



Press release

Vincennes, March 1, 2012

Onema at the 6th World water forum


12-17 March 2012 in Marseille

The World water forum is organised every three years for water stakeholders to discuss water issues, share experiences and plan for the future. The 6th forum will be the moment to decide on realistic solutions to meet the major challenges facing water worldwide. These solutions, proposed by the entire international community, will be presented at the forum in order to obtain solid commitments for their effective implementation, taking into account financial, social and environmental constraints.

Issues include good governance and the performance of public water and sanitation services, river restoration, green growth and the promotion of ecosystem services, climate change, links between science and water policy, etc. Using its experience and know-how, **Onema, the central organisation in France for water and aquatic environments, has participated in preparing solutions and will take part in the official sessions and the side events organised during this full week of meetings dedicated to water issues.**


ONEMA EVENTS DURING THE FORUM

Performance and governance of public water and sanitation services



The need to improve the quality of water and sanitation services is an international concern. In 2009 in France, the national observatory on public water and sanitation services was created to help elected officials better manage their services and to inform citizens on the price and the quality of the services rendered. The observatory, its operation and potential for improvement will be presented during a number of sessions and side events as one example of the performance evaluation and monitoring systems now operating in the world. The first annual report on the observatory and the new techniques will be presented during **a press conference on Wednesday, 14 March, from 12.00 to 13.00, in the Marseillevyre room (PEv A1) of the Congress centre.**

When science and policy join forces



One of the goals of the international community is to improve the transfer of knowledge between science and public water policy-makers. In the European Union, Onema and the European commission have created a structure to enhance communication between science and water policy in order to improve implementation of the Water framework directive. The structure is called the science-policy interface (SPI). The experience gained in Europe as well as other projects around the world should be made available to one and all. Onema and IOWater will organise a session on this topic on Wednesday, 14 March.

Registration for the session at
<http://worldwaterforum6.spisession.oieau.fr/>



River restoration

Less than 20% of European rivers are still in good physical condition. Their restoration is a priority, notably to reach the goal of good status set by the Water framework directive. Many restoration projects have been launched in the past few years. Their success requires a number of factors, including raising the awareness of decision-makers, managers and the citizens living along the rivers, informing on best practices developed for other projects and encouraging feedback. All these issues will be the topic of a session in the European regional process. An event at the French pavilion, titled "*Innovative engineering for the good status of aquatic environments*", will present remarkable initiatives in ecological engineering in France.



Climate change

Water management must confront a number of new challenges caused by global change, including emerging pollutants, population growth and the effects of climate change. Meeting those challenges head on is a priority for the forum. As an agency that funds research on the links between climate change and the impacts, notably quantitative, on water and aquatic environments, Onema will take part in a number of forum sessions. The forum will also be an occasion to present a new decision-aid tool, Strateau, which can be used to quantify the water resources available to meet demands for various uses.

Green growth

Green growth, another priority for the forum, encourages economic development while protecting natural resources and avoiding environmental damage. Onema has worked extensively during the preparatory phase of the forum on two specific targets for this priority, i.e. economic instruments for better management of water resources and integration of the value of water and ecosystem services in development projects.



Water abstractions

A number of partnerships between all water stakeholders, including farmers, road and park services of local governments, infrastructure managers, etc., have been set up to launch projects to provide sustainable protection for drinking-water abstractions. Onema will participate in an event on this topic at the French pavilion and present information on how R&D can support efforts against non-point source pollution and to protect abstractions.

Onema will take part in the World water forum at the French pavilion with the other members of the French water partnership.

At the pavilion, Onema, the Water agencies and the Ecology ministry will share a stand to present their respective roles and missions. Visitors will discover the decentralised projects for international co-operation and how the Observatory on public water and sanitation services operates. They will also learn about the history of public water policy and its stakeholders, and take part, if they wish, in a poll on major water issues.

