



Asociația  
**Parteneriatul Global al Apei din România**  
**(GWP - România)**

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## MISSION REPORT

Family and first name: **Popescu, Liviu Nicolae.**

Destination – Country / Location: **4<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum / Mexico City-MEXIC**

Date of Departure / Arrival – from / to the country of origin : **16/03 – 22/03/2006**

Justification: **Participation to the Forum activities, sessions and meetings performed during the days 18/21 March 2006.**

It should be mentioned that the whole package of documents received and collected as results of my participation in various sessions and events would be included in the GWP - Romania site as well as the present report

My arrival in Mexico was on 17 March late in the night, and in the next day in the morning I was fully involved with the registration forms, accreditation process finalised with the official letter of accreditation, accreditation badge awarding, receiving of forum documentation. Unfortunately due to these administrative activities I was not able to attend the European Main Session organised between 9 to 10 a clock in 18 March, the session which was opened by Loic Fauchon, President of World Water Council, moderated by Fritz Barth ex- expert of EC, and in which the European Regional Document was presented and commented. Statements were made by different personalities representing various organizations and the closure of the session was made by the Prince of Orange Philip-Alexander of the Netherlands

1. In the first day 16 March, the Forum opening ceremonies were organised starting in the afternoon with the King Hassan II prize awarding ceremony, followed by the special presentations of connections between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Forums and the thematic round table “Introduction to the Forum “, in which the 5 Framework Themes and 5 Crosscutting Issues were introduced, through a special debate between various high level stakeholders. As said before in the opening ceremony, a part of this was dedicated to the ceremony of King Hassan II Great World Water Prize awarding, to the winner. In the 4th Forum this prize was awarded to Torkil Jonch-Claussen the previous Chairperson of GWP.

2. The total number of sessions organised during the Forum was 220 and every day the sessions were preceded by special events dedicated to an established region, from the 5 Regions organised within the Forum. The Forum program is included in the 4WWF folder in the GWP-Romania site. The first full day, 17 March, was dedicated to Americas, second to Europe-18 March, followed by Africa-19 March, Middle East – 20 March and Asia-Pacific-21 March.

As result of the invitations, received already before the Forum and also on the selection made from the Forum Programme I attended a number of events as will be presented bellow.

3. In the day of 18 March after the Regional Presentation of Europe and special events, all 45 sessions organised were dedicated to the topic: ”Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management “

- **18 March 11.15- 13.15 : session FT2.44 within Framework Theme 2: Implementing IWRM having as main topic “Adopting Integrated Flood Management within IWRM” and where one of the presentation was on WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management**
- **18 March 14.30- 16.30: session FT2.27 “ The role of water and IWRM in the achievement of the Millennium Goals”, conveners GWP/SIWI, chair Torkil Jonch- Claussen having as main issue of discussions the “Inclusion of IWRM in National Plans” with a number of reports based on GWP Global Survey results, JWF Global Survey, UNEP Regional Survey, ESCWA Regional Survey, Status of IWRM plans in Arab Region, CCAD Strategy for Central America**
- **18 March 13.00- 15.00: Based on a invitation of PROFESSIONALS FOR ACTION INITIATIVE - a Director’s Forum of the Water Research and Development Institutes, was held in the Olympic Centre. The meeting objective was the Presentation of Baseline Document on Science, Technology and Knowledge prepared by this initiative for presentation within 4WWF as a Crosscutting Issues (solution) from the group D, Application of Science, Technology and Knowledge. The aim of the meeting was to provide an opportunity during the Forum for some of the leaders of professional research and development institutions to meet together to discuss the challenges facing the Science, Technology and Knowledge community and identify how it is possible to better work together for finding more efficient solutions based on thorough understanding and innovation provided by science, technology and management, in tackling multiple water problems and gaps, often wastefully management of water resources, discrepancies between rich and poor countries. The minutes of the meeting with the presentation of Baseline paper mentioned above and the meeting agenda as annexes will be posted with the collected 4WWF documents, on the GWP-RO site as soon as they will be received from the main group of organizers. A so called “Blue Line initiative” was also discussed in terms of possible creation of liaison between the research and development institutes in the water field, revitalizing this initiative which was primary created in Kyoto, but this time with better solutions and ideas for achieving the aim. The conclusions of discussion were fully positive and the details will be included in the above mentioned minutes.**
- **18 March 16.45- 18.45, session FT2.45: IWRM issues in Federative Countries where I was requested to have included and presented the Local Action “Public Participation in River Basin Management: a successful example in Europe”. The presentation that I made was delivered to the session only at the beginning of the session because of very late moment of VISA arrangements in Romania. The size of presentation was much more bigger then the time that the organizers were able to squeeze from the other presentations, and finally the summary of the local action was presented. The whole content of presentation remains to the session chair and conveners group for future dissemination together with the other presentations. The session FT2.45 with the above mentioned topic was proposed by Brazil because of their specific situation as federative state form, having a large number of states and with a significant autonomy and where federal strategies and policies are more difficult to be implemented. Due to that specific issue the local actions from a number of large and federative countries or regions like Argentina, Canada, Brazil and in short from Europe, were selected and discussed during the session with the advantages and disadvantages, with the pros and cons in the new management paradigms created by the permanent extension of water consumption from the global system with incommensurable impacts on existing resources. Between the conclusions of this sessions it was mentioned that transboundary waters either between sovereign states or federal states requires strong and transparent institutions, as well as legal frameworks, developing a “shared vision” sweeping many domains. Furthermore agreements – and management strategies- should focus on sharing benefits rather then dividing waters. Also is was concluded that water maybe a tool for peace. If well managed, water has proven to be an economic wealth that supports economic development and thus allows poverty reduction as well**

