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**S. Puri** (Secretary General, IAH)

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**R. Varady** (University of Arizona)

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**Ambassador C. Yamada** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Former UN International Law Commission Special 'Rapporteur' on the 'Law on Transboundary Aquifers')

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(Topic 1 and Topic 2)

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**Building capacity, strengthening cooperation**  
(Topic 3 and Topic 4)

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For detailed information  
and regular updates, please visit  
the ISARM2010 Conference website:

[www.isarm.net/conference2010](http://www.isarm.net/conference2010)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



International  
Hydrological  
Programme

UNESCO-IHP  
ISARM and PCCP Programmes

# ISARM2010 International Conference

# TRANSBOUNDARY

# AQUIFERS

## Challenges and new directions

Third Announcement and Final Programme

6–8 December 2010  
UNESCO, Paris



Co-convended by  
UNESCO IGCP, IAH and UNEP

in cooperation with  
AIDA, AMCOW, BGR, BRGM, FAO, GEF-IW, GWP, IAHS, IGRAC, INBO, NGWA,  
OAS, SIWI, UNCCD, UNECE, UNESCWA, UNU-EHS, UNW-DPC, UN-WWAP, WWC

Seventh Phase of the UNESCO  
International Hydrological Programme  
(IHP 2008–2013)

## Background

In June 2000, in recognition of the importance of transboundary aquifer systems as a source of freshwater in certain regions of the world, particularly those located in arid and semi-arid zones, the 14th Session of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP) adopted Resolution N° XIV-12. By this Resolution, the Council decided to launch an initiative, entitled the Internationally Shared Aquifer Resources Management programme (ISARM), to promote studies on transboundary aquifers. Close cooperation with the ISARM Programme was also established with IAH, UNECE, OAS, UNESCWA, FAO as well as other regional and international institutions. The first phase of the programme was dedicated to compiling a global inventory of transboundary aquifers.

In December 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the 'Law of Transboundary Aquifers'. Through this resolution, the UNGA encourages aquifer states to make appropriate bilateral or regional arrangements for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers, taking into account the provisions contained in the annexed draft articles. The draft articles were prepared by the United Nations International Law Commission (UNILC) with technical support from UNESCO-IHP. Considering the importance of the UNGA Resolution and capitalizing on the growing body of inter-state experience related to the management and development of

transboundary aquifers, the *International Conference, Transboundary Aquifers: Challenges and New Directions*, aims to provide a platform for discussion to consider ways to promote cooperation amongst States in the management and development of transboundary aquifers. This Conference will also consider the various steps to be taken to achieve this – from the adoption of such policies, to their implementation into practical, operational actions.

The debates taking place during the conference are expected to guide stakeholders in the management of 'invisible' but essential groundwater resources and to meet the expectations of groundwater resources users concerned about water security.

This event marks the end of the first phase of the ISARM Programme and the start of the second. It aims to consider the challenges and new directions required for the sustainable development and management of transboundary aquifers.

More information on ISARM Programme: [www.isarm.net](http://www.isarm.net)



## Topics

## Objectives

- Bring together leading experts to discuss approaches for the sound management of transboundary aquifers in both the developed and the developing world.
- Present the results of ISARM Phase I (2000-2010) that will inform the blueprint for ISARM Phase II.
- Encourage an exchange of ideas on new directions in transboundary aquifer management, including the drafting of recommendations for the formulation of new strategies as well as tools for their implementation – guidelines, educational tools, etc.
- Provide a platform for discussion of institutional and legal issues arising from current practices, embodied in legal instruments of cooperation. Consider how the principles of international law could contribute to the sustainable management of transboundary aquifers and their dependent ecosystems.
- Highlight the geopolitical relevance of transboundary aquifers, how their good or bad management can affect human livelihoods and global water supply. Examples to be drawn from instruments of cooperation, conflict prevention and resolution..

- 1 Global overview of transboundary aquifer systems**  
Regional inventories and case studies – Sharing data and information.
- 2 Managing transboundary aquifers: challenges and opportunities**  
Lessons learned and best practices – Assessing the impacts of global changes to groundwater resources and managing aquifer system's response.
- 3 Building capacities and strengthening institutions**  
Legal and institutional advances – Regional agencies and organizations – Multilateral agreements, interstate cooperation – Training, education and technical assistance needs – Water law and environmental concerns – Globalization and virtual water flow.
- 4 Strengthening cooperation**  
Benefits of cooperation and impact of conflicts: techniques for conflict anticipation, prevention, mediation, negotiation and resolution.

