



Making a SPLASH!

Newsletter 14 – August 2011

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1. SPLASH Sanitation Research Programme kick off coordination workshop

A key feature of the design of the SPLASH sanitation research programme includes overall programme management and coordination. This aims to:

- Determine and exploit synergies between projects to maximise programme effectiveness and impact
- Monitor and support progress
- Facilitate programme level dissemination

We were pleased to host our initial coordination workshop from 17-19 July in Kigali, Rwanda, including an informative urban sanitation field trip, kindly hosted by Valentin Mucyomwiza of Rwanda Environment Care. Our event took place alongside the Africa San conference which enabled additional participants from each consortium and donor agencies to attend.

The workshop clearly demonstrated how the SPLASH research programme is active along the entire length of the urban sanitation service chain. A large number of potential synergies were identified in both content, and method and we look forwards to realising this potential in our future work.

Lessons from SPLASH were also highlighted, both in the way in which they influenced the development of the programme, and as elements of good practice that the consortia might consider as the programme and projects move forwards.

We plan to maintain and further these collaborative working relationships through regular teleconferences and annual programme level meetings aiming to maximise the effectiveness of such important urban sanitation research.

For more information, see http://www.splash-era.net/san_res.php



*SPLASH Sanitation Research Programme
kick off coordination workshop, Kigali*

2. Update on SPLASH activities

SPLASH input to the EUWI thematic strategy

SPLASH participated in a meeting of the EUWI Steering Group, to give input into the development of the new EUWI thematic strategy. A final draft of the strategy will be presented at the EUWI Multi Stakeholder Forum to be held during the Stockholm World Water Week in August.

SPLASH at the 35th WEDC International Conference

SPLASH furthered dissemination of lessons learned at the 35th WEDC International Conference hosted in Loughborough, UK. The conference was attended by more than 250 delegates, many of whom visited our exhibition stand. Our participation allowed us to present SPLASH to a wide range of researchers and water sector stakeholders from all over the world.

We also hosted a side event where we discussed SPLASH highlights with our audience including: the development of the SPLASH research management course; the jointly funded research programme on sanitation service chains; and the importance of water research for economic growth and development. A lively discussion followed, including significant interest in our training materials, and participants keen that we continue to demonstrate how good research management practice can provide improved results for researchers and society. Participants subscribed to the SPLASH mailing list to stay informed of developments and future plans.

SPLASH research management modules

The development of the SPLASH Research Management Course continues following a meeting in February 2011 where the course units were presented during a workshop of the NEPAD southern Centres of Excellence in Water. The SPLASH team received useful comments from the Centres of Excellence to guide the revision and amendment of the course content. They also gave the team their feedback on new topics to include in the course. This work continues and should be completed by end of August 2011.

Following completion, the SPLASH team plans a pilot phase where a training workshop will be held to trial the course. This course will most likely be held somewhere in southern Africa. More details about registration will follow. No sponsorship for this is available, so interested participants will need to meet their own travel and accommodation costs. For more information, please contact Frank Odhiambo: F.O.Odhiambo@lboro.ac.uk

Transboundary river basin activities

BGR together with Cap-net, African Groundwater Network (AGW-Net) and its partners have designed a questionnaire for African transboundary river/lake basin organisations to analyse their competences, needs and challenges towards the integration of sustainable management of transboundary groundwater resources. The survey, financed by SPLASH, will be carried out by selected members of the AGW-Net steering committee and will be completed by the end of 2011. The results of the survey will be assessed and summarised in a report to provide a baseline for the needs assessment workshop and ultimately for the development of a handbook, targeted at transboundary river/lake basin organisations. The sector project 'Policy Advice Groundwater' at BGR intends to manage both activities in cooperation with the African partners.

3. Future events

SPLASH plans to attend the 12th WaterNet / WARFSA / GWP-SA Symposium in Mozambique from 26-28 Oct 2011. We will further disseminate SPLASH lessons learned and develop our future activities. We also expect to host a side event together with ERAfrica (ERA-Net for Africa) and SACCCNet (Southern African Network on Climate Change). We look forward to meeting you there.

For further updates on this, please see the SPLASH website: <http://www.splash-era.net>

4. Invitation to the EU Water Initiative Multi Stakeholder Forum, Stockholm Water Week

The EU Water Initiative Multi Stakeholder Forum will take place on 25th August and extends an invitation to all. The main topic of the MSF will be the presentation of and discussion on the new strategy for the EUWI.

DRAFT AGENDA FOR EUWI-MSF

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST, 09.00-12.30 AM

The European Union Water Initiative, EUWI, is an international political initiative based on strategic regional partnerships. The 2011 Multi-Stakeholder Forum will focus on the provisional Strategic Framework for a 'second-generation' EUWI, which will be presented for dialogue and consultation with the EUWI stakeholders.

It is a response to political calls for a shift in the Policy and Implementation Framework for EU support on water in developing countries (endorsed by EU Development and Environment Ministers in May-June 2011). The 2011 Hungarian Presidency Paper connecting water to evolving EU Development Policy recommended that a revitalized EUWI adopt the theme of 'Water for Growth and Development', and link coordination, policy making and implementation.

The Strategy of the revitalized EUWI will also draw on the main findings of a comprehensive Situation Analysis. These findings aim at the specific role and comparative advantage of EUWI in relation to other instruments, and opportunities to reinforce complementarities, coordination and coherence within the EUWI that can achieve stronger impact at policy and decision-making levels.

The Multi-Stakeholder Forum is an opportunity for stakeholders to be updated on recent developments within the EUWI, and to dialogue and provide feedback on the provisional EUWI Strategic Framework through round-table discussions.

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION:

Venue: Stockholmsmässan

(venue of Stockholm World Water Week)

Room: T6

Date: 25 August 2011

Time: 09.00 – 12.30 hr

For more information please see

http://www.worldwaterweek.org/sa/node.asp?node=1079&skip=50&sa_content_url=%2Fplugins%2FEventFinder%2Fevent%2Easp&sa_title=EU+Water+Initiative+Multistakeholder+Forum&id=4&event=425

Contact SPLASH: Miriam Feilburg, Programme Manager, Danish Water Forum mfe@dhigroup.com
Visit the SPLASH Website: <http://www.splash-era.net>
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