



The CWWA InfoStructure

Caribbean Collaborations, Unified Solutions

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24th Annual CWWA Conference and Exhibition First Announcement Call for Papers and Poster Presentations



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 CWWA 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.

Development and effective management of the water and waste resources of the Caribbean and Florida has become a necessity for regional sustainability. The demand for water and energy continues to increase and the management and recovery of water and waste resources becomes increasingly important.

In fact, with technological advancements in water and wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal, the options for traditional and alternate uses have become evident in many existing and proven applications. Additionally, the methods of collection and disposal of solid waste have been challenged as space becomes limited and the waste stream continues to grow.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Authors wishing to present a paper should submit an abstract of not more than 300 words for consideration. Abstracts should be in English and contain a title, author's name(s) and full contact details.

POSTER PRESENTATION

Students and Young Professionals are invited to submit an abstract for a graphic display of your research or project. Poster presentations will be made outside of designated technical sessions and will have the opportunity for one-on-one discussion with conference attendees regarding their respected presentation. Presentations can be dynamic or traditional.

DEADLINE

Deadline for **ALL** abstracts is **March 30, 2015**. Successful authors will be notified by **May 5, 2015**. Full papers should be submitted no later than **July 10, 2015**. All papers will be published in the official conference proceedings.

TOPICS

Topics should focus on applied research, case studies and lessons learned that are applicable to the Caribbean and Florida circumstances that will engage representation from both geographic areas.

- **Water**
- **Solid Waste**
- **Water Resources**
- **General Topics**

Further details available here:

<http://www.cwwa.net/new/index.php/2015-abstract-and-poster-presentation-submittal-form>



Ministry Of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change Supports Tree Planting Initiative



Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Robert Pickersgill has committed his Ministry's support to the SCJ Holdings (SCJH) Limited's 'Navel String' tree planting initiative. Speaking at the launch of the project, on February 17 at the National Water Commission's (NWC) Artificial Ground Water Aquifer Recharge Facility at Innswood St. Catherine, Mr. Pickersgill said he welcomed any tree planting initiative which will help increase the country's forest cover.

"We must continue to protect our watersheds, reduce the country's carbon footprint and provide eco systems services which support the national climate change program," he told the gathering.

The project, to be implemented at a cost of over \$25 million, is being undertaken in partnership with several Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

It aims to, among other things, increase local food production; provide a source of fruits to boost agro-processing; provide employment and culture change in schools and communities; reduce the country's carbon foot print; increase the country's stock of lumber trees; protect water sheds; and support the national climate change initiative.

Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer of the SCJH, Mr. John Gayle explained that the purpose of the initiative is to support and promote interventions that encourage the engagement of youth clubs, civic organizations and communities to plant one million trees including fruit trees over four years. "We will expand the project activities to the whole country, place special focus on youth groups and school participation and employ a sustained media campaign to advocate and rally all of Jamaica to participate " Mr. Gayle said.

The 'Navel String' programme is supported by the Forestry Department; the National Environment and Planning Agency; the Jamaica 4-H Clubs; the Rural Agricultural Development Authority; the Jamaica Agricultural Society; the Social Development Commission; and other stakeholders.

The SCJ Holdings is a wholly owned agency of the Government of Jamaica and is mandated to provide efficient land management services that will foster sustainable, economic and social development in sugar-dependent communities.



The British Virgin Islands will join several other countries and territories in testing their tsunami readiness during the simulation exercise, Caribe Wave/Lantex 2015, scheduled for Wednesday, March 25.



The exercise is geared towards improving tsunami preparedness efforts in the Caribbean and adjacent regions, including U.S. and Canadian Gulf as well as the east coasts. The Department of Disaster Management (DDM) is coordinating BVI's participation in the exercise.

DDM's Training Officer, Ms. Carishma Hicks, is encouraging widespread participation in this year's exercise. "We are strongly encouraging the entire population to utilize this opportunity to test their earthquake and tsunami plans or procedures. This year's scenario simulates a magnitude 8.5 earthquake located just north of Panama in the southwest Caribbean Sea".

