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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  
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<http://www.isarm.net/conference2010>



UNESCO-IHP  
ISARM and PCCP Programmes

International Conference

# TRANSBOUNDARY AQUIFERS

Challenges and new directions

Second Announcement and Provisional Programme

6–8 December 2010  
UNESCO, Paris



Co-convoked by  
UNESCO IGCP, IAH and UNEP

in cooperation with  
AIDA, AMCOW, BGR, BRGM, GEF-IW, GWP, IAHS, IGRAC,  
NGWA, OAS, SIWI, UNU-EHS, UN-WWAP, UNW-DPC, 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 into 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.

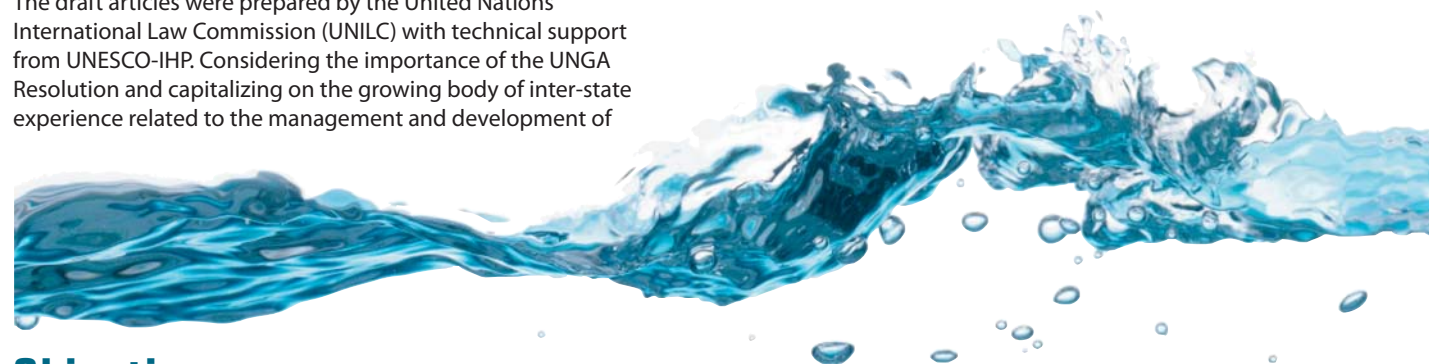
In December 2008, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Resolution (A/RES/63/124) on the 'Law of Transboundary Aquifers'. Through this resolution, the UNGA encourages aquifer states to make appropriate bilateral or regional arrangements for the proper management of their transboundary aquifers, 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: <http://www.isarm.net>



## 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.

## Topics

- 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.

## Pre-proceedings

The abstracts of the various contributions will be published in a pre-proceedings booklet. The electronic versions of full papers and posters will be included in a CD-ROM.

Both booklets and CD-ROMs will be available at the conference. The final proceedings will be published after the conference with the reviewed contributions.

## Overview of the Provisional Programme

DAY 1 6 December Plenary Sessions		DAY 2 7 December Parallel Oral Presentations and Poster Sessions				DAY 3 8 December Parallel Oral Presentations and Poster Sessions/Closing			SIDE EVENT 9-10 December Pilot Course	
Room XI		Room XI	Room VI	Room IV	Room III	Room XI	Room VI	Room IV	Room VI	
08:00 - 09:00	Registration								Integrated Transboundary Groundwater Management  Tools and Methods (**)	
09:00 - 10:30	Opening Ceremony	Topic 1	Topic 4			Topic 2	Topic 1			
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break	CB/PS	CB/PS			CB/PS	CB/PS			
11:00 - 12:30	High Level Panel	Topic 1	Topic 4	Topic 3			Topic 2	Topic 1		Topic 3
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch Break	LB/PS	LB/PS	LB/PS			LB/PS	LB/PS		LB/PS
14:00 - 16:00	ISARM Regional Overviews	Topic 1	Topic 4	Topic 3	Topic 2	Topic 2	Topic 1	Topic 3		
16:00 - 16:30		CB/PS	CB/PS	CB/PS	CB/PS	CB/PS				
16:30 - 17:00										
17:00 - 17:30	Film Projection (*)	Topic 1	Topic 4	Topic 3	Topic 2	Closing ceremony				
17:30 - 18:00	Cocktail									

CB/PS = Coffee Break/Poster Session  
LB/PS = Lunch Break/Poster Session

## High Level Panel

A selected group of high level panellists will debate on  
**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.

Text of the UNGA Resolution:  
[http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/pdf/Transboundary\\_Aquifers-Managing\\_a\\_Vital\\_Resource.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp/pdf/Transboundary_Aquifers-Managing_a_Vital_Resource.pdf)

### (\*) 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.

### (\*\*) 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).

## Registration

- Deadline for final registration is **15 September 2010**.
- For registrations to attend the conference, please see [www.isarm.net/conference2010](http://www.isarm.net/conference2010).
- Please note that due to the high number of pre-registrations already received and the limited availability of seats, the Secretariat will strictly close the registration process on 15 September 2010.
- There is **no registration fee** for this conference.

## Logistics

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