



Symp-Eau News



Foreword

Viva Freshwater !

We are still at the start of 2003, the International Year of Freshwater (IYFW), and only five months away from the opening of the 5th Cannes International Water Symposium (June 23-27). Time is running out, just like freshwater, so we could not wait any longer to launch Symp-EauNews.

You have the inaugural issue in front of you. You may be a journalist, a researcher, a manager, already be a partner of this Symposium, or just interested personally, in issues concerning Water. We hope that Symp-EauNews will be of great use to you, and that we will see you in Cannes at the end of June.

Symp-EauNews must become, thanks to you, a privileged source of information (interviews, contacts, agenda, etc.) for all of you who are not going to let the Water resources of our planet vanish without trying to do something about it. It will be a long and winding road, the heat will be almost unbearable, but there will be several oases on the way !

Daniel Ortelli

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World Tour

+ A Water Bar in Canada

Exos is a special type of bar. Opened two years ago in the heart of Montréal, it only serves drinking water. There are three members of staff, 300 square-meters on two levels, and 1,200 customers per month, on average. "The success of the Exos can still grow, just because of the growing interest people have for Water", co-founder Yann Herbelot explained to Symp-EauNews. "There is still a big gap between what people know about Water and the reality of this universe. Our ambition is to open this new sort of bar, dedicated to the beauty of the world, in the greatest cities of the world. More than a bar, it is a concept store. Regeneration, purity, creation, are the engines of this concept. Everything comes from Water. This resource is a true diamond", Herbelot adds. The bar is flooded with the most prestigious water brands, such as "Oxygen water", "Saint Georges" and "Alaska Glacial Water"... Exos is the ultimate urban oasis.

Contact : www.exos.ca ■

+ Mose Project : Venice could be saved !

Name : Mose. Cost : 2,5 billion euros. The project of mobile dykes to fight the "acque alte", the frequent tides flooding Venice more and more often, is now on track, eventually. After years of controversy, the Italian President of Council, Silvio Berlusconi, has approved the project in December 2001. Work will start in the coming months, and should last around ten years. The principle of this wall is simple : as soon as the alert is given, 79 steel doors, each of them 20 meters wide, 30 meters high and 5 meters thick, for an average weight of 300 tons, will rise to block the three entries to the Venice lagoon (Chioggia, Malamocco and Lido), and thus the very heavy maritime traffic, both industrial and touristic. After four or five hours, the doors will go down, and disappear from the view of the Venetians... and tourists. The Consorzio Venezia Nuova (CVN), a group of 26 companies, is the promoter of the Mose project, which was started in 1981.

Source : *La Recherche*, January 2003 ■

- Acid rain : A threat for biodiversity

In the United Kingdom, the Research Council on Natural Environment launched a 7 million pound (10,5 million euros) program in 1999/2000, called the GANE (Global Atmospheric and Nitrogen Enrichment), to analyse the negative impact of nitrogen. It has reached the halfway mark and the provisional assessment is worrying. Agriculture, factories and cars send twice as many nitrogen compounds into the atmosphere than a century ago. The main consequence is that one of these compounds, ammonia, dissolves in the atmosphere, and comes back as a component of acid rain, to disrupt the natural ecosystems. The most common estimate is that acid rains have spread 230.000 tons of nitrogen last year on the British soil, in its ammonia form.

This represents "between 15 and 30 kilos of nitrogen per hectare and per year, but in certain places the proportion reaches 60 kilos", according to GANE Coordinator, Professor Alan Davison of the University of Newcastle. On wild lands, yet not exploited by mankind, the consequences are even more serious. "As soon as soil is fertilized by acid rain, its flora is altered. Some plants develop instead of others. The supply of unwanted fertilizers to natural vegetation can only be bad for biodiversity", Prof Davison warns.

Sources : *Courier International*, January 9-15, *The Independent*, January 9, 2003 ■

Note :
all the news appearing on Symp-EauNews, and others, will soon be available, in extended form, on the official website of the Cannes International Water Symposium :

www.symposium-h2o.com

Director of Publication : Professor Raoul Caruba / Design and layout : Elision Communication
Editor : Daniel Ortelli / Reporter : Xavier Cerf



French inventor able to capture freshwater

"Even in France, there is less and less drinking water available. So we need to find new solutions in order to supply more": Jean-Denis Sylvain, a researcher at the University of Nice, has been working for 10 years on a couple of solutions. Both the electrical devices he created aim to capture or attract the water vapour constituting haze and mist, or even clouds. According to his estimates, one system could produce up to 300 liters of freshwater a day, for a very limited cost (around 0,3 euro per cubic meter). One of the devices will be on show at the 5th Cannes International Water Symposium (June 23-27). *"Mountain areas next to coastlines are often covered with mist, but since the mist stays in the air, we cannot wait for it to land on the soil. We found a way to capture it",* M. Sylvain explained to a Symp-EauNews reporter.

Year 2003 will be a crucial year for the elaboration of a semi-industrial version, and the help of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) would be more than welcome.

Capte Riviera, an Antibes-based company specialized in water treatment, has already committed some funds and will commercialize both devices, as soon as they are ready to hit the market.

"We met M. Sylvain two years ago at the Cannes Water Symposium. He had so much passion for his project that we did not hesitate one second, and decided on the spot to cooperate with him and finance his research", Nathalie Siboni told Symp-EauNews. Capte Riviera was founded in 1982 and has now 12 staff. *"We think about this project day and night. There is a market for it, but we have to be careful. We cannot rush it",* says Georges Siboni, the manager of Capte Riviera. *"The research phase will cost us around 90,000 euros altogether, for both devices. Up till now, they work pretty well in the lab, so we are confident",* Georges Siboni adds. Of course, Capte Riviera will be at the 5th Cannes Water Symposium. *"It is the best place to initiate international contacts",* according to Nathalie Siboni.