The North Panama Deformed Belt has been the cause of several earthquakes that have generated tsunamis in the Caribbean. The tectonic complexity of this belt can trigger motion in two separate faults lines, the frontal thrust component and the strike-slip motion, which according to scientific models can have significant impact on the entire Caribbean basin.

According to the DDM Training Officer, the national simulation exercise also presents an opportunity to evaluate the recently approved Mass Facility Plan, operational readiness of the National Emergency Alert and Broadcast System and the response from the national search and rescue team.

In May 2014, the BVI received tsunami ready recognition from the United States National Weather service. This Tsunami Ready programme seeks to ensure that countries which are vulnerable, undertake measures to reduce the potential for disastrous consequences in the wake of a tsunami. Testing of the BVI's tsunami readiness takes on even more significance when considered against the backdrop of predictions of very large magnitude earthquakes that could affect the region.

Persons wishing to participate in this exercise should contact the DDM at 468-4200 for registration and guidelines. Caribe Wave/Lantex 2015 is sponsored by the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Programme, which is a partnership of 29 states and territories and three federal agencies.

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Caribbean Water Operators Partnership (Cari-WOP) First Diagnostic Mission to DINEPA, Haiti February 2 to 4, 2015

Report by Ignatius Jean, Executive Director CAWASA

In accordance with the decision of the Cari-WOP Steering Committee, October 7, 2014, a diagnostic mission to Haiti took place February 2 to 4, 2015.

The delegation comprised, Mr. Ignatius Jean, Executive Secretary of CariWOP/Executive Director of Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association (CAWASA); Mr. Cyprian Gibson, representative of Bahamas Water and Sewerage Corporation/Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)/Cari-WOP; Mr. Aly Anthony, representative of the Water and Sewerage Corporation (WASCO), Saint Lucia; Dr. Jose Luis Martin Bordes, representative of the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA)/UN-Habitat, Spain; Ms. Sandrine Capelle-Manuel, representative of UN-Habitat Haiti; Dr. Adrianus Vlugman, PAHO/WHO-Barbados; Mr. Julio Urruela-Roquero, PAHO/WHO- Haiti.

The purpose of the visit was first, to signal to DINEPA the intention of the Cari-WOP to honour its commitment, given at the Steering Committee Meeting in the Bahamas. Secondly, to get a first-hand perspective of the water and sanitation sector in some key provinces in order to provide a sound basis for further development of the WOP programme in Haiti.

During this mission, a proposal for the strengthening of four CTEs (Centre Technique d'Exploitation - Technical Operations Centres) - Jeremiah, Gonaives, Hinche and Cap Haitien, was studied, along with working sessions that developed a plan of action and the terms of reference for this collaboration. Apart from the meetings with the donor agencies, working sessions with the CTE, proposals of the agencies by Carrefour and CTE of Petit Goave were also considered.

The Mission met with key officials and agencies including Mr. Benito Dumay, Director General of DINEPA; Ms. Carmen Rodriguez Arce, the Representative of Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional para Desarrollo –AECID (i.e. Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development); Ms. Corinne Cathala, the IDB's Infrastructure Specialist, Water and Sanitation Division, (who was in Haiti during the period of the Mission); and Eng. Mr Revel Mompremier – Special Advisor to the Minister for Public Works, Transport and Communications, Government of Haiti.

The delegation toured the laboratory and inventory facilities at the CTE RMPP (Centre Technique d'Exploitation de La Region Metropolitaine de Port-au-Prince). The team also visited a major catchment of the Centrale Autonome Metropolitaine D'eau Potable (CAMEP) i.e. the Diquini Tunnel. This underground stream is located in the mountains west of the central metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. The facility was commissioned in March, 1940 by President of Haiti, Mr. Stenio Vincent.

The Draft Work Plan includes the following priorities for technical cooperation:

- Monitoring of pumping stations and electromechanical equipment;
- Commercial Management / Call Center Management;
- Increase water production;
- Geographic Information System (GIS);
- Water Quality (Turbidity);
- Detection and Leak Repair (Rehabilitation);
- Development of a Water Safety Plan (WSP).



