

JANUARY 2013


# OFID Quarterly

THE OPEC FUND  
FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



## **2013 International Year of Water Cooperation**

*Managing the water-food-energy nexus  
2012 South-South expo showcases energy solutions  
Global Social Business Summit holds in Vienna  
OFID hosts children's art exhibition*





**Uniting against Poverty**

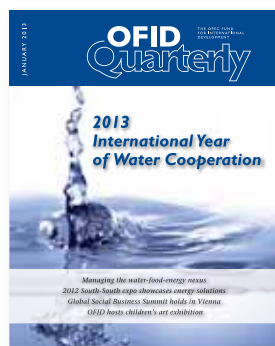
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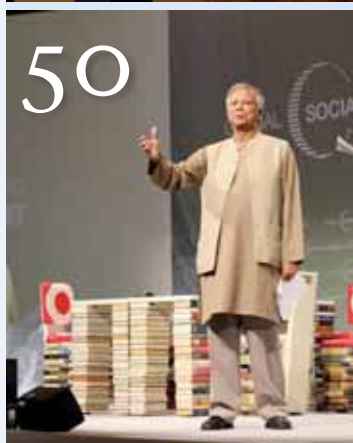
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# Making the most of the International Year of Water Cooperation

**A**mong the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed upon by the international community in September 2000 is that of halving by 2015 the proportion of rural and urban people who cannot reach or afford safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Encouragingly, while many of the other MDGs have languished, the drinking water target was met as early as 2010 – five years ahead of schedule. On the down side, progress has been slow and uneven, and an estimated 780 million people worldwide are still without adequate supplies of clean drinking water.

The sanitation situation is even more critical. With some 2.5 billion people lacking access to basic sanitation, the MDG target is unlikely to be achieved.

As water demand grows and scarcity rises in tandem with rapid population growth and the consequences of climate change, prospects are indeed sobering. At current trends, around three billion people will live in conditions of water stress come 2025, while a similar proportion – most of them in urban areas – will be without access to improved sanitation services.

Considering the mounting challenges emanating from the projected increase in demand for water access, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2013 the *International Year of Water Cooperation*.

The objective of this international year is to raise awareness of the potential for increased global cooperation in meeting the vast challenges facing water management. The year will be dedicated to defining the most pressing issues on water education, water diplomacy, transboundary water management, financing cooperation, legal frameworks, and linkages with the MDGs.

Building on the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the year will also help to formulate new *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) for the development of water resources beyond 2015.

OFID welcomes this opportunity to place water and sanitation in the global spotlight. Access to both are necessary building blocks for sustainable socio-economic development. Recognizing this, OFID has channeled a total of US\$800 million in valuable concessional financing to a wide range of projects and programs in the water and sanitation sector.

These resources have served mainly to rehabilitate and extend urban and rural water supplies, sewerage and waste management systems. Substantial additional resources have supported the development of sustainable agriculture irrigation schemes.

The low-income countries (LICs) have received close to 70 percent of this assistance.

In addition to reducing poverty, OFID's interventions have helped to greatly improve the health of millions of poor by curbing the incidence of waterborne diseases, including malaria, cholera, hepatitis, river blindness, typhoid, dengue fever, guinea worm and ringworm.

For OFID, however, the International Year of Water Cooperation is about much more than just water. It's about the universal right to water within the broader context of the universal right to food and energy.

The water-food-energy nexus represents arguably the greatest challenge of our time: How can we expand access to these basic needs over the coming decades to meet the growing demands of a burgeoning population that is expected to reach nine billion by 2050?

The links across the nexus are clear. With around 70 percent of available water resources used for agricultural purposes, water is vital to food security. By the same token, water production and distribution would not be possible without access to energy.

In OFID's view, the water issue is not one that can be treated in isolation. Nor can the problems of energy or food supply. Which is why OFID has adopted an integrated approach, promoting energy access through its *Energy for the Poor Initiative* and boosting food production through increased investment in agriculture and water supply. As a result, around one-half of OFID's total commitments during the years 2010-2011 was dedicated to the water-food-energy nexus. This focus continued, to an even greater extent, through 2012.

As the world marks the International Year of Water Cooperation, OFID believes that solving the problems of the water-food-energy nexus should take center stage. While we look forward to working with our partners to tackle the challenges of water management, we are convinced that these must be addressed within the broader context of the nexus and, moreover, that the nexus itself should be cardinal in the formulation of the new SDGs as part of the post-Rio+20 development agenda. ■







# Managing the water-food-energy nexus

In observing the *International Year of Water Cooperation*, the importance of incorporating the nexus perspective cannot be over-emphasized.

Water, food and energy are inextricably linked by a series of reciprocal inputs and represent enormous challenges for the global community as economies grow and the world population swells to some nine billion by 2050.

BY FATIMAH ZWANIKKEN



**T**he challenges of the water-food-energy nexus are exacerbated by climate change, environmental degradation, finite arable land, rising living standards and governance failures, placing the nexus at the heart of global sustainability concerns and at the forefront of the political, scientific and human rights debates.

Serious problems of scarcity and inequality already exist. The unprecedented economic growth of the past four decades has depleted natural assets, while the benefits of growth have been unevenly distributed, with dire consequences for the world's poor.

The risks and hardship associated with unsustainability and inequality demand that the international community forms a united front to better manage the world's ecosystems and achieve water, food and energy security for the millions of extremely poor who cannot meet their basic needs.

### Human rights approach

The fundamental right to food was recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, while halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger was incorporated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Nonetheless, 870 million people are chronically undernourished worldwide, all but a fraction of them in the developing countries.

If a crisis of epic proportions is to be avoided, global agricultural production – which already accounts for 70 percent of global water use – will have to increase by 70 percent by 2050. By that date, at least 20 percent more water and 10 percent more land will be required to raise food production.

The basic human right to water and sanitation was recognized on July 28, 2010. Although the world has met the seventh MDG of halving the number of people without access to safe drinking water, almost 780 million people worldwide are still without adequate supplies, a situation that leaves them vulnerable to debilitating illness or even death. Similarly, some 2.5 billion people lack improved sanitation services.

Less than one percent of all freshwater resources worldwide are available for human consumption and ecosystems. At current trends, almost half of the world population will live in water stressed conditions and a similar proportion will be without access to basic sanitation by 2030.

The lack of access to both water and energy severely restricts the production, transport and distribution of food. Worldwide, 1.3 billion people live without electricity – the missing human right or “ninth MDG” – and 2.7 billion have no access to modern forms of cooking. Energy access problems will likely worsen as energy demand rises by 45 percent by 2030, with developing countries accounting for some 70 percent of the increase.

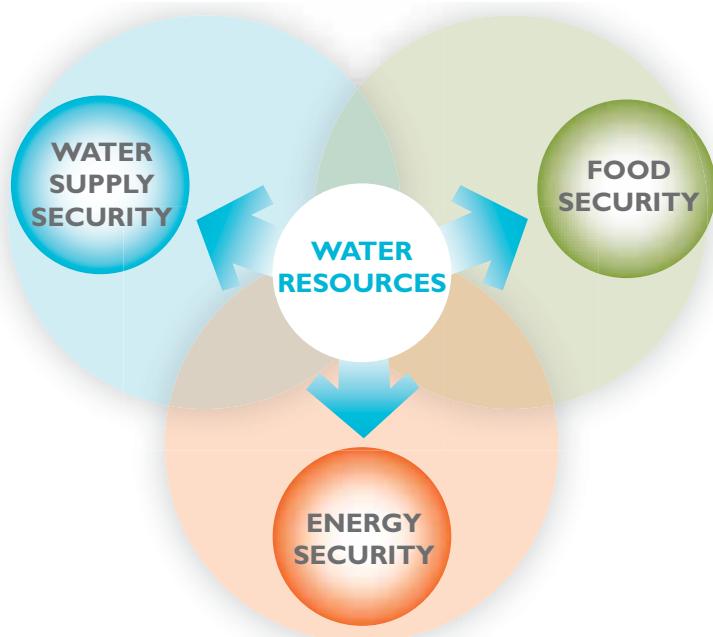
About 25-40 percent of global electricity is currently needed to extract, collect, treat, transport and deliver potable water and to dispose of waste water. Conversely, the generation of large-scale energy requires water, with thermoelectric cooling, hydropower, energy mineral extraction and mining, fuel production, refining and synthetic fuels all relying on large amounts of water.

### Managing systemic change

Sustainable management of the nexus is the greatest governance challenge of our time. Securing universal access to water, food and energy will require systemic change, multiple reforms and robust implementation at all levels and involving all stakeholders.

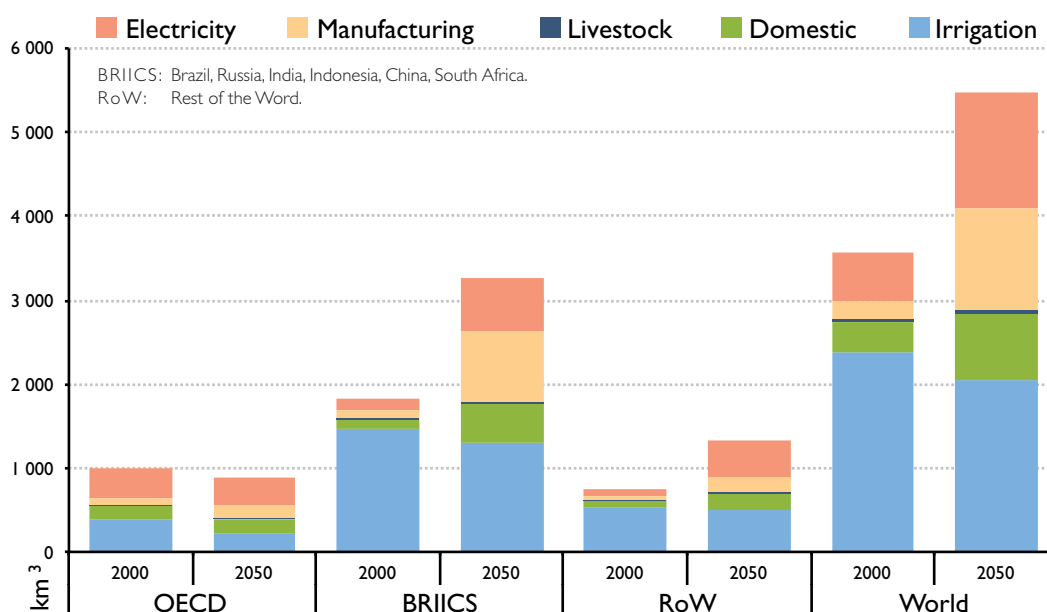
Strong, principle-based political leadership will be needed to progressively meet basic needs and realize human rights obligations under the nexus. The state is critical in this process, given its responsibility to formulate policies and provide incentives that promote sustainable and inclusive development, investment, and scientific and technological innovation. The state also has

**The water-food-energy nexus comprises a complex and interdependent set of relationships.**



SOURCE: Agri-Water-Pedia





SOURCE: OECD Environmental Outlook to 2050

### Global water demand: Baseline scenario 2000 and 2050

The distribution of water across the various consumption areas is expected to shift over the next 40 years, with more being required for electricity generation and less for irrigation.

an obligation to facilitate negotiations, regulate and coordinate, respond to risk and disaster, and build consensus among the various constituents.

Managing water, food and energy resources is also knowledge intensive. Thus, consensus building and decision making at the political level should be based on a well-informed, contextualized and field-based understanding of the three areas and their inter-connectivity.

Improving information for decision making will require the active encouragement of scientific and technological innovation for planning and analysis, for prediction, forecasting and management, and for developing solutions that can help meet the challenges of the nexus under unique local conditions. Science & technology, including information and communication technologies, will also play an important role in civic empowerment and the development and implementation of integrated frameworks.

### Boosting production and efficiency

Ensuring policy coherence between sectoral objectives could provide many opportunities for efficiency gains by taking a holistic approach to wastage and conservation. Prioritizing access for the poor and the marginalized and adopting appropriate incentives for coordination among the three sectors at all levels will be vital for generating multiple health, productivity and development benefits that could help achieve equitable and inclusive social, economic and environmentally sound development.

The adoption of integrated, coordinated and decentralized nexus approaches, together with the appropriate use of new technologies, could boost productive capacities and enhance resource efficiency by reducing consumption and re-cycling waste for multiple uses.

Decentralized nexus management could also enhance self-sufficiency, reduce wastage and improve long-term conservation, while generating employment and encouraging rural development. This would require reforms on multiple fronts, including adapting human resources, institutional set-ups and regulatory systems to maximize coordination between central, regional, municipal and local authorities, businesses, communities and individuals.

Also necessary would be the establishment of mechanisms to identify the optimal allocation of scarce resources for productive purposes; reduced waste and loss of water, food and energy along supply chains; optimization of land, water and labor use; and the re-orientation of public and private investment towards resource productivity and critical water, food and energy institutions, infrastructure and maintenance.

### Financing the nexus

Meeting future water, food and energy demand will be highly capital intensive. Huge investments from governments, business and consumers will be required to boost sustainable food production, to maintain existing and build new infrastructure, and to upgrade service delivery. ►

*Investment in sustainable agriculture production and downstream services in developing countries would need to increase by 47 percent to meet the growth in global food demand by 2050.*

◀ Investment in sustainable agricultural production and downstream services in developing countries would need to increase by an estimated 47 percent to US\$209 billion annually to meet the increase in global food demand by 2050. Most of this funding will need to come from the private sector. Particular attention should be paid to enhancing access to financial services for smallholder farmers through micro-finance and related schemes.

The total investment cost of providing universal access to clean water and sanitation by 2015 is estimated at US\$725 billion, depending on the technology. Of this total, at least US\$175 billion would be required to provide clean water, assuming low-cost technology, with the remaining US\$550 billion needed for sanitation services.

Global energy investment requirements are estimated at US\$20 trillion through 2030, with the additional capital investment required to achieve 100 percent electrification estimated at US\$665 billion for the same period.

In addition, the total cost of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the South is estimated at \$70-100 billion per year.

Considering the negative impact of the ongoing global financial crisis on the availability of

financing for development, funding the nexus will be extremely difficult. It is critical, therefore, for developing countries to create an enabling environment to leverage private resource flows, including through enhanced public-private partnerships and South-South cooperation, and to identify new ways of channeling global savings in support of the nexus.

