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Secretariat Update

The President of the CWWA Jason Johnson and the President of the Caribbean Desalination Association (CaribDA), Mr. John Thompson recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration between the two associations. CaribDA is a non-profit Organization and represents members / sponsors from the Caribbean desalination and water reuse communities, utilities, industries, academia and government as well as individuals interested in water supply improvement in the Caribbean, specifically by means of desalination or water reuse.

In signing the Agreement, Jason Johnson, expressed the CWWA's long standing recognition of the issues surrounding desalination as a water augmentation source for the region. However, it would require the sector to carefully consider the environmental, economic and social issues relating to the acceptance of this option relative to the traditional sources. This is one of the reasons that the partnership with CaribDA would ensure the sharing of knowledge and expertise among their respective memberships. CaribDA will be hosting their 2016 Biennial Conference & Exposition in Trinidad from the 31st May - 3rd June 2016; and during this conference the CWWA would be hosting a joint workshop.

Other collaborations would include

- ✚ Developing joint proposals for application of desalination and technology and water reuse in the Caribbean;
- ✚ Preparing and submitting joint position papers to regional governments aimed at influencing the formulation of water sector policies;
- ✚ Designing and implementing joint technical studies and research projects for the upgrading of technical standards; and
- ✚ Sharing of relevant information on the problems and challenges confronting the water sector and strategies proposed to address them etc.

To read the UNESCO Report visit:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002281/228110e.pdf>

CWWA and CaribDA partnership- Desalination in the Caribbean



Mr. John Thompson (CaribDA) and Mr. Jason Johnson (CWWA)

SAVE THE DATE: CWWA's 25th Anniversary Trinidad and Tobago





Coordinating Assistance to Dominica after TS Erika



APUA and DOWASCO members

Coming out of our commitment to Dominica, as expressed in the High Level Forum, the CWWA launched an effort at the end of August to assist DOWASCO to restore Dominica's water supply in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Erika. The response was very encouraging and positive from partner water utility companies to individuals with expertise. CWWA's coordinator on the ground in Dominica, President Elect of the CWWA, Mr. Alphonsus Daniel worked alongside Mr. Bernard Ettinoffe, CEO of DOWASCO and his team. Assistance was forthcoming from the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) of Grenada, the Belize Water Supply Company (BWS), the Bahamas Water Company (BWS), the Water and Sewerage Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (WASA) and the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA). DOWASCO also received support for HD Supply and other individuals, too numerous to mention also offered their services. While there is still work to be done in Dominica, based on our continuous communication with our DOWASCO colleagues, the relief work has moved from dealing with the critical aspects of the restoration to more strategic issues of redesign of the water system and climate proofing it. The coordination of this effort was done by the CWWA Secretariat in collaboration with the mentioned partners. One of the main challenges was how to transport persons to Dominica when all flights were shut down. Hereunder, we share with you a verbatim account of the persons on the ground in Dominica, in this case, a report prepared by Devon Payne Assistant Supervisor at the APUA.

We arrived at the Canefield Airport on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at approximately 12:00pm. We were transported to the hotel, got checked in and immediately made our way to the Dominica Water and Sewage Company (DOWASCO) office for orientation. We were placed in the field and attached to various work crews assigned to different parts of the island. Mr. Colbourne and I completed the replacement of a four inch gate valve. Afterwards we completed assignments in three different communities which were miles apart. My other team members were also kept busy as there was much work to be completed. At approximately 10 p.m. we completed our first day of work. We held our own under difficult circumstances on the mountain. I applaud Mr. Martin's courage and resilience under these unfamiliar and challenging conditions. A total of two thousand nine hundred and forty feet of galvanized pipes was installed that day.

On September 21st, 2015 a 'Thank You Ceremony' was held in our honor, members of the team spoke of their experiences and how it differed from what we are accustomed to in Antigua. A suggestion was made that APUA and DOWASCO could work together again in the near future, to fully restore water services in Dominica. In light of the delayed arrival of the Grenada Team our stay was extended and the Team eventually returned to Antigua on September 26, 2015. The manager of DOWASCO and his management team offered their thanks and appreciation to the Management of the Water Business Unit of APUA and by extension the team members who assisted in restoring water to many communities in Dominica.