Delegates at the first diagnostic mission to Haiti, February 2015



SIGNING OF CONTRACT TO END WATER RATIONING IN ANGUILLA



Mr Mario Bento signing contract with Chairman Mrs Marlene Brooks

At last, the prolonged water-rationing in Anguilla is expected to be something in the past by the end of April or early May. This has been occasioned by the signing of a contract between the Water Corporation of Anguilla and Caribbean Water Treatment Limited, after a protracted process of tendering and processing.

The contract was signed on Friday, January 30, following the dissemination of the tender on May 19, 2014. The Antigua-based company, selected to provide the service, has over twenty-two years experience and expertise in operating Seawater Reverse Osmosis Plants in the Caribbean mainly, and other parts of the world.

“This is a long anticipated day for us,” Mrs Evelyne Apire-Hodge, Chief Executive Officer of the Water Corporation, who signed the contract, told reporters. “We are looking forward to having an extra plant for water from the sea, at Crocus Bay, to increase our water production and to be better able to serve the people of Anguilla.”

According to her, the plant is expected to produce 500,000 gallons of water a day, with the possibility of increasing that amount to 1,000,000 gallons depending on the demand. That water supply will be complemented by the brackish water system which is linked with a number of wells in The Valley. Mr Evan Gumbs, Minister of Infrastructure, said he was very happy to among those signing the contract to provide additional water for Anguilla. “It is long overdue. I have been getting a number of calls from persons needing water on the island, and I am happy to see that this contract is taking place today,” he said.

The contract with Caribbean Water Treatment Limited is for ten years, following which the equipment and operation of the plant will be handed over to the Water Corporation.

The new plant will entail the use of the existing building at Crocus Bay, owned by the Water Corporation. The company will be installing its own equipment there over the coming weeks, and will also utilise the existing pipelines in the sea. The plant was closed by its previous operator, General Electric, in September 2012, leaving Anguilla with a considerable shortage of portable water.

A press release, issued by the Water Corporation, and read by the Chairman, Mrs Marlene Brooks, a signatory to the contract, stated that following a rigorous evaluation, Caribbean Water Treatment Limited was awarded the tender in August 2014. The company accepted the offer in September 2014 under a Build Own Transfer. It was among seven other companies which tendered for the contract. They were GTN Energy, St Martin; TSG Water Works, Anguilla; Krener, Spain; Ocean Conversion, British Virgin Islands; L.T.D., Tortola; Air Water Innova, USA; and Seven Seas Water Corporation, USA.

Caribbean Water Treatment Limited was represented at the signing ceremony by its Managing Director, Mr Mario Bento.

“Let me first express my happiness that we have finally reached this long-awaited signing of the contract,” he said. “This is probably the tenth or twelfth version of the contract. We are very excited to be putting in a new plant for the Government and people of Anguilla.” Noting that Antigua often suffered from drought conditions, he said his company clearly understood the need to meet the water demands of the Anguillian public.

“We look forward to working with the Water Corporation in the coming years, to continue to meet the demand which I expect will grow, as we provide a better service to customers,” he added.

Meanwhile, the press release pointed out that the Water Corporation of Anguilla, now under new management, was rebranding itself. Its aim is “to be a more customer-oriented organisation to better understand and meet the needs of the customer.”

The Corporation has apologised and expressed “great appreciation to its loyal customers who have endured with the water-rationing situation for the past two years.”



A day to celebrate, a day to change, a day to prepare

World Water Day is marked on 22 March every year. It's a day to celebrate water. It's a day to make a difference for the members of the global population who suffer from water related issues. It's a day to prepare for how we manage water in the future.