***Parc Chanot – Marseille Congress centre
Hall 3 (Palais Phocéén) – French pavilion***

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SESSIONS AND SIDE EVENTS WITH ONEMA PARTICIPATION

Thematic or regional session	Onema topic	Title	Contact	Date	Place	Time
CS1 official session Good governance Target 2, Tools for governance	Performance and governance of public water and sanitation services	Improving the governance and performance of public water and sanitation services	M. Salvetti E. Bréjoux R. Lalement	14 March	Congress centre Room Morgiou (level 1)	14.30 16.30
Official session 1.1.5. Guarantee the right and access to water for all	Performance and governance of public water and sanitation services	Monitoring water services, a key to success for sustainability and access to water for all	M. Salvetti E. Bréjoux R. Lalement	14 March	Palais de l'Europe 2 Room Europa 2	11.00 13.00
Official side event	Performance and governance of public water and sanitation services	Evaluation of public water and sanitation service performance is a key factor in innovative governance	M. Salvetti E. Bréjoux R. Lalement	15 March	Congress centre 1 Room Endoume 1+2 (garden level)	13.15 14.15
Side event	Performance and governance of public water and sanitation services	French experience in evaluating water and sanitation service performance	M. Salvetti E. Bréjoux R. Lalement	15 March	French pavilion Palais Phocéén - Hall 3	15.00 16.20
Side event	Performance and governance of public water and sanitation services	Transparency and solidarity in public water services	M. Salvetti E. Bréjoux R. Lalement	15 March	French pavilion Palais Phocéén - Hall 3	17.00 18.30
Press conference	Performance and governance of public water and sanitation services	Initial data on the performance of public water and sanitation services in France	C. Piquier	14 March	Events centre A1 Room Marseilleveyre	12.00 13.00
European process Target 9	River restoration	Protection and regeneration of river ecosystems	P. Dupont J. Péress	15 March	Palais Phocéén (PP 1) Room Athéna 1	08.30 10.30
Side event	River restoration	Ecological engineering to restore the good status of aquatic environments	P. Dupont J. Péress	13 March	French pavilion Palais Phocéén - Hall 3	13.00 14.30
CS3 introductory session Creating favourable conditions	Science-policy interface		F. Martini	12 March	Chapelle de Port-Frioul	17.00 19.00
CS3 session Creating favourable conditions Target 1 with Regional session	Science-policy interface	When science and policy join forces	F. Martini	14 March	Congress centre Room Endoume 3 (garden level)	11.00 16.30

Europe, Target 10, Promoting technological innovation, SPI and dialogue between researchers and water managers						
CS3 wrap-up session	Science-policy interface	Creating favourable conditions	F. Martini	15 March	Chapelle de Port-Frioul	08.30 10.30
European process wrap-up session	Science-policy interface	Europe mobilised to meet future water challenges, working with neighbouring countries and the rest of the world	F. Martini	16 March	Palais de l'Europe 6	10.00 13.00
Side event	Science-policy interface	Franco-U.S. workshop	F. Martini	13 March	U.S. pavilion	16.00 17.30
Thematic session 3.3. Respond to climate and global changes in an urbanising world Target 2	Climate change	Respond to uncertainties caused by climate and global changes for water planning and management	P. Maugis	13 March	Palais de l'Europe Europa 3	11.00 13.00
Multistakeholder panel for thematic topic 3.3. Respond to climate and global changes in an urbanising world	Climate change	Scenarios and models for water management, a contribution or a complicating factor?	P. Maugis	13 March	Congress centre, level 1 Room Goude	17.00 19.00
Thematic session 2.1.5. Balance multiple uses through integrated water management	Climate change	Modelling to assist decision-makers in setting up integrated water management Presentation of the Strateau tool	P. Maugis	14 March	Congress centre, level 1 Room Sormiou	11.00 13.00
Thematic session 2.1.4. Balance multiple uses through integrated water management Thematic session 2.4.4. Promote green growth and ecosystem services	Green growth	Evaluate water and ecosystems to ensure the sustainability of environments	S. Hernandez	14 March	Congress centre 1 Room Endoume 1+2 (garden level)	11.00 16.30
Side event	Water abstractions	Partnerships to protect drinking-water abstractions	N. Domange	14 March	French pavilion Palais Phocéén - Hall 3	10.40 12.00