

**Workshop on Establishing a Global Network
on Water and Development Information for Arid Lands (GWADI)
Paris, 14-15 April 2003**

PARIS DECLARATION

In Paris, 24 participants, drawn from over 18 countries, representing water authorities and institutions related to arid zones: UNESCO, FAO, WMO, IAEA, OSS, IAH, ESA, Programme SudMed, IRD-HSM, met, discussed and outlined an appropriate framework for co-operation in the establishment of a Global Network on "Water and Development Information for Arid Lands (GWADI)".

The participants noted:

- The global awareness of challenges related to water and the need for action on global, regional and local levels, addressed in the Ministerial Declarations of The Hague (March 2000), the Dublin+10 Conference (Bonn, November 2001) and Kyoto (March 2003).
- The targets and recommendations set by the Millenium Development Goals and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, September 2002).
- The UNESCO emphasis on freshwater as a principal priority of the Science Sector with Water Resources Management in Arid Zones to be given particular attention.
- The decision of the IHP's Intergovernmental Council to establish a global network on Water resources management in arid and semi-arid zones which was supported by the Technical Advisory Board of the IHP.

Resulting from an intensive and interactive process, the participants:

- 1 **Underline** the urgent need for increased regional and international co-operation contributing to sustainable development of arid and semi-arid zones, by establishing a Global Network on "Water and Development Information for Arid Lands (GWADI)";
- 2 **Declare** their firm intention to contribute to the establishment of GWADI including its secretariat and nodes and to take active part in realizing its objectives annexed to this declaration;
- 3 **Commit** themselves to generate initiatives to achieve national and international support for the development and sustainability of the Network, whenever appropriate;
- 4 **Call upon** IHP secretariat, UNESCO, related centers, and relevant regional and international centers to further develop this WADI initiative, in close co-operation with partner-institutions in the world;

- 5 **Request** IHP Bureau to recommend to the IHP Council to accept and endorse this initiative as one of the capacity building activities under the IHP-VI and beyond;
- 6 **Request** UNESCO Secretariat to call upon national, regional, international (ICSU), non-governmental and UN organisations (FAO, IAEA and WMO and relevant international conventions), and donors (GEF, World Bank, EU) to support this initiative.

Participants furthermore express that:

May this day be marked as significant step forward on the road for sustainable social and economic development of water resources in arid and semi-arid zones for the benefit of all its people.

Name	Institution	Signature
Howard S. Wheeler	Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering Imperial College UK	
Mike Edmunds	Oxford Centre for Water Research University of Oxford UK	
Soroosh Sorooshian	Centre for Sustainability of Semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA) Department of Hydrology and Water Resources University of Arizona U.S.A	
Gary Woodard	Centre for Sustainability of Semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA) Department of Hydrology and Water Resources University of Arizona U.S.A	
Donald Gabriels	Department of Soil Management	

and Soil Care
Ghent University
Belgium

Guido Soto

CAZALAC
La Serena
Chile

Cheikh Gaye

International Atomic Energy
Agency (IAEA)
Vienna
Austria

Reza Ardakanian

Director
Regional Center for Urban
Water Management
Tehran
Iran

Dalal Alnaggar

Director
Regional Center for Training
and Water Studies of
Arid and Semi-arid Zones
Cairo
Egypt

Andrew Herczeg

CSIRO
Urrbrae
Australia

Xin Li

Cold and Arid Regions
Environmental
and Engineering Research
Institute
Lanzhou
China

Radwan Al-Weshah

UNESCO Cairo Office
Cairo
Egypt

Mohamed Abdulrazzak

Director
UNESCO Cairo Office
Cairo
Egypt

Ian Simmers	International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) Amstelveen The Netherlands
K.D. Sharma	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (ICAR) Hydrabad India
Abdelguani Chehbouni	Programme SudMed (CESBIO/IRD -UCAM-ORMVAH-DREF-DRH) Marrakech Maroc
Ines Beernaerts	FAO Agriculture Department Rome Italy
Jan Willem Foppen	IHE Delft Delft The Netherlands
Wafa Essahli	Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS) Tunis Tunisie
Christian Leduc Montpellier	IRD – UMR HydroSciences France
Josef Aschbacher	European Space Agency Paris France
Tommaso Abrate	WMO Hydrology and Water Resources Dept. Geneva Switzerland
Eberhard Braune	WAA Department of Water Affairs and Forestry Pretoria

South Africa

Abdin Salih

Director, UNESCO Tehran Office

Alice Aureli

Programme Specialist, SC/HYD

Alberto-Tejada Guibert

Deputy Secretary IHP a.i.

Mike Bonell

Programme Specialist, SC/HYD

Annukka Lipponen

Young Professional Officer, SC/HYD