



## ***Making a SPLASH!***

### ***Newsletter 15 – November 2011***

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#### **NEWS FROM SPLASH**

1. SPLASH activities:
    - SPLASH Research Management Course update
  2. SPLASH events:
    - 12th Waternet/WARFSA/ GWP – SA symposium, October, Maputo, Mozambique
    - IWA Development Congress, November, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
  3. Showcasing SPLASH sanitation research projects:
    - MAFADY
    - CLASS-A
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#### **1. SPLASH activities: SPLASH Research Management Course update**

One of the last tasks of SPLASH Work Package 3 on research management issues is the pilot-testing of the Research Management Course (RMC). The four-day course will be tested at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, Ghana, in the context of the Wellcome Trust funded "AfricanSNOWS" programme on building capacity on interdisciplinary research in water supply, sanitation and environmental health. Thirty participants are expected to join the course in the week of 21 November 2011.

The overall objectives of the course are to increase participants' knowledge on research management and to strengthen their capability to deal with managerial and scientific challenges of research programmes and projects. The course presents key steps and issues to consider during the research cycle and focuses on the following: choosing a call; research proposal development; contract negotiation; managing the research; communication and uptake; and monitoring and evaluation.

It is emphasized to participants that this is a pilot-course in its first run and therefore represents draft material still under development. The course activity and participant feedback will help the

developers in improving the course content and materials in a form that reflects issues and questions that they highlight. This will be of benefit to participants at the second trial course expected to be held at the Asian Institute of Science and Technology (AIT) in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2011. Following the two test courses, the material will be made available on CD-ROMs and from the SPLASH website early 2012.

SPLASH partners Frank Odhiambo ([f.o.odhiambo@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:f.o.odhiambo@lboro.ac.uk)) of WEDC, Loughborough University and Peter Furu ([pfu@life.ku.dk](mailto:pfu@life.ku.dk)) of the University of Copenhagen (representing the Danish Water Forum) will travel to Ghana and Thailand as instructors on the RMC and they look forward to a valuable exchange of knowledge on generic research management issues with participants from KNUST and AIT.

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#### **2. SPLASH events**

##### ***12th Waternet / WARFSA / GWP – SA symposium 26-28 October, Maputo, Mozambique***

SPLASH received a warm welcome hosting a parallel session at the 12th Waternet / WARFSA / GWP – SA symposium held on 26th to 28th in Maputo, Mozambique. Anne Blenkinsopp (WEDC) shared the lessons for conducting effective research for development, which have been

synthesised within the SPLASH programme. Our learning particularly promotes effective partnership development within and beyond research teams. These lessons are incorporated within the design of the joint donor funded SPLASH urban sanitation programme, whose projects started work in April 2011 (see 3. below).

Patricilio Mucavele then introduced CLASS-A, an action research project within the SPLASH sanitation research programme. CLASS-A are following an innovative risk based approach to sanitation planning within a learning alliance framework operational in Maputo Province, Mozambique. While in Mozambique, the SPLASH team also visited the CLASS-A project office to meet the team members there.



Moses Chimbari presented the benefits of membership within the Southern African Climate change network, and Sam Mukaratirwa presented a collaborative network dedicated to linking ecosystems and health.

Miriam Feilberg, the SPLASH project manager, facilitated a follow up discussion, thanked the audience for their enthusiastic and lively participation, and urged consultation of resources on the SPLASH website, including the briefing notes guiding effective research. These can be found at:

[http://www.splash-era.net/search\\_outputs1.php#bn](http://www.splash-era.net/search_outputs1.php#bn)

**Join us at the IWA Development Congress, 21-25 November, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

SPLASH has an exhibition stand and a pre-congress workshop on 'Improving European research within water for development' on Monday 21st November. There are two main aims of the workshop. Firstly, to share the lessons from SPLASH, with a specific focus on evaluating research outcomes, and to introduce delegates to the CLASS-A sanitation research project. Secondly, using cafe style discussion groups, we'd like to learn from delegates about how we can optimise research partnerships, outcomes and reach. This is

centred around answering three questions based on what delegates know to work. So, how might we improve partnerships between policy and practice? What examples are there of successful measurement and evaluation of research outcomes? And finally, what are the best journals, events and networks to engage with?

