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Background of UN-Water

UN-Water, an inter-agency mechanism formally established in 2003 by the United Nations High Level Committee on Programmes, has evolved out of a history of close collaboration among UN agencies. It was created to add value to UN initiatives by fostering greater co-operation and information-sharing among existing UN agencies and outside partners. UN-Water strengthens coordination and coherence among UN entities dealing with issues related to all aspects of freshwater and sanitation.

As UN-Water is not an implementing body, its specific activities and programmes are hosted by individual member agencies on behalf of UN-Water. It has four specific programmes, each with its own work plan, budget and an executing agency coordinating the implementation. The UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) is one of these programmes.

Much of UN-Water activities are carried out through Task Forces and Thematic Priority Areas established to focus on specific areas of interest or emerging issues such as water and climate change, sanitation, transboundary water management etc. These bodies facilitate exchanges of information, experiences and lessons learned and promote joint efforts by providing platforms to promote coherence and coordination of activities by UN-Water members and partners in their thematic areas.

Several Task Forces and Thematic Priority Areas are already working together with **UNW-DPC** to collect and add information to the UNW-AIS in order to better serve UN-Water members and partners.



Please visit the UNW-AIS for more information at

www.ais.unwater.org



UNW-DPC

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UNW-AIS

UN-Water Activity Information System



An online platform to share information on water-related projects and learning initiatives of UN-Water and its members and partners



Contents of the UNW-AIS

The UN-Water Activity Information System (UNW-AIS), developed by the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), is an online platform to present and share information (web-based content, documents and multimedia) on water-related projects and learning initiatives of UN-Water and its members and partners.

The UNW-AIS is an activity information system, plus the useful additional features of publications, e-learning tools and social networking. We invite you to take a close look and discover the learning and imformation sharing possibilities of our system.



These extra features make the UNW-AIS an easy and accessible platform for capacity development tools to be used for sharing knowledge among UN-Water members, partners and programmes, and to engage in "learning by sharing."

UNW-AIS has a modular architecture and is therefore able to expand to include new features and components of use to UN-Water.

Features of the UNW-AIS

The new UNW-AIS has added several new components to its system: in addition to the existing information about activities now included in the "Projects" section, there are new sections on "Publications," "e-Learning" and "Forums." These components encompass social networking, groups, as well as training tools and e-learning modules which use the Moodle learning platform. The categories of e-materials follow the priority areas laid out by UN-Water:

- Integrated water resources management
- · Drinking-water, sanitation and health
- Water scarcity
- Pollution
- Transboundary waters
- · Climate change and disaster risk management
- · Gender and water
- Financing and valuation
- Capacity building
- · Africa: a region for priority action

In the "**Publications**" section, the intention is for new publications from all UN-Water members and partners to be listed, with links to the documents on the organization's website.



The "e-Learning" section is the most innovative section in the new UNW-AIS, with online lectures delivered by experts in their areas on different topics within the thematic clusters listed above.

Finally, "Forums" encompasses forums, groups, chat rooms, and social networking tools which encourage the sharing of feedback and information among UNW-AIS users.

Intended Users of the UNW-AIS

The UNW-AIS provides a "single entry point of access" to UN agencies, donors, academia, international and non-governmental organizations and any other interested members of the public. It allows members and partners of UN-Water to keep abreast of what their sister agencies are doing and keeps the constituents of UN-Water informed about on-going efforts related to various water topics around the world.

Background of the UNW-AIS

In 2009, UNW-DPC was requested by several UN-Water Task Forces and Thematic Priority Areas to conduct mapping exercises, including on Transboundary Waters and also on Climate Change, in order to gain a clear and comprehensive picture of current and planned activities by UN-Water members and partners and as a first step towards promoting further coordination, especially in specific projects in the field.

UNW-DPC's Work Plan 2010 – 2013 identifies as core functions the conducting of mapping exercises, needs assessment and gaps analyses; awareness raising; and the improvement of access to materials relevant for decision makers and policy makers as well as other key stakeholders. It asks for the further strengthening of the UNW-AIS as a one-stop portal for collected information.

In line with its two work plans to date, and financially supported in its initial phases by the UN-Water TPAs and in cooperation with other UN-Water Task Forces, a UNW-AIS team of technical developers, designers and conceptual planners at UNW-DPC has been developing and continuously improving the system since 2009, in cooperation with the coordinators of various Thematic Priority Areas and the UN-Water Communications Manager.

Feedback Form