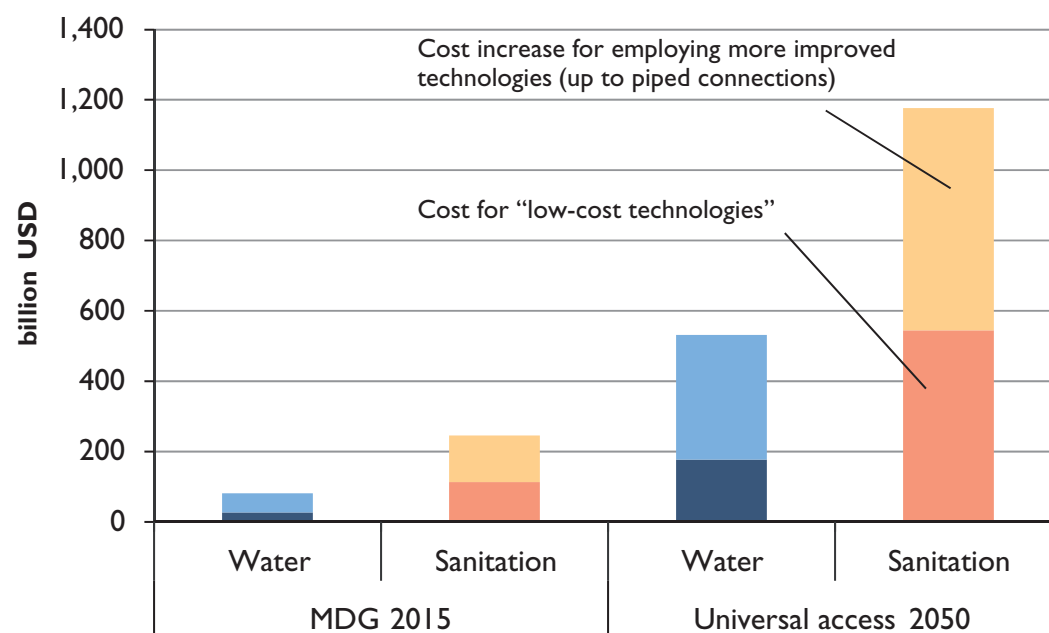
## Working together to consume less

Given that both the state and the market are imperfect institutions, governments, corporations and civil society organizations will have to work together harder and in new ways to manage the transition from unsustainable growth models and consumption patterns to more sustainable and inclusive growth through an umbrella of projects and initiatives involving all stakeholders.

Governments have turned to the private sector to leverage private resource flows and improve the performance of public utilities, including through public-private partnerships. As an important driver of innovation, investment and job creation, businesses are becoming more socially responsible and involved in global efforts to solve the nexus and address climate change.



PHOTO: BILL BARKSDALE/AGSTOCK IMAGES/CORBIS



SOURCE: Frontier Economics calculation based on several data sources

### Capital cost range for improved access to water supply and sanitation

The total investment cost of providing universal access to clean water and sanitation by 2015 is estimated at US\$725 billion, depending on the technology.

Nevertheless, changes in individual mindsets and consumer behavior will be required to improve efficiency of resource use and its environmental footprint, and to change the way business is done. As vehicles for social change, information and education systems will have an important role to play in changing growth models and consumption patterns and stressing the need for investment and innovation.

### Reshaping global governance

A concerted international effort and pooling of resources will be required to address the totality of complex and intertwined challenges emanating from the nexus, which should take center stage in the formulation of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. Support for such cooperation will come from global frameworks such as the UN's *International Year of Water Cooperation* and *Sustainable Energy for All* initiative, and the *G-20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture*. These are all steps into the right direction.

Ultimately, however, institutions of global governance will have to be reformed to accommodate the complexity of the nexus and to cope with the speed of today's rapidly evolving technological, socio-economic, environmental and geopolitical changes.

Reform is needed to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries in the agenda setting and decision making of institutions of global governance, and to improve inter-agency coordination. In addition, international financial, trade, and climate policies and systems need to be made more coherent with the objectives of sustainable, inclusive and equitable development.

### From crisis to opportunity

Adopting a nexus-oriented approach is vital for achieving policy coherence, and for reducing the tensions resulting from global economic and population growth and from water, food and energy resource constraints.

Water, food and energy offer tremendous opportunities for entrepreneurship, investment, innovation, employment creation and poverty reduction. Addressing this complex and multi-dimensional challenge will depend not only on innovations in technology, access to finance, and improvements in productivity, but also on how efficiently we can work together to mitigate risks and create opportunities that can lead to strong, sustainable and inclusive growth and development, and health and prosperity for all.



SPECIAL FEATURE

# Food security under conditions of water scarcity

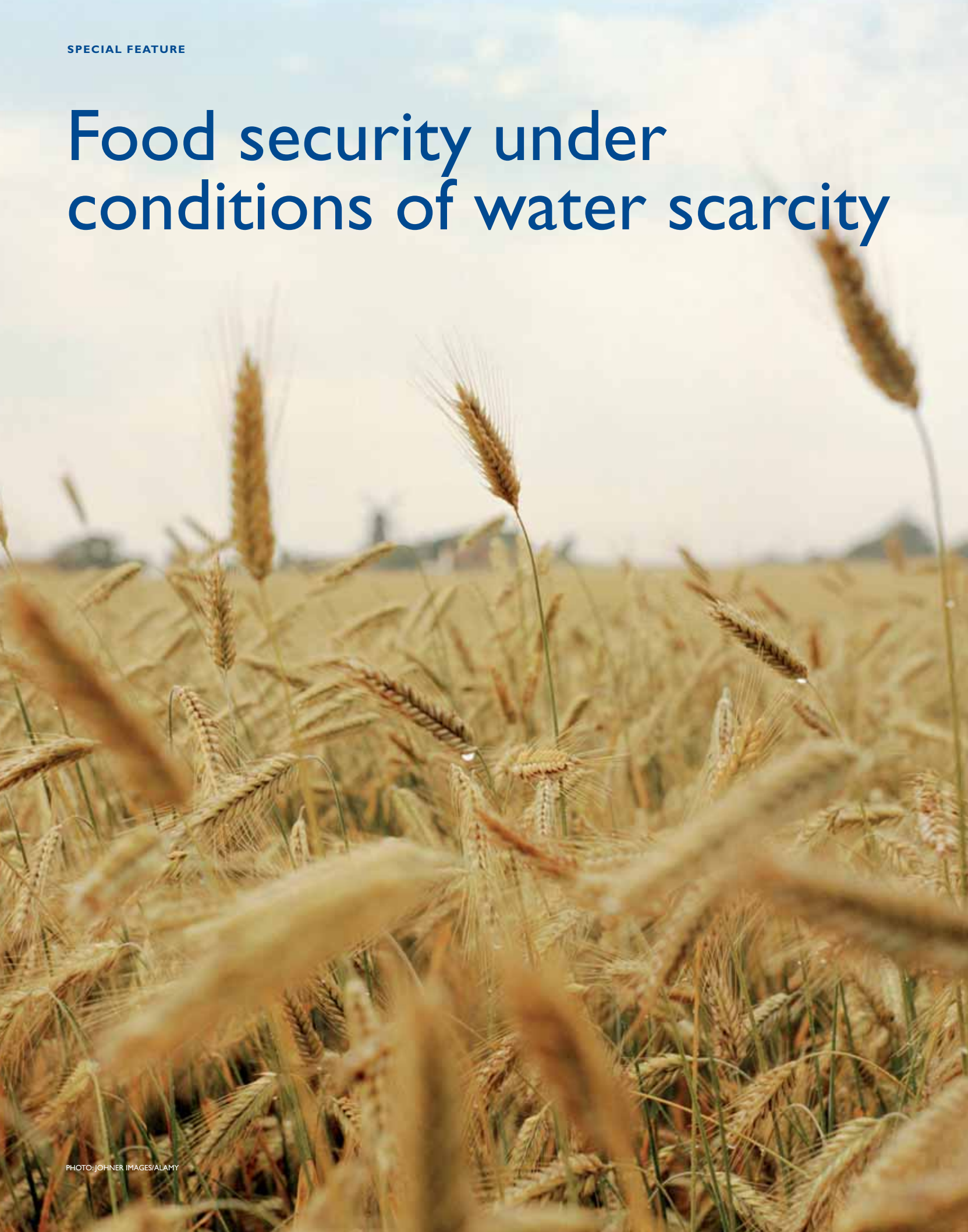


PHOTO: JOHNER IMAGES/ALAMY

With water supplies finite and dwindling and arable land compromised through unsustainable farming practices and climate change, fears are growing about the long-term prospects for food security, especially in developing countries dependent on food imports. Here, economic expert, **Abdul-Karim Sadik**, examines the links between water and food security and presents solutions for a new “Green Revolution.”

**N**early 98 percent of the one billion hungry people worldwide live in developing countries, yet at the global level enough food was being produced to meet demand up until the world food crisis of 2007-2008. The shock aspect of this crisis was attributed to the dramatic increase in food prices by over 70 percent and cereals prices by more than 115 percent from their 2006 level. Among other factors, the crisis was fueled by a decline in supply associated with the ban by certain major exporting countries on the export of staple foods. The crisis heightened developing country concerns over their food security, especially the large food importers, and exerted additional pressure on their efforts to enhance food self-sufficiency.

### Food production

The production of food staples – such as cereals – which constitute people’s main food intake has risen nearly 2.8 times over the last five decades, from about 877 million tons in 1961 to about 2,458 million tons in 2010. FAOSTAT (the statistical database of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN) reveals that the growth in global cereal production over the period 1990-2010 was entirely the result of increased yields. While the area harvested dropped by about 20.3 million ha, average yields, globally and in Asia, continued to rise, reaching about 3,571 kg/ha and 3,659 kg/ha, in 2010, respectively. In the Africa and Arab regions, yields have lagged behind the world average, reaching 1,496 kg/ha and 1,750 kg/ha in 2010 respectively (see Fig.1).

Asia’s cereals yield growth was driven by the Green Revolution, which started in the 1960s and was based on the expansion of irrigation together with a mix of improved seed varieties, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and technology. Most countries in Africa and the Arab region missed out on

the Green Revolution. Worldwide, yields in irrigated areas are on average two to three times higher than in rain-fed areas, underlining the significant role of water in food production.

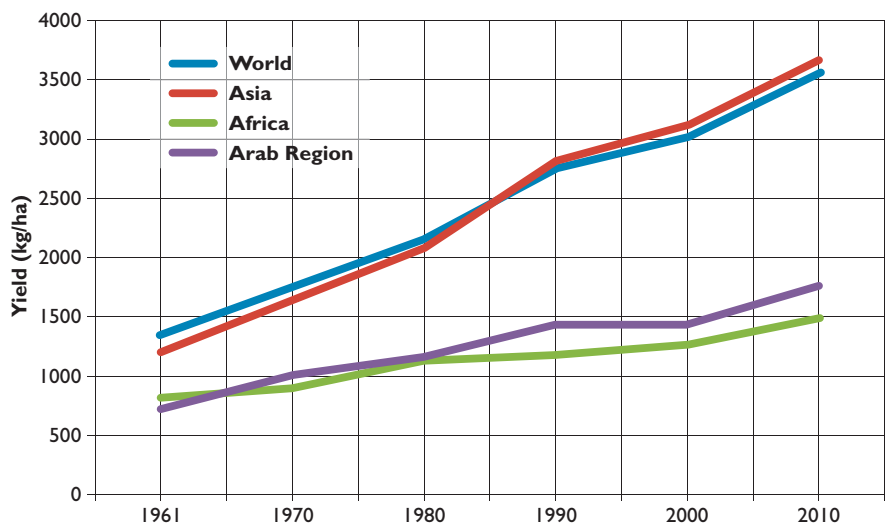
### Water scarcity and irrigation

Global water resources of about 43,750 billion m<sup>3</sup> are unevenly distributed. Asia’s share is about 28 percent, Africa’s share does not exceed nine percent, and that of the Arab region is less than one percent. This equates to a per capita average of about 2,942 m<sup>3</sup>, 3,845 m<sup>3</sup>, and 840 m<sup>3</sup> in 2010, respectively. With projected populations of about 5.1 billion in Asia, 2.2 billion in Africa, and about 633 million in the Arab region in 2050, water resources per capita are expected to drop to a level of about 2,382 m<sup>3</sup>, 1,793 m<sup>3</sup>, and 470 m<sup>3</sup> respectively, compared with a world average of about 4,700 m<sup>3</sup> for the same year (see Fig. 2).

#### Abdul-Karim Sadik

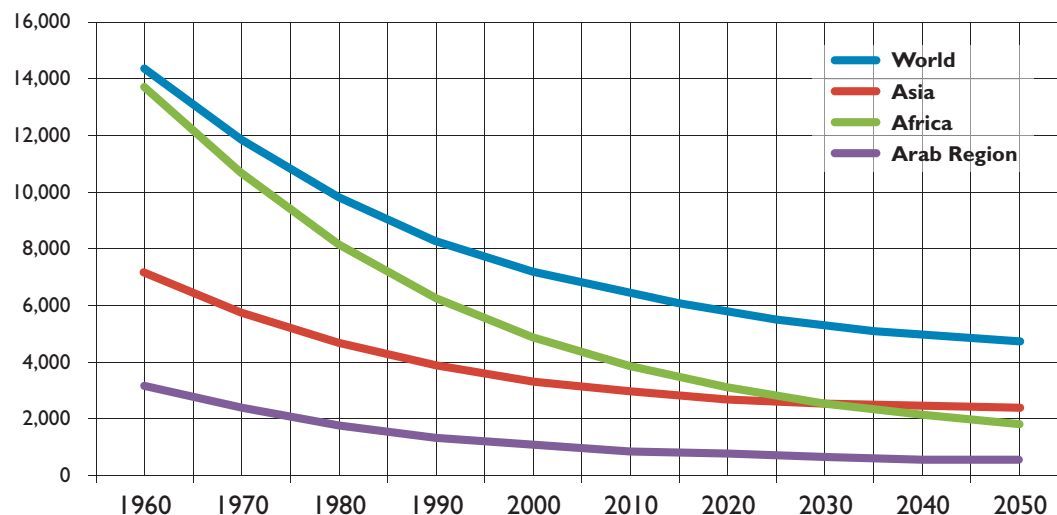
is Economic Adviser at the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, where he has garnered over 25 years of experience in the field of development. Dr Sadik’s areas of interest include the economics of water, a subject he has researched extensively. He is the author and co-author of numerous published papers on the topic.

**Fig.1 Cereals yield average 1961 – 2010**



SOURCE: Based on FAOSTAT data

**Fig. 2**  
**Natural water resources**  
**(m<sup>3</sup>/person/year)**



SOURCE: Based on shares of world water resources and UN 2010 Population Prospects Revision

◀ Irrigation is critical for food production and for boosting agricultural productivity. For example, whereas almost 100 percent of Egypt's cultivated area is fully irrigated, leading to a cereals yield of 6,541 kg/ha in 2010, yields were less than 500 kg/ha in Sudan, where irrigation covers only 10 percent of the cultivated area. Certainly, irrigation is necessary for improving agricultural productivity, but it needs to be reinforced by a right mix of other inputs, including fertilizers, pesticides and technology, in addition to sound agricultural practices.

A country's irrigation potential, based on suitable cultivable land and availability of water resources, is a decisive factor in the extent of reliance on irrigated areas for food production. In the case of Africa, FAO's 2005 AQUASTAT survey shows that agriculture used 86 percent of total water withdrawal for irrigating 6.4 percent (about 13.5 million ha) of the cultivated area, compared with a world average of 70 percent of water withdrawal for irrigating about 18 percent of cropland. With an irrigation potential of about 43 million ha, Africa can increase its irrigated area by about 30 million ha. However, this global figure for Africa's irrigation potential disguises the wide variations at country level, with 13 countries on the continent accounting for about 80 percent of the irrigation potential. Not only this, but water availability per person in 2010 was less than the world average of about 6,300 m<sup>3</sup> in 60 percent of African countries, and many of them will face increasing water scarcity over time due to population growth.

