



CARIBBEAN WATER AND
WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

The CWVA InfoStructure

Caribbean Collaborations, Unified Solutions

In this Issue:

1. Secretariat Update
2. MoU signing with GWOPA/UN-Habitat & Strategy 2019
3. CARPHA Media Releases
4. IDB brings water and sanitation to rural communities.
5. The Urgency of Water Security
6. Sector News

Contact Us:

Mailing Address: c/o WASA, Farm Road St. Joseph, Trinidad W.I.

Tel: 868-645-8681; 662-2302-7 Ext. 3474; 3475

Fax: 868-645-7849

Email: cwwattsecretariat@gmail.com

Website: www.cwva.net

Find us on face book:



Secretariat Update

Call for Abstract and Poster Presentation -CLOSED OFF



**The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association
in association with
The Florida Section – American Water Works Association
“Improving the Quality of Life
with Water & Waste Management Solutions”
August 24-28, 2015
Miami, Florida**

Background

The 24th Annual CWVA Conference and Exhibition is an opportunity for the managers and practitioners of water and waste management to share their experiences for the mutual benefit of improving the quality of life in the Caribbean and the State of Florida.

CLOSED OFF

After numerous request by our members for an extension of the deadline date for the Abstract and Poster Presentation; **April 30 2015**, marked the final deadline date and we are pleased with the multitude of responses that we received.

As per usual, our esteemed Conference Panel will review all submissions and the selected presenters will be informed of their success no later than **May 29th 2015**. This year's theme "Improving the Quality of Life with Water and Waste Management Solutions" promises to offer vigorous presentations (traditional or dyanamic) and will include lively discussions for all attendees.

Remember to book your tickets early so that you wouldn't miss out on the exciting events planned for this year's Conference. Our Conference Committee has been working assiduously to ensure that your experience at this year's Conference surpasses all your expectations.

We anticipate that a gratifying time would be had by all, CWVA style, so invite your colleagues in the workplace or your colleagues around the Region reminding them of the power-packed learning and sharing experience that awaits them.

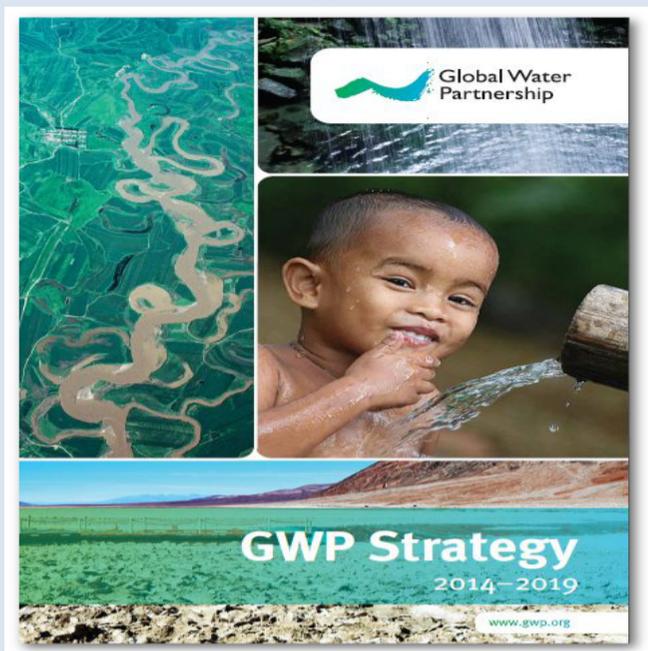
Further details on participating in the conference are available on the conference page via the link: [CWVA 2015 CONFERENCE DETAILS](#)

The CWWA InfoStructure



Caribbean Collaborations, Unified Solutions

GWP Strategy 2014-2019



Water insecurity costs the global economy some US\$ 500 billion annually, according to Global Water Partnership (GWP). That figure does not take into account environmental impacts so the total drag on the world economy could be 1% or more of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GWP released these figures based on the report *Securing Water, Sustaining Growth*, written by an international task force convened by GWP and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The report looks at water's destructive force as well as its contribution to human health and prosperity.

