



# CAZALAC

Centro del Agua para Zonas Áridas y Semiáridas de América Latina y EL Caribe

Newsletter N° 4 – June 2003

## PRESENTATION

Dear Friends:

The world arid and semi-arid territories are facing increasingly acute problems to supply and manage the available water resources. It has been estimated that in the mid 90's approximately 80 countries, representing 40% of the world population, were suffering serious water shortages, and that before 25 years two thirds of the world population will live in countries affected by "water resources stress". This situation is worsened by population growth, the expansion of agriculture activities, the increase in soil salinity, climate changes and pollution caused by agriculture, industrial and urban activities, among other reasons.

As announced below, the ninth version of the World Day to Combat Desertification will be celebrated on June 17. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Droughts (UNCCD) has included the water resources issue among its strategic lines to combat this scourge and we expect that in the near future we will be able to join efforts in this sense, taking joint actions in favor of a sustainable management of natural resources and of water in particular, in the benefit of the affected populations in the Region.

We hereby send our greetings to the UNCCD and its points focussing in the LAC Region.

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

Guido Soto  
Executive Director

## COURSE ON WATER RESOURCES AND SOILS– NOVEMBER 2 - 14, 2003



As we reported in issue N°2 of this Newsletter, (April 2003), ELAFIS, jointly with CAZALAC, is planning to perform a course on Water Resources and Soils aimed at theoretical and practical improvement of professionals of the LAC Region linked to soil and water resources management in arid zones. This course will take place in November in the city of La Serena, Chile.



The course considers financing 25-30 scholarships in total, for professionals of the LAC Region, which will include a partial payment of transportation, materials, lodging and food expenses.

Important progresses were obtained during June 5 – 13 in the organization of this event, since, due to the visit of Mr. Donald Gabriels (Gante University, Belgium) and Mrs. Deyanira Lobo (Universidad Central of Venezuela) to our country the team in charge of its organization agreed upon the field trips on experiences and demonstrative works to be programmed, as well as the content of theoretical classes.

Additional information on the course program, issues to be discussed, enrollment and the requirements and procedures to request scholarships will soon be reported in this newsletter and in the Center's web site.

## ALSHUD WORKSHOP – CHILE/ JUNE 25, 2003

The Latin American Association of Underground Water Resources for Development, ALSHUD – Chilean Committee, aware of the importance of developing a sound underground water management for the country, will develop the discussion workshop: “Initiatives Originated from Applying the Regulations Issued by the Underground Water Resources Controlling Agency” on Wednesday, June 25, 2003 (“Los Almendros” Extension Center, Santiago, Chile). Its objective will mainly be focussed on discussing these initiatives and receiving and presenting recommendations related to future development of this resource.

Several experts will discuss the following topics during the workshop:

- Sustainable use of underground water resources and determination of use limits.
- Effects on the environment and protection of rights belonging to third parties.
- Modalities for an Intense Use of Underground Water Deposits
- Underground Water Deposits Assessment Methodologies
- Information systems and knowledge on the resource
- Current legislation vs technical aspects
- Collective management of underground water deposits
- Construction of institutional capacities and development of human resources.

Additional information on this matter can be requested from: [jornada@alhsudchile.cl](mailto:jornada@alhsudchile.cl)



## XI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS

We remind you that from August 25 to 29 the International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association, IRCSA will organize the XI International Conference on Rainwater Catchment Systems in the Public Research Center of the Postgraduate Association (Centro Público de Investigación Colegio de Postgraduados), Mexico.

New information on this conference can currently be found at: <http://www.colpos.mx/ircsa/>



## WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION – JUNE 17, 2003



Desertification is the process through which the soils of arid, semi arid and sub-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. The Ninth World Day to Combat Desertification and Droughts will be celebrated this June 17, 2003.



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

## COURSE ON INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES – SEPTEMBER 1 – 12, 2003

The University of Buenos Aires and the Argentinean Water Resources Institute have joined their efforts, together with other institutions and organizations, to organize an intensive course on integrated water resources management. This activity will take place within the framework of the Argentinean Water Day, which will commemorate the World Fresh Water Year.



The course will take place on next September 01 – 12 and will be targeted to engineers (civil, industrial,

mechanic, agriculture, forest, chemical engineers, etc.), geologists, geographers, biologists, and graduates on other subjects of physics and natural science (meteorologists, hydro-geologists, pedologists, etc.), as well as professionals on humanistic careers (laws, economy, social and educational sciences, diplomats, etc.) and professionals with other university degrees.