In Asia, agriculture consumes about 82 percent of water withdrawal, with irrigation practiced on 41 percent of the total cultivated area, compared to six percent in Africa, and 25 percent in the Arab region. Despite variation in the percentage of

area irrigated, agriculture in these regions consumes much more water than is required for growing crops. In other words, the irrigation efficiency is very low, and large quantities of water are lost on the way from the source to the field as well as on the farms themselves. FAO's estimates show that in 2000, the irrigation efficiency in 90 developing countries averaged 38 percent, with a similar ratio of 32 percent in sub-Saharan Africa, 34 percent in East Asia, and 44 percent in South Asia. Similarly, the irrigation efficiency in the Arab region did not exceed 40 percent.

While water withdrawal for irrigation in the 90 developing countries averaged eight percent of total renewable resources, South Asia's ratio reached 36 percent. The ratio for the Arab region has been estimated at 73 percent, exceeding by far the 20 percent ratio which the FAO identifies as "a threshold that could be used to indicate impending water scarcity."

### More efficient irrigation

Improving water productivity is of vital importance for increasing food production. This could be achieved by boosting irrigation efficiency through the rehabilitation and maintenance of irrigation distribution systems and the adoption of water saving irrigation methods such as sprinkler and localized irrigation techniques. Equally useful are pricing policies conducive to economizing on the use of irrigation water. For example, raising irrigation efficiency in East and South Asia to 60 percent could save about 320 billion m<sup>3</sup>. With an average water requirement of 1,500 m<sup>3</sup>/ton of cereals, this amount of saved water would be enough to produce over 200 million tons of cereals, equivalent to over three times the regions'



cereal imports in 2009. Similarly, the Arab countries, by improving irrigation efficiency to 60 percent could save 44 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water, enough to produce about 30 million tons of cereals, equivalent to 60 percent of their cereal imports.

Furthermore, post-harvest losses, which average about 30 percent in various developing countries, exert further pressure not only on scarce water resources as a result of wasting embedded water, but also limit the availability of food supplies. To reduce or eliminate such huge losses requires the provision of adequate food supply chain facilities, including packaging, transportation, storage and distribution. It is critically important that agricultural investments be concerned not only with production aspects, but also the other food chain components necessary for preserving the quantity and quality of the products.

## Climate change

Poor agricultural practices have led to the deterioration of agricultural sustainability, as evidenced by land degradation, soil erosion, desertification, depletion of groundwater aquifers, and the pollution of water sources in many developing countries. Climate change poses an additional threat to the availability of water, with varying impacts across regions and countries.

Various studies and models point to growing evidence of the impact of changing weather patterns on people's livelihoods and wellbeing. Agriculture is a climate-sensitive sector and is extremely vulnerable to climate change, which affects both rain-fed and irrigated crop yields directly and indirectly through changes in water resources available for irrigation. Although the impact of climate change is predicted to be positive on certain crops in some parts of the world, its impact on agriculture overall is projected to be negative, with serious implications for food security, particularly in water-scarce developing regions and those sub-Saharan and Arab countries that rely on rain-fed crops.

UNDP's 2006 Human Development Report refers, among other things, to the marked reductions in water availability in East Africa, the Sahel and Southern Africa, with projected potential productivity losses of up to 33 percent in maize and more than 20 percent for sorghum and 18 percent for millet in rain-fed areas in East Africa. It also points to freshwater losses in river delta systems due to rising sea levels in such countries as Bangladesh, Egypt and Thailand.

A report by the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development on the impact of climate change on Arab countries predicts that in Egypt, for example, climate change will reduce the pro-

ductivity of rice by 11 percent, barley by 18 percent, corn by 19 percent and wheat by 18 percent, by the year 2030. Other reports by international organizations have warned of the impact of climate change on rain-fed agriculture in Arab countries, where rain-fed yields are expected to fall by an overall average of 20 percent, and by almost 40 percent in such countries as Algeria and Morocco.

Climate change impacts on crop yields, especially in water-stressed nations, are indicative of the additional challenges confronting their food self-sufficiency, and the need to adopt mitigation measures to reduce the vulnerability of agriculture to climate change and support its sustainability.

## Options for food security

In most developing regions, even in sub-Saharan Africa with its substantial potential for irrigation, rain-fed agriculture will continue to be an important source of food. The importance of boosting crop yields in rain-fed areas cannot be over emphasized. More intensive agricultural research is required to discover high-yielding seed varieties, and salt-resistant and drought-tolerant cultivars.

Improving irrigation efficiency can go a long way towards reducing water losses and energy costs associated with water pumping. However, increasing crop productivity at the expense of further degradation in the biocapacity of the limited natural land and water resources is detrimental to agricultural sustainability. While cereal productivity was the pillar of the Green Revolution of the 1960s, which saved millions of people in Asia from starvation, its paradigm has been severely challenged because of its negative externalities such as groundwater depletion and salinization.

In pursuing greater food production, developing countries need a new version of the Green Revolution based on the principles of agricultural sustainability. This calls for adopting improved agricultural practices, including modern irrigation techniques, improved drainage, high-yielding seed varieties, innovative crop protection technologies, optimized fertilizer use, and the provision of extension services. In addition, suitably-treated wastewater augments the irrigation potential, and farming practices such as water harvesting, deficit irrigation, and conservation and organic agriculture, are not only conducive to increasing water productivity, but are also essential for producing more food with less water.

Recognizing that water scarcity is not only a natural phenomenon, but is also human-made, prospects for enhancing food security depend largely on the efficient management of land and water resources, and the protection of their biocapacity to regenerate their services. ■

# Water, sanitation and hygiene: the key to healthy populations

Despite encouraging results towards achieving universal access to clean water, the issue of inadequate sanitation remains a colossal challenge in dozens of developing countries. In this exclusive interview for the *Quarterly*, **Sanjay Wijesekera**, UNICEF Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Associate Director of Programs, explains the nature of this problem and describes what actions are being taken to address it.

INTERVIEW BY AUDREY HAYLINS



**Sanjay Wijesekera** has been Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Associate Director of Programs at UNICEF since October 2011. Before that, he worked at the UK's Department for International Development, where he was responsible for managing overall policy and global programs related to achieving the water and sanitation MDGs. Mr Wijesekera is a Chartered civil engineer and holds a Master's degree in Water and Environmental Management.

PHOTO: UNICEF/NYHQ2012-0010/MARKISZ

**OQ:** *When we look at progress towards the water- and sanitation-related MDGs, we see that the water targets were met already some years ago. Nevertheless, an estimated 780 million people worldwide are still without access to safe drinking water sources. Who are these people and what would you identify as the main challenges in reaching them?*

**SW:** Actually, the water target was met in 2010 – two years ago, and five years ahead of the 2015 target date. And yes, it is true that over 780 million people still had no access at that date. UNICEF and WHO estimate that at the current rate of progress, 605 million people will still be without access to an improved drinking water source in 2015.

Those without access are concentrated in pockets of poverty throughout the world, and particularly in the poorest countries. For example, sub-Saharan Africa accounts for 42 percent of the total population without access to an improved drinking water source. Only one out of ten people in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) enjoy the convenience of piped drinking water to their homes. In rural areas that drops even further to three out of every 100 people. The poorest 20 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa are six times more likely to rely on unimproved drinking water sources than the richest 20 per cent.

So to put it differently, the challenge is one of addressing the effects of poverty and inequity. The last mile is always the hardest, and no more so than in this case. It is not an easy fix, and will take the concerted efforts of governments, policy makers, donors, international organizations, and the private sector.

Perhaps most importantly, in order to achieve universal and sustainable access, we must empower the affected populations themselves to claim their rights.

For example, we have worked with the Water and Sanitation Program of the World Bank



*UNICEF's school water, sanitation and hygiene program (WASH) is helping to bring about sustainable behavior changes that will have long-term beneficial effects in developing countries.*

and other partners to help the government of Liberia to map out that country's water points. Once this information is made available to the public, it helps citizens to see who is getting services and where the problems are, and it helps the government to make decisions on how to allocate their resources.

The good news is that many people are working on the water problem – from governments, to companies, to NGOs, to international agencies – as the world recognizes how important safe water is to the economic health of a nation and the wellbeing of its people.

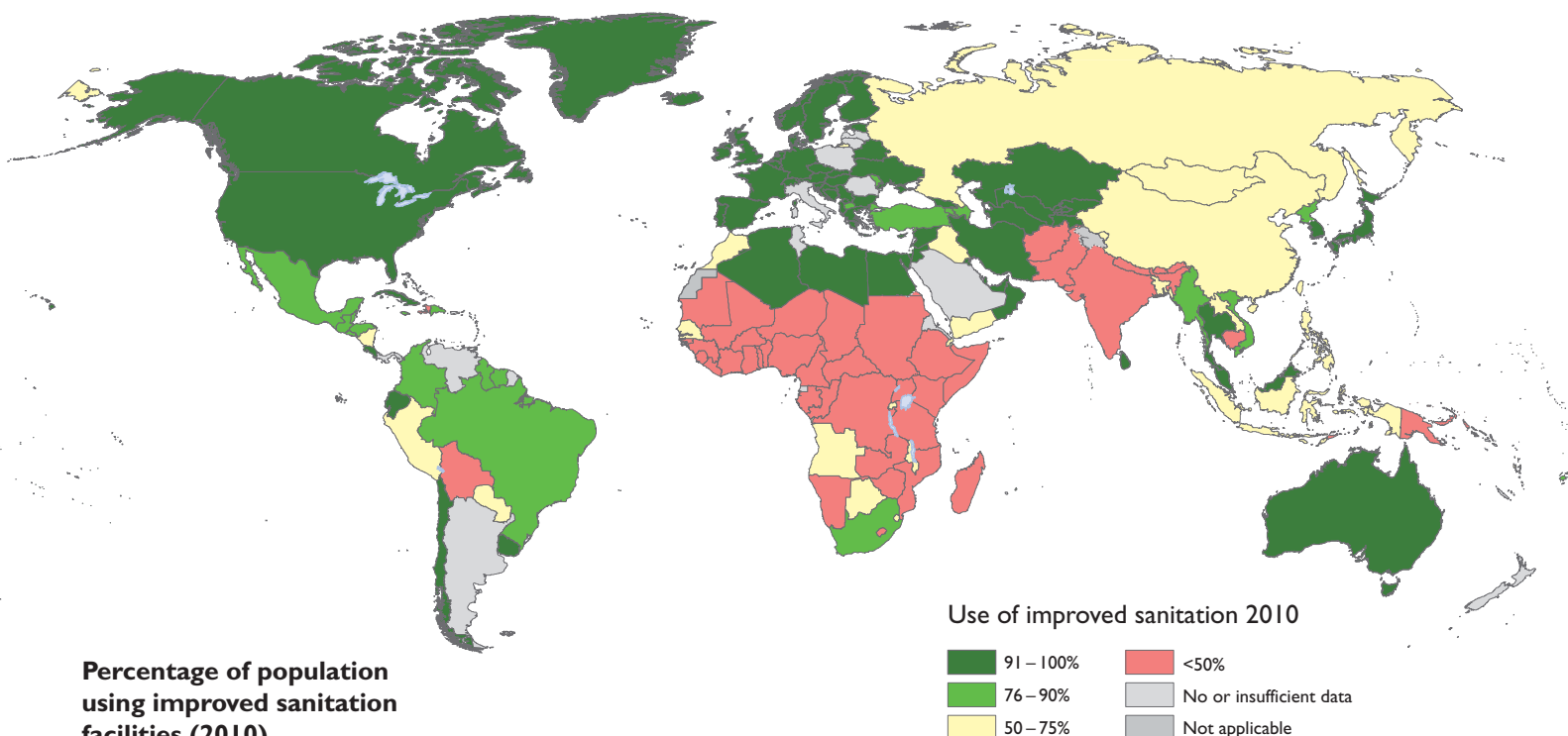
**OQ:** *Compared to the achievements in expanding water access, sanitation improvements have lagged woefully behind. As a result, millions of lives continue to be lost every year through diarrheal disease and other waterborne illnesses. Why is this goal proving so difficult to achieve? What steps is UNICEF taking to overcome these hurdles?*

**SW:** Yes, sanitation remains a massive challenge. At the current rate of progress, only in 2026 will 75 percent of the world use improved sanitation facilities – which would mean missing the MDG target by eleven years, while still leaving a quarter of the global population without sanitation.

Nonetheless, there has already been considerable progress. Since 1990 1.8 billion people gained access to improved sanitation, including 270 million people in Africa. But open defecation – that is, defecation in fields, forests, bushes, bodies of water or other open spaces – is still practiced by 1.1 billion people globally, representing over 15 percent of the world's population.

Open defecation is not just a problem in the poorest countries. Twelve countries are home to almost three quarters of the remaining people who practice open defecation: India (626 million); Indonesia (63 million); Pakistan (40 million); Ethiopia (38 million); Nigeria (34 million); Sudan (19 million); Nepal (15 million); ►





### Percentage of population using improved sanitation facilities (2010)

Achieving widespread access to improved sanitation remains a huge challenge, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and some parts of Asia.

SOURCE: UNICEF/WHO (2012)

◀ China (14 million); Niger (12 million); Burkina Faso (9.7 million); Mozambique (9.5 million); and Cambodia (8.6 million). Six of these – China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Sudan – are classified by the World Bank as middle-income countries.

UNICEF and partners in recent years have been implementing Community Approaches to Total Sanitation (CATS), which is now being supported by UNICEF in 50 countries around the world. We believe CATS is the best way to achieve universal access to improved sanitation.

UNICEF's support using this approach has led to more than 39,000 communities, with a total population of over 24 million people, being declared free of open defecation within the last five years.

CATS depends on the leadership of the communities themselves, and focuses on social and behavioral change and the use of affordable, appropriate technologies. Communities use their own capacities to attain their objectives and take a central role in planning and implementing improved sanitation.

**OQ:** UNICEF states that children “bear the brunt” of sanitation-related impacts and talks about the “inter-generational effect” of inadequate sanitation. Would you like to elaborate on these statements?

**SW:** Even today, faecal-oral diseases continue to take a heavy toll on the lives of children. Pneumonia and diarrhea together are the two leading killers of young children, taking almost two million lives in 2011, and causing nearly 30 percent of deaths among children under five years old worldwide. Nearly 90 percent of those deaths occurred in the world's poorest regions: sub-Saharan Africa (one million deaths) and South Asia (800,000 deaths).

Unsafe water, inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene contribute to nearly 90 percent of deaths from diarrhoea worldwide. Add illnesses from intestinal parasites, for example, and you will see that WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) is crucial in preventing a host of ills for children.