Please come and take part if you can, or if not, don't forget to say hello at the stand.

**Workshop venue:** Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

**Date:** 21st November

**Time:** 10.00-12.00

**Room:** 310

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### 3. Showcasing SPLASH sanitation research projects

There are five projects within the SPLASH sanitation research programme, information about which is available on the SPLASH website at

[http://www.splash-era.net/san\\_res.php](http://www.splash-era.net/san_res.php)

Two of these, MAFADY and CLASS-A are showcased below.

***MAFADY: Maîtrise de la filière assainissement dans un écosystème côtier à Douala et les quartiers populaires de Yaoundé au Cameroun***

The purpose of this project is to determine what actions are needed relating to sanitation practice, that will lead to improvements in hygiene and human health in the coastal areas of Douala 4th and the slum districts of Yaounde 6th. The study area of the project has about 800 000 inhabitants, private operators and others involved in the sanitation sector.

The seven work packages cover scientific innovation, research and development. At the end of the three years, the four scientific innovation activities will provide knowledge about the sanitation sectors in each of the targeted cities; it will propose a financing mechanism for the sector including the conditions for participation of the key actors; it will demonstrate best practice in hygiene and sanitation and the conditions needed for this in the targeted cities; it will highlight the specific needs of women and school pupils and propose some solutions to these. The project will propose tools and new mechanisms for planning for sanitation on the scale of large cities. Furthermore, the various results of the project will be distributed and disseminated at local, national and international levels.

The implementation approach of this project is transdisciplinary and participative and will take into account a gendered approach. The team comprises of six partner institutions; four from the South and two from the North. The impacts and outcomes of this project will be visible across the various social, scientific and development domains. The involvement of partners through decentralized cooperation, councils and private operators will ensure the sustainability of these impacts beyond the intervention period of the research. The results of this project will be applicable not only in the slum districts of the large cities in Cameroon, but also in sub-Saharan African countries experiencing similar problems.



For further information see [http://www.splash-era.net/san\\_res.php](http://www.splash-era.net/san_res.php)

**CLASS-A: Sustainable and resilient sanitation service chains in Maputo province, Mozambique: Action research & piloting for the benefit of the urban poor**

The primary objective of the project is to develop strategic approaches to mitigate environmental health risks related to sanitation and promote sustainable sanitation service delivery in urban centres in sub-Saharan Africa. During the inception phase, the CLASS-A consortium of project partners has focused efforts on the development of a methodology for identification of sanitation related health hazards according to different components of the sanitation chain. This will subsequently be used to map hazards and visualize in which areas communities are most exposed and therefore at risk from these hazards. The risk assessment methodology being developed by project partners from University College London and the Swedish Environment Institute also aims to take into account social vulnerability and resilience within communities that is recognized to influence

susceptibility to disease as well as internal capacity to manage risks.



The International Water Association is the lead research organisation, working with an association of institutional partners in Maputo who are taking a leading role to improve the quality of sanitation services throughout the province. The application of the risk assessment tool in a district within Matola municipality will assist these institutions to work with local actors to understand better the mechanisms of sanitation service delivery and to consider where these can be improved. To achieve this, the methodology promotes risk-based planning in which stakeholders are fully engaged in an interactive and participatory process. One of the challenges - but also one of the key areas of research - that the consortium is dealing with is the fact that sanitation by its nature cannot be resolved by working only with institutions. It requires the active involvement of different organisations - governmental and non-governmental - that are generally not familiar with working in a close collaboration. Therefore, fundamental to the research is the focus on communications and learning between different stakeholders to ensure that the process of collective action guided by the right tools can lead to sustained improvements in sanitation services and environmental health.

For further information please contact Jonathan Parkinson ([Jonathan.Parkinson@iwahq.org](mailto:Jonathan.Parkinson@iwahq.org)) or refer to the project website at <http://www.iwawaterwiki.org/xwiki/bin/view/SPLASH+Sanitation+Research+Group>  
(You may need to copy and paste this link into your browser.)