**Badge claim (for registered participants only)**

**Sunday 5 December: 15:00 – 17:00**  
**Monday 6 December: 7:30 – 8:30**

## Logistics

- The conference will take place at **UNESCO Headquarters**, 7, Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France. For directions visit [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org).
- Information about accommodation is available at [www.isarm.net/conference2010/logistics](http://www.isarm.net/conference2010/logistics).
- The language of the Conference is **English**. Simultaneous **translation to/from French** will be provided *only* during Day 1 morning and Day 3 afternoon.

## Programme Overview

DAY 1 6 December	DAY 2 7 December				DAY 3 8 December					SIDE EVENT 9-10 December			
Rooms XI-XII	Room XI	Room XII	Room IV	Room III	Room XI	Room XII	Room III	Room IV	Room VI	Rooms VI-XIV			
7:30 - 08:30	Badge claim												
09:00 - 10:30	Opening Ceremony				Topic 1.1	Topic 2.1	Topic 3.1	Topic 4.1	Topic 1.5	Topic 2.5	Topic 3.5	Topic 3.7	Side Event: GEF & UNESCO <sup>(5)</sup>
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break												
11:00 - 12:30	High Level Panel				CB/PS				CB/PS				
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch Break												
14:00 - 16:00	UNESCO-ISARM Overview				Topic 1.2	Topic 2.2	Topic 3.2	Topic 4.2	Topic 1.6	Topic 2.6	Topic 3.6	Topic 3.8	Side Event: GEF & UNESCO <sup>(5)</sup>
16:00 - 16:30	UNW-AIS <sup>(4)</sup>												
16:30 - 17:00	CB/PS												
17:00 - 18:00	IAH Presidents' Award 2010 <sup>(1)</sup> Film Projection <sup>(2)</sup>				Topic 1.3	Topic 2.3	Topic 3.3	Topic 4.3	High Level Roundtable				
	Reception & Book Launch <sup>(2)</sup>												
	Topic 1.4	Topic 2.4	Topic 3.4	Topic 4.4	Closing ceremony				Pilot Course				
	Integrated Transboundary Groundwater Management/ Tools and Methods <sup>(6)</sup>												

Plenary Session    Parallel Session (Oral presentations)    Social / Side event    Coffee-Lunch Break / Poster Session

## High Level Panel

A selected group of high level panellists will debate on the implementation of **The UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the 'Law of Transboundary Aquifers'**. They will discuss general principles, recommendations and possible ways forward.

Background information:  
[www.isarm.net/conference2010/useful-documentation](http://www.isarm.net/conference2010/useful-documentation)

## High Level Roundtable

High level experts will present and discuss with the audience **The UN General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/64/292) on 'The Human Right to Water and Sanitation'** and its link with the management of shared transboundary groundwater resources.

Background information:  
[www.isarm.net/conference2010/useful-documentation](http://www.isarm.net/conference2010/useful-documentation)

### (1) IAH Presidents' Award 2010

The Presidents' Award is presented to a senior hydrogeologist who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of hydrogeology. This year it will be awarded to Prof. Ghislain de Marsily (Univ. Paris VI, French Academy of Sciences).

### (2) Film Projection

**One Water**, directed by Ali Habashi. Duration: 20 minutes. Filmed in 15 countries in both hemispheres, **One Water** is a film that celebrates all the myriad ways water has touched human lives around the globe and explores our changing relationship to water.

### (3) Welcome Reception and book launch

UNESCO-IHP would like to invite you to a Welcome Reception where Mr Fekri Hassan will launch his essay **Water History for our Times**. There will also be a presentation of the forthcoming title **Water History and Humanity**, Volume 1 in the History of Water and Civilisation Series, for which Mr Hassan is Editor in Chief.

### (4) Special Presentation UN-Water

Launching 'UN-Water Activities Information System (UNW-AIS): a UN-Water Coordination on Transboundary Waters' by Dr. R. Ardakanian, Director of UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC).

### (5) Side Event: GEF & UNESCO-IHP Cooperation on Transboundary Aquifer Management Projects

The side event will provide an overview of regional and global GEF Transboundary Aquifer Projects that are executed by UNESCO-IHP. It will include the presentation of the methodology for the assessment of Transboundary Aquifers, developed in the framework of the GEF TWAP project.

### (6) Side Event: Pilot Course

UNESCO-ISARM is offering the **Second Pilot Course on Integrated Transboundary Groundwater Management** to a limited number of participants. A detailed description of the course is available at [www.isarm.net/conference2010](http://www.isarm.net/conference2010).