GUYANA IN THE NEWS

Guyana Water Incorporated appoints new Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors

New CEO, Dr. Van West-Charles to focus on accessibility and quality of water as well as GWI's financial viability

Monday, October 5, 2015 – Georgetown, Guyana: Guyana Water Incorporated (GWI), the Nation's supplier of Water and Sanitation Services wishes to advise on the appointment of a new Chairman, Board of Directors and Chief Executive. Newly appointed Chairman Nigel Hinds, CPA, possesses vast experience in Guyana's Financial Sector as the founder and Chief Executive of Nigel Hinds Financial Services. Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, MD, MPH, former Minister within the Health, Housing, Water and Environment Sectors, has been appointed Chief Executive from October 1, 2015.

Dr. Van West-Charles has a plethora of experience in the area of public health including being responsible for Research and Bioethics. He is the former Academic Dean of St. Helen University Medical School and Health Sciences, St. Lucia, Special Advisor Partnerships with the International Financial Institutions at the World Health Organization (WHO), Area Manager for Information and Knowledge Management, PAHO/WHO as well as PAHO/WHO Representative for Jamaica; Cayman Islands and Bermuda among other distinguished appointments.

The newly appointed Chief Executive is a Doctor of Medicine with a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan and a Certificate in Health Economics from University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Dr. Van West-Charles also holds Bachelor of Science qualifications in Leadership and Social Development. Addressing the GWI Corporate Management Team on Friday October 2, the Chief Executive stated that access to safe, potable water is a priority on his list of areas for attention. 'Without a healthy society we cannot achieve the Guyana we are hoping to build,' stated paramount to maintaining good public health is access to safe water. Hence, this area along with water quality and GWI's financial viability are key issues I will be addressing immediately'.

To read more visit: <http://www.gwiguyana.com/?q=node/208>

Guyana Faces Dwindling Water Supply



October 17 2015: The government of Guyana is calling on residents to conserve water as officials warn that the drought-like conditions afflicting the South American country will likely persist into next year. Agriculture Minister Noel Holder said yesterday that there is a 95% chance the El Nino weather pattern will continue through the traditional mid-November rainy season and into 2016. Officials are establishing a task force to execute a conservation plan and help farmers unable to irrigate their land as the country's main water reservoirs exhibit stress and backup drainage canals and lakes start to dry, he added.

The government earlier this month sent water tankers and food to indigenous Macushi and Patamona people whose lives has been hit hard by a dry spell that began in August. Forecasters have said dry conditions will continue until at least mid-November. Officials say the drought also has dried up parts of the Takutu River and prevented fish from spawning, raising concerns about upcoming food shortages. Many parts of the Caribbean are struggling through one of the region's worst drought in recent history.



El Nino effect on water availability in Trinidad and Tobago

The CWWA T&T Section hosted a deeply engaging *Professional Perspectives* lecture on Wednesday October 14th, 2015 at the Public Education Centre of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA). A presentation was delivered by Mr. Keith Meade, Senior Manager of the Water Resources Agency (WRA), WASA on the El Nino and its effect on water resources of Trinidad and Tobago. The audience comprised of students, water sector professionals and members of civil society groups.

Mr. Meade skillfully explained the El Niño phenomenon as the warm phase associated with the interactions between ocean and atmospheric temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. The resulting climatic conditions are drier than average with below normal rainfall and higher than average temperatures. The impact of this climatic occurrence is a decline in water availability due to significant rainfall shortages.

Trinidad and Tobago, like other countries in the Caribbean are experiencing the effects of El Niño and are concerned about the response to water shortages in the wet season and preparation for the worst-case scenario in the dry season. Mr. Meade's presentation to the CWWA was a component of the WRA's technical guidance to the WASA. The lecture highlighted projections of the available water in WASA's artificial storage systems based on the forecasted rainfall from the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service. The WRA has recommended reduced water production at the Authority's major storage systems to prepare for the proposed effects of the El Nino.

Professional Perspectives is intended as a forum for professionals, students and the public to discuss the challenges of the water and waste sectors and forge implementable solutions to the issues faced. Future topics scheduled in this lecture series include wastewater rehabilitation in Trinidad and Tobago, climate change, rainwater harvesting and storm water management. Interested persons can contact the Trinidad and Tobago National Section at cwwatnatsec@gmail.com for further information on Professional Perspectives.

