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## **WATER INTEGRITY NETWORK NEWSLETTER**

**March 2007**

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<http://www.waterintegritynetwork.net>

### **1. FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

Dear reader:

Today, March 22, is World Water Day! For us in the WIN it is a day to pay a little extra attention to an issue that has been ignored in the water sector for too long: the lack of good governance, transparency and integrity. The month of March not only marks World Water Day, but also International Women's Day. The linkages between water, corruption and gender equality are unmistakable. More gender equality results in less corruption, which in turn results in more and better water, which gives more gender equality, etc. Win, win, win situations of this kind show the real potential of a network such as the WIN. By combining knowledge and experience from different fields and finding mutually reinforcing relations, we will take great strides in improving life for all.

Studies of the gender aspects of corruption show that women are less prone to corruption than men. This should not be interpreted as meaning there is a predisposition for corrupt behaviour inherited on the Y-chromosome, but that women across the world tend to behave less corruptly for social and cultural reasons. Countries with a greater share of women in decision making positions and in the labour force experience lower levels of corruption. A possible reason is that women in many cases are less likely to be part of "old boy networks" that can foster corrupt practices. Another possible explanation is that women experience the negative effects of corruption more directly, as is exceedingly clear in the water sector. In many cultures the responsibility for getting water to the household lay on the women. It has been calculated that in South Africa alone, women collectively walk the equivalent distance of 16 times to the moon and back per day gathering water for their families. Cultural perceptions of decency related to sanitation often place a high burden on women. In some parts of India, women without access to toilets may only ease themselves before dawn and after dusk.

The effects of women's lack of access to water and sanitation on their lives, incomes, dignity, health, education, etc. are enormous, as are the effects on their societies. Lack of education, for example, is seen as a major contribution to population growth, as uneducated women tend to have more children earlier in life. This may seem to be an issue for the education sector, but many young women are forced to prioritise their water fetching duties over attending school, and one-tenth of school-age African girls drop out at puberty because of inappropriate sanitation facilities. Corruption in the water sector may hence also lead to increased population growth. On the other hand, when I was visiting a remote village in the mountains of Bolivia where a solar heated shower had been installed, the village elder told me that the shower was doing wonders to the fertility of the village, as both women and men now smelled much better!

We would be delighted to hear and share your views, comments and experience of the interaction between water, corruption and other aspects of life. We also welcome your ideas on how the newsletter and other services of the WIN can be improved.

Best regards,

Jens Berggren  
Programme Manager



## 2. MEMBER NEWS

In view of the World Water Day on March 22 and the International Women's Day on March 8, we would like to highlight some of our members' activities related to these issues:

### **AquaFed: Company releases statement on Water and Sanitation for Women, March 8 2007**

AquaFed has launched a call to address the current condition of almost half the world's women, who still don't have adequate drinking water and sanitation at home or nearby.

[Read more](#)

### **Gender and Water Alliance: Announcement of E-conference on Gender, Water and Integrity – March 26 till May 13, 2007**

The [Gender and Water Alliance](#) (GWA) organises an E-conference on Gender, Water and Integrity. GWA hopes to gather information and experiences which will serve to formulate a policy paper on these issues. The e-conference will be divided in three different topics of Gender, Water and Integrity, with each discussion lasting for two weeks.

If you are interested to participate in this e-conference, send an e-mail to [Christine Verheijden](#) who will be the moderator of this e-conference, mentioning your name and profession.

[Read more](#)

- For a concrete example of **women, water and corruption**, read [this](#) article by the People's Learning Centre for Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- More information on **gender and corruption**: Visit the [U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre](#) or see the Transparency International [Global Corruption Report 2005](#), chapter 27.
- More information on **gender and water**: Read the [UN Report 2005 'Women and Water'](#) or this interesting [case study](#) on Water, Women and Local Social Organisation in the Western Kenya Highlands by [CAPRI](#).

### **The World Bank: New report entitled 'Making the Most of Scarcity: Water Management in the Middle East and North Africa', March 11, 2007**

The report states that "Transparency is essential so that the public knows why decisions are made ... and what is actually achieved". This is the fifth report in a series that highlights key challenges facing the region.

[Read more](#)

- If you would like your information in the WIN newsletter, please send an email to the [WIN](#)

## 3. WIN ACTIVITIES

### **WIN Interim Steering Committee Meeting in Stockholm on March 12, 2007**

On the 12 March 2007, the WIN interim steering committee met to discuss the work plan for 2007. This was the first meeting since the WIN secretariat was established, so it was an important reunion of the original founders of WIN and new people who will now add to the efforts in taking the network forward. Key elements in the work plan for the year include preparation of the 2008 Global Corruption Report which, with WIN support, will focus on water. A series of regional workshops to start to take the network to more members was also approved including the first workshops in 2007 in Latin America, West Africa, South Asia and East Asia. The committee also discussed draft proposals on how members will elect a steering committee later during the year to replace the current interim arrangements.

