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International Federation For Information And Documentation

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A Joint Vision

on

Water Information

Report on the Foundation Meeting

of the

FID Water Information Special Interest Group

held at the Royal Library, The Hague, The Netherlands

20 March 2000

Compiled by Nigel Browne (IRC) and Sarah Cummings (FID)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
on the occasion of the launch of
THE FID WATER INFORMATION GROUP

This Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference was organised to formally launch a newly defined global vision for the management of the world's water resources. All the decisions that we take in realizing this vision, have to be based on information - information owned by a wide variety of international institutions and packaged in an even wider variety of formats.

While an international organisation to promote sharing of information in the **marine** environment has already existed for several years, the formation here today of the FID Water Information Group for cooperating in the wider field of **freshwater** information, will be widely welcomed. Today, advanced information technology can access and transfer information within seconds from one end of the world to the other and provides exciting opportunities for the sharing of information. It is only through the sharing of relevant information that we as decision makers will be able to formulate and successfully implement plans and policies which will be to the common good of all mankind and benefit the water environment globally.

As President of the International Water Association I wish to congratulate the FID for taking the initiative in launching the special interest group. May the water information specialists of the world join the Group with great enthusiasm and commitment. We from the IWA, representing the world's most prominent water professionals, put our faith in you. Good luck!

Piet Odendaal

PRESIDENT: INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION

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SUMMARY

On 20 March 2000 the first meeting of the Special Interest Group on Water Information, organised by the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID), was held at the Royal Library in The Hague. It was attended by more than 30 participants concerned with water information from around the world. The objective of the meeting was to establish the Group and to decide on a preliminary plan of activities. This report lists the background to the Group's formation; provides a summary of the papers presented at the meeting; gives an overview of the discussions which took place; and details the conclusions and recommendations that were made. Finally, the appendices contain the programme of the meeting; a list of participants; and details of how to order the Special Issue of the 'FID Review' which will contain the proceedings of this meeting.

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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

THE LAUNCH MEETING

On 20 March 2000 the first meeting of the Special Interest Group on Water Information was held at the Royal Library in The Hague, The Netherlands. The meeting was held to coincide with the Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference which took place in The Hague on 17-22 March. This Group on Water Information was formed at the end of 1999 by the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID), a leading international non-governmental organisation concerned with information and documentation activities world-wide.

The Chair of the new Group and of the meeting was Nigel Browne of the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, The Netherlands, who had proposed the formation of the Group. The purpose of this meeting was to listen to speakers' experience with water information in its many different facets and to initiate a discussion on the role of the group and its potential activities.

This meeting report first describes the nature of information in the water sector and the reasons for creating the Group. Organisations which have sponsored the group are also listed. Next, the papers presented at the launch meeting are reviewed to give an overview of information issues related to water. The discussion which took place in the 'Water Roundtable' are briefly summarised and the recommendations made are listed. Finally, the appendices contain the programme of the meeting; the list of participants; and order details for the Special Issue of the 'FID Review' on 'Key issues in water information' which will include approximately 16 papers as well as the proceedings of the Launch Meeting.

More information about the Water Information Group can be found at <http://www.irc.nl/products/documentation/wisig/index.html>.

INFORMATION IN THE WATER SECTOR

The water sector has traditionally been divided into different user groups: domestic users, industrial users and agricultural users. In the past these sectors competed for the same limited resource and there was no real co-ordination in the collection and dissemination of information about water. This is now changing against the background of increasing water scarcity in many parts of the world, and the growing recognition that an integrated water resources management perspective is crucial if water is to be managed effectively.

The different users of water are beginning to realise that they have an interdependent relationship which requires them to work more closely together, not only in terms of operational efficiency, but also in the exchange of relevant information. Water is a key issue on the international agenda, and there are a number of opportunities in the near future for establishing the concept of information sharing. It is now an opportune moment to establish a Water Information Special Interest Group to cover all aspects of water information, including domestic use, industrial use, and agricultural use, as well as environmental factors.

