

AfWA's DAY - STC - EB - OGA:

## Abidjan sheltered the first 2009 Statutory meetings of the African Water Association



**A**bidjan, the economic capital city of Côte d'Ivoire, sheltered the first 2009 meetings of the African Water Association from last February 23rd to 27th 2009. The whole event started with the opening ceremony presided over by the Ivorian

Ministry of Economic Infrastructures, Mr Patrick ACHI, sponsor of the event and who was accompanied by an important delegation of the Ivorian Administration, thus showing the interest and support of the Ivorian government led by Prime Minister SORO

Guillaume and President Laurent GBAGBO. As usual, these meetings included the AfWA's Day, the STC (Scientific and Technical Council) and EB (Executive Board) meetings followed by the Association's Ordinary General Assembly (OGA) which closed them. The main theme selected was: «Information systems and management of the water and sanitation utilities in Africa: indispensable tools for improving service performances». The working days of SODECI's hosts were filled with several works as well as conferences, with a stroll on the lagoon and a tourist technical visit in the Ivorian political capital city Yamoussoukro. More details in the next issue of the AfWA News.

### WORDS FROM ...

● «Considering the assessment of the previous year as a positive one is to acknowledge that we still have many challenges to face ».

Mr Abdelazi ZEROUALI, President of the Scientific and Technical Council

● «Water being not only the millennium challenge but also the next hazard outside the one of oil, it is absolute to effectively reduce the cost of production». Mr Etienne MBAKOP, SOPAL Manager Francophone Africa

● «Once again we are gathered to deal with the most important object in the world that quenches one's thirst, improves living standards; in short something that represents life itself. Never a product has raised such an interest worldwide, and even oil that regulates the world economy does not have such an importance in our daily life. Unfortunately, not everybody can access that commodity ». Mr Basile EBAH, SODECI Managing Director.

### “INSIDE THE WORLD OF THE WATER METER MANUFACTURERS»

**T**he Abidjan meetings were an opportunity for a few water meter manufacturers to present their know how in that field to the public during the AfWA Days. These manufacturers are: AC-TARIS, SENSUS, SOPAL and SAPPEL. The exhibited materials and explanations from the sector professionals gave an idea of the importance of the water meters in the global system of the water management and distribution. This importance can be expressed through the interdependence of sector's functioning needs among themselves: «Without water me-



ters, no bills. Without bills, no money. And without money, no war: the war of ones ambitions, the war for development, etc. ». As a result of its own technological researches, each one of these companies has a

whole range of last generation products that can bring adequate solutions to the recurrent issues of water leakages, theft and meter jamming, fraud, etc. existing in the sector. More in the next issue.