as stability and peace between states. Costs and benefits must be equitable shared between riparian states. Building of trust is also a must. Solutions must be practical, just and agreed. So that sustainable partnership can be implemented

4. In the day 19 March 2006 after the regional presentation and special events dedicated to Africa, all 43 sessions organized were dedicated to topic issues: “Water Supply and Sanitation for All”

- 19 March 08.30-10.30, session FT3. 52 : “Appropriate Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply and Sanitation Facilities” – conveners: NIHP Japan/ JICA/ WSSCC/ IWA
- 19 March 11.15 - 13.15, session FT.3.43: “Access to Safe Water and Ecological Sanitation for Rural Areas. Good Practices in Latin America and Eastern Europe from the Gender Perspective” – conveners: WECF/ MAMA-86/EFF
- 19 March 14.30 - 16.30, session FT3.04: “Knowledge Generation and Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Europe and Worldwide” – conveners EC/ NWP
- 19 March 16.45 - 18.45, session FT3.16: “ Service Delivery and local empowerment - Turnaround of public utilities “ conveners: WB/ ANEAS/ GTZ/ BMZ/ USAID and session FT3.24: “Emerging sanitation paradigms–economics and capacity building in ecosan”

As result of these sessions it came out that there is a large experience gained in many regions on ECOSAN with a large variety of solutions depending by the local specific conditions, by the local experience of living societies, by the experience of western partners in adapting different solutions to the local problems. The experiences of GTZ foundation from Germany, in India, Syria, South Africa, in using waste water and fesses collected and treated in different manners according with local possibilities, e.g. in irrigation of plants envisaged for fuel production, or in wetlands where the reed production and trees (banana trees) were the products with financial efficiency for the respective societies, as well as being used for the treatment of waste water, were presented in different local actions. A booklet named “Smart solution for ecosanitation” was recommended and the CD with the examples from the book was collected from the session following to be transferred in the GWP-RO site. Urine diverted toilets was at a very large extent recommended, not only in the areas with water scarcity, to be used, and benefiting from the nutrients from the two phases collected, for agriculture, with 2 times gain, once from water cheaper treatment solution and second from the exiting nutrient available and use with growth agriculture production.

It was specified that for reed and trees the average deep where the waste water has to be included should be at the roots level( between 200mm - 2m ) and the same in the case of vegetables or other crops ( 150- 300 mm) depending by their nature.

It was mentioned during the discussion that UNESCO has launched recently an ECOSAN program with about 5 Billion USD budget, in order to support these alternative solutions for water savings, improving efficiency and alleviate poverty.

- 19 March 20.00 – 21.00 Meeting of GWP participants at the FORUM, at the hotel Intercontinental-Presidente, in the Lobby Bar with GWPO chair and Executive Secretary, all participating technical - officers and other invites. The results of the European Day were appreciated by the participants, the special contributions of the conveners, presenters of LA’s or other tasks responsible persons, were assessed as being part of the whole activities and actions which made the European Day a success. Special appreciation and thanks were addressed to Torkil Jonch-Claussen which was awarded with the King Hassan II of Morocco Great Water Prize in the beginning of 4 Forum in Mexico and also for his contribution as Chair and convener of the main sessions dedicated to Implementation of IWRM in the National Plans

5. In the day 20 March 2006 after the regional presentation and special events dedicated to Middle East, all 46 sessions organized were dedicated to topic issues: "Water Management for Food and the Environment "

- 20 March 08.30--10.30 visits of fairs and exhibitions organized within the Forum center.
- 20 March 11.15 – 13.15 session FT4.01: "Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture and Water Quality " conveners AAFC/SAGARPA/USAD
- 20 March 13.30–15.00 Meeting of Operational Committee responsible for the preparation of European Regional Document(ERD) with the aim of continuation of the kind of "European Partnership" that was build during the months of work together to the ERD. The topic of discussion was " The future of Europe, Water and the World".

It was stressed that Europe has the same kind of problems like the other regions with different amplitudes and dramatic effects, but the numbers are showing that the issues are serious as it is mentioned in the ERD :

*"Access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation are also pressing issues. In fact, an estimated 41 million people in Europe do not have access to safe drinking water, while 85 million people lack access to basic sanitation—something which contributes to the spread of waterborne diseases such as hepatitis A and typhoid fever, and those that cause diarrhoea. Agriculture is also an issue which must be addressed, as it is probably the biggest user of water anywhere in the world—and the one which has the biggest impacts (both negative and positive)".*

As result of discussions within the meeting of ad-hoc group created, it came out that a new structure, specially with the name "partnership" is not advisable to be created because may create in a large extent confusion between so many partnerships existing at many levels, country, area, regional, global, so another name may be found, which is better to be identified. This will be searched by the group which will stay under the same name until an agreement will be reached on the respective issues.