All information professionals and advocates dealing with water information are invited to join the Water Information Group. By joining the Group, members will be able to: keep up with recent developments in information technology; work together to ensure that issues and information relevant to water are placed on the policymaking agenda; and resolve problems encountered in receiving sufficient resources to maintain their information services. Members will, for example, come from international, national and local institutions; water documentation and research centres connected to universities; water information sections of NGOs and governmental organisations; environmental research centres in which water information is collected; and focal points for water information. The Group will offer these

professionals the opportunity to work together, address common issues, facilitate synergy, and to undertake activities in the interest of the individual professionals and their institutions.

SPONSORING ORGANISATIONS

The International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID) has a number of professional bodies dealing with a wide variety of topics. A Water Information Group will complement its existing groups and is in line with FID's mission statement 'information in the service of society'. As well as offering the Group institutional sustainability and support; and giving access to FID's experience in promoting professional development, establishment of the Group will mean that the water agenda can also be more easily integrated into the mainstream of the international information agenda.

The IRC International Water and Sanitation Service of the Netherlands, with facilitation support from FID, is prepared to help get the new Group started. After two years, an evaluation will take place to see how to continue the initiative. As part of this, IRC has given Nigel Browne the opportunity to lead this group.

A message of support was received from Piet Odendaal, the President of the International Water Association, to mark the occasion of the launch of the Group (see inside front cover).

INFORMATION IS LIKE WATER: THE ROLE OF FID'S SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The Executive Director of FID, Stephen Parker, welcomed the participants to the meeting. His opening address gave some background on how the new group came into being, pointing out that the initiative had its origins in the early 1990s. At that time he was an IRC employee and felt, along with other IRC information staff, that there was a need for a professional body for information specialists in the water sector. One of these colleagues, Han Heijnen now working for the World Health Organisation in Bangladesh, could thus be viewed as the father of this initiative. It was therefore gratifying to see Han in the audience. Thanks were also expressed to the Royal Library, whose premises and facilities were used as the venue for the meeting. A comparison was made between water and information, with the analogy that like water, information needs to be captured, stored, treated and distributed. In the same vein, it was noted information cannot flow on its own account.

The meeting was then addressed by Jan Teun Visscher, the Director of IRC, a co-sponsor of the meeting. His speech dwelt on the importance of information in IRC's work and the various mechanisms (training, research, publications, advisory services, advocacy, and library and documentation services) used to disseminate knowledge in the water sector in developing countries. He particularly drew the audience's attention to the 'Streams of knowledge: a global coalition for capacity building in the water and sanitation sector' initiative that IRC has just officially launched at the World Water Forum Fair. The hope was expressed that some of the partner organisations belonging to the Streams of Knowledge coalition would be able to directly benefit from the activities of the new FID Water Information Group.

Sarah Cummings of FID then explained the role of the FID Special Interest Groups, describing the kinds of activities that SIGs could undertake: training, meetings, web presence, projects, and discussion lists.

THE GENESIS OF THE GROUP AND THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The Group's chair, Nigel Browne of IRC, made a presentation describing the background and objectives of the meeting. He emphasised the effects of the lack of access to water in developing countries and the expected fall in the average annual per capita availability of renewable water resources from 6,600 cubic metres today to 4,800 cubic metres in 2025. It was explained that the Group was open to all information professionals and advocates dealing with water information, involving all sectors (drinking water, irrigation, environment, etc.), stakeholders (users, support agencies, researchers), disciplines (scientists, social-scientists, engineers, planners, information professionals) and scales (national, regional, local). The Group would deal with water information covering all aspects of its sustainable use. The meeting aimed to:

-
- define the aims and scope of the new Group;
 - establish a preliminary programme of activities; and
 - identify individuals willing to carry forward the work of the Group.

Some potential themes for discussion were identified. These included:

- water information portals and preventing duplication;
- training in information and communication technologies (ICTs) or developing information standards;
- financing water information;
- accessibility of water information (information carriers); and
- sharing water information, for example on organisations.

In addition, a number of relevant organisational aspects were raised, including:

- what should the group achieve?
- does it need a Mission statement?
- fund raising
- possible co-operation with the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centres (IAMSLIC) [<http://siolib-155.ucsd.edu/iamslic/>]
- leadership of the group.