Flood damage is estimated at US\$120 billion per year from urban property damage alone, while major droughts were found to reduce per capita GDP growth by half a percentage point. Investing in water security would mitigate many of these losses and promote long-term sustainable growth. The costs related to inadequate water and sanitation services in developing countries are estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) at US\$ 260 billion a year. For very poor countries this cost may be 10% of GDP. In agriculture, water insecurity is estimated to cost existing irrigators US\$94 billion per year.

For more reading, visit: <http://www.gwp.org/en/gwp-in-action/News-and-Activities/New-Report-Water-Insecurity-a-Drag-on-Global-Growth/>

PARTICIPATION IN THE SECTOR

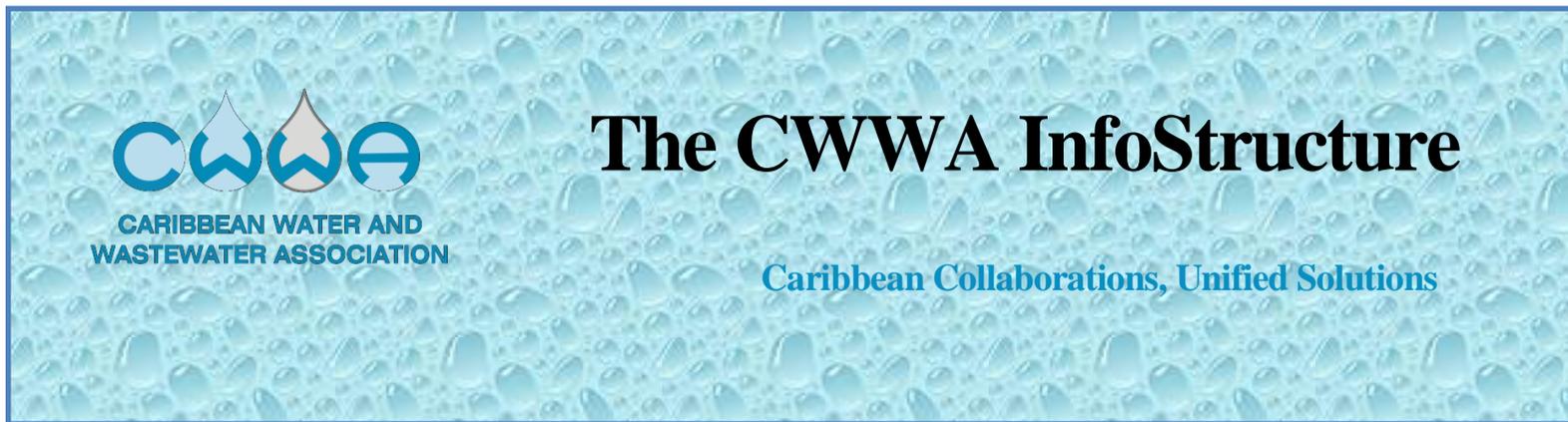
CWWA'S President Jason Johnson attended the 7th World Water Forum in Korea



The 7th World Water Forum was held in Daegu & Gyeongbuk of Korea from April 12 to 17, 2015. The forum was attended by CWWA's President, Jason Johnson. Mr. Johnson is pleased to inform us that a Memorandum of Understanding between the Caribbean and Pacific Water Associations and GWOPA/ UN-Habitat was signed and its anticipated to foster regional cooperation to develop the capacities of water and sanitation operators in these two regions.

The MoU was signed on April 13, during the Inter-regional Session Caribbean / Pacific in Gyeongju, Korea, by the Presidents of the three (3) Caribbean Associations; PWWA, CAWASA and CWWA. The CWWA joins with all the signing Organizations as we envision great strides for our region.

Website: <http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org/main/>



CARPHA: Media Releases



World Health Day: Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)

Food safety- Everyone's responsibility

On April 7 2014, in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago: The theme of World Health Day 2015 was “Food safety: from farm to plate, make food safe”. On 7 April 2015, the Caribbean and the rest of the world focused on the challenges and opportunities for food safety along the whole length of the food chain from production and transport, to preparation and consumption. Food safety and food borne diseases (FBD) continue to be a priority at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). Through its foodborne disease programme, the Agency has been leading the initiative for integrated FBD surveillance, including strengthening countries’ capacity to prevent, detect and respond to FBD concerns, including outbreak response. “Food safety may be viewed as a cross-cutting issue and all have a role to play,” said Dr C James Hospedales, Executive Director of CARPHA.

