

20 08

Activity Report



« We would do more things if we thought less impossible »

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An On-going Vision

By Mr. JEAN-BOSCO BAZIÉ

Associate Secretary General for Africa

In line with its founding vision, the ISW continued its lobbying, information, mobilisation and networking actions in 2008 among citizens and institutions from the four corners of the world, translating commitments into action and helping to make access to water and sanitation for all a reality.

Well aware of the objective limitations of institutional cooperation, 2008 was a turning point for bringing the value of citizens' contributions to the fore as the cement for strong and productive institutional cooperation. Thus, several initiatives were supported and led in Africa, in Central Asia, North America and in Central and Eastern Europe, in partnership with thousands of supporters whether they be individuals, institutions or government, overcoming the ideological barriers so often erected as an excuse for not taking action.

Twenty years after the creation of the ISW in 1990, the dramatic situation regarding access to water and sanitation in the world only strengthens our conviction: there is no question of giving up until all human beings have clean water to drink and an adequate sanitation system.



The ISW will continue to exercise its duty and its right to mobilise the public and to call on all citizens as well as on the political, technical and financial decision makers to work together, to share ideas and know-how to show that access to water and sanitation for all is within our reach providing we want to do something about it!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "mbj".



Le droit à l'eau
The right to water
El derecho al agua
Das Recht aufs Wasser

The International Secretary for Water

The ISW is an international non-governmental organisation created in 1990 in the context of the decade for drinking water and sanitation.

Based in Montreal, the ISW's objective is to facilitate the application of the four principles of the Montreal Charter on drinking water and sanitation:

- Access to water and sanitation is first and foremost a policy issue,
- All action taken in the field of water must be designed with the support of the populations concerned,
- Access to water must be integrated into an overall development approach,
- All water related programmes must include the education and training of the populations.

Our mission

To take action to promote access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation for the poorest, while contributing to meet their other basic needs; and to address the impact of climate change,

To support the capacity of local populations and their partners to choose appropriate solutions (technical, human, financial, type of management etc.),

To blend "bottom up" and "top down" approaches aiming at application and innovation in the decentralisation of political choices and financing mechanisms.

Our Know-How

The ISW has developed considerable know-how in the water sector encompassing:

- Supporting capacity development among local populations;
- Finding synergies and building capacities as regards institutions,
- Awareness-raising and information campaigns that place integrated water resource management by hydrographical basin at the heart of sustainable and equitable development,
- Optimising regional alliances and supporting global networks,
- Communication and organisation of events associated with lobbying actions.

The People

The Team

Danielle Audet • Administration Manager

Barbara Avila • Project Manager

Jean Bosco Bazié • Associate Secretary General for Africa

Julie Charron • Communications Officer

Marie-Joëlle Fluet • Project Manager

Raymond Jost • Secretary General

Olivier Normand • Central Asia Director

Marianne Strauss • Programme Coordinator

In Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, 17 people

The Board

Chaired by Mr. Roger Lanoue



Central Asia...

A year of transition

The Ferghana valley, a large closed catchment of around 70 000 km², surrounded by mountain ranges, is one of the most densely populated regions in Central Asia, with 11 million inhabitants. It is shared between Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

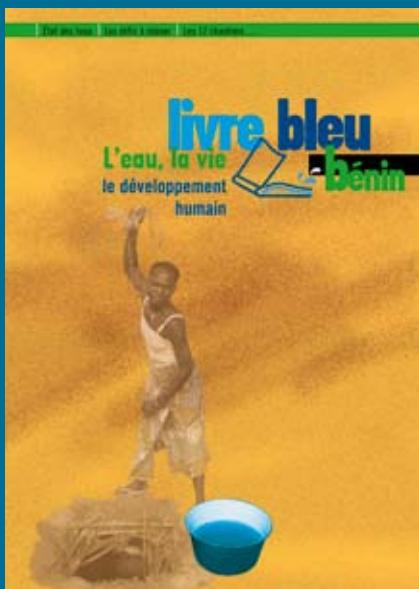


A large proportion of the population lacks access to both safe drinking water and basic sanitation. This is why, in 1998, the ISW in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and Novib, decided to work in this area of the world with a view to helping to create and strengthen civil society organisations while offering the rural populations a community-based management approach for this precious resource.

Today, the water supply project touches 28 villages and has markedly improved the living conditions for more than 80 000 people who have also benefited from hygiene education actions.

Drawing on the lessons learned and the results obtained during the past ten years, 2008 was a year of evaluation, discussions and negotiations involving the teams in the field, regional, national and local authorities, government departments and international donors. This led to general agreement that this action should be continued, and an action plan has been drawn up to enable services to reach even more people.