In conclusion, the meeting should mark the beginning of a lasting alliance between water information professionals throughout the world. Such an alliance would not only contribute towards improving access and use of quality information on water, but also support the fundamental concerns regarding access to water.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The next presentation came from David Moody of the Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN) and Kenneth Reid of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA). David Moody, a consultant with the Organisation of American States, gave their presentation which looked at the function of associations, considered challenges, explored the roles of associations in the context of the Internet, and looked for a vision for the future. Among the challenges identified was the tendency of professional associations and journals to become more narrow in their topical interests; the need for organisations to cross disciplinary boundaries to address issues of integrated land and water management; and the importance of presenting a united front on some issues and co-ordinating activities. In the water sector, this has led to the establishment of new alliances such as Water Associations Worldwide and the WaterWeb Consortium.

The Internet has led to the development of electronic libraries and improved access to information but it brings with it other challenges. For example, an Internet search on the term 'water' identifies 6.9 million relevant webpages, making it increasingly difficult to identify relevant information. In addition, there are insufficient navigation tools for finding information on poorly designed web sites. There are also quality and reliability issues concerning the information that is made available. Inequitable access to the Internet and language barriers need to be overcome.

The work of the WaterWeb Consortium [<http://www.waterweb.org/>], a network of water webmasters and information users was reviewed, as was the series of Water Information Summit meetings. A number of meetings of interest were mentioned, including

- AWRA Symposium on Water Resources and the World Wide Web, 5-9 December 1999 (Seattle, USA) [<http://www.awra.org/proceedings/www99/index.htm>]. A CD-ROM version of the proceedings is also available from AWRA

-
- Xth World Water Congress, 13-16 March 2000 (Melbourne, Australia) which had an Internet Session
 - 3rd Water Information Summit, 3-5 November 2000 (Miami, Florida, USA) on usability and design of websites.
 - AWRA Annual Meeting, 5-9 November 2000 (Miami, Florida, USA) with an Internet Session.

The presentation ended with a Water Information Vision that included:

- free sharing of information between governments, river basins and organisations;
- easy access by public and water professionals to data and information;
- much improved search tools and navigation tools for use with the Internet;
- elimination of the information gap between rich and poor countries;
- development of knowledge-based information systems for decision support systems, and
- Geographical Information Systems (GIS) based watershed information retrieval and analysis.

A GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON WATER INFORMATION

The next speaker was Lin Pugh of the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement (IIAV). She focused on the preparation of 'Gender 21: women's recommendations to the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Water', one of the products of IIAV's Gender and Water Networking Project. During the project, an electronic listserv was established and the IIAV's materials were disseminated through a wide range of web sites and other electronic fora.

Women produce 80 percent of the food consumed in the poorest parts of the world, and in some places 95 percent. Women frequently spend up to eight hours a day collecting water, storing it, and purifying it. Any new plans for global management of water must respect the integrity of poor women's livelihoods. The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), an NGO in Gujarat, India, found it difficult to respond to the request for information on water because it was too busy supporting poor women in income generating activities.

WATER INFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: THE ROLE OF CABI

Liza Connor of CAB International (CABI) told the meeting that the goal of CABI is to improve human welfare world-wide through the dissemination, application and generation of scientific knowledge in support of sustainable development, with emphasis on agriculture, forestry, human health and the management of natural resources, and with a focus on the needs of developing countries. CABI's information sector maintains two databases, CAB Abstracts (3.2 million records) and CAB Health (675,000 records). These databases will be available via the Internet from April 2000. Their databases cover over 7,500 serials from 130 countries, conference proceedings, books, reports, patents and published theses. A wide range of subjects related to water are covered, including irrigation and drainage; water resources and water quality; water conservation; drought; and water and watershed management. Journals with water content include: 'Irrigation and Drainage Abstracts', 'Soils and Fertilisers Abstracts', 'Rural Development Abstracts', and 'World Agricultural and Rural Sociology Abstracts'.

CABI Information collaborates with other parts of its organisation (Publishing and Bioscience) to develop new products and services meeting either general market needs or the special needs of developing countries. Under its Information for Development (IFD) programme, CABI helps build the capacity and infrastructure in developing countries to acquire, manage and disseminate information through training, sponsored distribution of information resources, and development of new publications and information services. The IFD programme is conducted in partnership with international, regional and national institutions and the development assistance community. CABI and the International Board on Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM) are currently preparing a Land Management

Compendium, part of the multi-media Compendium series, which aims to assist in the attainment of integrated soil, water and land management for sustainable agriculture.