Participants at the lecture

Mr. Keith Meade





HURRICANE JOAQUIN - BAHAMAS



NASSAU, Bahamas, Wednesday October 14, 2015 – The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) is working with the authorities in The Bahamas to assess the impact of Hurricane Joaquin and to strengthen relief efforts. This as the organizations' Country Office for The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, supported by the Regional Disaster Response Team, expressed public health concerns. *“Well water, which many residents use for bathing and cooking, has suffered salt water intrusion and contamination with fecal material and debris, thus requiring decontamination,”* PAHO said in a statement.

“The severe weather has also increased mosquito breeding sites, raising the risks of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and malaria. Disrupted rodent habitats pose a risk for leptospirosis, indicating a need for increased rodent control.” Hurricane Joaquin, the 10th named storm of the 2015, struck The Bahamas as a tropical storm on September 29 and over the next two days escalated to a Category 4 hurricane, with maximum wind speeds of 130 miles per hour. Over 14,000 residents have been affected on the six worst-hit islands — Acklins, Crooked Island, Long Cay, Long Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador — and on Mayaguana, Ragged Island, Cat Island, Exuma and Inagua. High winds and high tides combined with flooding from heavy rains affected access to the islands by air, road and sea, while downed power lines and damaged generators have interrupted electricity supplies.

To read more visit: http://www.caribbean360.com/news/concerns-about-post-hurricane-joaquin-public-and-environmental-health-in-bahamas?utm_source=Caribbean360%20Newsletters&utm_campaign=75e00fc3f3-

[Vol_10_Issue_184_News10_14_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_350247989a-75e00fc3f3-39466665](http://www.caribbean360.com/news/concerns-about-post-hurricane-joaquin-public-and-environmental-health-in-bahamas?utm_source=Caribbean360%20Newsletters&utm_campaign=75e00fc3f3-)



Caribbean News

EU asked to support Caribbean large water, food distribution projects



Dominica could soon be selling larger amounts of water and fresh fruits and vegetables to neighbouring islands when two projects, likely to be funded by the European Union (EU), get off the ground, according to a top sub-regional diplomat.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States' (OECS) Ambassador to Brussels, Dr. Len Ishmael said the regional grouping has approached the EU to fund the development of two Pan-Eastern Caribbean businesses to build refrigerated warehouses at the ports of St. Kitts and Nevis, and Antigua and Barbuda to receive larger amounts fruits and vegetables from Dominica.

Ishmael said that project is expected to result in increased production, more jobs for young men at a time when 42 to 45 percent of young men are jobless. "We need to be able to do what we can to radically transform our economies in terms of adding value and providing a meaningful way of life for our young people," she told reporters during the 2nd Caribbean Agri-Business Forum being held in Barbados as part of the Caribbean-Pacific Agri-Business Forum.

The OECS envoy also announced that the EU has been approached to construct a barge to transport and pipe water into storage facilities at the ports of other Caribbean islands for domestic, industrial and agricultural usage.

To read more visit: <http://www.caribnewsdesk.com/news/11286-eu-asked-to-support-caribbean-large-water-food-distribution-projects>

Caribbean battling water shortage

Caribbean countries have been implementing various measures to control the use of water as the region experiences a prolonged drought. From Trinidad and Tobago in the south, to Jamaica in the north, governments and the various utility companies have announced stringent measures ranging from a ban on watering lawns, to washing vehicles as a means of dealing with the low volume of water in reservoirs as a result of the reduced rainfall.

In Trinidad, water police officers have also been deployed to ensure that consumers adhere to the new measures, while in Jamaica, water rationing has become the order of the day.

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) has become the latest Caribbean country to announce plans for a water rationing system until there is a significant increase in rainfall. 'As Antigua and Barbuda enters further into a drought, APUA has seen a depletion of the surface water resources that it relies heavily on,' it said in a statement.

'At our normal rate of consumption, the Potworks Dam, our largest containment is estimated to have enough water to take the country to the end of February if there is not a significant increase in rainfall. The Dunning's Dam in Bendals is also estimated to follow this trend,' the APUA said.

Because of this, the APUA said that beginning yesterday, consumers will be supplied with water at scheduled times throughout the day. 'As we go through the drought, APUA is urging the general public to conserve water.' Last October, Antigua and Barbuda's Meteorological Services said that below normal rainfall in August was the main factor for the current drought which it described then as being moderate.

Officials have said that the dry weather was being influenced by the weather phenomenon, El Nino. The National Office of Disaster Services said that on average Antigua and Barbuda goes through a period of low rainfall every three to four years.