The event will be organized by the Science and Technology Office –UBA, the School of Hydraulic Engineering –FIUBA, the Water Trans-disciplinary Study Center (CETA) – FCV and the Argentinean Water Resources Institute (IARH).

Additional information at: <http://www.rec.uba.ar>

## WATER EXPO, RESIDUES AND ENVIRONMENT 2003

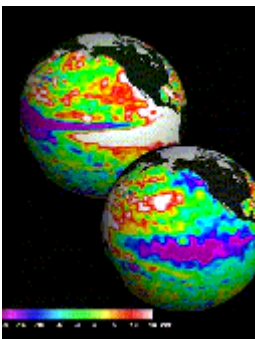


In its fourth version, Expoagua Residuos y Ambiente represents the only large international exposition aimed at promoting and divulging products, services and technologies for environment, water use and treatment of residues. This event will take place on June 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2003 in the Mapocho Station 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.expoaquayambiente.cl/>

## CLIMATE FORECAST AND THE “EL NIÑO “ PHENOMENON



Since early 2003, the several ocean and atmosphere indicators showed a declination of the “El Niño” phenomenon. Among the clearest signs of this are a decrease of the seawater temperature, both at surface and different depth levels, and an increase of East winds, characteristic of the Equator region.

This however does not necessarily imply a change towards the phenomenon known as “La Niña” (where an intensification of cooling at diverse depth levels of the Tropical Pacific seawater is observed). At present most of the climate forecast models show a neutral condition for the next months...

More information at: <http://www.meteochile.cl/> ; <http://www.meteochile.cl/ComPrensa/ninonina.htm>

## CENTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES ON ARID ZONES FOR THE COQUIMBO REGION, CHILE

The official launching of the Center of Advanced Studies on Arid Zones (CEAZA) took place in La Serena, Chile on Wednesday, June 11, 2003. This Center is financed by the CONICYT and the Coquimbo Regional Government and was formed by initiative of the University of La Serena, the Universidad Católica del Norte (Catholic University of the North - Coquimbo branch) and the Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (Farming and Animal Husbandry Research Institute – INIA). One of its main objectives is to study the impact of climate oscillations on the water cycle and the biologic productivity in the IV Region – Coquimbo.



<http://www.ceaza.cl>

In addition, this Center will be a strategic partner for CAZALAC, which will be a scientific-technical advisor for this organization within its future activities.

## INVITATION TO SUBMIT RESUMES – CEAZA RESEARCHERS



The call to submit resumes on a competitive basis to fulfill the posts of Full Time Researchers for the Center of Advanced Studies on Arid Zones (CEAZA), UNIDAD REGIONAL DE DESARROLLO CIENTÍFICO Y TECNOLÓGICO (Regional Scientific & Technological Development Unit – CONICYT) is open.

General characteristics of (Chilean and foreign) applicants

Applicants shall have: (1) A doctor degree in the relevant discipline  
(2) Disposition to work in inter-disciplinary teams  
(3) Ability to create, manage and execute Research and Development projects.  
(4) Sound theoretical-empirical formation in the relevant discipline /specialty  
(5) Availability as of January 1, 2004 (except for the position of Hydrologist, who is required before this date).

Post-doctorate and conceptual and mathematical model management experience is desirable

1. Position: Meteorologist
2. Position: Mathematician
3. Position: Hydrologist
4. Position: Hydro-geologist
5. Position: Vegetable Functional Ecologist
6. Position: Vegetable Geneticist
7. Position: Paleo – Climatologist
8. Position: Sea Ecologist
9. Position: Sea Eco-physiologist
10. Position: Coastal Oceanographer

Documents required: Curriculum Vitae (detailed), two reference letters from researchers directly linked to the applicant's scientific activities, academic degree certificates, post-graduate marks certificate (when applicable), reprints of published papers (if any). An intention letter must also be included, indicating applicant's links to research institutions. Documents must be sent to: Centro de Estudios Avanzados en Zonas Áridas (CEAZA), Casilla 599, La Serena, Chile. A personal interview and a formal conference may be requested from the applicant during the selection process.

Additional information at: <http://www.ceaza.cl>

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