KNOWLEDGE NETWORKING ON THE INTERNET: THE ONEWORLD WATER AND SANITATION THINK TANK

Peter Ballantyne of the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) reviewed the experiences of the Oneworld water and sanitation think tank. The Think Tank 'model' has two main components: interactive electronic conferencing; and a web 'magazine', with links to several information finding tools. Since these latter are Internet-based tools, efforts have been made to organise and foster offline activities, such as the circulation of content on paper and fax, promotional stories on the content, oral presentations on the content and the process, and the organisation of face-to-face meetings.

An important feature of the project is the way it is implemented as a 'co-production' by five organisations, each of whom takes on different roles and responsibilities, and the way it seeks to involve the partners of these partners. The project thus illustrates the growing trend towards 'joint action' and 'decentralised co-operation' in international development co-operation. The five organisations involved in the Think Tank are the World Bank, the IRC, WaterAid, the Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) and OneWorld through ECDPM.

The water and sanitation e-conferences have covered the following:

- demand responsive approaches (May-June 1999);
- strategic sanitation approach (October-November 1999);
- small towns (January-February 2000); and
- knowledge-sharing and capacity building (March - April 2000).

THE TRANSBOUNDARY FRESHWATER DISPUTE DATABASE PROJECT

Aaron Wolf described the Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database (TFDD) project, which was created at Oregon State University, USA, to aid in the assessment of the process of water conflict resolution. The TFDD contains a searchable database of summaries and full text of more than 150 water-related treaties, from 1874 to the present; an annotated bibliography of the state of the art of water conflict resolution, with over 1,000 entries; detailed negotiation notes of 14 case studies of water conflict resolution; news files on acute cases of water-related disputes; and descriptions of indigenous methods of water conflict resolution. In addition, the TFDD contains a complete, digitised, delineation of the world's international river basins.

The database was created because of the lack of comprehensive data on the world's river basins. Despite a prevailing opinion that competition about water can lead to international conflict, the International Court of Justice in The Hague has no rulings in its archives relating to water conflicts. Professionals concerned with security-related issues have an interest in being able to identify which of those basins may be prone to conflict over water resources.

A current project of the TFDD is an evaluation of basins at risk (BAR). The identification of basins prone to water conflict requires a framework incorporating a wide array of physical, social, economic, and political variables; and assessment of the implications of these variables at different spatial and temporal scales. Potential indicators of international water conflict are analysed and portrayed spatially within a GIS. The statistical analyses and numerical and spatial data developed through the BAR project will become part of the TFDD and will provide a wealth of empirical information and analysis to support or debunk current beliefs concerning freshwater resources and international conflict.

WATER INFORMATION SUMMIT

Alberto J. Palombo, co-ordinator for Latin American and Caribbean Programmes of the Florida Centre for Environmental Studies, USA, made an impromptu address to the meeting

in which he drew attention to a 'Meeting Announcement' and 'Call for Papers' for the Third Water Information Summit which will take place in November 2000. The Third Water Information Summit will examine:

- the need for readily available, reliable water information;
- the use of the Internet and other mechanisms to promote and support integrated water resources management; and
- the development of water information dissemination technologies (including web rings).

THE WATER ROUNDTABLE

THE DISCUSSIONS

Nigel Browne presented the group with three key issues that need to be addressed: the aim and scope of the FID Water Information Group; its potential programme; and ways in which individuals or their institutions can contribute to the Group. A third key question was provided from the floor: over what time scale should these activities take place?

Participants felt that the Group would be advised to concentrate on providing information to developing countries; should integrate a gender perspective in their approach; and should provide linkages to information users.

The Group could also make a contribution by validating information. However, it is difficult to validate information that comes from different sides of the border in circumstances of conflict. Some countries, for example, related to the Nile conflict, have kept water data secret. The UN system has published public domain information which encouraged transparency of water information. The provision of peer reviewed information, state to state, is very important. The new group could get involved with validation of information.

