



Making a SPLASH! ***Newsletter 10 – July 2010***

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1. Update on SPLASH research call on sustainable sanitation service chains

The SPLASH research call on sustainable sanitation service chains received 44 concept notes by the deadline of April 23rd, 2010. Eleven of these were shortlisted and invited to send in full proposals by August 15th, 2010. To see the call go to <http://splash-era.net/sanitation-call/>

Centres of Excellence in Water Science and Technology under the NEPAD/AMCOW/AMCOST initiative), and SACNET (a network which aims to establish cross sectoral knowledge sharing in southern Africa).

A highly participative session chaired by the UK Department for International Development confirmed that in order to be most effective research should aim to be:

2. SPLASH seminar at the 15th International African Water Congress and Exhibition, Kampala, March 2010

SPLASH was very pleased to host a session during the AFWA Congress in Uganda in March 2010. The session considered how best to conduct research to optimise the use of results by policy makers and practitioners. Keynote presentations considered the good practice established within the SPLASH project, as demonstrated by the WRC of South Africa, zie of Burkina Faso (one of the recently established

- demand led in order to ensure relevance, and working through long term programmatic partnership arrangements and networks to benefit from a range of complementary skills and economies of scale;
- communicated in appropriate formats to meet the differing needs of various users; and
- of high quality in order to ensure long term sustainability and credibility with the users of research results.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our session and to the conveners for hosting such an enjoyable and informative congress!

3. Regional course in groundwater management in an IWRM framework, Lomé, April 2010

A regional course in groundwater management in an IWRM framework took place in Lomé, Togo from 12th to 16th April 2010. The course was delivered by AGW-Net and was co-funded by BGR/BMZ and Cap-Net. BGR and GEUS were actively involved in the course as SPLASH partners, giving lectures and further contributions.

There was a total of 17 participants and 12 facilitators, the majority of whom were from francophone Africa. Four of the francophone facilitators had been participants in a previous groundwater management course which was also organised by AGW-Net last year in Dakar, Senegal. Thus this was a good opportunity to foster the "Training of trainer" effect.

Senior water professionals from various organizations were present, including two members of the Togolese Parliament. The exchange of views and discussion during the workshop increased their understanding of the law relating to water that will be discussed during the next Parliament session. For the first time, representatives from Centre of Excellence, the African Groundwater Commission (AGWC) and a River Basin Organisation were invited to join the course, which was beneficial to all. Their contributions along with those of facilitators from AGW-Net, BGR and GEUS were highly appreciated by participants. As a result of the contributions and discussions by all the following recommendations were made: to incorporate groundwater management issues into the mandate of River Basin Organisations; that there is a need for a partnership between AGW-Net and the African Groundwater Commission; and there was a call for an effective and operational commission.

The course was very well organised by the host - the Global Water Partnership West Africa, with very positive feedback from participants. In

addition the course had wide appeal in the region as demonstrated by the participation of the various ministers (of water, agriculture and environment) during the opening session.

A further course is scheduled for August this year, prior to an AGW-Net Steering Committee Meeting. A third course is planned for January 2011 in Johannesburg. For more information email Kerstin Schaberreiter at Kerstin.Schaberreiter@bgr.de



4. International coordination workshop on research and development related to water issues in the Niger River Basin, May/June 2010

SPLASH and the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) jointly organised an international coordination workshop on research and development related to water issues in the Niger River Basin. This two day event took place on May 31st and June 1st 2010 in Niamey, Niger. For further information, contact Gil Mahé at gil.mahe@msem.univ-montp2.fr

The general objective was to improve the linkages and communication between research institutions and development and management stakeholders in the Niger Basin, in order to increase the contribution of research results to achieving their shared vision of:

'The River Niger Basin, a common space of sustainable development through an integrated management of water resources and related ecosystems, for the enhancement of the living conditions and prosperity of the populations by 2025'.

