



NEWSLETTER

African Water Association (AfWA)

UNDER A MICROSCOPE

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MISSION NOTEBOOK

CAPE TOWN, a city located at the southern foreland of Africa on the South-African soil, is a charming place favourable for reflexion. From last April 26th to 30th 2009, more than three hundred (300) delegates from the International Water Association (IWA) and the African Water Association (AfWA) from more than sixty (60) African countries and the rest of the world were gathered to deal with Non-Revenue Water related issues. The interest of this high level meeting constituted of the IWA working group on Non-Revenue Water (NRW) was to make an assessment on the new technologies in

that regard, especially as regards water leakages on the one hand, and the control of the proper management system of Non-Revenue Water on the other hand. Striking proposals from participants helped to draft framework resolutions we shall publish in the future.

Outside this important workshop on the Non-Revenue Water issue which represents one of the most burning questions of the time, the AfWA representatives held several meetings with some partners of the Association.

■ The first meeting dealt with the statement of progress for the establishment of the African Water Academy. That meeting, held with the official partner of the Academy, i.e. the World Bank Institute and before the three selected consultants, aimed at getting in touch with the consultants and especially discuss with them on the terms of reference of their missions as regards the establishment of the African Water Academy. A stage report shall be made during the EB and STC meetings scheduled in July in Ouagadougou.

■ As for the second meeting, it dealt with the « Water Safety Plans » and was organised by the UN-HABITAT, GWOPA and CAPnet. The IWA, Agua from Portugal, Rand Water, WOP-Africa/AfWA, and ESCWA took part in that meeting which objective was the implementation of the capacity building programme as regards the Water Safety Plans. This issue is one of the most important ones of the sector to which there is a need to bring an efficient and sustainable solution especially as regards Risks Management related to water safety from the catchments to the provision to customers. Two commissions were consequently created in that effect: the first commission to bring technical solutions and the second one, to sensitize water utilities' Managing Directors for a global consideration of that notion within their management principles. A workshop shall be proposed during the next Executive Board meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

■ The Secretary -General of the African Water Association also held a joint meeting with an International Water Association (IWA) delegation and ESAR-IWA one. This approach aimed at coordinating the participation of these two partners in the next Congress of the African Water Association in Kampala, especially in the technical sessions organisation aspect. The NWSC's MD Mr William Muhairwe, organiser of the 2010 KAMPALA CONGRESS and Mrs Jean NGUBANE, Rand Water Chairwoman of the Board and AfWA Executive Board representative to the NWSC as regards the organisation of the Kampala 2010 Congress, took part in that meeting.

■ The Secretary -General of the African Water Association also held a working session with the World Bank Institute (WBI) consultant, Mr Jan Janssens in order to lay the foundations of the future collaboration convention - the second one of the kind-between the said Association and the World Bank Institute. The convention in development progress is related to the funding by the Bank of the organisation of workshops or seminars on Non-Revenue Water and contractualization, Water Safety Plans (WSPs) and should go from 2009 to 2012.

■ During his stay in Cape Town, the Secretary -General and the AfWA Vice President for the Southern Region of Africa dealt with an important delegation from the Israeli Company MIYA, worldwide leader in the management of Non-Revenue Water. After making a presentation of the AfWA to his host, Mr USHER expressed his hope to see both organisations collaborating. Interested in the objectives and action of the AfWA, the MIYA officials expressed their will to positively reply to the invitation since their ambition is to act fully in that sector on the African continent. An affair worth following.

WOP-Africa : from 50 to 5 applicants to pilot the Programme

■ The selection of the WOP-Africa Programme coordinator will be made soon. According to some information, the selection committee that held a meeting in Cape Town in order to draw a "short list" of applicants is working hard to organise the last stage,

i.e. the interview scheduled one May 22nd 2009 in Kenya. It is worth mentioning that 50 candidates applied for this position and only 5 were selected.

■ Let's note that the USAID and UN-HABITAT gave their

final agreement for the funding of the WOP-Africa Secretariat.

■ The meeting of the WOP-Africa Programme will be held on May 23rd in Nairobi, Kenya.