The idea of 'information for all' could be the catalyst for the new group. So many hurdles are limiting the access to information in developing countries. Although there is access to public domain information, the UN-published information could not necessarily be considered to be public domain because it has to be purchased, making it inaccessible to many people in developing countries.

The skills of the librarian should be applied to the Internet. We are now facing the second information explosion where information is dumped on the Internet. How do we deal with this?

The Water Information Summit has emphasised the importance of web standards by creating a WebRing. This FID Group and the Summit should link their initiatives. The Water WebRing evaluates the quality of pages for an audience of water management professionals. Some 30 good pages have been recognised. One of the criteria for being admitted to the WebRing is that the website has a version which is less technically demanding for users in developing countries. This can even comprise a mirrored service which is easy to download for less advantaged Internet users.

The discussion of the Group's proposed activities should be continued after the meeting, possibly on the IRC website, and should incorporate the interested individuals who were unable to attend the meeting in person. It was suggested that the discussion could be incorporated into an electronic conference currently taking place on knowledge and water on OneWorld. There was, however, a general consensus that this should not be the case and that a separate list should be used. It was felt that an umbrella was needed to shelter all the different water information initiatives, whether they be from the AWRA, IWRA or the WaterWeb Consortium.

The Group could fulfil a much needed role by becoming a network of networks. It could then give advice to all levels (researchers, information users) in the water sector. However, it is important to establish what resources are behind this Group. If a good plan of activities is drawn up, a search for funding should be made to support it. One possible idea would be the creation of an 'information bank'. The ELAND project was seen an interesting example of how organisations can work together to create a gateway. However, it has proved difficult to find funding for this project.

Alliances are important. It would be a good idea to create a discussion with the WaterWeb group, to share the load and to do things together. It is crucial to build on what already exists. Undertaking these different activities is, however, dependent on the will to do this. Without this will, nothing happens. A 'wish list' of different activities should be created and the workload should be shared. As a starting point, it was suggested that the group should co-operate by sharing the work associated with maintaining a large database on organisations. At present, IRC's interWATER guide to organisations directory has 522 entries [<http://irc-nt3/wsscc/interwater/organizations.html>].

The WaterWeb listserv was offered as a place where further discussion could take place in closed discussion group. This discussion should try to answer the questions posed by Nigel Browne in his presentation about the group's potential activities. The group should develop concrete targets, possibly concentrating on the flow of information to NGOs in developing countries, the Internet and CD-ROMs. At present, information in developing countries is very scattered and professionals there do not know where the information they are seeking is to be found locally. South- South co-operation should also be encouraged.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All those who attended the Foundation Meeting of the FID Water Information Special Interest Group were very positive about the initiative to establish this group. The WaterAid representative, Mary O'Connell, although she had to leave the meeting before the end, stated clearly that the initiative has her organisation's support. Likewise, another participant, Ian Pettman of Pettman & Associates, offered his commitment to the group for the subject area of aquatic life and fisheries. It is up to all in the Group to create a critical mass to move things forward. The meeting showed that there is broad general support for the establishment of the FID Water Information Special Interest Group.

At the request of the meeting, the PowerPoint Presentations of the speakers have been made available to all those who attended the meeting. These presentations can be downloaded at: <http://irc-nt3/irc/products/documentation/wisig/presentations.html>. Each presentation is also available as a handout in Acrobat PDF-format, showing 6 sheets per page. For those without Internet access, the presentations can also be sent on disc to interested parties on request.

The most important outcome of the meeting which needs to be addressed as soon as possible is for the group and the interested parties to respond to the three questions posed by Nigel Browne, plus the extra question from the floor on when these activities should take place. It is recommended that these questions be addressed in a closed discussion group on the listserv kindly offered by the representative of the WaterWeb Consortium. This should be effected as soon as possible.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The meeting was closed by Stephen Parker. He thanked the meeting's participants for their contribution to what was a very positive meeting and the Royal Library for allowing the use of their excellent facilities. He looked forward to possible meetings where the group could present its programme, seeing the November Water Information Summit meeting in Florida as a good possibility.