The opening ceremony was chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Water, Environment and Fights Against Desertification, Mr. Issaka Issoufou. Also present were the NBA Executive Secretary, Mr Oyewole Ogunmola, EU representative, Mr Chantreuil, SPLASH project organizer, Dr Gil Mahé and the IRD representative for the Niger delegation, Dr Gilles Bezançon. 80 participants attended the opening ceremony and 50 people took part in the working sessions.



Short presentation sessions were alternated with round table discussions.

Three major topics were addressed: links between research and development; links between NBA and research; and existing connections between research and water management services. Recommendations have been addressed and concrete actions proposed to the NBA, the research community, and the Research and Development funders' community.



5. SPLASH at the IWA World Water Congress, Montreal, September 2010

IWA has invited SPLASH to participate in the Development Corner and Dialogues at the World Water Congress. We will have an exhibition stand where we will be disseminating SPLASH material, and we are also organizing two participatory sessions in the Development Corner and Dialogues programme.

Dialogue session 1: 'The Why? When? and How? of sharing research results'

The effective communication and dissemination of new knowledge and findings from research is essential if the benefits stemming from investments in research are to be fully realised. In this dialogue session, SPLASH and a panel of speakers from the research, policy and practitioner communities will share experiences and discuss: 'Which dissemination approaches work best with which audiences?' and 'How can new technologies help us?' Also, we would like to learn from you, about how you communicate your research or become aware of other research findings. What concrete actions can SPLASH take to encourage and promote these good practices and support these efforts?

Dialogue session 2: 'The Why? When? and How? of engaging with stakeholders when conducting research'

The benefits of stakeholder engagement are thought to be many: to ensure that research is demand responsive; and to ensure that results will be used. But who should we engage with and how? During this highly participative dialogue session, we will consider 'Who are relevant stakeholders?', and 'How we can implement dialogue and engagement strategies?' We will hear and learn from experiences in action, technology, and policy related research. Please come and share your experience with us!

Please get in touch if you will be at the Congress in Montreal and would like to be involved. Email Julie Fisher at j.fisher1@lboro.ac.uk

6. Mekong Water and Energy project workshop, Lao PDR, September 2010

There will be an international coordination workshop between those working in research and development on hydropower in the Lower Mekong Basin (LMB). The workshop will take place on 14th to 15th September in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Participants will be researchers, policy-makers, NGOs and the private sector working in hydropower generation in the LMB and other river basins in Africa. The overall objective of the meeting is to improve the research and cooperation among research/academic institutions, private sector and policy-makers in the LMB in order to contribute to sustainable hydropower development. The results of the workshop are expected to contribute to Mekong River Commission programmes in hydropower development. For further information email Kim Chi Tran-Gulbrandsen at kctg@nve.no

7. SPLASH Good Practice workshop – sharing our learning and planning our future, Brussels, October 2010

SPLASH is planning to hold a good practice workshop in Brussels from 27th to 29th October 2010. Between 60 and 80 participants will be invited from Europe, Africa and the Mekong region. These will include policy makers, EUWI Secretariat members, donor organizations,

members of the SPLASH Management Board and Scientific Advisory Council, as well as coordinators of related ERA-Nets, and other platforms, networks and institutions such as AQUAKNOW, the network of African Centres of Excellence for water, and Basin Authorities. SPLASH achievements and outputs will be presented in line with its objectives, followed by open discussion of the ways in which SPLASH can build on this and go forward in the future. For more information email Anne Blenkinsopp at a-blenkinsopp@dfid.gov.uk

8. New SPLASH resources

To maximize the return on funding investments into water research, it is important that research results are made known to potential users. This is rarely the case due to the gap that exists between researchers and research users, such as practitioners and policy makers. Two Briefing Notes are available on how researchers and research programmers can influence the degree to which research is used through research partnerships, research management processes and research products. See: http://www.splash-era.net/search_outputs.php#bn

A new SPLASH flyer is also available at http://www.splash-era.net/search_outputs.php#info that gives details of the range of online resources developed by SPLASH in support of its objectives.

Contact SPLASH:

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Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested. Thank you!