Dr Hospedales added **“Taking a farm to fork approach means that food producers, manufacturers, distributors and traders are responsible for the food they produce and trade. Additionally, consumers must always adhere to good food safety practices, especially when storing, handling and preparing food.”** In the Caribbean region, foodborne diseases continue to increase and have massive impacts on public health and the economy. Every year, thousands of people in the Region experience one or more episodes of foodborne illness. Not only is there a health impact, but there are also economic impacts associated with unsafe food. Therefore, establishing food safety as a priority issue requires the participation of non-public health sectors, such as agriculture, education, environment, tourism, and trade and commerce.

For more reading, visit CARPHA's website at carpha.org

CARPHA and Mexico sign MoU

On April 23, 2015, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Health of the United Mexican States, through the Federal Commission for Protection from Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS). The aim of the MoU is to establish a mechanism for strengthening international cooperation in the health field. The MoU will also provide support for the establishment of the Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS) which will be hosted by CARPHA, and will benefit the people of the Caribbean. The activities of the CRS are related to strengthening the regulatory capacity of the Caribbean and supporting the expansion and rapid access to lower-cost generic medicines. To formalize the proposal, Mikel Arriola, Head of Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk (COFEPRIS) and Dr. C James Hospedales, Executive Director of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) on Thursday April 23 2015, signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU was endorsed in the presence of PAHO representative in Mexico, Maureen Birmingham, and Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) of the Foreign Ministry, Juan Manuel Valle Pereña.

This level of cooperation with the Caribbean is unprecedented and gives added value to health policy in the region. Dr. Hospedales, thanked the Mexican government for their support, and PAHO for their efforts, and stated that “this cooperation will help strengthen the Caribbean’s regulatory framework, remove entry barriers and facilitate access to medicines at a lower cost.” Countries and territories that benefit from this Agreement are: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, St. Maarten, Aruba, Curacao and the BES Islands, home to 17.2 million people.



Alongside valuable partners, the IDB brings water and sanitation to rural communities in Peru

LIMA, Peru – The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and its partners have launched an innovative pilot project that will bring access to water and sanitation services to dispersed rural communities in Peru. Utilizing \$1 million in both Bank and partner funds channeled through the IDB-managed AquaFund, this effort is made possible by the Governments of Switzerland, Spain and Austria and the PepsiCo Foundation. With Peru as their target, the partners are responding to one of the most acute water and sanitation challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Providing sustainable safe water access and sanitation services to families living in sparsely populated rural communities is a challenge. Traditional technical solutions are not cost-efficient while maintenance services needed to keep systems working are difficult to provide as these communities are hard to reach. Peru is home to more than 3.3 million of inhabitants across 73,500 rural disperse communities, or less than 200 inhabitants per community. Only 12 percent of the homes in these areas have access to water through public water systems, which is not disinfected or treated in 99 percent of the cases.

As such, the collaboration is working closely with the Peruvian government on an approach that is both comprehensive yet tailored to the needs of each population. Specifically, the project seeks to design and implement solutions that integrate low-cost adapted infrastructure alongside an intervention model to assure sustainability through facility management and use. According to Jean Gabriel Duss, Director of Cooperation, Global Programmes, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) “access to drinking water and sanitation is crucial to leading a decent life in a society that respects human rights. Water and sanitation is everyone’s responsibility.”

As such, the collaboration is working closely with the Peruvian government on an approach that is both comprehensive yet tailored to the needs of each population. Specifically, the project seeks to design and implement solutions that integrate low-cost adapted infrastructure alongside an intervention model to assure sustainability through facility management and use. According to Jean Gabriel Duss, Director of Cooperation, Global Programmes, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) “access to drinking water and sanitation is crucial to leading a decent life in a society that respects human rights. Water and sanitation is everyone’s responsibility.”

