



NEWSLETTER

Number 3 December 2006

This quarter's African Water newsletter takes the form of an email bulletin including:

- * website update
- * the latest news on FP7;
- * the details of the first African Water training workshop;
- * an announcement about the 2007 UKRO conference;
- * African water dissemination.

Website update

www.africanwater.net, the virtual home of African Water, is continuously updated with information relevant for science cooperation in Africa. New items are presented on the entry pages of the various sub-sites and they are also collected on the home page to give you an overview right from the beginning. New entries in the Links sections, which are growing constantly, are also notified in the News section of the homepage. Since we are trying to give a comprehensive overview about what is going on in our thematic field, we definitely appreciate contributions from our visitors! The web statistics show that on an average 18 visitors per day use the information presented on africanwater.net. They come from numerous European countries and several African states.

The following information has been added to the website in last weeks:

* Indicative Topics for FP7

There will be regular postings on the web site of the latest versions of the workprogramme for FP7, containing the latest indicative topics to be called - see the website for the latest versions of the workprogrammes for Environment and People (including Marie Curie). The FP is developed through an iterative consultative process. The early release of indicative topics provides researchers with the opportunity to prepare for when the formal Call is published. All topics are open to developing country partners, but pay particular attention to topics marked as Specific International Cooperation Actions which require at least two developing country partners in the consortium.

* Statistics on 2006 Marie Curie Actions

UKRO has obtained statistics on the 2006 deadlines for Intra-European Fellowships, Incoming International Fellowships, Outgoing International Fellowships, Series of Events, European Reintegration Grants and International Reintegration Grants. The main facts are presented.

FP7 news

The European Parliament completed its role in the FP7 decision-making process by taking its final vote on the FP7 high-level text and the Rules of Participation at the end of November, paving the way for formal approval of the programme in December. The Commission is working towards publishing notification of the first Calls for proposals on 22 December 2006. Final versions of Work Programmes and Guides for Applicants should also be available at this stage.

Notification of the first Calls under the Environment theme, which will be of most interest to those in water research-related areas, is also likely to be on 22 December. It is understood that there will be one call per year, with the first call Environment deadline currently looking likely to be in early May, although this can only be confirmed on publication of the call.

In addition to the negotiations on the legal texts, the Commission has been working on the administrative aspects that support delivery and promotion of the Framework Programme. The database for registration of FP7 experts is now live and ready for new registrations and updates of profiles for those registered under FP6. The Commission expects to launch the call for FP7 experts imminently, and to request those on the FP6 database to update their record for FP7 purposes. The Commission has also recently published a set of fact sheets designed to explain FP7 to the non-expert. It provides an introduction to the FP, with an overview of the various elements and general budget breakdown.

For further information:

FP7 Expert Database: <https://cordis.europa.eu/emmp7>

FP7 Fact sheets: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/understanding/index.html>

African Water training workshop

This training workshop from January 31st to February 2nd 2007 will take place at Rietondale Lodge, Pretoria, South Africa, and will provide interested researchers involved in the water research and related areas, as well as research administrators and trainers, with all of the necessary information to participate in the Seventh Framework Programme. It will include sessions on introducing the EU and FP7, water research opportunities within the programme, how to get involved in a project, and how to prepare a proposal, contractual and financial issues, and developing a strategy for participation. Many of the sessions will be interactive, with some group exercises and plenty of time for discussion.

The workshop will primarily be delivered by the UK Research Office (UKRO). UKRO, based in Brussels, has over 20 years of experience in delivering such training, and in helping research organisations to successfully engage in EU-funded activities. In addition to the group training sessions there will be an opportunity to speak to the UKRO trainer on a one-to-one basis, in order to discuss your personal strategy to participation. The event will also include sessions delivered by the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the Water Research Commission in South Africa, as well as some African participants in previous Framework Programmes, who will share their experiences. For more information about the workshop please see the website or contact Dr Kevin Pietersen at kevinp@wrc.org.za

To book a place at the workshop please contact Mrs Zagry Scholtz at zagrys@wrc.org.za

2007 UKRO conference

Each year the UK Research Office organises a two-day Annual Conference for European Liaison Officers. The Conference provides an excellent forum for discussion and networking with key speakers from the European Institutions and UK Government departments on a wide range of EU policies and funding opportunities. The 2007 conference will be held at Imperial College, London on 5th and 6th July 2007. African Water will sponsor two representatives from African research organisations to attend the 2007 conference. Note that the representatives should not be researchers, but should be European Liaison Officers, or Fundraising or Policy Support personnel. Details of how to apply will be released in the New Year.

African Water dissemination

There are around 120 subscriptions to the newsletter, the second edition of which was distributed to an additional 2500 African recipients via the WEDC mailing list. A Portuguese version of the African Water publicity brochure is being produced and will be available early in 2007 - many thanks to Aguas de Portugal (www.adp.pt) for doing the translation.

Advantage has been taken of African Water partner's attendance at several recent global events in the sector, to further promote the aims of the project to targeted groups of delegates, who might like to take advantage of the opportunities offered.

These have included:

- First International Conference on Sustainable Irrigation Management, Technologies and Policies held in Bologna in September, organised by the Wessex Institute of Technology;
- Symposium on Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation: Strengthening Capacity for Local Governance, which was also held in September, in Delft, the Netherlands, hosted by IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre and UNESCO-IHE, Institute for Water Education;
- 32nd WEDC Conference on Sustainable Development of Water Resources, Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in November.
- Workshop on Bridging Research, Technology and Development: Sustainable Water Resource Management in Eastern Africa, held in Mombasa, Kenya in December, organised by the Egerton University, African Water Facility, the East Africa Water Association, and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.