



International
Water Association



Annual Review 2010

Looking back at 2010 – looking forward to 2011

IWA Programmes

The work and activities of our members, whether through Specialist Groups, Task Groups or conferences, is complemented by a series of strategic programmes supported by the IWA International Secretariat. These are designed to engage IWA's membership and the water sector on subjects critical to the sector's wider development.



Cities of the Future

The IWA Cities of the Future Programme represents an acknowledgement by leaders in the water community that the current techniques used most predominately for water supply, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management do not reflect the growing realities of a changing global context. Human population growth, climate change, rising incomes, and increased urbanisation are colliding with resource limits to create an imperative for change in both the developing and developed regions.

Cities of the Future takes an integrated approach to recognise that water is at the center of life. Most major impacts that humans will directly experience from climate change are water-based: increased flooding, increased drought, and increased sea levels. In a City of the Future context, land planners, land development entities and water utilities will make informed choices that use and reuse water most efficiently while protecting source and receiving waters. In some cases institutions may need to adapt their regulations, policies, and standards to facilitate a range of new techniques and the introduction of new technologies. Whether public or private, investors in new infrastructure will fund efficient solutions that do the best job of minimising energy, water, and resource

use. Working together, engineers, architects, and land planners will need to adopt cross-disciplinary approaches to the systems they design.

Through the Cities of the Future Programme, IWA is developing approaches that can guide cities and utilities globally. It is a component of an emerging paradigm that considers infrastructure services and land use choices in an integrated fashion. This multidisciplinary approach is underway in leading edge projects throughout the world but typically remains an ad hoc approach tied to unique local interests and idiosyncrasies.

During the past year, a number of seminars and workshops have been held to disseminate knowledge, enable cooperation and engage involvements of relevant experts and partners. Achievements over the twelve months include:

- White papers and case studies - The programme has taken the lead in developing white papers on framework and footprint, integrated treatment technologies, spatial planning and institutional reforms. These white papers will be used as authoritative reports or guides to address urban issues and provide latest knowledge on

integrated tools that will help city authorities and planners make decisions. Case study criteria have been developed to allow the collection and description of good examples of urban design and management.

- Cities of the Future articles in *Water 21* - A series of Cities of the Future articles have been published to share innovative knowledge and examples of practices of how cities could respond to changing circumstances.
- The Cities of the Future workshop at the Montreal World Water Congress has been developed through a broad based, participatory approach that incorporated the best practices and the best thinking of water professionals, city planners, architects, developers, academics and activists around the world. The workshop engaged various leaders to participate in the six sessions and share their insights as well as leverage the information presented in their work.
- Partnership - IWA has worked with the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP) to discuss cooperation between the two organisations under the Cities of the

Future programme. Both IWA and IFHP aim to exchange knowledge on the broad spectrum of issues related to urban planning. One of the outcomes is to co-organise the Cities of the Future conference with other associations in Stockholm 2011 where sustainable urban planning and water management will be highlighted.

Managing Utilities and Their Assets

The IWA Utilities Programme aims to provide a platform to focus on the real world challenges of managing utilities and their assets. By fostering a network of the leading utilities in the world, IWA members are able to leverage off the collective know-how of utilities who share the common challenge of providing sustainable water and wastewater services to their customers in an evolving environment.

2010 was an exciting year with the IWA Utility Conference held in Barcelona, Spain supported by Agbar. The scope of the conference was expanded from customer communications to key aspects of utility management such as financing, regulations and workforce development. The conference was well received by participants with feedback describing it as 'an inspirational conference'.

Turkish Cities of the Future programme

The Turkish Ministry of the Environment and Forestry and the International Water Association have agreed to cooperate over a three year period to implement IWA's Cities of the Future programme with three partner cities Istanbul, Kayseri, and Trabzon which each have unique opportunities and needs that align with the Cities of the Future approach. This cooperation will link Turkish university expertise with IWA experts from around the world who will volunteer their expertise to create a model of an integrated approach to infrastructure investments consistent with the Cities of the Future paradigm. Through participation in Cities of the Future, Turkish university scholars will be building enhanced capacity in their roles as technology advisors to city and central government ministries and this enhanced capacity can be then translated throughout all of Turkey's cities.