

THE INTER-AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES NETWORK

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CO-CHAIR



Formation

- The IWRN was founded in December 1993 after a water meeting in Miami which was later designated Dialogue 1. The IWRN was formed to promote the formulation of water policies and sustainable water management in the Americas

Organizational Structure

- Chair
- Executive Committee
- Advisory Committee

There are now three Co-Chairs

- One from OAS USDE
- One from Brazil-host of Dialogue 4
- One from Jamaica-host of Dialogue 5

New SP drafted and new and more effective structure to be put in place by the end of 2007.

What is the IWRN?

The IWRN is not

- A professional organization
- A NGO
- An international group
- An intergovernmental group

However it includes all the above. Over 30 countries in the hemisphere have appointed national focal points to the IWRN. In addition several institutions including universities and research organizations as well as individuals have become members of the IWRN.

Achievements of IWRN

- The IWRN has sponsored and organized 5 Dialogues and 8 Water Information Summits.
- The sixth Dialogue is far advanced in planning with Guatemala for 11-17 August 2007 with the theme “From Dialogue to Action”
- WIS 9 is underway

Achievements of IWRN

- The Dialogues discussed important and pertinent water issues from Wetlands protection to coping with extreme events through improving water policies and protecting and financing water resources to integrated water resources management (IWRM).
- The Dialogues have covered most if not all the relevant water management issues in the Americas.

Achievements of IWRN

- Produced a directory of water organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Developed a decentralized web site to support information exchange and knowledge sharing; and
- Participated in a substantive way in the World Water Forum meetings with the World Water Council.

Hemispheric and Global Contributions

The IWRN has made recommendations to hemispheric and global summits such as

- the 1996 Santa Cruz de la Sierra Action Plan
- the World Water Vision and
- the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Resources

- All achievements have been done with very limited resources and for the most part “volunteer time” and service in kind provided by member organizations of the IWRN such as the Florida Centre for Environmental Studies (CES) of FAU, UNESCO and the OAS and WRA Jamaica.

Expansion of WRM

- Increasingly water and sanitation issues have become an important part of the global environmental agenda. Increased funding by governments and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), decentralization of services and the empowerment of communities has among others greatly increased the number of participants engaged in water resources management-both national and international

Need for Good Information

- Good and accessible information is the basis for making decisions about water resources. The Water Information Summit provides this opportunity to further share knowledge and information in support of the management of water.

Information Inequality

- There are large inequalities in the access to water and sanitation services across the world. These inequalities have become the focal point for action in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A major plank in the achievement of the goals is ensuring that up to date approaches and appropriate technologies are used. However access to information and knowledge, like water and sanitation, can be a problem and where information is most needed there is no hardware and software for accessing the information.

Effective Methodologies

- It is therefore most important that the IWRN and the WIS derive the simple yet effective methodologies to bring information to where it is needed the most. This will ensure the meeting of the MDGs and the alleviation of poverty.