

SWITCHED ON!

Newsletter 5 – January 2009

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1. SWITCH 3rd Annual Scientific Meeting

In early December, SWITCH held its third annual Scientific Conference in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Over 70 SWITCH partners from 16 countries, as well as 40 participants from Belo Horizonte attended.

The focus this year was on "Integration" with Prof. Kala Vairavamoorthy reflecting on our progress so far and plans to improve this aspect in the future. John Butterworth gave a summary of the assessment that was recently carried out of SWITCH cities and their Learning Alliances. Meetings and presentations by research task groups and the 12 global demonstrations came next followed by a very interactive workshop on strategic urban water management planning. The meeting concluded with a poster judging session, Brazil/South America session and a field trip to a local stormwater detention demonstration site.



SWITCH 3rd Annual Scientific Meeting

Our local hosts UFMG and SUDECAP and in particular Prof. Nilo Nascimento, Sonia Knauer and their many assistants worked tirelessly to make this a successful and fun event.

The papers, presentations and posters from the Scientific Meeting are currently being structured and will be available on the website from the outputs database and the Scientific Meeting page: http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_sci_mtg3.php – meanwhile please enjoy the slide show of photos on this page!

2. SWITCH website

The SWITCH website has recently undergone a face lift!

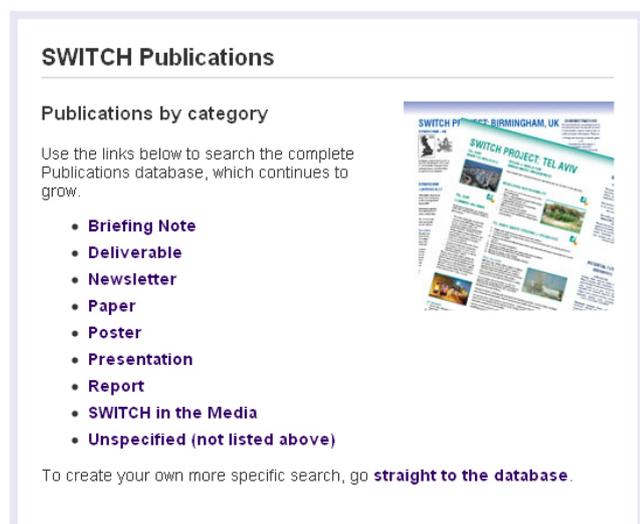


Available to view at

<http://www.switchurbanwater.eu>, the website has

a number of notable features which aim to improve both the look and the ease of use of the site.

One of its exciting new facilities is the publications database at <http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/pubs.php>, which contains all SWITCH reports, papers, presentations, briefing notes, public deliverables and more. This was launched a while ago so you may already be familiar with it – it allows you to search for documents by city, theme, work package, year of publication or publication type, or any combination of the above. In addition, a Google keyword search facility allows you to search all SWITCH publications' text. We are also constructing a searchable "photo gallery" which will appear soon.



If you are involved in any SWITCH activities and have material and news for inclusion in the website, please email it to switch@lboro.ac.uk

3. SWITCH Stormwater Online, 9 February – 10 May 2009

This course is aimed at professionals within the SWITCH Learning Alliances wishing to learn about or update existing knowledge in the field of stormwater management within the context of Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM). It aims to provide the participants with an overview on the design, inspection, maintenance and costing of sustainable drainage systems as well as information on stormwater reuse, strategic stormwater planning and climate change. International case studies and examples are included and the course leads to a Certificate of

Completion from the University of Abertay Dundee, UK.

It is expected that approximately 5 hours study time per week will be required for successful completion of the course. Participants can download material to their computers to limit the time that they need to be connected to the internet.

This course is free of charge for all SWITCH Learning Alliance members, but when it is repeated in October it will no longer be free.

For more information, see: http://www.switchtraining.eu/index.php?id=5438&cmd=view&view_id=68

Complete the registration form at: http://www.switchtraining.eu/fileadmin/template/projects/switch_training/db/event_upload_folder/68/Registration_Form_-_SW_Online.doc

Or contact Leanne Gallagher, University of Abertay, lgallagher@abertay.ac.uk

4. Spotlight on SWITCH Cities

The list of SWITCH Cities is growing and now includes: Accra (Ghana), Alexandria (Egypt), Beijing (China), Belo Horizonte (Brazil), Birmingham (UK), Cali (Columbia), Chongqing (China), Emscher Region (Germany), Hamburg (Germany), Lima (Peru), Lodz (Poland), Tel Aviv (Israel) and Zaragoza (Spain). Each city prepared a poster for the Scientific Meeting, which outlines and illustrates the demonstration activities being carried out in the city.

There are also posters giving overviews of each SWITCH city and Learning Alliance. All posters can be downloaded from each city's page on the website:

<http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/cities/index.php>

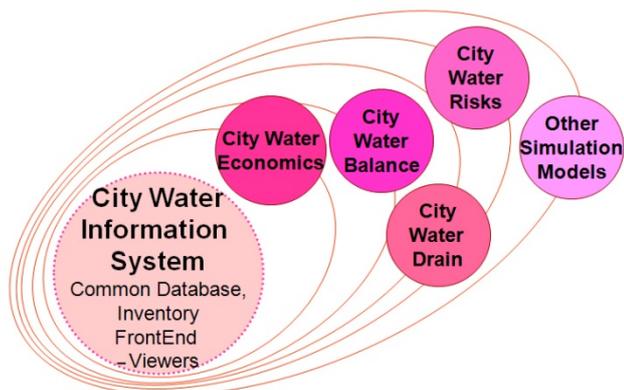
or from the outputs database:

<http://switchurbanwater.lboro.ac.uk/pubs.php>

5. City Water and its implementation in the SWITCH cities

SWITCH is developing a decision support system named CITY WATER. This combines a suite of City

Water simulation models with a City Water Information System – a Graphical User Interface and general database. These provide analytical scoping tools for exploring different aspects of water and wastewater accumulation, treatment, transfer, and use across the city. The models draw heavily on the specific detailed research and development activities being carried out under the different themes and work packages within SWITCH in addition to previous research.



In order to use the **City Water Information System**, there are no special requirements on data. The more information you have in the database, the more you can explore and/or share. It will be possible to start setting up City Water with a very limited set of initial data and feed the system progressively. The Graphical User Interface includes various viewing tools but one does not necessarily have to use the full range: it will be

possible to work, for example, with the data manager alone or the GIS viewer alone.

Different kinds of information can be stored in the City databases:

- Numeric values,
- Texts, including URL addresses (link to Web sites)
- Files (pdf files, images, etc.)
- Geometries (spatial objects)
- Lifetimes

From June 2009, software should be available to set up the City databases and feed them with data.

In the meantime, cities can begin to:

1. Set up the organization of the City Water management and maintenance at the city level
2. Start an inventory of the available information and data that it would be worth holding in the database

For more information, see the presentation from the 3rd Scientific Meeting:

http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/outputs/pdfs/GEN_PRS_BH_Session9_City_Water_information_sharing_platform.pdf

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Visit the SWITCH Website: <http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/>

For issues relating to the SWITCH newsletter, contact SWITCH News: switchnews@lboro.ac.uk