The Blue Books



The Blue Book is a document written by and for water and sanitation sector stakeholders on a regional or country level. It provides an independent measurement of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation and provides an objective view of sector policy and strategy. The Blue Book provides suggestions and a platform for action, with a view to providing equitable and sustainable access to water and sanitation for all. Each Blue Book is now supported by a steering committee that has appropriated the approach and guarantees its successful implementation.

In Africa,

2008 was a year in which the three countries who already have their own Blue Book ([Burkina Faso](#), [Mali](#), [Niger](#)) to take ownership of it, disseminate it and organise discussions among the different stakeholders. The Blue Book for [Benin](#) was finalised and that for [Senegal](#) has made good progress.

In [Niger](#), following the publication of the Blue Book, joint deliberations involving 12 communes enabled water and sanitation services to be set up and the notion of “project portfolio” advanced. This approach also confirms that if the decentralisation of political decision-making is not accompanied by a decentralisation of financial resources, it will not have any impact on improving living conditions.

In Latin America,

and more particularly in [Peru](#), a provisional national steering committee has been created and the initial data and information needed to produce a Blue Book have been gathered. Other countries in Central America have shown an interest.

In Central and Eastern Europe

([Bulgaria](#), [Moldova](#) and [Romania](#)), where we have led discussions on the right to water and sanitation, a certain number of partners are looking into the pertinence of adapting a Blue Book approach to their context.

The Blue Book International Steering Committee met twice during the past year.

2008, a year of lobbying

The Appeal of Professor Hippopotamus



Having appraised the results of the work carried out in the context of the “Shared Vision” process of the Niger river basin coordinated by the Niger River basin Authority (NBA), the Professor emeritus Hippopotamus, a descendant of the dynasty of “Sages”, felt it judicious to consult his peers. In light of the immense challenge that is the integrated management of the river and its basin in the short, medium and long term, the Professor took the initiative of forming a special class made up of representatives of the NBA member states (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger and Nigeria), technical and financial partners, as well as representatives of the users and civil society. Following an intensive session of classes, the Professor set them an exam, made up of 7 subjects.:

- Political Will and Financial Support
- Institutional Reform
- Theoretical and practical planning and programming
- Infrastructure scenarios
- Impact Studies
- Donors’ Cooperation
- User Participation

His verdict :

On an individual basis, the majority of the students could move up to the next level and thus go out into the world. However, as a group, the choice of river development scenarios needs some adjustment. This should consist in in-depth consideration of the negative impacts of the scenarios and compensatory and corrective measures to be set in place.

The Appeal of Professor Hippopotamus was presented in Niamey at the meeting of Heads of State in April 2008.



OCTOBER 2008

XII^e SOMMET DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

QUÉBEC

APPEAL TO HEADS OF STATE

Making a Splash at the XIIth Francophonie Summit

Using the “butterfly effect” and the presence of 300 butterflies as a symbol of sustainable and fair international development, the ISW and its partners proposed to the heads of state and the decision-makers present at the Francophonie Summit (October 2008), that priority be given to international citizenship and cooperation and that we dedicate 1% of our overseas development assistance to this type of initiative.

The citizen-led international cooperation means:

- Initiatives taken by citizens who decide to directly support the populations of other countries without passing through intermediaries.
- Cooperation that places human beings at the centre of actions.
- A vision, a sharing of values and joint commitments.
- The respect of rights and the recognition of the duties that stem from them.
- The appropriation of projects by the beneficiaries in order to ensure their sustainability.
- Mutual enrichment based on the sharing of experiences and knowledge.
- The creation of ties of solidarity that overcome differences in age, gender, social status and culture.



International «Water and Film » Events



De Mexico 2006 vers Istanbul 2009

The first International “Water and Film” Events (IWFE) were held in Mexico in March 2006 during the 4th World Water Forum. This was a joint initiative between the International Secretariat for Water and the French Water Academy with the collaboration of the World Water Council (WWC), the CONAGUA, the Cineteca Nacional of Mexico and with the support of bilateral and multilateral institutions.



The objectives led by IWFE were to provide a complement to the World Water Forum programme, to inform and raise the awareness of the general public regarding water management, and to highlight and promote the production of audiovisual material on the theme of water and to enrich image banks.

Based on the success of Mexico, of our contribution to the International Expo Zaragoza, and in order to respond to increasing demand, the 2nd International “Water and Film” Events will be held in Istanbul in March 2009. The central theme is “Water, People and Sustainable Development”.