<http://www.iadb.org/en/news/news-releases/2015-04-29/water-and-sanitation-to-rural-communities-peru,11150.html>



The Urgency of Water Security

Everyone knows that water is essential to the life of the planet and to the prosperity of its people.

What fewer people know—and what political leaders are failing to address—is that the increasing pressures of climate change, population growth, urbanisation, and evolving energy needs, are together putting unprecedented pressure on our finite freshwater resources. We've got to do something about it now. Feeding the world has been a top priority for decades. The task is not getting easier. It is estimated that over the next 40 years the world will need to double its food production to meet growing populations – set to increase by around 50% over the next 50 years. As is well known, agriculture already uses more water – a finite resource – than any other human activity. This means efforts to increase food production will have to be undertaken with less water, especially as climate change will put our water resources under even greater stress.

A world of cities It isn't just that there are more people to feed, it is where they live. The world's urban population is expected to increase from around 3.3 billion today to over 6 billion by 2050. Partly as a result of economic development, we've become an urban world so rapidly that cities, especially in the developing world, have not kept up with ensuring clean water supplies, sanitation and wastewater treatment for their burgeoning populations. South Asia and the Near East/North Africa have exhausted much of their rain-fed land potentials and depleted a significant share of their renewable waters. More than 1.2 billion people live in river basins where absolute water scarcity and increasing shortages are serious concerns. Expanding land under cultivation is possible in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America but requires adequate farming practices, increased investments and sustainable management of land and water resources.

The actions needed to move towards achieving water security need to be embedded into national development plans, such as poverty reduction strategies and comprehensive development frameworks. There is a need to bring together fragmented institutional responsibilities and interests in water, such as finance, planning, agriculture, energy, tourism, industry, education and health. Achieving water security thus requires cooperation between different water users, and between those sharing river basins and aquifers, within a framework that allows for the protection of vital eco-systems from pollution and other threats. Social change

<http://www.gwp.org/en/The-Challenge/The-Urgency-of-Water-Security/>



NEWS IN THE SECTOR



Health City Cayman Islands

Health City Cayman Islands, the vision of renowned heart surgeon and humanitarian Dr. Devi Shetty, is supported by two major healthcare organizations, Narayana Health and the U.S.-based Ascension, which is that nation's largest faith-based and nonprofit health system, providing the highest quality care to all with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Health City Cayman Islands provides compassionate, high-quality, affordable healthcare services for all in a world-class, comfortable, patient-centered environment. Offering healthcare to international, regional and local patients, Health City Cayman Islands delivers excellence in adult and pediatric cardiology, cardiac surgery, medical oncology, orthopedics, pediatric endocrinology, and pulmonology.

<http://www.healthcitycaymanislands.com/>

Invent a whatchamacallit?

If that whatchamacallit you invented is saving your utility time and money, it could earn you a little pocket change as well as recognition among your peers. The American Water Works Authority is looking for their 2015 winner in their Gimmicks and Gadgets contest. The contest deadline date is **June 2015**.

<http://www.awwa.org/publications/opflow/gimmicks-gadgets-contest.aspx>



Facts about Sargassum

Have you noticed an occurrence of greater than normal amounts of sargassum on your beaches in recent years?

Has it caused problems for you or local communities? Are other people in your country or island talking about sargassum?

Sargassum is an emerging issue on the coasts of the Wider Caribbean. During 2011, massive quantities of pelagic sargassum occurred throughout the Caribbean, impacting aquatic resources, fisheries, shorelines, waterways, and tourism. A similar event occurred in 2014 and continues in 2015.

What is Sargassam?

Pelagic sargassum is a brown alga, or seaweed that floats free in the ocean and never attaches to the ocean floor. These free-floating forms are only found in the Atlantic Ocean. Sargassum provides refuge for migratory species and essential habitat for some 120 species of fish and more than 120 species of invertebrates. It's an important nursery habitat that provides shelter and food for endangered species such as sea turtles and for commercially important species of fish such as tunas. There are two species of sargassum involved in the sargassum influx: **Sargassum natans** and **Sargassum fluitans**.

To read more visit: Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
<https://www.roffs.com/2015/04/gcfi-sargassum-fact-sheet/>