWW Water Centre, Mülheim and der Ruhr, Germany*

The presence of pharmaceuticals in the environment due to human use -present knowledge and future challenges – *Klaus Kümmerer, University Freiburg, Germany*

Coffee break

Waterbodies and emerging contaminants: challenges and measures – *Thomas Ternes, BfG, Koblenz, Germany*

Water borne diseases and climate change – *Jan Semenza, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm, Sweden*

Discussion

12:00 – 13:00 Wrap-up and Conclusions

13:00 Closure