

SWITCHED ON!

Newsletter 8 – May 2010

NEWS FROM SWITCH

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1. Piloting of SWITCH Training Kit module on Sustainable Stormwater Management

Due to rapid urban development and inadequate drainage infrastructure, stormwater in Johannesburg is becoming increasingly difficult to manage and control. Localised flooding, erosion and the destruction of wetlands are just some of the consequences. As a result, city planners and managers are keen to explore alternative, more sustainable approaches to stormwater management – such as those advocated by SWITCH.



The city administration was therefore enthusiastic when offered the opportunity to host a workshop on sustainable stormwater management, the latest in a series of SWITCH workshops organized by ICLEI to pilot draft materials and exercises from the SWITCH Training Kit modules. The training took place on 18 and 19 May 2010 and was attended by around 25 civil engineers, planners and environmental specialists from the Johannesburg

municipality. Heiko Sieker from IPS (Ingenieurgesellschaft Sieker) – one of the partners in the SWITCH project – provided expert input to the training through the presentation of a variety of technical options, tools and practical examples of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, including innovative aspects resulting from SWITCH research.

The workshop was the second pilot organized by ICLEI following training on more general aspects of integrated urban water management held in Dublin, Ireland, in December 2009. Additional pilots on water supply, wastewater management, decision support systems and making the transition to more sustainable urban water management are scheduled during the summer of 2010. Details and materials for all workshops can be found on the SWITCH Training Desk at <http://www.switchtraining.eu/>

For more information, please contact Ralph Philip: ralph.philip@iclei.org



2. Announcement of 5th SWITCH Scientific Meeting 2010 “Sustainable Water Management Improves Tomorrow’s Cities’ Health: achievements and way forward”

Lodz, Poland – 13 -16 October 2010

The 5th SWITCH Scientific Meeting will be organized in cooperation with the International Institute of Polish Academy of Sciences European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology, under the auspices of UNESCO and LTER Europe and the Mayor of Lodz and the Polish Minister of Sciences and Higher Education.

The main goals of this conference will be:

- synthesis of achievements of SWITCH in terms of scientific breakthroughs and uptake;
- revising key deliverables of SWITCH;
- presenting progress in SWITCH cities; and
- discussing spin-offs and ways forward.

The conference will bring together members of the SWITCH project consortium, local, national and international organizations responsible for water management in urban areas and sustainable development, and scientists and experts working in these areas.

Registration deadline is 31 July.

The Registration Form can be found here:

http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#43

For more details see <http://www.erce.unesco.lodz.pl>

Contact the conference coordinator

Agnieszka Urbaniak-Butterworth:

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3. Meeting on Participatory Approaches and Information and Communication Practices for Sustainable Water Management in Cities

Zaragoza, Spain – 13-17 December 2010

Local Authorities have a key leading role in efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals and other international commitments on water and sanitation. This requires them to implement pro-poor policies and contribute to social equity, improve communication, and respond to political opportunities and threats for sustainable water management and the use of social instruments.



This global meeting will bring together more than 200 experts, local government officials, media specialists, key water operators and political representatives of cities and stakeholder groups to discuss these issues and propose practical ways to move forward to meet the challenge of disseminating results to a wider audience, considering different development contexts and regional characteristics. This draws on the approaches of the SWITCH project and the experiences of the Learning Alliances.

The meeting is organized by SWITCH, the city of Zaragoza, and the United Nations Office to Support the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’. This meeting will be part of the preparations of the 2011 World Water Day, which focuses on Sustainable Water Management in cities. Some specific outcomes of the meeting will be presented in the World Water Day 2011. The meeting will take place over four days and will include a combination of keynote presentations, brainstorming, discussion and working group sessions and round tables. The expected outcomes of the meeting are:

- A compendium of cases that illustrate participatory approaches and good

- communication practices for Sustainable Water Management in cities.
- An evaluation of the pro-poor policies in Water Management of specific Local Authorities.
- Proceedings of the Conference including: Policy Briefing notes; Recommendations from political representatives and stakeholders on key lessons about how to improve water management on cities and overcome problems; Recommendations from the media.

For further information, contact Jochen Eckart:
JXE841@bham.ac.uk

4. Development Corner and Dialogues at IWA World Water Congress

Montréal, Canada – 20-23 September 2010

IWA has invited SWITCH to participate in the Development Corner and Dialogues at the World Water Congress. We will have an exhibition stand where we will be disseminating SWITCH material, and we are also organizing a series of 1 hour participatory sessions in the Dialogues programme. These activities are currently being planned in detail, so please get in touch if you will be at the Congress in Montreal and would like to be involved and / or disseminate your materials in the Development Corner. The aim is to increase awareness of SWITCH's key messages and products amongst decision makers in government, water utilities and major international agencies working in developing countries.

Our stand will include SWITCH Policy Briefing Notes which are currently being prepared on the following topics, building on the discussions at the Global CityWater Futures Summit in Delft in October 2009:

- Acting Together for Better Water Management in Cities
- Strategic Planning for Integrated Urban Water Management
- Decision Support Tools for Integrated Urban Water Management Systems

- SWITCHing from 'Here to There'—Managing the Transition of Urban Water Systems

We will also be highlighting the SWITCH Global Training Package both at the stand and in the Dialogues, which will include some short samples of the training within our participative sessions.

For further information contact:

i.k.smout@lboro.ac.uk

For details of the World Water Congress, see:

<http://www.iwa2010montreal.org/>

5. Dissemination at Other International Conferences 2010-2011

- Sustainable Cities – Dunkerque (ICLEI)
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#36
- Resilient Cities – Bonn (ICLEI)
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#37
- EXPO2010 – Shanghai
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#38
- Singapore Water Week
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#39
- ExpoAqua – Pereira
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#40
- Stockholm Water Week
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#41
- IWA World Water Congress/Development Corner – Montréal
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#29
- Deltas in Times of Climate change – Rotterdam
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#42
- 5th SWITCH Scientific Meeting – Lodz
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#43
- Latin America SWITCH - Belo Horizonte
- UN Decade of Water/SWITCH conference – Zaragoza
http://www.switchurbanwater.eu/news_events.php#48

Click the links above for further information on these conferences and planned SWITCH involvement. If you are attending any of these events, please inform Ian Smout so that we can update the website and co-ordinate SWITCH activities: i.k.smout@lboro.ac.uk

A Scientific Conference is currently being planned by SWITCH and UNESCO International Hydrological Programme, to be held in Paris 24-28 January 2011.

SWITCH Contact Details

The CENTRAL MANAGEMENT UNIT (CMU) is UNESCO-IHE, which is responsible for the day-to-day coordination of the project.

The CMU is located at: UNESCO-IHE, Westvest 7, 2611 AX Delft, Netherlands; t: +31 15 2151771

The CMU consists of: Kala Vairavamoorthy, Scientific Director, k.vairavamoorthy@unesco-ihe.org
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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