The categories are:

- clips of less than 90 seconds for young people aged between 17 and 30.
- films of less than 60 minutes (documentaries, animated films, works of fiction)
- Scientific and educational films

Three special prizes will also be awarded:

- The “Climate Change” Prize,
- The “WASH water supply, sanitation and hygiene” Prize,
- The “Personal Stories” Prize

In November 2008, the 2nd International “Water and Film” Events were officially launched at the Water Pavilion in Paris. Among the guests were His Excellency Mr. Homero Aridjis Fuentes, Ambassador of Mexico, and His Excellency Mr. Ali Tuygan, Ambassador of Turkey, both representatives of their country at the UNESCO. Upon this occasion, Mr. Eric Orsena, member of the French Academy and State Councillor, shared his thoughts on the theme of “Water, Film, Culture and Knowledge”. The event also provided the opportunity to officially introduce the international jury, chaired by Mrs. Hülya Uçansu, former Director of the Istanbul international film festival.

Also in 2008, films from around the world were selected from which the final selection will be made in Istanbul.

Sages for Water



Les Sages pour l'Eau
Sages for Water
Los Sabios del Agua

The status of “Sage for Water” was formalised in the context of the sessions that were held in the Citizens’ House for Water at the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto in 2003. The “Sages for Water” express their views as citizens, as individuals and/or on behalf of other stakeholders. They fight for fair access to water for all, disseminate their knowledge and pursue objectives for change.

These changes concern the improvement of living conditions for the populations, changes in mentalities, behaviour, institutions, access to funding etc.

In 2008, the ISW mobilised its “Sages for Water” around different themes, most of which will be discussed during the 5th World Water Forum (Istanbul, March 2009).

These are:

- Citizen-led monitoring and the tools available
- The involvement of local elected officials (parliamentarians and local councillors), a prerequisite for sustainable and fair management of the shared resource that is water
- The participation of citizens in the integrated and cross-border management of water – myth or reality?
- International citizenship and cooperation: young people show their initiative
- Decentralised financing and services: from words to action
- Climate change and water: when victims become the source of solutions
- The global financial crisis and its repercussions on solidarity mechanisms (international cooperation)



Youth Activities





A Celebration of Lakes and Rivers



Water a source of solidarity among citizens: from local to global

A Celebration of Lakes and Rivers, a project launched in 2006 by the International Secretariat for Water, is intended to encourage young people to take part in actions to protect and promote the lakes and rivers in Quebec and to understand more about international cooperation. It seeks to raise their awareness of problems relating to access to water and sanitation in developing countries and to motivate them to undertake specific actions of international solidarity.

In 2008, for the second edition of the project, five new colleges in Quebec took part in the activities. The participants, in collaboration with the regional basin organisations and the college principals, drew up an action plan which they carried out during the year. Each group in Quebec was twinned with young people in a developing

country who were also interested in the problems they faced at home. A representative of each of the new groups came to Quebec in order to meet young people from here and to share the results of their actions.

The young people participated in the activities of 7 to 9 May 2008 which were held in the Biosphere and at the Quebec National Assembly. It was also the occasion for the young people to officially submit their action plans.

Festival VidéEau

Are you aged between 17 and 30?

The FESTIVAL VIDÉEAU

invites you to submit a video of 90 seconds or less on the theme: **Water, People and Sustainable Development**

1st Prize: 2000\$US 2nd Prize: 1500\$US 3rd Prize: 1000\$US

Register at www.SIE-ISW.org Deadline: 15 June 2008

Sponsors and partners logos:

- SIE-ISW-SIA
- Lac d'Amiens en Féte
- ReGeneration 2008
- Québec 2008
- PIRDON
- RIEC-IWFE
- Agence canadienne de développement international
- Canadian International Development Agency

Since 2007, the ISW organises the Festival VidéEau, a video clip competition for young people aged between 17 and 30 and for which they must formulate a message on water. These video clips aim to raise public awareness and understanding of water related issues.

The 2008 edition, with the theme "Water, People and Sustainable Development" received more than 80 clips of less than 90 seconds from the four corners of the planet.

The competition ended in August with the prize giving during the opening ceremony of the 4th World Youth Congress in Quebec before more than 600 young people from around the world, representatives of international organisations and government representatives including Canada's Governor General, Her Excellency Michaëlle Jean.

The winners of the Festival VidéEau were selected for the official competition of the International "Water and Film" Events to be held in Istanbul in March 2009 during the 5th World Water Forum.