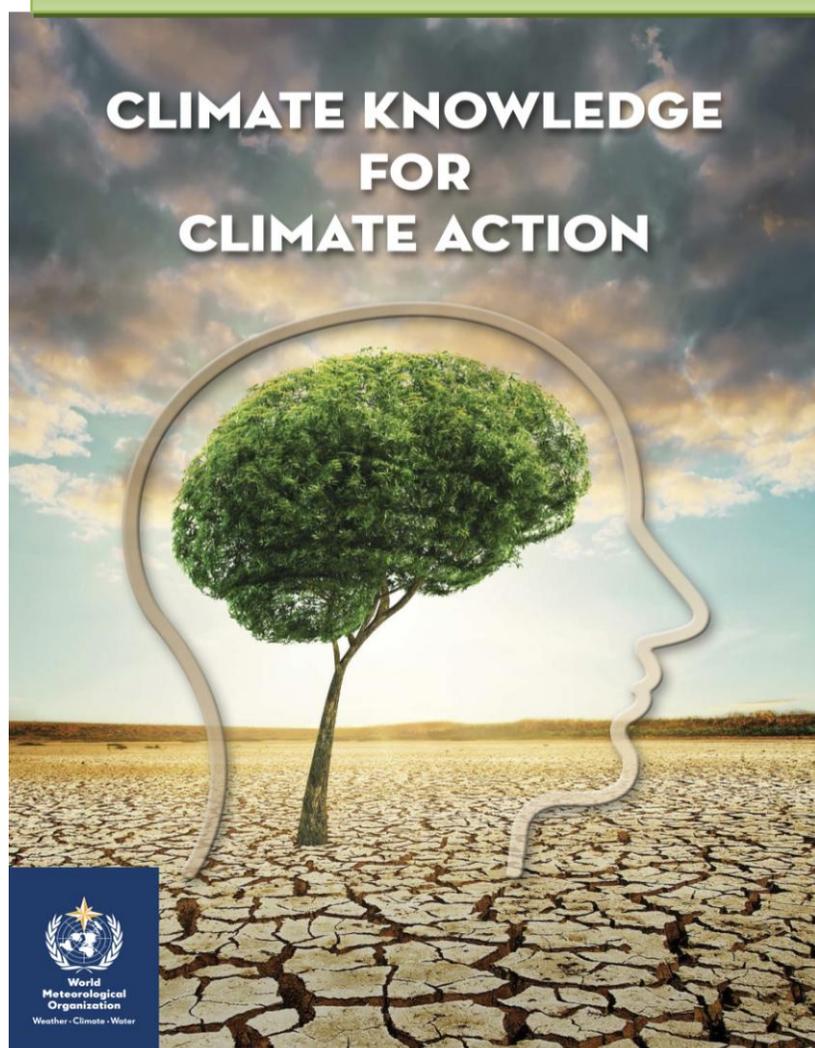
In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March as the first World Water Day. 22 years later, World Water Day is celebrated around the world shining the spotlight on a [different issue](#) every year.

In 2015, the theme for World Water Day is '[Water and Sustainable Development](#)'. It's about how water links to all areas we need to consider to create the future we want.

Each year, UN-Water provides resources to inspire celebrations for World Water Day.

- See more at: <http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/about/en/#sthash.Tuc4nQMO.dpuf>

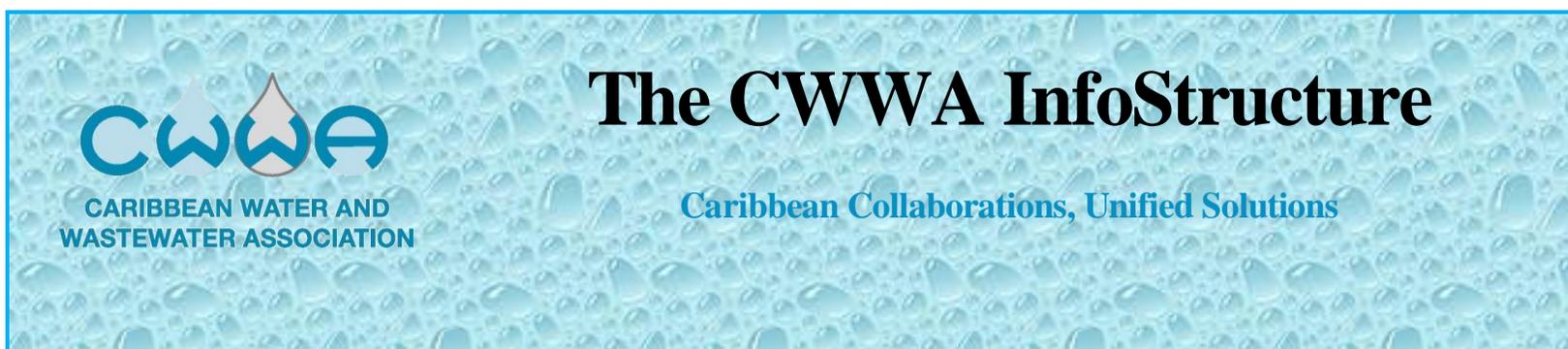
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY - 23rd MARCH 2015