To read more visit:

http://www.cdema.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=444:caribbean-battling-water-shortage&catid=34:news&Itemid=266



SECTOR NEWS



WASA wins AMCHAM TT Award

The Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) of Trinidad and Tobago has received the award for “Outstanding Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Project” at the American Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago (AMCHAM T&T) 3rd Annual National Excellence in Health and Safety and Environment (HSE) Awards, held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain, October 2015.

The AMCHAM’s National Excellence in HSE Awards recognizes companies that have demonstrated the ability to implement and uphold the highest standards of HSE management and practice, striving for continuous improvement and excellence at all times. The award for “Outstanding HSE Project” recognizes the project that has significantly improved or impacted on the organizations’s occupational safety and health and environmental performance. In accepting the Award, the Chief Executive Officer of WASA, Mr. Gerard Yorke expressed confidence and pride in the outstanding work being done by staff of the Authority. He noted especially the area of public outreach and involvement with the communities and the clear recognition that water is everybody’s business not just WASA. WASA applied for the Outstanding HSE Project Award on the basis of its Adopt A River Programme which was launched in 2013, with the aim of involving communities and organizations in the process of improving the health of rivers and watersheds in Trinidad and Tobago in a bid to address the threats posed to the adequacy and quality of our vital resources.

The Project Manager is Dr. Sharda Mahabir at the Water Resources Agency headed by Mr. Rajendra Gosine.

To read more visit: <http://www.cwwa.net/new/index.php/news/sector-news/183-iwrm-working-in-trinidad-and-tobago-a-benefit-analysis-of-the-adopt-a-river-programme>



CAWASA BVI Water Operators training

CWWA’s Vice President, Mr. Alphonsus Daniel, recently conducted a Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Workshop in the British Virgin Islands, on behalf of the Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association Inc. (CAWASA Inc.). The workshop targeted Operations and Maintenance personnel attached to the water and wastewater utilities and other related sectors. At the end of the workshop the participants were equipped to:

- ✚ Understand basic hydraulics related to open flow channel as it relates to sewers not flowing full;
- ✚ Read and interpret the basic design of wastewater treatment plants;
- ✚ Understand the sources of wastewater generation, types and quality wastewater, differentiate between different types of wastewater treatment plants;
- ✚ Undertake the operations and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants;
- ✚ Assume responsibilities of wastewater operators to implement health and safety measures; laboratory analysis and effluent quality; and
- ✚ Appreciate the Do’s and Don’ts during operations and maintenance of treatment plant and sewerage.

Participants also did technical site visits to view the application of aspects of the training.



Are you a member of the CWWA?

If not, come join us

Please visit us at:

www.cwwa.net

email: cwwatsecretariat@gmail.com

Facebook: **Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

We are pleased to list below the cost of membership in the CWWA. If you are unsure of your current membership status feel free to contact us at your soonest; to receive an update.

Membership in CWWA is open to individuals, companies and utilities operating in the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste sectors under the following categories of membership:

MEMBER: Reg. fee: US\$40.00 + Admin fee: US\$20.00

A Member shall, at the time of their application, hold a Degree in engineering or science approved by the Board, although in exceptional circumstances the Board may accept the alternative qualification and experience in responsible posts in water, waste and any environmental field.

STUDENT: Reg. fee: US\$20.00 + Admin fee: US\$15.00

A Student shall be at the time working towards a degree in engineering or science and is enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program at university.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATION: Reg. fee: US\$875.00 + Admin fee: US\$25.00

This can include any non-corporate company/non-corporate utility, organization/project in related field of water, waste and environmental management.

CORPORATE COMPANY: Reg. fee: US\$175.00 + Admin fee: US\$25.00

National, regional and international "COMPANIES" working in the field of water supply, wastewater or solid waste disposal, such as consultants, contractors, manufacturers of plant and equipment.

CORPORATE UTILITY: Reg. fee: US\$1,750.00 + Admin fee: US\$25.00

National or regional "UTILITIES" operating in the field of water supply, wastewater or solid waste disposal and providing services as a public or private sector utility.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT FOR THE CWWA InfoStructure

✚ Share your experiences; your individual contributions are welcomed and appreciated;

✚ Take this opportunity to place your company in the news;

✚ Share your photographs with us;

✚ Send us your articles at :cwwasecretariat@gmail.com