

## INITIAL SESSION PROPOSALS

### Proposal for Session 1, Topic 6.3 - Using the Assets of Professional Associations and Networks to Strengthen the Water Sector

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| <b>Broader Issue/Context</b>   | Professional associations (operating nationally, regionally or internationally), alongside other communities of practice possess large potential to impact the science, practice and policy of sustainable water and sanitation management.  |
| <b>Key Question</b>  | How can professional associations and networks be used, encouraged and supported to become a key contributor to the achievement of the MDGs? What are the specific constraints and obstacles that are faced in engaging these stakeholders, and what examples exist illustrating successful cases of engagement in support of the MDGs.  |
| <b>Session Development Description/ Outline</b>                        | <p>Professional associations and other professional networks have a transformative potential in the water sector, affecting the science and practice of water management, and influencing the direction of policy initiatives.</p> <p>Whilst the role of associations and project based networks has been well documented in more developed regions, in low / middle income economies these platforms tend to vary markedly in maturity and quality. The ensuing consequence on capacity development, retention of knowledge and experience in the sector, good science and informed policy is significant; a factor which is constraining the pace and magnitude of change and coverage of basic service provision.</p> <p>This session engages participants in a debate which will include discussion on 1) consensus on the constraints and opportunities of professional association and network development, 2) case studies and examples of professional association engagement, influence and impact on policy, practice and science. A call for interest and solicitation of additional examples will be sought.</p> <p>The goal of this session will be to identify common elements and challenges for associations and network in working more closely on the MDGs. This will be the impetus for a panel discussion which will formulate practical guidance on better local level engagement and integration of professional associations and project based networks with local development processes. A summary report and call to action will be prepared.</p> <p>Proposed session structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment of the key obstacles to larger scale involvement of professional associations and networks in addressing pressing global water challenges.</li> <li>- Directing the capabilities of leading professional associations and networks to support the formation of regional, national and local professional associations and networks in lower and middle income countries</li> <li>- Development of a means of globally monitoring the state of "professional infrastructure" through professional associations</li> </ul> |
| <b>(Types of ) Organizations to be involved in session development</b> | <p>Decision makers, professionals, academics, educators and researchers are amongst the stakeholders and they would be directly engaged in the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International Agencies: UNESCO, ICSU, FIDIC, UN Water Decade</li> <li>- National Governments (Min. of science, public works)</li> <li>- Professional Association(s) : IWALC ( members), overlap bodies AGU</li> <li>- Professional Networks: CAPNET, NBCBN_RE, etc...</li> <li>- Multilateral donors: World Bank, AFDB, ADB</li> <li>- Related national organisations, NGOs and local civil society.</li> </ul>   |



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| <b>What is being bridged here?</b>                          | The gap in using professional associations' role in addressing global water issues; organizational and professional capacity building gaps, knowledge gaps, communication gaps   |
| <b>Next steps and timeline</b>                              | <p>The architecture for the session will be finalized by the organizing parties. A call for interest and cases will be circulated to leading associations and networks to identify commonalities across regions, and examples of impact in supporting MDG processes locally.</p> <p>The session organizers will work with contributors to develop an interactive session that will support diversity of experiences and cases, and prompt a wider debate on the subject. Outcomes for the session report will be identified and examples of best practice for use elsewhere in the Forum will be collated.</p> |
| <b>Contact information for coordination of this session</b> | <p><b>Name:</b> Dr. F. Yazdandoost and Dr Darren Saywell</p> <p><b>Organisation:</b> K.N. Toosi University of Technology &amp; International Water Association</p> <p><b>Country:</b> Iran, UK</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:yazdandoost@kntu.ac.ir">yazdandoost@kntu.ac.ir</a> and <a href="mailto:darren.saywell@iwahq.org">darren.saywell@iwahq.org</a></p> <p><b>Tel:</b> +98(0)21 88779473-5 and +31 61 59 03 152</p>   |

## INITIAL SESSION PROPOSALS

### Proposal for Session 2, Topic 6.3 - Using the Assets of Professional Associations and Networks to Strengthen the Water Sector