There is clear evidence that inadequate WASH facilities, including lack of appropriate sanitation – especially for girls – has an adverse

effect on school attendance. Children who are ill with diarrhea do not attend school during the bouts of illness. Frequent or sustained episodes of diarrhea can also have a negative impact on children's nutritional status, which in turn has a run-on effect on their cognitive development over the long term.

School WASH facilities and associated hygiene education are key to reducing helminth – intestinal parasite – loads within school children, minimizing the negative impact of worm infestations both on their nutritional status and on their cognitive development.

So literally the future health of a nation is directly related to reducing the reach of these diseases.

**OQ:** *As part of its WASH program, UNICEF works extensively in schools. How effective are interventions at this level in promoting attitudes and behaviors that can help underpin broader sustainable development?*

**SW:** The effects of promoting improved water, sanitation and hygiene in schools are two-fold.

First, children 'get it'; and then it becomes a lifelong habit. As they grow up, the new generation will put into practice something other than what they learned from their fathers and grand-fathers.

Secondly, children educated about WASH and putting the lessons into practice are simply healthier. Healthier children are better equipped for achieving their fullest potential and thereby playing a stronger role in society.

In short, we believe that a major key to sustainable behavior change is to reach the children, for their sakes, and for the sake of the future. And we have growing evidence to show that we can change behaviors to improve the lives of children – and of future generations.

**OQ:** *The UN has designated 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation. What role is UNICEF playing in this initiative and what would it like to see coming out of the year in terms of concrete actions to address water and sanitation challenges?*

**SW:** UNICEF is one of the lead agencies for WASH within the UN system and we will continue to play this role in 2013 and beyond. This did not come suddenly, as you may know. For more than 50 years, our programs have provided access to clean water in thousands of villages around the world, and we have pushed the WASH agenda with national governments and within the aid community. This will not change.

We have WASH programs in 110 countries supported by over 400 professional staff. We will continue to expand our work on sanitation and promote it to others in the sector. We will continue our work in schools. We will continue to push for equity in access, not just to improved water, sanitation and hygiene, but also to interventions which are sustained over time. We will continue to provide leadership within the humanitarian sector. In 2011, for example, we responded to almost 300 emergencies in 80 countries, with WASH action in most. And we will roll out our strategy to eliminate the practice of open defecation that is so harmful to the health and wellbeing especially of the poorest people in the world.

In June 2012 we convened a meeting of countries with the highest burden of child mortality, and got pledges from them for *Committing to Child Survival: A Promise Renewed*, which decidedly includes doing what is necessary in the WASH sector. We will continue to hold governments and other partners responsible for keeping their commitments to children.

UNICEF is also playing a leading role in the development of post-2015 goals and indicators for the WASH sector. This involves both technical and broader public consultations on future WASH targets.

UNICEF promotes increased and better focused resources to the WASH sector by national governments and donors through the *Sanitation Water for All* initiative, which also seeks to enhance national planning and accountability within the sector.

But the most important thing to remember is that UNICEF will not be doing this alone. No one agency or entity can provide improved sanitation to 2.5 billion people, or safe water to over 780 million. It takes a concerted effort from all involved, from governments, to the aid community, to the private sector, to international organizations, and crucially, to the people affected themselves, in order for universal access to improve water, sanitation and hygiene to become a reality.

We believe the will is there. And with the will, we know we can put a definitive end to this unacceptable situation where children are deprived of their most basic of rights. ■

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*Unsafe water,  
inadequate sanitation  
and poor hygiene  
contribute to nearly  
90 percent of deaths  
from diarrhea  
worldwide.*

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### Quick links

[www.apromiserenewed.org/](http://www.apromiserenewed.org/)

[www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/](http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/)

# OFID Director-General undertakes partner country tour

As part of efforts to further alliances with partner countries, OFID Director-General, Mr Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, regularly engages in missions, where he meets with senior government officials to discuss ongoing and future cooperation and makes field visits to OFID-sponsored projects. In October, Mr Al-Herbish undertook missions to Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Albania, followed in December with visits to Mauritania and Tunisia. The key message he carried to each country was OFID's *Energy for the Poor Initiative*.

## SRI LANKA



Mr Al-Herbish and President Rajapaksa discussed the long-standing cooperation between OFID and Sri Lanka.

In a four-day visit to Sri Lanka, Mr Al-Herbish met with President Rajapaksa and a number of other senior ministers. The Director-General also inspected progress at two ongoing projects, the first a road upgrade initiative and the second involving the construction of a reservoir and irrigation infrastructure in Dambulla. In addition, he signed a new US\$40 million loan agreement in support of a project to upgrade 220 km of key national roads.



The OFID delegation with some of the residents who will benefit from the new water and irrigation infrastructure in Dambulla.





Mr Al-Herbish with President Waheed, who spoke warmly of the strong ties between OFID and the Maldives.

## MALDIVES

In the Maldives, Mr Al-Herbish held talks with President Waheed and other senior government officials, and visited an OFID-sponsored project that is building new harbors on the islands hardest hit by the 2004 tsunami. The Director-General also signed a US\$8.4 million loan agreement for the Hithadhoo Regional Hospital Project, which will construct a new 100-bed facility to serve some 76,000 people.

The local community, accompanied by traditional drummers, turned out in force to welcome the OFID delegation at the site of one of the new harbors that are being constructed with OFID co-financing.



Members of the OFID delegation at one of the co-financed harbors. The new facilities will aid economic recovery by facilitating trade.

## ALBANIA

The Albania mission took place following a personal invitation from Prime Minister Dr Sali Berisha. In addition to talks with the Prime Minister, Mr Al-Herbish met with other senior officials, including the Minister of Finance and the Mayor of Tirana, and visited a road that was recently rehabilitated as part of an OFID co-financed project.



At a press briefing, Prime Minister Berisha thanked Mr Al-Herbish for OFID's support and the "excellent friendship" that had developed between Albania and OFID.



The OFID delegation in talks with Mr Ridvan Bode, Finance Minister, and his team.



The newly opened Shijak-Gjepalaj road offers improved access to social and economic infrastructure in the rural districts of Durres and Lezhe. The road was rebuilt under the second phase of the *Secondary and Local Roads Project*.

## MAURITANIA

Mr Al-Herbish's itinerary during December's mission to Mauritania included discussions with Prime Minister Mr Moulaye Ould Mohamed Laghdaf, the signature of a new US\$11.9 million loan agreement for a solar electrification project, and a visit to the Aftout es-Saheli Water Supply Project. Also on the agenda was acceptance of the Medal of National Recognition, conferred on the Director-General by Prime Minister Laghdaf on behalf of President Abdel Aziz.



The US\$11.9 million agreement for the Aftout Al Chargui Solar Electrification Project was countersigned by HE Dr Sidi ould Bebaha Ould Tah, Minister of Economic Affairs and Development.



## TUNISIA

Highlights of the Tunisia mission included meetings with Prime Minister Dr Hamadi Aljabi and other senior government representatives as well as the signature of a US\$50 million loan agreement for the construction of a new power plant. Central to the discussions were opportunities for collaboration under OFID's Energy for the Poor Initiative and enhanced cooperation under the Deauville Partnership.



Mr Al-Herbish with Tunisian Prime Minister, Dr Hamadi Aljabi.

On site at the Sousse-D Power Plant, which is being built to help meet growing energy demand in the country.



Prime Minister Laghdaf congratulates Mr Al-Herbish on receiving the Medal of National Recognition. The award acknowledges OFID's long-standing relationship with Mauritania, which goes back almost 37 years.



In a briefing at the Aftout Es Saheli Water Supply Project, the OFID delegation learned how the project is providing potable water to residents of the capital Nouakchott.



# Youth draft agenda for action

There are no youth-dominated events outside the Olympic Games that bring together more countries than **One Young World**. This annual Summit gathers young delegates, backed by world-renowned counselors, to debate and formulate solutions for the pressing issues the world faces today.

BY REEM ALJARBOU



**T**he One Young World (OYW) Summit 2012 took place in Pittsburgh, USA, from 18 to 22 October, bringing together 1,200 delegates from 183 countries. OFID was once again a part of this premier global forum for young leaders.

Since its inaugural summit in London in 2010, OYW has aimed to connect the young to share their vision and ideas for creating practical solutions for a positive change in their communities.

OFID has supported the OYW Summit since inception and has contributed significantly in ensuring the world's under-represented and non-represented youth are present at this global forum.

To date OFID has sponsored 67 young delegates from the developing world and Member Countries through an extensive application process. OFID has successfully pioneered the attendance of various countries that were otherwise not represented through this youth initiative.

The opening ceremony this year featured a keynote speech by President Bill Clinton, who also took time to answer questions from the delegates. The most important message Clinton repeated was "think globally, act locally."

Discussion increasingly focused on the interconnectivity of the world and the unity of its development challenges. Youth debates centered on the problems of health, environment, education and poverty, which unite everyone yet require variable local solutions that are conscious of their effects on the entire world.

Various delegates spoke alongside prominent global figures such as Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Sir Bob Geldof, musician and activist, Mohammad Yunus, Nobel Prize Laureate, Fatima Bhutto, writer and activist, Jack Dorsey, Founder of Twitter, and NASA astronaut Ron Garan.

Seven focus areas took a central role. These topics were entirely created by delegates and ambassadors who drove summit content in consultation with the OYW community.

In order to draft the 2012 Pledges, ambassadors participated in a polling process to establish which issues they most cared about, followed by a survey to establish which aspects of those issues were of most concern and should be focused on. During the summit, these issues were discussed extensively, with pledges created around the principle of actionable but scalable activity that could be carried out in any country.

On the sidelines of the summit, the OFID delegation held an interactive exhibition area, where over 420 delegates took a quiz on energy poverty and general development issues. The quiz allowed OFID the platform to disseminate further information regarding its Energy for the Poor Initiative and other efforts worldwide. The OFID delegation also hosted a luncheon for its sponsored delegates attending this year.

Exchanges which occur at OYW have resulted in more than 125 projects and initiatives involving in excess of 100 countries. ■



PHOTOS: ONE YOUNG WORLD; OFID/REEM ALJARBOU



# Voices of Youth

OFID-sponsored delegates speak out



**Yoshabel Durand**  
*Dominica*

"The most important issue covered at the Summit was that of leaders and their role in our communities. This session gave me new hope and encouragement that it is indeed possible to change the status quo. I was heartened to hear Kofi Anan not only admit the mistakes and shortcomings of the United Nations and his actions but also give some logical solutions to rectifying them. This session also drove home the fact that here, among such great men and women, we the youth have wings to soar and lead others to the skies."



**Lilliam Castellon**  
*Nicaragua*

"The summit was so inspirational for me, and definitely it gave me the motivation and examples of what young people are capable of. It changed my perspective and taught me that I have the power to make change and give something back to the world. The most important message for me was that we, as young people, have the power to make a difference. Another important aspect to analyze is how to create other options of incomes for these communities in order give them opportunities to develop working with the environment not from it."



**Roula Hamati**  
*Lebanon*

"Coming from a background in development studies, the session that inspired me the most was the one on social business. The ideas were fascinating and very new to me. The most important message was that we as young individuals can play an essential part in reducing poverty by creating a new business aimed not at profit, but at solving a social problem in an innovative way. For the first time I actually felt capable of transcending the problems and focusing instead on the concrete steps that I can take to contribute to the solution."



**Malcon Liyali Mazambani**  
*Namibia*

"I am looking forward to starting a company of my own one day, so I particularly enjoyed the session on global business. I felt very encouraged by Muhammad Yunus, who said when you start something, start small and grow bigger as time goes by, and never give up when you are faced with challenges. I would like to make a difference in my community by creating job opportunities for other young people like myself. For me this was the main message of the summit: this world could be a better place if we all stand and unite as one."



**Aiganym Baibakpaeva**  
*Kyrgyzstan*

"At the beginning I was skeptical, but after the summit I know definitely that I want to live in my country and to do some action that will bring a positive motion. I was mostly inspired by the young future leaders, with whom I had a chance to meet, not just the prominent speakers. The most inspiring person for me was Muhammad Yunus, who had a simple, sincere philosophy and said: 'don't be afraid to do something in the wrong way, one day it will be the right thing.'"



**Rezarta Veizaj**  
*Albania*

"This summit was a great experience. Interacting with so many people from different backgrounds and cultures was an added value. Discussing issues, which are of great relevance and importance nowadays, and trying to find possible solutions, is important for us, in order to get involved in our own communities and try to make even a small difference there. From such experiences I learnt that committed individuals have the potential to create a successful team and possibly bring on tremendous achievements."



**Diego Martinez Benavides**  
*Colombia*

"After the summit I became aware that my generation is the most creative and powerful in human history. Technology and networking tools allow us to spread ideas and make them blossom. We are set to have a fundamental and global impact. From this meeting, I and other Colombian delegates have decided to embark on a project of developing strategies to reduce computer illiteracy among the youth in Bogota. Education is perhaps our best chance to creating our world of tomorrow, because all the key elements of sustainable development depend on various forms of education."





## Draft resolutions and calls to action

The 2012 Summit held plenary sessions on the following seven themes. The delegates voted on a pledge associated with each session as a sign of their commitment to take action aligned to that pledge.

### Education

*Focus: Why can't every child read?*

Pledge: We, the One Young World Ambassadors, pledge to take personal responsibility for improving literacy in our communities

### Global Business

*Focus: What is the new CSR?*

Pledge: We, the One Young World Ambassadors, pledge to create employment opportunities for young people.

### Health

*Focus: Why do we allow the physically disabled to be socially disabled?*

Pledge: We, the One Young World Ambassadors, pledge to improve facilities in our environment so that those with disabilities have access to equal opportunities.

### Human Rights

*Focus: Who is responsible for upholding human rights?*

Pledge: We, the One Young World Ambassadors, pledge to take personal responsibility for improving the rights of an oppressed minority in our community.

### Leadership & Governance

*Focus: Why will this generation do a better job?*

Pledge: We, the One Young World Ambassadors, pledge to take personal responsibility for the development of other young leaders in the organizations in which we play a part.

### Sustainable Development

*Focus: What is the new green?*

Pledge: We, the One Young World Ambassadors, pledge to personally contribute to the One Young World Global Statement in order to create consensus on the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies.

### Transparency & Integrity

*Focus: Why is corruption so hard to fight?*

Pledge: We, the One Young World Ambassadors, pledge to take personal responsibility for educating children, communities and corporations about the damaging effects of corruption and the need for transparency.



**Quick links**

[www.oneyoungworld.com](http://www.oneyoungworld.com)



# Transitioning to a sustainable energy future

PHOTO: GENCHO PETKOV/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

**The 31<sup>st</sup> United States Association for Energy Economics/International Association for Energy Economics North American Conference** was held 4-7 November in Austin, Texas, under the theme *Transition to a Sustainable Energy Era: Opportunities and Challenges*. OFID was represented by Rachid Bencherif, Head, Grants Unit.

**S**peaking at the opening plenary discussion on *Putting the 'Sustainable' in Sustainable Energy Future*, Mr Bencherif, an energy specialist, said that the pursuit of sustainable energy demanded a “balanced and realistic” approach.

