



China water stewardship dialogue

On 5th January AWS co-hosted a Water Stewardship Dialogue in Beijing with two of our Board Organizations, WWF and The Nature Conservancy. More than fifty participants heard about the respective programs of the host organizations, before discussing ways in which to advance water stewardship in China. The afternoon was devoted to a discussion around the AWS International Standard and ways to ensure Chinese stakeholders are fully engaged in the Standard development process. Participants came from a diverse range of backgrounds, including local and international businesses, academia business associations and NGOs. As a result of this event we are working with stakeholders to stage follow-up event and test draft versions of the Standard at suitable locations in China later in the year.

Second AWS Latin America Regional Forum

On November 29-30, 2011, the AWS-Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean (AWS-LAC) organized the 2nd AWS-LAC Regional Forum. This event gathered 34 representatives from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico, and the main purpose was to analyze, compile and validate criteria for water stewardship standards. The information analyzed at this forum was the result of the organization of the 5 workshops held in 2011 in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Mexico. A full report from the Forum can be accessed at http://allianceforwaterstewardship.org/about_pdfs/About_AWS/Regional_Initiatives/LAC/LAC_regional_forum_nov2011.pdf

European Water Stewardship Launch

AWS Board Organization European Water Partnership launched European Water Stewardship (EWS) on November 24, 2011 at the Royal Academy of Belgium in Brussels. Representatives of industries, agriculture, public authorities and civil society discussed and identified common opportunities and challenges in order to take concrete steps towards sustainable water management.

European Water Stewardship is designed to provide the tools to make the complementary efforts of the private sector and enforced implementation of European legal requirements part of daily business practice to create long-term solutions for water management on a river basin scale.

During the panel discussion on the EWS implementation in industry, Joppe Cramwinckel of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development underlined “EWS provides a tool for public participation in the river basin management also in terms of shared responsibility.”

Eckhard Koch of BASF SE emphasized that mitigation of water risks and suitable response strategies should not stay restricted on local and seasonal level, but tools like the EWS standard should also be taken up with a global perspective. EWP’s participation in AWS is helping work toward that goal.

Nexus Conference in Bonn

In November, the Federal German Government hosted an important conference on “Water Energy Food Nexus”. Alongside the CEO Water Mandate and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, AWS was co-host one of the conference’s “hot topic sessions” on “Water Stewardship and Food and Energy Security: Exploring the Role of Corporate Water Users and Polluters”. A panel of experts built on the session background paper with discussions of their experiences and ideas. To access the background paper for this event please click

http://allianceforwaterstewardship.org/about_pdfs/Nexus_conference_background_paper

Progress update on development of International Water Stewardship Standard

Since July 2011, the International Standard Development Committee (ISDC) has been steadily working via meetings and calls to pull together the initial draft AWS Standard. Assisted by the AWS Secretariat, the 15-member ISDC has met twice (Sri Lanka in July, and Milwaukee in October) and held bi-weekly calls, to decide on the framework, structure and content of the first AWS draft Standard. The next ISDC meeting, to be held in Melbourne, Australia at the end of January and hosted by Water Stewardship Australia, will further refine the first draft. Depending on progress made in Melbourne, we hope to be able to release the first draft Standard in March. This will be followed by a public consultation period of at least sixty days. Please log on to our website at www.allianceforwaterstewardship.org for notifications of public release and methods of submitting feedback.

Australian stakeholder workshop

Founding AWS Board Organization, Water Stewardship Australia, is holding a stakeholder workshop in Melbourne on the 1st and 2nd of February. This event is an important opportunity for Australian stakeholders to influence the future development of the global water stewardship standard and system. The workshop will consider changes to the Australian water stewardship standard. Experience gained in Australia will in turn influence development of the global water stewardship standard and system. Members of the International Standard Development Committee (ISDC) will be in Australia to discuss their development work and learn from the Australian experience. A number of ISDC members are expected to participate in the WSA workshop. The WSA Technical Advisory Committee will meet in mid-January to finalise proposed changes to the Australian water stewardship draft standard to be considered at the February workshop.

Presentation of AWS work in Kenya

AWS Board member Nick Hepworth of Water Witness International travelled to Kenya in December to present AWS’s work around Lake Naivasha at a workshop on carbon and water management in horticultural exports from East Africa. In 2010 AWS worked with GIZ and Marks & Spencer to test Australian and European draft Standards in the Lake Naivasha area. The lake is an important centre for horticulture and a significant source of Kenya’s export revenue. The workshop was co-organized by the International Trade Centre, the Fresh Produce Exporters Association of Kenya and PIP.

Presentation on Urban Water Stewardship

The theme of the recent IWA Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was “Pioneering Water Solutions in Urbanizing Areas”. This gave AWS to present some our ideas on applying water stewardship in urban environments and gather feedback from experts in urban water management and planning. Based on the input received at the Congress we will continue to work with key stakeholders (including our Board Organizations) to explore the concept and its potential value.

Report on North America Public Meeting

A report summarizing the North America Regional Initiative’s first AWS public meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (October 25, 2011) is available for download at

http://allianceforwaterstewardship.org/about_pdfs/About_AWS/Regional_Initiatives/NA/NARI_%20Public_Meeting_Report_1-12-12.pdf. Additional public meetings will be held throughout North America in Spring 2012. For more information, please contact Lisa Downes at 414/248-8095 or ldownes@tnc.org.

Forthcoming events

As one of the "Target Coordinators", AWS is hosting a session at the 6th World Water Forum, taking place from March 12th - 16th in Marseille, France. Our work surrounds the target that "By 2015, more than 20 major businesses and their supply chains, from multiple business sectors, have developed water footprint impact mitigation and sustainable water management certification programmes". The session will explore experiences and solutions proposed by companies and associations that AWS works closely with, as well as additional proposals from other parties. We are joined in our work for this forum by Diversey, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, NALCO and the UN CEO Water Mandate. If you would like to join us for this session please go to the World Water Forum website at <http://www.worldwaterforum6.org> for more details.

www.allianceforwaterstewardship.org

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