



**Universities Partnership for Transboundary Waters
Meeting
Montpellier, France
September 2, 2008
7-9 p.m.**

In Attendance:

*Maitland Seaman – University of the Free State, South Africa
Anthony Turton – Council for Scientific and Industrial Research,
South Africa
Aaron Wolf – Oregon State University, USA
Richard Paisley – University of British Columbia, Canada
Marko Keskinen – Helsinki University of Technology, Finland
Lynette de Silva – Oregon State University, USA*

**Follow-up meeting held in Montpellier, France, on September 4, 2008,
from 3:30-3:50 p.m.**

In Attendance:

*Those mentioned above, in addition to:
Mukand Babel – Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand
Jaqui Goldin – University of Pretoria, South Africa
Alistair Rieu-Clarke – IHP-HELP, United Kingdom*

Points of Discussion

What Does the Partnership Need?

- Funding
 - Fixed investment
 - A possible “GEF” project approach
- An institutional home or sub-homes
- Modest objectives in short term, clear priorities for the long-term
- To be “adopted” by UNESCO?

What Can We Do Best? What is Our Mission?

- Develop programs from an academic point of view, focusing on our “comparative advantage” – education, research, training
- Informed, grounded publications
- The potential to influence policy
- Focused analytical research
- Training (Policy/Education)

Action Items

1. Develop a Rotating Newsletter

- This would provide a mechanism to keep us communicating and informed. It would be a means to highlight our universities/programs and projects.
- Every several months a different institute would have the responsibility of showcasing their university. In this way, the responsibility of the newsletter would rotate.
- To simplify the process, the template would be made readily available. Marko Keskinen at the Helsinki University of Technology, in Finland, has offered to provide the template and get the *ball rolling* by drafting and distributing the first issue of the newsletter.

2. Upcoming UPTW Meetings:

- 5th World Water Forum: Bridging Divides for Water, Istanbul, Turkey, March 16-22, 2009. Beyond the scheduling of a meeting, also plan on participating in a special session hosted by UPTW.
- 2009 World Water Week in Stockholm (sometime in August?). Push to get students to participate in Water Week.

3. Criteria for Membership

- Solicit prospective candidates to submit a proposal of what their institution can bring to the Partnership. Membership will be granted to institutions, rather than individuals. Candidates must demonstrate extent of institutional capacity and professional affiliations, beyond individuals. Proposals would be reviewed.

- Membership will not be limited to universities. Honorary status/invitation will be granted to certain institutes.
 - Individuals may be invited as affiliates.
4. Develop a mid-range workplan to allow students and professional greater access to the coursework and experience of the Partnership as a whole.
 5. Revamp website.
 6. Other Thoughts...
 - Be thinking of other proposals that we can go after as a unified body.
 - Consider joint projects for students, as well as joint Master's degrees.
 - A new issue/area that we might want to work on is - “Transboundary Water in Federal States.”
 - We also need to establish an institutional memory.