He noted that the global community had become increasingly integrated as well as more interdependent, including in the areas of climate change and energy consumption. For this reason, he insisted, sustainable solutions for energy issues had to be seen in a global context.

He pointed out that efforts to reduce climate change in one part of the world were often canceled out by poor energy planning and usage in other regions. Energy poverty was thus a concern of the entire world and not only of those directly affected.

“This is why eradicating energy poverty, and in so doing, reducing deforestation, should be one of the dimensions of any national sustainable energy future,” he asserted, adding: “Make no mistake. Global environmental problems cannot be solved by denying the poor access to basic energy services.”

Bencherif noted that the global figures on energy poverty were troubling, with 2.7 billion people using traditional biomass as the primary source of energy and nine out of ten rural Africans lacking access to electricity.

"It is disturbing to know that these figures have remained the same for the past two decades, and it is alarming to know that, according to the International Energy Agency they are forecast to remain largely unchanged if current policies are pursued," he stated.

Bencherif reminded participants that 2012 had been designated *The International Year of Sustainable Energy for All* by the UN and that a global initiative had been launched during the Rio+20 Summit. Its three aims were to attain universal access to sustainable energy by 2030, to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, and to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

He praised these steps forward, saying: "These are ambitious objectives toward a sustainable energy era that will require concerted effort, massive investment and a decisive shift away from business as usual trajectories."

He pointed out that OFID was supporting this global endeavor with its own *Energy for the Poor Initiative*, which had recently been boosted by a US\$1 billion endowment from OFID Member Countries.

Bencherif stressed that sustainable energy must be understood within the overall concept of sustainable development and its three pillars: economic development, social progress and environmental protection.

"In this context, national circumstances are overwhelmingly the designing factor and no one-size-fits-all model exists," he said.

He noted, however, that all models had to be based on energy efficiency and the use of renewable sources, as well as adapted patterns of consumption that would require some countries to change their lifestyle.

In the case of the developing countries, he reiterated OFID's position that energy policy should be technology neutral and driven by cost effectiveness.

"Renewable sources of energy should complement fossil fuels and not systematically replace them at any cost," he argued, pointing to instances in developed countries where efforts to promote renewables had failed due to flawed policies and associated costs.

Looking ahead, Bencherif said that fossil fuels would continue to fulfill most of the world's energy needs "for the foreseeable future," with demand for oil, a finite resource, most likely increasing in the coming years. The challenge, he

said, would be maintaining price stability as oil supplies peaked and then decreased.

He noted also that, during the last decade, coal had accounted for nearly one half of the increase in global energy use, with the bulk of this growth coming in emerging economies. "An important question is how this trend will change and how quickly," he said.

In switching from petroleum products to other sources of energy, Bencherif stressed that a mix of resources, including renewables and coal should be taken advantage of, but that investment in petroleum should continue in order to avoid price volatility and ensure security of supply.

He added that while nobody could anticipate what the energy mix would be 50 years from now, all experts agreed that it would be much more diversified than today.

Bencherif commended the European Union for reviewing and changing previous targets regarding renewables after concluding that the development of biofuels was putting stress on food production in developing countries.

"This nexus of water, food and energy security is of paramount importance for developing countries in order to ensure long-term sustainability" he stressed.

Bencherif concluded by stating that sustainable energy should remain at the top of the agenda for development finance institutions. "This prioritization will allow more finance and more appropriate national and regional policies to support a sustainable energy era," he said.

He also expressed his hope that access to sustainable energy infrastructure would be a key component of the post-2015 internationally-agreed Sustainable Development Goals.

"These [the SDGs] should include access to modern energy services, energy efficiency and renewables, as part of a sustainable energy era to benefit economic and social progress and to preserve our common environment," he concluded.

The IAEE is a global non-profit organization based in the United States with members in over 100 countries. Its objective is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of ideas, experience and issues among professionals and academics interested in energy economics.

Since 2006, OFID has sponsored yearly the participation of an average 20 energy economics students from developing countries at the IAEE conferences. ■



Mr Rachid Bencherif,  
Head, OFID Grants Unit



# 2012 South-South expo showcases energy solutions

The fifth *Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo* was held in Vienna, Austria, November 19-23, under the theme *Investing in Energy and Climate Change: Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development*.

BY FATIMAH ZWANIKKEN

Organized jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UN-OSSC), the GSSD Expo 2012 brought together about one thousand representatives from more than 120 developing countries, UN agencies, development financing organizations and institutions for South-South cooperation, the private sector, academia and civil society.

The objective of the event was to spotlight and promote innovative solutions and partnerships for combating energy poverty and climate change, while encouraging social inclusion and protecting the vulnerable.

As a pioneer of energy poverty eradication, OFID played a high-profile role in many of the sessions and associated activities.

## Solutions can be found

At the high-level opening ceremony, statements were delivered by several dignitaries, including UNIDO Director-General, Mr Kandeh K. Yumkella, and UN-OSSC Director, Mr Yiping Zhou.

In his welcome address, Mr Zhou said that today's development problems could not be resolved without strong leadership and institutional championship. "By working together, the UN goal of Sustainable Energy for All can be achieved by 2030," he stated.

In his own remarks, Mr Yumkella stressed that many solutions to the complex and interrelated challenges of energy and climate change could be found in the South. He had special words of commendation for OFID, led by Director-General Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, for spearheading the global *Energy for the Poor Initiative* five years ago.



The GSSD Expo attracted around 1,000 delegates from more than 120 developing countries, as well as representatives from the development finance community, the private sector and civil society.



From left: HE Mr John Ash, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN and President of the General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation; OFID Director-General Mr Suleiman J Al-Herbish and UNOSSC Director Mr Yiping Zhou.

## Leadership award for OFID Director-General

At a special ceremony on the opening day of the expo, OFID Director-General Mr Al-Herbish was one of six individuals to receive an inaugural *Visionary Leadership Award*. The award was conferred by the UN General Assembly's High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in recognition of his achievements in guiding OFID's contribution to energy poverty alleviation through people-centered approaches and seeking solutions that make a real difference on the ground.

Accepting the award "on behalf of all my colleagues at OFID," Mr. Al-Herbish spoke of his pride in the achievements of the institution. "On my travels I have witnessed first-hand the deprivation endured by so many in the developing world. It is OFID's privilege to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with these, our partner, countries and to be able to assist them on the path to greater prosperity," he said.

The five-day event featured a leadership roundtable as well as six solution forums and mini-forums.

The leadership roundtable allowed for an interactive dialogue among leaders and practitioners in South-South and triangular cooperation on critical matters related to energy and climate change, including energy poverty eradication.

The forums facilitated the exchange of know-how and experiences on innovative solutions to issues such as food security; energy access; financing for development; biodiversity, forestry, and land degradation; youth, gender and equity; and health.

## Integrated financing model

In a mini forum on *Public-Private Partnership and Financing South-South Cooperation* held on November 22, Mr Faris Hasan, Director of OFID's Corporate Planning and Economic Services Unit, delivered an intervention entitled "An Integrated Approach to Energy Access Financing."

The presentation included an overview of OFID's multiple financing windows for energy projects, including grants, and highlighted some pioneering solutions and integrated approaches. These were illustrated through a series of successful case studies from Rwanda, Kenya, Jordan and the Dominican Republic.

The expo acted as a clearing house for more than a hundred successful South-South,

triangular and private-public partnerships and innovative development solutions, allowing for networking and the exchange of know-how, experiences, ideas and best-practice among the participants.

At the venue, a *Solution Exhibition Floor* was dedicated to showcasing innovative mechanisms and concrete solutions to the energy and climate change-related challenges facing the South, including successful development solutions supported by OFID.

## Partnerships remain key

During the high-level closing and award ceremony on Friday, November 23, eminent leaders in sustainable development reiterated their commitment to advancing the cause of South-South and triangular cooperation.

In his concluding remarks, Mr Al-Herbish welcomed wholeheartedly the drive to promote partnerships among countries of the South: "To that end, OFID stands ready to work with all organizations represented here today, as we know that we can achieve much more if we cooperate to leverage our ideas and our resources," he said.

Mr Al-Herbish also stressed the importance of taking a balanced approach to the three pillars of sustainable development and to "not only find solutions, but also to fund them," as demonstrated by the 60 new energy development projects supported by OFID in the past five years. ■





Left: Austrian Artist Mr Werner Szendi, AAA founder Dr Christine Wallner and Mr Al-Herbish. Right: Guests choose their favorite painting ahead of the charity auction.

# OFID hosts children's art exhibition

*Charity auction raises funds for new art school in Tanzania*

BY JUSTINE WÜRTZ



**O**n November 19, OFID received members of Vienna's diplomatic corps and other distinguished guests to the opening reception of the exhibition "Together for Tanzania," which presented a colorful collection of paintings by child artists from the Arusha region of Tanzania.

The event, which included a charity auction, was opened jointly by OFID Director-General, Mr Al-Herbish, and the Ambassador of Tanzania to Austria, HE Ahmada Rweyemamu Ngemera.

The exhibition, a joint initiative by OFID, the NGO Africa Amini Alama (AAA) and Austrian artist, Werner Szendi, was the culmination of a project to raise funds to build a new art school and cultural center in Arusha.

The initiative had kicked off on September 8, on a plateau between Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru in northern Tanzania, where more than 1,000 children from five schools gathered for a painting festival.

With encouragement from Mr Szendi and AAA founder, Dr Christine Wallner, the children were supplied with paints, brushes and canvases and urged to paint "What I always dreamed of."

The result, said Dr Wallner, was "a great communal emotional event." For two hours, the children painted, at first tentatively, and then with great joy and laughter. Many of them had never held a paintbrush before and had to be taught what to do. "For all those present, the experience was deeply touching," she added.

Dr Wallner founded AAA in 2009 and has worked tirelessly in Tanzania to support local communities through numerous small projects, including an orphanage and medical center.

Addressing guests at the opening reception, Mr Al-Herbish explained that small scale, capacity building projects, such as those carried out by AAA were also "a very important aspect" of what OFID was doing. "Capacity building means that you empower people, you develop capacities, discover talents. Because no matter what you do for a country it is only the domestic people, the indigenous people, the young people who really can do the trick."

OFID, he said, was pleased to offer its headquarters as an exhibition space in which the many works of art could be displayed and to support the initiative of Dr Wallner and AAA, "who have recognized the value of capacity building, and implement it on a daily basis."

Tanzania, he added, had been a partner of OFID since the institution's establishment in 1976. "It is our privilege to assist a project that will have an impact in small communities in one of our longest-standing partner countries."

Both Mr Al-Herbish and HE Ngemera, thanked Dr Wallner for her work in Tanzania and stressed the critical importance of supporting the youth in developing countries with grassroots projects such as this.





Left: Ugandan singer, Jenny Bell, and her band. Right: Dr Wallner with Tanzanian Ambassador; HE Ahmada Rweyemamu Ngemera.

The Ambassador spoke of the “numerous challenges, be it in respect of access to education, access to healthcare, access to nutritional food, even access to shelter” that the young people in Tanzania face.

He poignantly encouraged guests to take time to have a closer look at the paintings. “These paintings tell a story for each individual child. They give us a glimpse into their minds, into what they go through every day of their lives; their hopes, their fears, their moods, their pleasures and their sorrows. These paintings are a statement by these children.”

The gala reception focused on the children who shared their dreams and whose lives will directly benefit from the sale of the paintings. Their photographs were displayed on a large screen in the magnificent OFID atrium, and each painting had attached to it a photo of the child artist holding their canvas.

Guests bid generously for the paintings, raising a substantial sum towards construction of the planned art school and cultural center.

Ugandan singer, Jenny Bell, and her band entertained guests with Afro pop and jazz, and the evening concluded with the auction of a painting by Mr Szendi of the Amini Alama tree, the symbol of AAA and of the great potential for growth, like outreaching branches, of small things. ■



Over 1,000 children came together for an afternoon of creativity and fun that resulted in colorful depictions of their hopes for the future.

PHOTO: WERNER SZENDI/ANDREAS BODE

### OCTOBER 10

#### Public sector loan agreement signed

**Sri Lanka.** US\$40 million. Road Network Development. To upgrade 220 km of key national roads and rehabilitate the Karadana Bridge, thus enhancing the population's access to markets, social amenities and employment opportunities.

### OCTOBER 12

#### Technical Facility Agreement signed

**Andean Development Corporation (CAF).** US\$800,000. Energy for the Poor Projects and Policies Preparation Facility in the Latin America Region. To provide modern energy services to 15 developing countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay).

### OCTOBER 15

#### Public sector loan agreements signed

**Congo Republic.** US\$5 million. Blanche Gomes Hospital-Phase II. To expand this maternal/childcare hospital in the capital Brazzaville through the construction and equipping of a new 100-bed facility, thus doubling in-patient capacity.

**Ghana.** US\$10 million. Trauma and Acute Health Care Center. To construct and equip a new medical emergency center at the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital complex in the capital Accra that will serve some 18 million people.

**Lesotho.** US\$3 million. Metolong Water Supply. To build dams, pumping stations and related infrastructure to deliver reliable water supplies to some 300,000 people in the capital Maseru and three outlying towns.

**Swaziland.** US\$14.16 million. Lower Usuthu Water Supply. To build seven water supply schemes in six chiefdoms to provide around 30,000 people with a safe source of drinking water.

**Togo.** US\$10 million. Adagali – Atakpamé Road Rehabilitation. To boost economic growth

through the rehabilitation of an 80 km-long road that passes through important agricultural areas in the Plateaux Region, which is populated by around 1.3 million people.

**Yemen.** US\$20 million. Al Mocha 60 MW Wind Park. To install all equipment and materials needed to supply wind-powered energy to around 75,000 people in underserved rural communities.

### OCTOBER 19

#### Public sector loan agreement signed

**Maldives.** US\$8.4 million. Hithadhoo Regional Hospital Project. To construct a new 100 bed-capacity facility.

### OCTOBER 30

#### Public sector loan agreement signed

**Tajikistan.** US\$14 million. Carec Corridor 6 (Ayni-Uzbekistan Border Road) Improvement. To re-construct the road between Ayni-Panjakent and the border with Uzbekistan, thereby improving overall transport in the region, increasing accessibility, stimulating economic development and creating employment opportunities.

### NOVEMBER 5

#### Private sector loan agreement signed

**LOLC Micro Credit Limited (LOMC).** US\$10 million. This loan will help Sri Lanka's LOMC further expand its micro-leasing and group lending portfolio, in particular the micro-leasing of agricultural equipment such as tractors, harvesters and trucks, and group loans targeting women entrepreneurs and small farmers.

### NOVEMBER 6

#### Research grant approved

**Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.** US\$100,000. To conduct research and analysis on obstacles to the accelerated use of liquefied petroleum gas as part of a scalable clean cooking strategy in three initial target countries, Ghana, Kenya and Uganda.