More important is to find the goals and objectives of this structure. It was agreed that the momentum must be kept as specified in the European Regional Document conclusions, in acting for the reduction of the tendency of water related threats which were identified during the process of document preparation. It was also mentioned that the problems are at the wider Europe scale, as they are globally as well, having the same nature e.g. lack of sanitation, pollution, extreme events, effects of migration/urbanization, etc.

There is a need for actions because the rich European capabilities are not sufficient utilized or some of them not utilized at all. As result of that the European water sector is fragmented leading to diffuse knowledge, duplication of efforts, etc.

The obvious conclusion was, Europe needs to act together and now.

Between the causes and issues it was mentioned:

- Absences of Policy coordination in European Commission,
- Lack of Getting all Europe involved, e.g. the dispersed presence of Europeans in the 4WWF, contradictory positions of different states , organizations, institutions from Europe, in comparison with other countries or regions e.g. Japan, with associated Asia- Pacific countries.
- Private sector, public sector and NGOs knowledge are far apart
- How to get the bigger picture ex. Convergence of water, energy and sustainability agendas
- Technology transfer, dissemination from research to market,
- The competitive positions of Europe is threatened making the others to benefit from this

What we need it was another direction of discussions:

- Better policy and enabling environment
- Competitiveness: Europe versus other regions
- Financing mechanisms
- Solidarity
- More stakeholders including private sector & industry input
- Critical mass as a catalyst for change and "connecting pipework"

The identified priority was concluded as being the following: Create an enabling environment to deploy European capacities to address wider European issues with the private sector, public sector and NGO's involved

At the end of this first meeting in the new context it was agreed that a programmatic document will be prepared, will be circulated and commented by those presents at the meeting, and in parallel also, the modus operandi will be thought and drafted for the following discussions.

As soon as the meeting minutes will be received it will be sent to the GWPCEE Secretariat and Council members

- 20 March 15.30—16.30 session FT4.28 : “Water and Education for Children and Youth” conveners WET/UNESCO/IMTA
- 20 March 16.45- `8.45 session FT4.27 : “ Environmental Education and Water Culture in Basic Education” conveners SEP/ ANEA

6. In the day 21 March 2006 after the regional presentation and special events dedicated to ASIA-PACIFIC, all 42 sessions organized were dedicated to topic issues: “Risk Management “. 21 March is the national Day of Mexico and it was largely celebrated in the capital and in the country

- 21 March 8.30 – 10.00 session FT4.45: “Integrated Management of Water Sector under conditions of Uncertainty and Scarcity” , conveners WC Israel /Mekorot Israel
- 21 March 10.30- 16.00 field trip to the old and present water works in Ciudad de Mexico including the tour of the town, Museums, gardens, monuments .
- 21 March 17.30 departure to the International Airport of Mexico City and at 20.00 departure to Europe.

During the Forum there were prepared by the organizers, the “World Water Forum Bulletin” with a daily appearance and some leaflets: “Voices of the Forum” containing summaries of the events from the previous day, impressions and recommendations of different groups participants to the forum.

Forum Program, Regional Documents as well as Thematic Documents volumes were given in the documents package to registered participants and during the sessions breaks a lot of documents in various languages and on various thematic issues were tabled in the Forum Center lobbies.

Another brief discussion took place on the issue of “Northern Water Network” (NOWNET), and invitation was made for consulting the news on the site: [www.northerwater.net](http://www.northerwater.net), for the CEE Region countries, this network being organised with the declared aims” Partnership for Knowledge Exchange” and “Enhancing the Northern Dimension Linking to the South “. The invitation was made again by Torkil J. Clausen and Taeko Yokata representing the founding countries of this network.

A number of ad-hoc meetings I had, with Japan Water Forum representative Taeko Yokata during the Forum events and the main and useful message of this organisation was that the JWF is still willing to support financially some projects from different regions on the issues which are focused on the disasters management, risk management, citizens-community participation and consensus building. This is included in the research thematic packages of JWF which they are carrying out with financial assistance from Japanese Government. The project proposals that was submitted will be discussed by the JWF Committee after the end of financial year( April 2006) and we will be then informed about the decisions made, not latter then 30 June including the amounts of money approved. In the time of 1 year, but not latter then 30 March 2007 the results of the respective projects will be presented as final reports to the JWF for final assessment and use within their reporting process to the financial institutions.

The potential issues that can be proposed from the CEE region which were recommended during the individual discussions with Taeko remains Capacity building process, Water and Education .

7. Unofficial, I understood that the next WWF nr 5 will be organised in Turkey . Probably it was announced in the last day on 22 March with the occasion of closing ceremony where I was not present

**8. Persons that I meet:**

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- **Liu Heng – Vice President Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute**
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