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| <b>Broader Issue/Context</b>   | Professional water associations, particularly those that are science and multi-disciplinary based, and project-based networks can play a unique facilitating role in improving societal management of water resources in developing regions and focusing efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.  |
| <b>Key Question</b>  | How can professional associations and project-based networks productively collaborate to build communities of practice that effectively enhance the capacity to strengthen water institutions and overall governance? What specific efforts and initiatives can make a difference in building up sustainable professional associations and communities of practice for project-based networks that address pressing water challenges over time in concert with local conditions and needs?  |
| <b>Session Development Description/ Outline</b>                        | <p>Water associations and project-based networks play key roles in influencing water management outcomes and in the professionalization of both the water decision-makers and decision-making processes. In some developing regions, formation of professional associations and networks is lagging and this gap affects the achievement of integrated water resources management and the broader set of Millennium Development Goals. Sustainable associations and networks are critical in generating the dialogues, information analysis, and experience sharing needed to support water management outcomes that are 1) more transparent and accountable, 2) informed by good science, and 3) inclusive of diverse stakeholder inputs. Investments in human capacity are needed to build this professional association and networking infrastructure, and adequate development agency support could speed these processes up.</p> <p>Professional associations and networks can actively engage capacity building across regions and sectors by sharing their institutional expertise through dialogues and by actively mentoring emerging associations and networks. Cross-sector communications and diverse stakeholder involvement in communities of practice have been successful in supporting processes that can address water challenges effectively over time.</p> <p>This session engages participants in dialogue on ways to build sustainable communities of practice. Case studies will include discussion of 1) AWRA's Policy Dialogues bringing diverse stakeholders together over a period of years in the United States to discuss water management challenges and make recommendations on needed policy changes, 2) GEF's International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW-LEARN) facilitating structured learning and real-time experience and dialogues among parliamentarians, and 3) UNESCO-GEF-IGRAC networking as a community of practice on groundwater in the Africa region as examples of good practices that can be replicated across professional associations and networks. Additional examples will be solicited.</p> <p>The goal of this session will be to identify practices that can develop successful cross-regional and cultural partnerships for capacity building and learning where professional associations and networks take an active role improving the capacity of water resource professionals to develop stronger institutions, improve governance, and increase their professional effectiveness over time. A Summary Report on key cases, financing alternatives, and good practices will be prepared.</p> |
| <b>(Types of ) Organizations to be involved in session development</b> | American Water Resources Association (AWRA), Global Environment Facility (GEF) IW-LEARN, UNESCO-IHP (IGRAC), Brazilian Water Resources Association (ABRH), and Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Agua y Saneamiento (ANEAS).   |



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| <b>What is being bridged here?</b>                          | Organizational and professional capacity building gaps, Knowledge gaps, Communication gaps, Stakeholder gaps, and gaps in Learning needed for decision-making.   |
| <b>Next steps and timeline</b>                              | Case studies will be written with session partners for preparatory meetings (Tripoli, Kampala, Thessalonica, New Orleans, Foz do Iguaçu, etc) summarizing examples of good practices for presentation at the Forum. Additional contributors will be solicited to ensure diverse representation. The session organizers will work with panellists to develop an interactive session that engages participants in dialogue on these issues. Desired outcomes for the session report will be identified and good practices captured for use in Plenary Sessions and beyond on a regional basis. |
| <b>Contact information for coordination of this session</b> | <p><b>Name:</b> Faye Anderson</p> <p><b>Organisation:</b> American Water Resources Association (AWRA)</p> <p><b>Country:</b> USA</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> fayeanderson23@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Tel:</b> 1+202-314-3336</p>  |
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## INITIAL SESSION PROPOSALS

### Proposal for Session 3, Topic 6.3 - Using the Assets of Professional Associations and Networks to Strengthen the Water Sector