### NOVEMBER 8

#### Risk-sharing agreement signed

**Asian Development Bank (ADB).** To support trade in emerging Asian countries under ADB's Trade Finance Program. The agreement will support an estimated incremental trade flow of between US\$800 million and US\$1.2 billion in countries such as Bangladesh, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan, among others.

### NOVEMBER 19

#### OFID hosts exhibition "Together for Tanzania."

*See story page 30.*

### NOVEMBER 20

#### DG receives GSSD Visionary Leadership Award

*See story page 29.*

### NOVEMBER 21

#### Emergency grant approved

**Palestine.** US\$500,000. To support Palestinian communities affected by the ongoing conflict in Gaza. The grant will be used for the provision of essential food and medical supplies.

### DECEMBER 2

#### Public sector loan agreement signed

**Mauritania.** US\$11.9 million. Aftout Al-Chargui Solar Electrification Development. To supply electricity in 30 localities, benefiting at least 100,000 people, through the provision of more affordable and reliable sources of clean energy.

### DECEMBER 5

#### Public sector loan agreement signed

**Tunisia.** US\$50 million. Sousse-D Combined Cycle Power Plant. To construct a power plant some 140 km south of the capital Tunis to help meet the population's growing energy demands and provide a sustainable supply of more affordable electricity.

### DECEMBER 10

#### Public sector loan agreement signed

**Malawi.** US\$10 million. Rural Livelihood and Economic Enhancement. To support the sustainable improvement of incomes among economically active, poor rural households, by increasing their integration in emerging commercial sectors in selected regions.

**Malawi.** US\$8 million. Nkhata Bay District Hospital. To help finance the completion and expansion of a new hospital, including the construction of accommodation facilities for patient relatives and medical students.

### DECEMBER 11

#### Public sector loan agreement signed

**Morocco.** €30 million. Kenitra Power Plant Facility Expansion. To help satisfy the country's increasing demand for electricity through the installation of three new gas turbine units. On completion the project will help provide an uninterrupted and affordable supply of energy for nearly two million inhabitants.

### DECEMBER 12

#### 141<sup>st</sup> Session of the Governing Board

#### Public sector project loans approved

**DR Congo.** US\$8 million. Kinshasa Roads Network Rehabilitation. To pave around 13 km of roads in Kinshasa City and install drainage works, thus affording the population a safer, less expensive and more efficient means of travel.

**Djibouti.** US\$3 million. Economic Development Fund of Djibouti. To help entrepreneurs start and/or expand their own businesses through the issuance and management of around 500 loans to SMEs and young graduates.

**Egypt.** US\$35 million. On-Farm Irrigation Development. To modernize irrigation infrastructure, with the aim of improving water efficiency, increasing yields and boosting the incomes of smallholder farmers, thereby



reducing poverty levels and increasing food security for about 70,000 people.

**Kenya.** US\$15 million. Kenya Electricity Expansion. To provide the population with access to modern, clean and affordable energy services through the expansion and upgrading of energy-related infrastructure. This will result in around 300,000 new connections for households, small businesses and public institutions.

**Madagascar.** US\$18 million. Road Infrastructure Rehabilitation. To improve 105 km of roads in the Atsimo-Andrefana region. The rehabilitated roads will facilitate the movement of goods and people, thereby contributing to rural poverty reduction by improving the agricultural potential of the region.

**Madagascar.** US\$3.5 million. National Institute for Accounting and Management Construction. To build a seven-story facility that will expand the capacity of the current institute by 400 enrolments. This will help strengthen the country's higher education sector and contribute to overall economic development.

**Sierra Leone.** US\$13 million. Fourah Bay College Development. To enhance the quality of higher education by expanding and rehabilitating existing facilities, thus increasing admission levels and providing more opportunities for students to secure good jobs.

**Tanzania.** US\$8 million. Orkesumet Water Supply. To provide potable water supplies to around 43,000 people living in Orkesumet City and neighboring villages through the construction of water-related infrastructure.

**Cambodia.** US\$10 million. Medium-Voltage Sub-Transmission Expansion. To increase electricity access in impoverished rural communities in five provinces populated by around 3.3 million people.

**Pakistan.** US\$50 million. Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Plant. To support construction of a power plant in the Muzaffarabad district, populated by around 1.5 million people. This will help improve the reliability of power supplies to schools, health centers and other important services.

**Sri Lanka.** US\$50 million. Colombo National Highways. To upgrade 66 km of selected national highways and reconstruct a major bridge, thus providing disadvantaged communities with improved access to social services, work opportunities and marketplaces.

**Tajikistan.** US\$2.8 million. Dangara General Hospital Project. To provide adequate health services to the 2.3 million-strong population of Khatlon and neighboring regions through the construction of a new, fully equipped, 115-bed hospital.

**Vietnam.** US\$34.2 million. Rural Road Network Improvement. To construct all-weather roads to alleviate transportation constraints and ease isolation in three impoverished rural provinces inhabited by around 535,000 people.

**Bolivia.** US\$20 million. Cochabamba Highway Expansion. To upgrade and expand 20.3 km of key road sections, benefiting at least 285,000 people from the improved access to social and commercial services.

**Grenada.** US\$10 million. St. Patrick's Roads Rehabilitation and Upgrading. To improve roads and related infrastructure in the parish of St. Patrick, populated by over 11,500 people. This will enable the efficient movement of agricultural goods and ease access to social services, as well as help strengthen the tourism sector.

**Suriname.** US\$13.8 million. Meerzorg-Albina Corridor Rehabilitation. To rehabilitate a 140 km road linking the capital Paramaribo with French Guyana. The project will benefit some 50,000 individuals who rely on farming and mining for their livelihoods and thus depend on reliable road transport.

#### Technical assistance grants approved

**African Rescue Committee.** US\$300,000. To improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene services and improve productive infrastructure for drought affected households in Somalia, benefiting around 35,000 individuals.

**Austrian Development Agency.** US\$506,000. To promote the application of solar technologies in Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe through the provision of training and capacity building, awareness campaigns and the installation of solar demonstration systems in targeted areas.

**Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization Alliance.** US\$1.1 million. To procure Rotavirus vaccine for the vaccination of over 900,000 children, with the aim of reducing morbidity and mortality from diarrheal diseases.

**World Health Organization.** US\$600,000. To support a project that aims at preventing cholera and other waterborne diseases in around 140,000 people in Chad and Cameroon.

#### Grant approved under Grant Program for Palestine

**Assistance to Social and Development Projects for the Palestinian People.** US\$600,000. To support social development projects and services that assist deprived Palestinian communities. Operations will cover the health, agriculture and water and sanitation sectors.

#### Grant approved under Energy Poverty Grant Program

**Promoting Poor Households' Access to Sustainable Energy Services through the use of Solar Water Heating Systems in Palestine.** US\$100,000. To promote the efficient use of renewable energy in solar water heating systems, benefiting over 2,000 people.

### DECEMBER 13

#### Research grants approved

**International Center for Migration, Health and Development.** US\$50,000. To help fund a research project in Sri Lanka, Philippines and Thailand that seeks to prevent and mitigate the adverse health and educational effects on children left behind by migration.

**World Bank Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.** US\$50,000. To contribute to and participate in the Global Forum, which seeks to encourage the cogeneration and sharing of development-related legal knowledge to support the identification and production of innovative legal solutions to development issues.

**Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs.** US\$100,000. To help sponsor a one-day special youth event taking place at the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, which will hold in Vienna, Austria, February 26 – 28, 2013.

### DECEMBER 14

#### Public Sector loan agreement signed

**Tajikistan.** US\$2.8 million. Dangara General Hospital. To provide improved health services to the 2.3 million-strong population of Khatlon and neighboring regions through the construction of a new, fully equipped, 115-bed hospital.

## Meetings attended by OFID

### OCTOBER 1-3

LIMA, PERU  
III Summit of South American and Arab Countries (ASPA)  
CEO Summit

### OCTOBER 4

VIENNA, AUSTRIA  
Vienna Energy Club Meeting

### OCTOBER 10

VIENNA, AUSTRIA  
6<sup>th</sup> Arab-Austrian Economic Forum International Conference

### OCTOBER 11-14

TOKYO, JAPAN  
World Bank Annual Meetings

### OCTOBER 18-22

PITTSBURGH, USA  
One Young World Summit 2012

### NOVEMBER 4-7

AUSTIN, USA  
United States Association for Energy Economics/International Association for Energy Economics North America Conference

### NOVEMBER 6-7

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN  
Arab Coordination Group  
Roundtable Meeting

### NOVEMBER 8-10

VIENNA, AUSTRIA  
4<sup>th</sup> Global Social Business Summit

### NOVEMBER 16

LIMA, PERU  
43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Energy Ministers of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE)

### NOVEMBER 17-21

LIMA, PERU  
Annual Assembly of the Latin American Federation of Banks

### NOVEMBER 19-23

VIENNA, AUSTRIA  
Global South-South Development Expo 2012

[www.ofid.org](http://www.ofid.org)



## 141<sup>st</sup> Session of the Governing Board

At its 141<sup>st</sup> Session in Vienna on December 12, OFID's Governing Board approved close to US\$300 million in fresh financing for development. The beneficiaries were 23 partner countries spread across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. A total of 16 Public Sector loans, worth a combined US\$294 million, will support projects in a variety of sectors, with the focus primarily on the provision of energy and transportation infrastructure. Six grants totaling US\$3.2 million will help finance small-scale initiatives in the areas of energy, health, water supply and sanitation. The new approvals brought OFID's cumulative commitments to US\$14.5 billion.



Governing Board Chairman, Mr Jamal Nasser Lootah.



Mr Askolani,  
Alternate Governor of Indonesia.

Mr Haruna Mohammed, Alternate Governor, Nigeria.





Mr Sidi Mohamed Ferhane,  
Alternate Governor, Algeria

Dr Moktar Abozrida (*right*), Governor, and  
Mr Mustafa Keshada, Alternate Governor of Libya.



Dr Eduard Sanchez, Ad-hoc Governor, Venezuela.



HE Mohammed Ali Al-Malki,  
Representative of Qatar.

# LOAN SIGNATURE photo gallery

## October 11

Mr Al-Herbish and HE Majozi V. Sithole, Minister of Finance, Swaziland, following signature of the US\$14.16 million loan agreement for the Lower Usuthu Water Supply Project. The initiative will construct seven water supply schemes in six chiefdoms to provide the 30,000-strong population with a safe source of drinking water.



## October 13

HE Gilbert Ondongo, Minister of Finance, Congo, secured a US\$5 million loan towards expansion of the Blanche Gomes Hospital, a specialist maternity and childcare facility, which will receive a new 100-bed extension.



## October 30

HE Sohibov Shavkat K., Deputy Minister of Finance of Tajikistan, signing the US\$14 million loan agreement for a transportation project that will upgrade a key road linking to the Uzbek border.







### December 10

HE Prof Isaac Lamba, Ambassador of Malawi to the Federal Republic of Germany, concluded two loan agreements. The first, for US\$8 million, will help complete the Nkhata Bay District Hospital, while the second, for US\$10 million, will support a Rural Livelihoods and Economic Enhancement Program.

### December 14

Mr Al-Herbish with HE Sattorov Imomudin, Ambassador of Tajikistan to Germany, at the signature ceremony for the Dangara General Hospital Project. The US\$2.8 million supplementary loan will help fund completion of the new 115-bed hospital.



*The full list of loan signatures can be found on pages 32-33.*

# VISITOR highlights



**October 29**

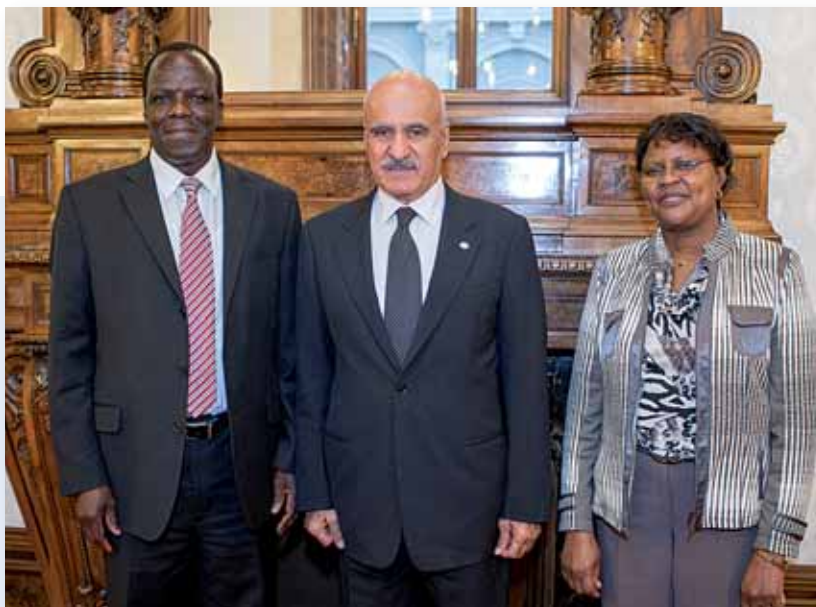
Mr Al-Herbish with  
HE Ms Maria Laose,  
Nigerian Ambassador  
to Austria, during a  
courtesy visit to OFID.

**November 11**

Mr Al-Herbish welcomes  
the new Ambassador  
of Indonesia to Austria,  
HE Mr Rachmat Budiman.







### November 21

Mr Al-Herbish flanked by the Hon Wycliffe Ambetsa Oparanya, Minister for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 of Kenya (*left*), and Ms Consolata W Kiragu, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of Kenya to Austria.



### December 14

HE Mohammed Al Salloum, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Austria, during a courtesy visit.



### November 29

Ambassador Dr Erwin Kubesch, Director of the Department of Organization of International Conferences and Matters Relating to International Organizations in Austria, Ministry of International and European Affairs of Austria, made a courtesy call on the Director-General.







# OFID in the Field

For OFID, development cooperation is about working hand-in-hand with developing country partners to help create the best possible environment for societies and economies to flourish. This means providing basic necessities – such as food, energy, water and sanitation – building vital infrastructure, promoting private enterprise and trade, and generating job opportunities, among other goals. **OFID in the Field** showcases projects that have revitalized struggling communities and given them real hope for a more prosperous future.

# Nepal: enough space to build the future

Home of the world's highest mountain – Mount Everest, known as “Sagarmatha” – Nepal is striving towards development with the help of foreign aid, which is vital to its economy.

BY DAMELYS DELGADO

**K**nown worldwide for having eight of the world's ten highest peaks in its territory, including Mount Everest, landlocked Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries, with about 40 per cent of its 29 million population living in poverty.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for three-fourths of the population and contributing one-third of GDP. However, a lack of rural infrastructure coupled with severe climate conditions act as a serious constraint on productivity.

In addition to improved rural roads – which would facilitate the transport of agricultural goods and provide better access to markets and social services – Nepal desperately needs a reliable water supply and better sanitation as well as expanded irrigation and river control if it is to climb out of poverty. These three components form the OFID co-financed *Rural Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project*.

## Challenges for Nepal

Approximately 60 percent of Nepal's road network is unusable during the June to September rainy season, when rainfall is severe. For one in three Nepalese, the nearest all-weather road is at least a two hour walk away. The movement of people and goods is hindered still further by the country's uneven topographical conditions.

