



CAZALAC

Water Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Zones in Latin America and the Caribbean

Newsletter N°3 May 2003

PRESENTATION

Dear Friends:

The VIII Seminar of the CONAPHI-Chile will take place in La Serena on June 4, 5 and 6. This is an important opportunity for institutions and people linked to water resources to meet and exchange information regarding this valuable natural resource.

The CAZALAC Water Center is actively collaborating with the organization of the event and with the attendance of important foreign scientists.

We also want to thank each of the messages received to support the Center's job during these months and every person collaborating to achieve a successful development of this initiative.

We send a close hug from La Serena, IV Region of Coquimbo, Chile, where CAZALAC's home office is located.

Guido Soto
Executive Director

VIII SEMINAR - CONAPHI – CHILE / JUNE 4, 5 AND 6, 2003

The VIII Seminar of the CONAPHI – CHILE will soon take place. We already have selected 40 papers, distributed among the 5 topics proposed for the event. There will be 4 presentations from abroad. The registration cost for attendants is \$90,000 (\$15,000 scholarships will be available). Anyone who is interested in attending the seminar and has not sent his/her data, shall enroll as soon as possible, since the number of attendants will be limited.

In addition to the presentation of selected works, a round table on arid zones and ground water resources will be developed on June 6. The Water Center and the General Water Office – among others – will participate in the discussions.

Also, posters and panels from different institutions linked to water management (DGA, DOH, Channel Owners' Association, CEAZA, Civil Work Department of the ULS and CAZALAC) will be exhibited during the event

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.oocc.uls.cl/conaphi.htm>



XI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS

The International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, IRCSA is currently organizing the XI International Conference on Rainwater Catchment Systems for August 25 – 29, 2003.

Within the purposes of this conference is to exchange experience on this matter and to establish links among the professionals interested in rainwater catchment technologies for domestic use, agriculture, as well as to encourage an efficient use of this resource.

This event will take place in the public research center of the Postgraduate Association, Mexico.

Additional information can be found at: <http://www.colpos.mx/ircsa/>



NEW BROCHURE OF THE IHP



For the third Water World Forum, the IHP presented a new brochure prepared in collaboration with the Japanese National Committee for the IHP.

This 12 page brochure includes information on the Program, its mechanisms and instruments and summarizes activities and priorities that represent the main contributions to sustainable development.

The brochure is available in PDF format at:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001301/130197e.pdf>

at the International Hydrologic Program web site:

<http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/index.shtml>

WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION – JUNE 17, 2003



Desertification is the process through which the soils of arid, semi arid and humid zones suffer impairment or degradation. The process implies a loss of productivity of soils and a decrease of the vegetable cover resulting from human action and weather variations.

As part of its worldwide campaign to face this global environmental impairment and, particularly, to combat degradation in arid zones (which cover up to one fourth of the earth surface), the United Nations General Assembly has established that June 17 will be the world day to combat desertification and droughts.

Celebrated worldwide, this day corresponds to the anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations convention to combat desertification. Ninety years have passed since this convention was adopted.

The topic to be emphasized this year is "Water resources management and desertification". This will evidence the great importance of an appropriate water management to face desertification problems. The event will be highlighted in the 196 countries that have ratified this Convention. This will represent a chance to meditate and assess the best ways to curb this scourge.



<http://www.unccd.int/> ; <http://www.unccd.int/publicinfo/june17/menu.php>

EXPOAGUA, RESIDUOS Y AMBIENTE 2003



In its fourth version, "Expoagua Residuos y Ambiente" represents the only large international exposition aimed at promoting and divulging products, services and technologies for environment, water use and treatment of residues. This event will take place on June 25 – 28, 2003 in the Mapocho Station Cultural Center (Centro Cultural Estación Mapocho), Santiago, Chile.

It has been informed that this time, within the exposition framework, a complete program of top level seminars will be developed, where it is expected that more than three thousand professionals and entrepreneurs from Chile and abroad will meet in total. Among the priority issues of the sample are those related to a clean production, treatment of residues and in general to develop a management style aimed at protecting both rural and urban environments.

Additional information on this exhibition can be found at: <http://www.expoaguayambiente.cl/>

WATER FOR THE FUTURE: CURRENT TRENDS

Environmental, economic and social problems show a strong trend to increase as a result of pressures exerted on natural resources. This is mainly due to the significant demographic increase and the increasing pollution of resources, especially of water resources. In the last 100 years, world population has multiplied by three while water consumption has increased by six times.

Therefore, forecasts anticipate that in the year 2050 at least one of every four people will probably live in countries affected by a persistent or recurrent fresh water shortage...



More information:

<http://www.wateryear2003.org>

http://www.wateryear2003.org/ev.php?URL_ID=3697&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201

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