

Latin America session AIWW 2017

Engagement and partnership development:

success factors for applying integrated water approaches in Latin America

Global water challenges are mostly caused by the constant pressure that society and economic sectors exercise, through multiple and progressively interventions, on catchment areas, coastal zones and cities. Latin America is not alien to this reality. The distribution water resources in relation with human and environmental needs is highly inequitable or irregular throughout the region, and the effects of climate change are increasing the vulnerability to disasters such as flooding and droughts. In this context, creating awareness for appropriate water management becomes a priority on the government's agendas at the local and national level. There is a need to develop strategies and solutions that can ensure water availability and security for a sustainable socio-economic development in the region.

The convening organizations invite you to participate in this dedicated AIWW pre-conference session, which addresses these issues for three countries in Latin America. In an interactive and constructive way, we aim to discuss three water related case studies geographically located in Chile and Colombia, with the aim to identify success factors in integrated water management approaches in those countries and to explore (business) cooperation perspectives. The cases that will be discussed all focus on integrated approaches, but connect to specific challenges in the field of efficient drinking water supply, urban water management, and river basin governance. The expected outcomes of the session will be useful and inspirational for those involved in water projects in Latin America.

Chile: GIRAgua

The purpose of the GIRAgua project is to help dealing with the increasing tensions between water availability and water demand in Chile. Within the context of the project, a method for Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) will be developed to assess these tension. From the perspective of feasibility, the method will be applied to the Elqui River Basin. A thorough understanding of the local natural water availability, subsurface systems in combination with water treatment technologies will be analysed in relation to water demands, and stakeholders from various fields will be involved.

Colombia: restoring the navigability in the Magdalena River

The project for the restoration of navigability in the Magdalena River is intended to improve stretches of the over 900 kilometers of waterways between the inland of Colombia and the Caribbean coast. The project responds to the necessity of Colombia to establish the interconnection in transport, improve the social and economic conditions of coastal residents and with the vision of globalization, competitiveness of the economy. The project last for a period of ten years and has an investment value of approximately € 650 million. Via an innovative Public Private Partnership, the project is entrusted to a Private Associate of the design, construction and maintenance of infrastructure and related services.

Programme

Location: Room G103.

Entry D, First floor, RAI- Europaplein, Amsterdam

13:00 – 13:05 Word of welcome. Edilberto Baquero, Coordinator Latin America, Netherlands Water Partnership.

13:05 – 13:25 Kick-off: water challenges and the prospect of integrated approaches and engaging partnerships by Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs.

13:25 – 14:10 Case pitches

Chile: GIRAgua. Cristian Baquedano, Innovation Manager-Water, Corporacion de Desarrollo Productivo Region de Coquimbo (CRDP)

Colombia: Magdalena River restoration project. Alfredo Varela, Director CorMagdalena

14:10 – 15:00 Roundtable discussions (parallel)

1. Short round of participant introductions per table
2. Reiteration of the discussion objectives.
3. Discussion on key points:
 - a. Integrated approach
 - b. Partnership/consortium members
 - c. Project activities (focus on outreach/stakeholder engagement)
 - d. Success factors
 - e. Perspectives for cooperation

15:00 – 15:25 Short wrap up from the round table discussion

15:25 – 15:30 Reflections on the outcomes and closure