Although Nepal is endowed with abundant water resources, rural areas are often a long distance from water supplies, and only 31 percent of the country has adequate sanitation, according to the NGO WaterAid. Another source states that 4.4 million people in Nepal, in both rural and urban areas, do not have regular access to safe drinking water.

“With water sources drying up, erratic rainfall and poor management of water resources, the problems are worsening every year,” said Prakash Amatya from the NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation.

Nepal has a long history of irrigated agriculture, mainly through farmer managed irrigation systems. Information from the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage states that “the productivity of the existing irrigated area is stagnating at a very low level, while yields in rainfed areas even show a declining trend, mainly due to lack of proper operation and maintenance.”

There is a considerable need to expand the currently irrigated area, estimated at just over one million hectares, out of a total of irrigable land of around double that figure.

## Three components in a project to alleviate poverty

Nepal has been tackling poverty with the support of foreign aid through donations and soft loans. OFID, jointly with the Asian Development Bank and the British Government, is funding the *Rural Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project* to improve the living standards of 2.6 million people.

Dr Jaafar Al-Mahdi, the officer in charge of Nepal at OFID, explained that the project covers 38 of Nepal's poorest districts, “with some villages as far as 13 days' walking from the nearest road.”

Al-Mahdi said that the chief objectives of the project were: “to improve the connectivity of rural communities, enhance economic and employment opportunities and increase access to markets and social services.”





PHOTO: IFAD/IRSHAD KHAN

*Irrigation canals deliver water to crop terraces across a hilly Nepalese landscape.*

This was being achieved through a wide range of activities, including rehabilitating and upgrading 825 km of rural roads, the construction of around 50 bridges, and the rehabilitation of a host of supplementary infrastructure, such as social and market facilities, schools, health posts, micro-irrigation, link trails, and trail bridges.

The project also provided 600 rural water supply and sanitation schemes, each serving a group of five to ten rural households.

### A bright future ahead

Of the 185 countries grouped in the 2011 Human Development Index (HDI) of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which compares life expectancy, literacy, education, standards of living and quality of life, Nepal ranked 157.

Nevertheless, Nepal has shown it can succeed. After a decade of political instability, it has been a republic since May 2008, and according to the UNDP, has made remarkable progress towards some of the Millennium Development Goals.

The net school enrollment rate has increased to 93.7 percent, while gender parity has been achieved in enrollment for primary education. Under five mortality has fallen to 50 per 1,000 live births, and maternal mortality has been reduced by 50 percent in a ten-year period. Moreover, Nepal has succeeded in stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS.

In the future, we may see progress in Nepal as unique as its flag, the only one in the world not rectangular in shape. ■



A large school of fish, likely blue tangs, swimming in the ocean. The fish have bright blue bodies with a yellow stripe running along their sides. They are swimming in a coordinated pattern, with some fish in the foreground and others in the background. The water is dark blue, and the overall scene is vibrant and dynamic.

When the big fish  
is the export market

With its ability to create jobs, generate export earnings and boost economic sustainability, trade is becoming a growing priority for an increasing number of developing countries. Nowhere more, perhaps, than in Peru, world mining superpower and leading fishmeal producer.

BY DAMELYS DELGADO

**A**lthough more than one-quarter of its 30 million population still lives in poverty, Peru has the fastest growing economy in Latin America, with an annual GDP increase of 5.75 percent over the decade to 2011.

Much of this success is down to the country's great mineral wealth and growing trade with partners such as the United States, China, Brazil and Chile.

However, it is not just Peru's land that contains treasure, but also its oceans. The country is the largest producer of fishmeal in the world, contributing 30 percent of global production.

Peru does not feature at all, however, in the list of top ten fish exporting countries, an anomaly OFID is seeking to correct through a trade finance initiative that is providing support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across the fisheries value chain.

## Crucial role of SMEs

A report from the OECD notes that SMEs play a central role in unleashing Latin America's growth potential and in creating higher quality jobs. These SMEs represent an overwhelming majority of private enterprises in the region, accounting for 90 percent of businesses and employing 67 percent of the available workforce.

Access to financing, however, is one of the main obstacles facing SMEs: only 12 percent of total available credit in the region goes to these firms, compared to 25 percent in OECD countries. Around one-third of small businesses in Latin America consider access to financing a serious constraint.

In light of these challenges and recognizing that commercial banks often charge SMEs much higher interest rates than large firms for pre-export and post-export financing, OFID approved in 2010 a US\$15 million line of credit to the Latin American Export Finance Fund (LAEFF),

The loan to LAEFF supports projects that promote the development, diversification and competitiveness of SME trade companies across the region, with the goal of generating jobs in rural communities existing below the poverty line.

## A sector with growing needs

Over the past decades, according to FAO, global markets for fish and fish products have changed considerably. It is expected that the fish sector will enter a decade of higher prices and higher production, but also of higher production costs.

The operators along the fisheries value chain (fishers, fish farmers, traders, processors and retailers) are seeking new opportunities to reduce production costs and to make profitable investments in an increasingly internationalized business environment.

Due to growing demand, the average per capita fish consumption worldwide reached 18.8 kg (live weight equivalent) in 2011. This figure is expected to reach 19.6 kg in 2021, 16 percent more than the average of 2009-11.

By providing financing to the fisheries sector in Peru, LAEFF is making a sizeable contribution to the development of the fishing industry. In terms of jobs, it is estimated that for every person employed, there are approximately three related jobs.

Saud Al-Rajhi, OFID private sector operations officer in charge of the agreement with LAEFF, stated that the resources provided by OFID have been channeled to several SMEs in Peru, making it possible for many firms in the fishing industry to expand into the international market.

"OFID recognized the importance of building a partners' network and fusing their efforts to meet the financing needs of the region's SMEs," said Al-Rajhi, adding "this transaction has enabled OFID and its partners to expand their geographical footprint in LAC and reach thousands of fisheries and families."

Since 2006, when OFID launched its Trade Finance Facility to facilitate import and export activities and to address working capital requirements in developing countries, the institution has supported over 2,000 transactions, generating incremental trade in excess of US\$4 billion.





PHOTO: PANOS/AMI VITALE

## Washing hands: a big step in Tanzania to encourage school attendance

OFID is working with UNICEF to promote enrolment levels and good health in Tanzanian primary schools by providing clean water and improved sanitation facilities.

BY DAMELYS DELGADO

*"Nowadays we do not depend on the district water supply as we did before. This has reduced the water problem when the district water supply is off, because we have storage tanks and a rainwater harvesting system. We have enough water and we are happy. Thank you so much for your support."* Dalali Michael, 13

This story, taken from a UNICEF report, is repeated over and over, in different words, when access to water becomes a reality. In Tanzania, there was a 12 percent increase in school attendance when water became available 15 minutes away, rather than an hour.

The total enrollment rate in primary schools had been stagnating at around 77 percent, when the government undertook a development program for the sector. Focusing initially on primary schools, it sought to improve quality, expand access and increase building completion. However, with increasing numbers of students, the facilities soon became inadequate. At the same time, the restricted access to water and sanitation deterred students, especially girls, from attending classes.

*Providing proper, separate latrines for boys and girls can go a long way to improving school attendance and preventing diarrheal disease.*



PHOTO: UNICEF

Although Tanzania is highly aid dependent, the World Bank points out that its economy has been steadily growing at around seven percent per year. Nevertheless poverty remains prevalent. Approximately 30 million people, or about 75 percent of the total population, live in rural households that constitute 80 percent of the country's poor. In this context, the education system struggles to deliver quality tuition, while dealing with the increasing pressure on over-extended and under-invested social services.

Half the population of Tanzania is under 18 years of age, with waterborne diseases representing the highest health risk, especially for the 36 percent that live below the poverty line.

One of the biggest killers of children worldwide – with one death every 15 seconds – is water-related illnesses caused by dirty drinking water and poor sanitation. The millions that don't succumb are often so incapacitated by water-related diseases that they can't attend school. Investing in clean drinking water and improved sanitation would result in an added 272 million days each year of school attendance worldwide.

## Water and education closely linked

Water, hygiene and sanitation in educational institutions are areas of concern in Tanzania. A recent report by UNICEF provides shocking data: 38 percent of primary schools have no water supply on school premises; 84 percent don't have functioning hand-washing facilities; 96 percent of schools lack accessible sanitary facilities for disabled children; and 52 percent do not have doors on toilets to ensure privacy for girls.

As part of a country-wide program to reduce child mortality and vulnerability to disease, the "Scaling up of School Water Sanitation and Hygiene (SWASH) in Tanzania" is an initiative funded by UNICEF, Australian Aid and OFID.

The project, which is supported with an OFID grant, aims to support SWASH in 57 schools. Dr. Omar El Hattab, Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, UNICEF, Tanzania, explained to the *Quarterly* that support from OFID was making a contribution to boost access to school water supply, better hygiene and higher levels of sanitation, particularly for children with disabilities in 10 target schools. OFID's contribution is also improving the skills and the governance of SWASH in the same schools.

"The OFID-financed activities have been implemented in a total of 10 schools in the Iringa, Shinyanga and Mwanza regions, benefitting almost 5,000 school children and 1,500 community members, encompassing teachers, district staff, school management, village government leaders and community mobilizers, he said."

This project is still underway, and by December 2013, more infrastructure will have been constructed and more people will be receiving training to increase awareness and commitment to SWASH.

The impact of the enhancement of the water supply system is explained well by Paul Pascal, a 16-year-old student:

*"First I would like to thank the donors for this support. We did not practice good behavior in washing hands, but now we wash our hands and this will help to reduce waterborne diseases in our school. Apart from that, I am so happy to see that pupils with disabilities have access to sanitation suitable to their needs."* ■

PHOTO: COURTESY DR. OMAR EL HATTAB



Dr. Omar El Hattab,  
Chief of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene,  
UNICEF, Tanzania.



# ASPA Summit calls for peace, inclusion and development

Meeting in Lima, Peru, October 1–2, the Third Summit of South American and Arab Countries concluded with a 70-point declaration that pledges greater political, economic and technological cooperation among the 34 member nations.

BY JENNIFER ADAMS



**K**nown by its Spanish and Portuguese acronym ASPA, the Arab-South American summit was attended by several heads of state and government, as well by a wide variety of policy-makers and representatives from the private sector and international development and finance institutions.

Speaking at the opening day business forum, Peruvian President Ollanta Humala Tasso described the gathering as an “extraordinary opportunity” to strengthen relations between the two regions.

Established in 2005, at the instigation of Brazilian President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, ASPA is a bi-regional instrument for policy coordination on issues most relevant to the sustainable development of member states: economy, culture, education, agriculture and technology.

Its overall objective is the enhancement of South-South development through cooperative action and the establishment of various mechanisms for collaboration.

The summit, which convenes every three years, is the highest-level meeting of ASPA. It is organized with the coordination and support of the League of Arab States and the Union of South American States, which represent the 22 Arab and 12 South American nations that make up the association.

Past collaboration has included a series of trade agreements and environmental projects, while the construction of several research centers is planned for the near future.

In a statement to the Andina News Agency, Peru’s Foreign Minister Rafael Roncagliolo said of





Sheikh Sabah al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister of Kuwait.



Peruvian President Ollanta Humala Tasso at the opening day business forum.

PHOTOS: PRESIDENCIA PERU

the summit: “In a moment of economic uncertainty in other parts of the world, these regions bring together an enormous potential – yet greatly unexplored – for economic exchange and cooperation.”

During the event, which was originally scheduled for February 2011, but delayed due to the Arab Spring, discussions focused on ways to further enhance cooperation between the two regions and the overall need to strengthen coordination in key areas, especially energy, which, it was agreed, would become an axis of the bi-regional relationship in coming years.

Other topics discussed included joint backing for a sovereign and independent Palestine, as well as the creation of a bi-regional investment bank to support the integration of member country national banks.

## CEO Summit

Alongside the main summit, some 400 participants, including entrepreneurs, investors and managers from the fields of energy, technology and banking, took part in the ASPA CEO Summit, which had as its theme “Growth, Equity and Sustainable Development: Challenges for ASPA.”

Chaired by Carlos Chiappori Samengo, chairman of COMEXPERU, Peru’s foreign trade society, the CEO summit served as a platform for knowledge sharing and dialogue on the priority topics of infrastructure investment, food security, energy and natural resources.

It was also an opportunity to promote trade, in particular agribusiness, between the two regions.

ASPA has already proven to be an effective mechanism for the enhancement of business and commerce, with regional trade nearly tripling from US\$11 billion in 2003, prior to the forum’s creation, to US\$30 billion in 2008.

## Lima Declaration

The main summit concluded with the signing of a framework document by ASPA heads of state and government. The Lima Declaration reaffirms the commitment of ASPA member states to further develop a bi-regional partnership and lays out the major decisions made during the summit.

The document contains a total of 70 points related to various aspects of policy and cooperation, including the environment, trade and investment, food security and education, as well as economic, scientific and technical coordination, among others.

The declaration also calls for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, respect for human rights and international law, and joint action to mitigate the effects of climate change and desertification.

In addition, it recognizes Palestine as an independent and sovereign state

Commenting on the declaration, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister of Kuwait, stated that it provided “a roadmap to sustain and develop Arab-South American relations at all levels”.

The IV Summit of South American–Arab Countries is scheduled to take place in Saudi Arabia in 2015. ■

## OFID at ASPA 2012

As an experienced practitioner of South-South cooperation and a pioneer of energy poverty alleviation, OFID was uniquely placed to contribute to the CEO Summit panel discussion on “The Future of Energy.”

On behalf of OFID Director-General, Suleiman J. Al-Herbish, Mauro Hoyer, Director, Department of Information, delivered a presentation outlining OFID’s contribution to the fight against energy poverty. OFID’s efforts in this area have intensified since the 2007 OPEC Summit in Saudi Arabia, where Member Country heads of state handed down a mandate urging the institution to streamline its activities accordingly.

To this end, OFID has been working with numerous international organizations and networks, including many ASPA member countries, to develop innovative solutions to the challenge of energy poverty across the globe.

# Fourth Global Social Business Summit holds in Vienna

Vienna's Austria Center came alive November 8 – 10 when social business pioneers from around the world met to explore how to combine human creativity with technological progress in order to develop innovative solutions to society's most urgent needs.

BY RANYA NEHMEH



Prof. Muhammad Yunus urged Summit participants to work towards creating a world "where the only place for poverty is in a museum."

Opening to the thunder of hundreds of drums, the Fourth Global Social Business Summit (GSBS), brought together around 500 social business pioneers from corporates, civil society and academia from over 50 nations. With their diverse experiences and cultures, they all shared one goal: to build a social business network that would contribute to the world's most pressing social problems in a sustainable and meaningful manner.

The unique start to the event, which involved all the participants being invited to beat a small drum, was designed to demonstrate the power of working together. The message was clear: the more people work together, the more connected they become and the louder their voice in promoting the social business movement.