Message from M. Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization On the occasion of "World Meteorological Day 2015 – Climate knowledge for climate action"

The World Meteorological Organization, as the successor of the International Meteorological Organization, created in 1873, has its fundamental mission to support the countries of the world in providing meteorological and hydrological services to protect life and property from natural disasters related to weather, climate and water, to safeguard the environment, and to contribute to sustainable development. This cannot happen without the necessary observations, research and operations that develop the understanding and knowledge of weather and climate. Since 1961, World Meteorological Day has commemorated the coming into force on 23 March 1950 of the Convention establishing the World Meteorological Organization and the essential contribution that National Meteorological and Hydrological Services make to the safety and wellbeing of society. Each year, the celebrations focus on a theme of topical interest. The theme of this year, "Climate knowledge for climate action", could not be timelier, as the international community moves towards ambitious decisions and action to address climate change.

<http://www.wmo.int/worldmetday/?q=content/materials>



NEWS IN THE SECTOR

Public Health Workers Complete Training

The first batch of public health workers to be trained under the Caribbean Regional Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Programme has graduated.

The 15-member group, drawn from the laboratory, nursing and environmental public sector divisions, received their certificates yesterday during a graduation ceremony at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, Hastings, Christ Church.

http://gisbarbados.gov.bb/index.php?categoryid=9&p2_articleid=13685

Special Week For OCTS And EU In The BVI

Over 150 top government officials from the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) will gather in the Virgin Islands for the Annual OCTA Ministerial Conference on February 26 and the 13th Annual Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) European Union (EU) Forum on February 27.

In reflecting on the upcoming meeting, Premier Smith stated, "I look forward to this meeting as the OCTs consider how they have unlocked their value by leveraging their special relationship with the EU and other international and regional partners, to create regional hubs and centres of excellence."

<http://www.bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/special-week-octs-and-eu-week-bvi>

Guyana Gov't secures multi-billion-dollar loan from IDB –targets citizen security, environmental management

GUYANA has secured a total of US\$32.16 (G\$4.4B) in loans from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), aimed at supporting government's security and environmental initiatives.

The loan agreements were inked by the Bank's President Mr. Luis Alberto Moreno and Guyana's Finance Minister, Dr. Ashni Singh when the two met last Thursday in Freeport, Bahamas.

"The decision by the IDB to provide these loans is further testimony of the Bank's confidence in this Government's commitment to responsible management and, in particular, to implementing meaningful reform in the two sectors concerned," the Finance Minister stated.

<http://guyanachronicle.com/govt-secures-multi-billion-dollar-loan-from-idb-targets-citizen-security-environmental-management/>

Trinidad and Tobago signs Energy MOU

TRINIDAD and Tobago last week signed another important agreement which could also be quite beneficial to the country. Signatories were Planning and Sustainable Development Minister Dr Bhoë Tawarie for Trinidad and Tobago, while Luis Alberto Moreno, President of the Inter-American development Bank (IDB) signed for that institution.

It is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the IDB for the establishment of a Multi Donor Energy Facility for Caribbean Sustainability, an issue that has been discussed between both parties for the past 18 months.

Objective of the MOU is to formalise a non-exclusive framework of co-operation as well as to facilitate collaboration between the government of Trinidad and Tobago and the IDB in establishing modalities for mobilisation of donors to fund and to work out details of how the Fund would be operationalised.

More here...

<http://www.newsday.co.tt/businessday/0,207491.html>