### **Composition of WIN membership**

The WIN membership is steadily increasing. We have now more than 150 members from over 50 countries. Membership is composed of 36% individual members, 33% civil society organisations, 6% research organisations, 4% universities, 5% international or regional policy advice organisations, 5% private sector organisations, 5% regulators and 3% public utilities. Donors, multilateral development banks, media and "other" each are represented with 1 percent.

- If you would like to contact fellow members in your region or field of interest, please send your email to the [WIN](#) and we will forward it to the respective members.

## 4. CALL FOR ACTION

### **Grants: DFID launches £100 million Governance and Transparency Fund**

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) has launched the criteria for its GBP 100 million (EUR 149 million) Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF). The Fund aims to strengthen civil society and the media in developing countries to help citizens hold their governments to account. It will be open to not-for-profit organisations, not only in the UK but also abroad. A call for applications has not yet been issued, but will be in two stages: expression of interest and full proposal.

[Read more](#)

### **New IWRM Training Programmes**

Applications are now being accepted for two new Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) International Training Programmes. An English-language course set to begin in Sweden in August and continuing in Laos in November has an application deadline of April 4, 2007. A French-language course beginning in Sweden in August and continuing in Burkina Faso has an application deadline of April 20, 2007.

[Read more](#)

### **Nominations Welcome for Baltic Award**

Nominations are welcome by May 2 for the 2007 Swedish Baltic Sea Water Award.

[Read more](#)

## 5. TALES OF CORRUPTION

This section is an open space to share experiences on corruption related to water. This month's story reveals how reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have been hampered by corrupt practices of officials and private actors.

### **New Orleans-Style Corruption Taints Katrina Recovery**

*By Mark Worth, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2007*

*Words traditionally used to describe the view of the Mississippi River from the waterfront promenade near Café du Monde are now being used to depict the corruption arising from Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts.*

*"It is just breathtaking," said U.S. Senator Susan Collins. "The blatant fraud, the audacity of the schemes, the scale of the waste." [Keep on reading...](#)*

- Do you have a story of how corruption impacts on the water sector? Please send it to the [WIN](#).

## 6. DOCUMENTS

In this section you will find research papers and other documents on corruption in the water sector.

### **Guidelines for improved local water governance (Draft version in English and Arabic)**

By EMPOWERS Partnership (2007). Draft version for comments. Delft, The Netherlands, IRC.

[Read a summary or download the document](#)

### **Tackling corruption in the water and sanitation sector in Africa**

By Janelle Plummer and Piers Cross (2006)

[Read a summary or download the document](#)

## **The Establishment of an Anti-Corruption Agreement with Pipe Manufacturing Companies**

By Alma Rocio Balcazar, Transparencia por Colombia

Watch a short video from on advances and challenges in the agreement against corruption by pipe manufacturers in Colombia.

[Download the document](#)

[See the video](#)

- Please send your papers to the [WIN](#) to publish on our website or include in the WIN newsletter!

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## **7. EVENTS**

### **South Asia Water Research Conference**

Hyderabad, India, 21 Mar 07 - 22 Mar 07

Theme: Water access and conflicts: implications for governance in South Asia.

[Go to website](#)

### **Global Water Intelligence 2007: Where do water and money meet?**

Barcelona, Spain, 2 April – 3 April 2007

The water industry is on the verge of major change. Investor interest in water infrastructure is higher than ever. At the same time, scarcity and growing environmental concerns are dramatically increasing the capital requirements of the sector. Can the two sides meet?

[Go to the website](#)

### **Global Forum V on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity**

Johannesburg, South Africa, 2 April – 5 April 07

[Go to the website](#)

### **1st International Days on Water and Youth**

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 12 Apr 07 - 14 Apr 07

Some 300 young people from all over the world will get together to discuss water issues.

[Go to website](#)

### **Water Management Africa 2007**

Pretoria, South Africa, 23 Apr 07 - 24 Apr 07

A Pan-African platform for sharing water governance strategies and knowledge, with speakers from DWAF, Mvula Trust, WHO, Rand Water, DBSA and WWF.

[Go to the website](#)

- Add your event to the WIN events database by sending an email to the [WIN!](#)

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## **8. TOOLS**

### **How to conduct a first meeting on transparency, honesty and corruption**

Transparency, honesty, and corruption have finally, after many decades, become a focus of attention in the water sector. Discussions and meetings to share experiences are usually the initial steps to help mainstream strategies for transparency and honesty in the sector. However, these initial meetings and discussions can be difficult because the subject can inspire fear.

Because the subject is sensitive, extra care is needed to build trust. Find some helpful lessons learned about introducing this important topic in this [IRC paper](#).

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## 9. MASTHEAD

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**How to contribute:** We strongly encourage all WIN members to contribute to our newsletter in the form of Event Announcements, Publications/Reports, Call for Papers, Call for Actions, as well as their own experiences of corruption in the water sector. Please send all contributions to [info@waterintegritynetwork.org](mailto:info@waterintegritynetwork.org).