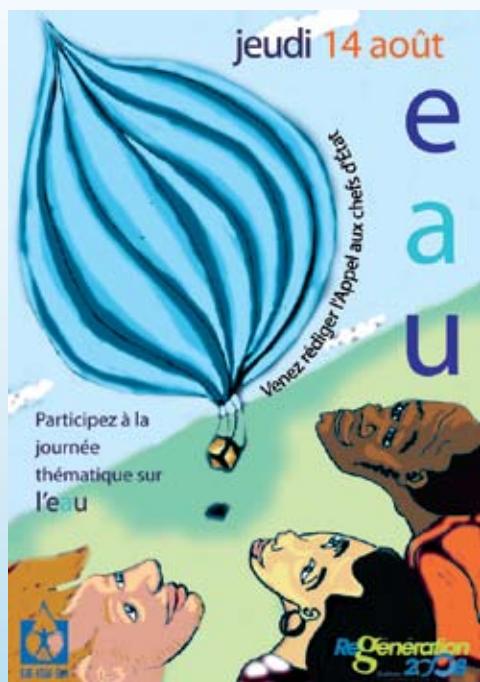
4th World Youth Congress

The ISW was entrusted with the mission of organising a thematic day on water in the context of the 4th World Youth Congress in Quebec. The day was held on 14 August 2008 on the campus of Laval University.



The day was divided into three parts

- A meeting with water sector experts and partners and collaborators of the ISW to discuss experiences from Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Moldova, Peru, Quebec and Togo
- Round tables were led by young people from around the world to share their involvement on water issues with Quebec participants in a Celebration of Lakes and Rivers
- A workshop during which discussions were held on international citizenship and cooperation as well as the drafting of the Appeal to Heads of State.



Pan Canadian Conference Tour

In the context of the Canadian International Development Agency's public engagement programme, the ISW organised, in Autumn 2008, an awareness-raising tour on water and sanitation issues prevalent mainly in developing countries but also in Canada.

This conference tour, with the theme "Water a source of solidarity among citizens: from local to global", mainly targeted college students. The tour will come to a close in February 2009 and will visit 13 colleges in Quebec and 10 colleges and universities in the rest of Canada, British Columbia and Newfoundland.

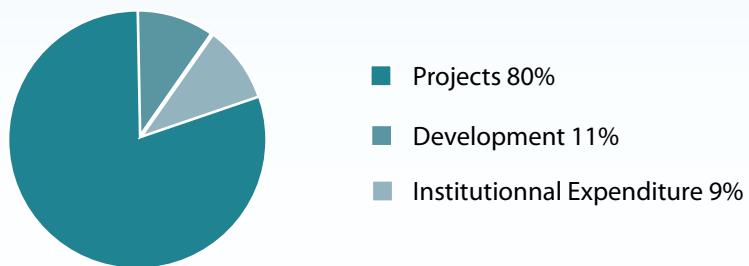


Financing

In 2008, the overall budget was 2 170 000 Canadian dollars. There are many different funding sources which vary from year to year:

- Canada, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Quebec and Switzerland,
- International organisations and associations,
- Water users, the private sector and foundations.

Breakdown of expenditures



Incomes by sector



Partners

Since its creation in 1990, the ISW has taken a cross-sector approach that brings together all sorts of skills sets and which transcends ideological differences. From the outset it developed partnerships with people, groups, organisations and institutions involved in projects of international solidarity and/or cooperation.

In Quebec and Canada

ACDI
Ailes de l'Espérance
Assemblée nationale du Québec
Association des Collèges Communautaires du Canada
Biosphère
Les CÉGEP
CRDI
ENvironnement JEUnesse
FAQDD
MDDEP
MRI
ROBVQ
Ouranos
Secrétariat à la Jeunesse

Around the World

AFD
ALMAE
AESN
Barefoot College
CCAEA
CONAGUA
CME
Confédération Suisse
Eau Vive
Esperanza Agua y Vida
GWP
2IE
HYDROCONSEIL
IGD
IEPF
OCDE
Oxfam-N(o)vib
PNUD
Protos
pS-Eau
RADI
REDES
République Française
RIOB
SEE
Suez-Environnement
UNESCO-IHE
UNICEF
Veolia
WBI





SIE-ISW-SIA

The International Secretariat for Water
Le Secrétariat international de l'eau
El secretariado internacional del agua

7 de la Commune West • office 203
Montreal • Quebec
H2Y 2C5

T. + 1 514 849 4262
F. + 1 514 849 2822

www.sie-isw.org

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