## Making the world a better place

The welcome address was presented by Hans Reitz, Head of the GSBS and Managing Director of the Grameen Creative Lab, who announced: "We are here to shape a better world."

The opening speeches were delivered by Nobel Peace Laureate and social business pioneer Prof. Muhammad Yunus, and Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain, a longtime friend and supporter of Yunus, who was present throughout the Summit.

According to Prof. Yunus, it is the combination of technology and the innovative power of human beings which allows social business to tackle human problems in a sustainable way. Events such as the GSBS provide the perfect platform to explore, shape and accelerate the global social business movement and to facilitate the process of bringing about this change.

In his address, Prof Yunus, who has defined social business as "a non-dividend company created to solve a social problem," said the GSBS should be seen as an avenue for "creating a world where the only place for poverty is in a museum."

He noted the fast pace of the world and argued that it was "our responsibility" to build a new, innovative structure to keep up with it. "This is where the creative power of human beings comes in," he said.

Referring specifically to the global unemployment problem, Yunus urged Summit participants to think of ways to build on current developments in the social business world and "plant the seeds for tomorrow's social business innovations."

## Hands-on activities

The Summit consisted of a mix of panel presentations, team-working exercises and workshops, which allowed for a more interactive approach and a unique atmosphere of positivity and enthusiasm among the participants.

During the workshops, participants had the opportunity to network on a wide range of topics, including how to create, finance, promote and communicate a social business.

The Summit emphasized the importance of involving the youth in the global social business movement, a point that was reiterated by Prof. Yunus: "We are not in the twentieth century anymore; we are way beyond that. We must bring a new conceptual framework to solve the problems," he said. "This is the time to use new technology. This is a new generation of young people, but we are still trying to solve the problems with our old theories."



### Quick links

[gsbs2012.com](http://gsbs2012.com)  
[muhammadyunus.org](http://muhammadyunus.org)  
[grameencreativelab.com](http://grameencreativelab.com)

Monique Coleman, US actress and UN youth ambassador, and also in attendance at the Summit, was inspired by Prof. Yunus to comment: “As an advocate for youth, I want to galvanize young people and share the benefits of social business to help them fulfill their desire to change the world.”

A theme throughout the Summit was the idea that all individuals have the power to effect change. Part of this discussion was the use of social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, to pass the message about social business to youth. Also debated was the possibility of including the field of social business in university curricula.

## Key actions moving forward

The outcomes of the discussions revolved around how to expand the social business movement. Four main areas were identified. First was the importance of *raising awareness and educating people* about social business as a venture driven not by profit but by the desire to overcome the problems associated with poverty.


Participants acknowledged that many people were still in the dark as to how social business worked and why it was so beneficial. It was agreed that discussing social business at a global and policy making level, such as at the World Economic Forum, could help raise its profile. Success stories in well-known publications could also help demonstrate the effectiveness of the concept.

Second to be highlighted was the importance of *lessons learned* from different social businesses. Continuous monitoring and evaluation would allow social business practitioners to improve and learn from these initiatives in the future. It would also mean that successful social businesses could be replicated from one region to another.

The third point was the *importance of partnerships* in the social business model. Different stakeholders could bring together a variety of complementary skills, resources, knowledge and capabilities. This would enable them to share best practices, and is also in line with Millennium Development Goal No. 8: *To develop a global partnership for development*.

Finally, the Summit underscored the *importance of passion, creativity, enthusiasm and trust* in social business practitioners for the movement to grow. This is consistent with the seventh of Prof. Yunus’ social business principles, namely “Do it with joy,” and a point echoed by Hans Reitz, who commented: “You are all here because you believe in social business, you want to do it, you are leaders in it, and it is something important for all of us.”

The 2013 *Global Social Business Summit* will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. ■



**On the sidelines of the Summit, there were other experiences to explore**

PHOTOS: THE GRAHEEN CREATIVE LAB

### Marketplace of Social Business

This space enabled participants to meet people who had set up their own social businesses, to learn from live examples, share experiences and pose questions to social business experts.

### Room of Wishes

This area allowed participants to express their wishes for the world: how they could make the world a better place and what attitude would help them achieve these aims.

### Room of Ideas

This area, which was based on the notion that every adventure starts with an idea, allowed participants to share their ideas and offer opinions. The aim was to encourage participants to be the driving force in making their ideas happen.

### Room of Needs

This area served as a source for fulfilling participants’ needs, from new contacts and information to skills and experience.

### Academia World

This space offered a unique opportunity for universities to present their social business initiatives.

### Space of Entrepreneurs

This was a exhibition area where entrepreneurs who were looking for support for their innovative social business projects, initiatives and startups could present their concepts. The space provided an opportunity to connect, exchange ideas and leverage synergies.

### Experience Dialogue in the Dark

This experience allowed Summit participants to get a sense of the everyday world as experienced by the visually impaired, by allowing themselves to be guided through a dark room by a non-sighted companion.



# Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Island: a feast of culture



Abu Dhabi has long been one of the world's most popular travel destinations, drawing upwards of two million visitors per year. Following construction of the Formula 1 racetrack and new Ferrari theme park, the emirate has positioned itself as the leading travel locale in the region. Now it is set to become the region's premier cultural hub with the multi-billion dollar re-development of Saadiyat Island.

BY JENNIFER ADAMS

**A** mere 500 meters off the coast of Abu Dhabi, Saadiyat Island will offer a variety of attractions, including the Gulf's first tidal and ocean golf courses, luxury hotels, pristine beaches and an entire district for lovers of culture and the arts.

The project, the first of its kind in both size and scope, will have seven districts, spread across 27 km<sup>2</sup>, each with its own special draw for the island's visitors, including a beach, marina, reserve, promenade, lagoons, retreat and arts quarter. Estimated to cost around US\$28 billion, the development is scheduled to be completed by 2017.

The Saadiyat Cultural District will boast three museums, borne out of partnerships with world-renowned arts centers, the Louvre and the Guggenheim, and international governments. Featuring architecture by five individual Pritzker prize winners, the cultural district will be a feast for the eyes as well as the mind.

Developed in collaboration with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, the Guggenheim

Abu Dhabi will be the largest Guggenheim museum in the world and the only one in the Middle East. The museum will feature transnational contemporary art, including a history of art in the Middle East in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Already in the early stages of construction, the building – a series of cones and towers reminiscent of modern Arab architecture – was designed by Frank Gehry and is due to open in 2017.

The Louvre Abu Dhabi, featuring work from ancient and contemporary civilizations and cultures, will be the first universal museum in the region. The geometric lace dome structure was designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, famous for his Arab World Institute in Paris. The museum is the result of collaboration between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France and is scheduled for completion in 2015.

Sitting high above the rest of the island, the Zayed National Museum will be the centerpiece of Saadiyat's Cultural District. Designed by Lord



PHOTO: COURTESY GEHRY PARTNERS, LLP

*On completion, Saadiyat Island will boast a stunning skyline showcasing the dramatic architecture of its world-class museums and other cultural attractions.*

Norman Foster, the architect credited with many of Abu Dhabi's iconic buildings, the museum will house works honoring the life and achievements of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding President of the UAE. The museum's design, inspired by the wing of a falcon, recalls Sheikh Zayed's love for wildlife and dedication to environmental protection.

In addition to the three main museums, the Cultural District will also contain a performing arts center, housing concert halls, theaters and performance spaces seating over 6,000 guests. The Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi is currently showcasing a Saadiyat Cultural District Exhibition which provides information to visitors on the designs and concepts of each of the museums as well as the development of the Cultural District.

In order to accommodate the project's construction, the infrastructure of the entire island has been designed by the Tourism Development and Investment Company (TDIC) to be environ-

mentally friendly. The TDIC, dedicated to sustainable design, has also planted over 400,000 mangrove trees and has instituted building changes in order to maintain a safe nesting habitat for the critically endangered Hawksbill Turtle, 300 of which have been born on Saadiyat in the past couple of years.

"Everything is happening here," said Jean Nouvel, designer of the Louvre Abu Dhabi, of Saadiyat Island. "I'm proud to participate in the materialization of this golden age, and this pushes us to go higher and beyond and further, because we are doing something that the whole world is looking at."

With its innovative approach to development, unique aesthetic appeal and rich offering of arts and entertainment, Saadiyat Island will certainly become the leading cultural hub in the Middle East, offering an irresistible invitation to travelers the world over. ■

# Iraq unveils plan to revamp science infrastructure

*Iraq has a new five-year plan to boost its universities and research centers*

BY ADEL FAKHIR  
COURTESY OF SciDEV.NET

**T**he Iraqi government plans to spend more than US\$9 billion over the next five years to rebuild its scientific research infrastructure – largely damaged by the recent war – and bolster science and technology education, according to the country’s minister of higher education and scientific research, Ali Al-Adeeb.

The plans involve establishing 12 universities and 28 research centers, Al-Adeeb said during the closing ceremony of Baghdad’s Second Forum for Iraqi Universities in October. They also involve overhauling facilities in existing universities that have a scientific focus.

“The opening of new facilities and the renewal of old ones aims to bring the number of science and engineering students and researchers up to the rate in developed countries,” he said.

Abdul Salam AlJmas, director of research and development at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, explained that the new universities would be distributed across all Iraqi provinces, and that some would specialize in science, medicine, engineering and agriculture.

AlJmas added that work was expected to begin this year, starting with the new University of Ibn Sina in Baghdad and improvements to the existing universities of Karbala and Mosul.

He said the plan included both equipping the new universities and renewing and updating the equipment in all Iraqi universities that specialize in science and engineering. He described this step as “the missing link in developing the scientific research sector, because Iraqi universities have not had any new equipment since the early 1980s.”



The new universities will specialize in science, medicine, engineering and agriculture.

According to AlJmas, the plan also includes allocating US\$70 million to train research and academic staff, such as sending them abroad for up to three months for education and training.

Iraqi professor Mohamed Al-Rubeai, head of bioprocess engineering and director of the Cell Culture Engineering Research Centre at University College Dublin said: “Iraqi public universities today are experiencing a crisis because of the shortage of highly trained faculty members and researchers: those that possess vast experience and have an international reputation.”

He added that huge financial resources were needed to retrain scientists in Iraq and to offer attractive jobs to encourage expatriate Iraqi scientists to return home. This step should be prioritized over establishing the new universities because the facilities may otherwise fail to hire high-quality staff, he warned.

Nahla Mandalawi, professor of psychology at the University of Baghdad, argued that the plan “is ambitious and could help improve the scientific research sector in Iraq, but only if it is implemented.”

Before the Gulf War in 2003, Iraq had 20 universities and 60 research centers. It currently has 28 and 72 respectively. By implementing the new five-year plan, Iraq would have 40 universities and 100 research centers.

PHOTO: CHRISTINE OSSBORNE PICTURES/ALAMY



# OPEC holds inaugural Public Relations Workshop

*Member Country and Secretariat PR experts meet in Vienna*

PHOTO: OPEC/DIANA GOLPASHIN



OPEC Secretary General, Abdalla Salem El-Badri (left), opens the Workshop with welcoming remarks. Also pictured is Angela Agoawike, Head, OPEC's PR and Information Department.

**P**ublic relations experts from OPEC Member Countries met with their counterparts at the Organization's Secretariat on November 5–8 to discuss how to forge a closer working relationship through the exchange and sharing of information.

The occasion was the First Annual PR Workshop for Member Countries' Public Relations Managers. The participants consisted of 22 delegates from ten Member Countries, together with staff members from the Secretariat's PR and Information Department (PRID).

The workshop was opened by OPEC Secretary General, Abdalla Salem El-Badri, who stressed the importance of promoting such an initiative in today's challenging environment.

"Even though the subject of public relations is becoming very, very critical and important to OPEC, unfortunately we are not really paying that much attention to it," he told assembled delegates.

"So we decided to have this workshop, where we can exchange ideas and thoughts ... [and] really tackle some of the problems that we are facing."

El-Badri pointed out that there should be the clear message across OPEC Member Countries that "we should talk the same language [and use] the same technology for the benefit of our Member Countries."

During the gathering, six presentations were made by PRID, given by the Department's Head, Angela Agoawike, and her team, comprising Zoreli Figueroa, Alaa Al-Saigh, Keith Aylward-Marchant, James Griffin and Ghada Sahab. These gave a broad overview of the Department's work, covering public relations, editorial and ►



PHOTO: OPEC/DIANA GOLPASHIN

◀ speechwriting, media relations, design and production, and the website.

The purpose was to acquaint Member Country delegates with how public relations and information dissemination are conducted by OPEC, as well as the instruments used by the Department in carrying out such responsibilities.

Two presentations were made by the Secretariat's Research Division on issues relating to the ongoing United Nations-sponsored climate change negotiations.

The workshop was held just three weeks before the 18th Meeting of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP18/UNFCCC), which took place in an OPEC Member Country, Qatar.

The Research Division presentations, made by Mohamed Hamel, Senior Advisor to the OPEC Secretary General, and Dr Mohammad Taeb, Environmental Coordinator, covered the activities of the UNFCCC generally, as well as the COP18/CMP8 specifically (CMP: Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol).

Presentations were also made by all the Member Countries present. These related mostly to the work of the PR managers in their respective ministries and national oil companies, in particular on their relations with the media.

Two outside guest speakers spoke about the public relations activities and challenges in an international oil company.

Michaela Huber, Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications and Sustainability, of the Austrian national oil company, OMV AG, talked about 'The challenge of public relations in an oil and gas company: the OMV experience.'

And Sally Jones, External Communications Advisor, Chevron Europe, Eurasia and Middle East, Exploration and Production Ltd, focused on the issue of the 'Imperatives of a planned organizational communication strategy for the oil sector.'

Ms Jones had joined Chevron earlier this year from the OPEC Secretariat, where she had been the Media Relations Advisor for five years, working closely with the Secretary General.

In addition, a special training session was held on the positive possibilities of media management by Eithne Treanor, Chief Executive Officer of ETreanor. com. Ms Treanor is a media consultant and OPEC's webcast moderator.

The workshop delegates were later divided into two groups to discuss the following themes: widening the scope of PR cooperation between OPEC and Member Country national oil companies and Ministries of Petroleum; and the role that Member Country media can play in furthering OPEC's objectives.

All the workshop sessions were interactive and participatory. The delegates engaged in lively debates and discussions throughout the four days of the event, which also included a visit to the Austrian television station, ORF.

The event finished with participants being invited to attend the press conference in the Secretariat featuring the official launches of this year's OPEC Annual Statistical Bulletin and OPEC World Oil Outlook.

The idea was for workshop participants to witness first-hand how OPEC interacts with the media at such an event.

The second edition of the annual PR Workshop will take place at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna in 2013. ■

*Workshop participants and Secretariat officials assemble with OPEC Secretary General, Abdalla Salem El-Badri, for a group photograph.*

## **Our vision**

To aspire to a world where Sustainable Development, centered on human capacity-building, is a reality for all.

## **Our mission**

To foster South-South Partnership with fellow developing countries worldwide with the aim of eradicating poverty.



**Uniting against Poverty**





**Uniting against Poverty**

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