APPENDIX 1 MEETING PROGRAMME

A Joint Vision On Water Information: Foundation Meeting of the FID Water Information Special Interest Group 20 March 2000

Introduction

- 14.00 'Information is like water.' A short welcome and presentation of the International Federation for Information and Documentation (FID)
Mr Stephen Parker, FID
- 14.10 The genesis of the group and the purpose of the meeting.
Mr Nigel Browne, International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC)

Presentations

- 14.15 Roles and responsibilities of professional associations
Mr Kenneth Reid, American Water Resources Association (AWRA) and Dr David M. Moody, Inter-American Water Resources Network (IWRN)
- 14.30 A gender perspective on water information.
Ms Lin Pugh, International Archive for the Women's Movement (IIAV)
- 14.45 Water information for sustainable agriculture: the role of CABI.
Ms Liza Connor, CABI
- 15.00 Tea/coffee
- 15.15 Knowledge networking on the Internet. The experience of the Oneworld Water and Sanitation think tank.
Mr Peter Ballantyne, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)
- 15.30 The Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database Project
Dr Aaron Wolf, Department of Geosciences, Oregon State University
- 15.45 Questions

Water Information Round Table

- 16.00 Introduction to the Water Information Round Table
Nigel Browne
- Participants introduce themselves.
The discussion will focus on:
What should the group achieve? Mission statement.
Potential activities: discussion list; web presence; meetings (FID 2000).
Developing hot issues/themes (content)
Funding: raising funds for joint activities how to arrange participation of those unable to attend the meeting.
Co-operation: IAMSLIC and others; linking to the Oneworld think tank on Water and Sanitation.
Training and transferring of skills.
Leadership of the group.
Membership of the group and FID.
- 17.00-18.00 Reception
-

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International Federation for Information and Documentation

Information in the Service of Society

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~KEY ISSUES IN WATER INFORMATION~

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Preliminary Contents

- **Electronic conferencing and on-line dialogue for development purposes.** Peter Ballantyne (European Centre for Development Policy Management, ECDPM, Netherlands), Darren Saywell (Water Engineering and Development Centre, WEDC, UK) and Dick de Jong (IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, Netherlands)
- **Toward a regional information network: a case study from the Americas.** Karen Klima, Chris Murphy (US EPA), Bob Pierce (USGS), and David W. Moody (Inter-American Water Resources Network, IWRN, USA)
- **Sharing information on know-how in the water sector.** Eric Mino (Euro-Mediterranean Information System, EMWIS Technical Unit, International Water Office, France)
- **Navigating the white-waters of change: the impact of information and communication technologies, ICTs on water organizations.** Faye Anderson (Southern Illinois University, USA)
- **Water Information on the Internet.** Gabriel Eckstein, Wil Burns, Peter Gleick (Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security, USA)
- **The Virtual Library on Environmental Health.** Marta Bryce (WHO-PAHO-CEPIS, Peru)
- **Managing Africa's most precious natural resource.** Martha Pretorius (Water Research Commission, South Africa)
- **Improving the access to water information in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR).** Mazen Malkawi, CEHA (WHO Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities, Jordan)
- **The role of professional associations in collecting and disseminating water-related information.** Nick King (International Water Association, IWA, UK)
- **Using the Web for global water policy making: the design of the World Water Vision Explorer.** Ruud T.C. van der Helm (World Water Vision Project, UNESCO, France), Pieter W.G. Bots and Frank R. Rijsberman (Delft University of Technology, Netherlands)
- **Sources of information on the Lerma Chapala Santiago Basin.** Manuel Guzmán, Andrés Valdez Zepeda, Arroyo Salvador Peniche Camps (Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico)
- **The Transboundary Freshwater Dispute database project: tools and data for evaluating international water conflict.** Shira B. Yoffe, Brian S. Ward, Aaron T. Wolf (Department of Geosciences, Oregon State University, USA)
- **Issues and initiatives emanating from the Water Information Summit (WIS).** Terry Dodge (Center for Environmental Studies, Florida Atlantic University, USA)
- **CABI's role in providing water information for sustainable agriculture.** Liza Connor (CAB International, UK)
- **A gender perspective on water information.** Lin Pugh (International Archive for the Women's Movement, IIAV, Netherlands)



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