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| <b>Broader Issue/Context</b>                   | Professional associations (operating nationally, regionally or internationally), alongside other communities of practice possess large potential to impact the science, practice and policy of sustainable water and sanitation management.   |
| <b>Key Question</b>                            | Should funding of infrastructure to meet the MDGs be tied to the establishment of regional/local professional/technical institutional structures? Could/should a means of globally monitoring the state of "professional infrastructure" be developed? Should professional associations and networks be tasked with this responsibility?  |
| <b>Session Development Description/Outline</b> | <p>Session title: Money Down the Drain? The need for professional association infrastructure accompanying investment to achieve sustainable outcomes.</p> <p>In many developing countries, service providers have failed to provide consumers with adequate water supply and sanitation services. Approximately 1.1 billion people still do not have access to safe water and 2.6 billion lack access to sanitation services. The existing frustration of inadequate service provision is exacerbated by the fact that population growth and the mounting pressures of increasing urbanization offset much of the gains in service coverage.</p> <p>In addition to problems of service coverage, other problems also plague service providers. Many public utilities experience high unaccounted-for-water (UfW) rates, which often average between 40%-70%; there is a migration of talent and personnel away from the water engineering sector; educational curricula frequently fails to address appropriate standards, regulations and norms; and operation &amp; maintenance practices are sorely neglected or their importance misunderstood.</p> <p>In this context, national governments, international financial institutions, multi-lateral donors and users themselves are investing significant funds in water and sanitation infrastructure. Without adequate personnel or technical assistance, both in terms of quantity, but critically in terms of quality of leadership, these investments run the risk of failing, or operating sub-optimally. Money down the drain?</p> <p>Professional associations and other professional networks can play a significant role in supporting infrastructure investments in the water and sanitation sector. Indeed, technical assistance models – where an investment is complemented by a technical assistance project that ensures that the operator is actually capable to operate and maintain the new (or rehabilitated) infrastructure – are familiar approaches. Could professional associations play a stronger role?</p> <p>This session engages participants in a debate which will include discussion on 1) ways in which professional associations and networks have been created or aligned with significant project or programme level investments in the sector, 2) case studies and examples of professional association or network engagement. A call for interest and solicitation of additional examples will be sought.</p> <p>The goal of this session will be to demonstrate the potential that exists for associations and networks to ensure optimal investment in water and sanitation hardware and software</p> <p>Proposed session structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessment of the scale and order of magnitude of the problem, the challenges to sustainable operation of infrastructure</li> <li>- Case studies highlighting innovation in personnel management, good practice examples of technical support to major investments; lessons learned</li> <li>- Call for a periodic assessment of the state of the sector's human resources, as a means of globally monitoring the state of "professional infrastructure"</li> </ul> |

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| <b>(Types of )<br/>Organizations to<br/>be involved in<br/>session<br/>development</b> | <p>Decision makers, professionals, academics, educators and researchers are amongst the stakeholders and they would be directly engaged in the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professional Association(s) : IWALC ( members), overlap bodies AGU</li> <li>- Professional Networks: CAPNET, NBCBN_RE, etc...</li> <li>- Multilateral donors: World Bank, AFDB, ADB</li> <li>- Related national organisations, NGOs and local civil society.</li> </ul>                              |
| <b>What is being<br/>bridged here?</b>   | <p>The gap in professional capacity, knowledge gaps, communication gaps</p>   |
| <b>Next steps and<br/>timeline</b>   | <p>The architecture for the session will be finalized by the organizing parties. A call for interest and cases will be circulated to leading associations and networks.</p> <p>The session organizers will work with contributors to develop an interactive session that will support diversity of experiences and cases, and prompt a wider debate on the subject. Outcomes for the session report will be identified and examples of best practice for use elsewhere in the Forum will be collated.</p> |
| <b>Contact<br/>information for<br/>coordination of<br/>this session</b>                | <p><b>Name:</b> Dr. F. Yazdandoost and Dr Darren Saywell</p> <p><b>Organisation:</b> K.N. Toosi University of Technology &amp; International Water Association</p> <p><b>Country:</b> Iran, UK</p> <p><b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:yazdandoost@kntu.ac.ir">yazdandoost@kntu.ac.ir</a> and <a href="mailto:darren.saywell@iwahq.org">darren.saywell@iwahq.org</a></p> <p><b>Tel:</b> +98(0)21 88779473-5 and +31 61 59 03 152</p>  |