Jean-Denis Sylvain is a CNRS engineer

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Xavier Cerf

Last minute

A French law to protect the Mediterranean

According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the equivalent of a million tons of oil, in gas form, is thrown into the Mediterranean, every year, by ships crossing the area without encountering any particular sort of problem. To fight this intentional pollution, the French authorities have decided to act. The French Senate has examined, on January 21, the text of a projected law that would create a wider zone of ecological protection in the Mediterranean, much further than the mere 21 km of the French territorial waters. This zone could stretch as far as 144 km from the French coastline. France will also commit itself to suing every convicted polluter inside this ecological protection zone. In the year 2000, 158 cases of intentional pollution have been recorded, but none of them has been punished. Had they happened in the French waters, the maximum sentence could have been four years in jail for the captain and a fine of 600,000 euros, according to the Maritime Prefecture of Toulon. The Mediterranean covers 1% of the sea surface of the world, but accounts for 30% of world maritime transport and 28% of world oil transport.
Source : *Le Monde (January 16 and 21, 2003)* ■

Nestlé wants to flood Japan with Vittel Water

It's going to be an interesting fight. Nestlé, a long-time partner of Cannes International Water Symposium, wants to sell its Vittel mineral water in Japan. To beat the competition, and notably the Danone-Volvic duet, Nestlé signed a deal, in

January, with Japanese conglomerates Mitsui and Suntory. The first target is to sell 2,5 million boxes of Vittel bottles in 2003, that will be distributed in over 400,000 locations (automatic distributors and 24-hour mini-shops). *"Just like Danone, Nestlé will use the distribution networks of major Japanese groups to aim at a 10-15% growth per year of its share of the mineral water market",* according to Yuki Honjo, an analyst for ING Securities in Tokyo. Mineral waters only account for 5% of the Japanese non-alcoholic drinks market, but the size of this niche market has doubled in the last five years. A Japanese person only drinks 8.6 liters of mineral water per year, but a lot more of green tea and tap water, whereas an American drinks 68,9 liters and a Frenchman 130 liters of mineral water per year.

Source : *Georges Baumgartner, Tokyo correspondent for www.swissinfo.org, January 15, 2003.* ■

UNESCO singles out the UNITWIN Network

The City of Cannes and the University of Nice, co-founders of the UNITWIN network, have been singled out at the last World Forum of UNESCO Chairs in Paris. Originally, UNITWIN was meant to encourage twinnings between universities of the Mediterranean area, but its influence has spread so much as to receive the European Prize for Networks, the only such prize awarded for Water on the whole European continent. The very coherent action of the City of Cannes, and the way it welcomes UNITWIN at its annual meeting, during the Symposium, have been cited in example. For several years, UNITWIN has facilitated contacts between researchers, students and industrials, in the Mediterranean and elsewhere. The next edition of the Cannes International Water Symposium will be the ideal occasion to celebrate this Prize. ■



Focus

2003, the International Year of Freshwater

Freshwater issues are now at the top of the international agenda. At the end of the year 2000, in New York, the 87th General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) had decided that 2003 would be the International Year of Freshwater (IYFW).



WaterYear2003



Freshwater only accounts for 3% of the water available on the whole of the planet.

Written by the government of Tajikistan, Resolution 55/196 was approved by 148 countries. Its main objectives are to « raise awareness of the general public about the importance of protecting and managing freshwater », as well as to promote action at local, regional, national and international levels.

The present situation is worrying : freshwater (less than 3 grammes of salt per liter) only accounts for 3% of the water available on the whole of the planet. According to studies published by United Nations, one person out of six, that's to say 1.3 billion human beings, has no access to drinking water, and 2.4 billion people have no access whatsoever to basic sanitation. This situation provokes the death of 2.2 million people every year. Agricultural or industrial pollutions, waste, war, climatic upsets : globally, the access to drinking water is crumbling, and conflicts linked to this resource are multiplying. United Nations General Secretary, Kofi Annan, believes that "it is essential to increase awareness

on what could become a growing source of tension and competition between nations", and that "the IYFW can play a crucial role to launch, at the global level, a series of required actions to face this situation, not only at the level of governments, but also of the civil society, the cities, the commercial sector and the individuals".

The IYFW is also a good occasion to reassert the UN's Millennium Declaration Goal on Water, which pledged "to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people unable to reach, or to afford, safe drinking water", and "to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources".

The 3rd World Water Forum (March 16-23) in Kyoto (Japan) will be one of the major events of the International Water Year. On this occasion, the World Water Assessment Program (WWAP), hosted by UNESCO, will present its first World Water Development Report on the state of water stress in the world. ■

Sources : www.riposteverte.free.fr
UNESCO Press Service, www.waternunc.com

Freshwater in figures



• 7 times bigger, the consumption of water by an American, compared to an African.

- 40% of the water of rivers, rock-tanks and lakes is concentrated in six countries : Brazil, Russia, China, Canada, United States, India.
- 80 countries, where 40 % of the world population lives, are confronted with a shortage of freshwater. Northern Africa and the Middle East are the most affected.
- 70% of the available water can help with agricultural irrigation.
- 600,000 white farmers, in South Africa, use 60% of the water resources of the country to irrigate their land, while 15 million black people have no direct access to water.
- 50% of the water distributed in the big cities is lost because of leaks in their water networks.
- 97% of freshwater is sheltered in underground pockets. According to the experts, their over-exploitation should lead to the extinction of several of them in the next 30 years.
- 50% of European and American lakes and rivers are seriously polluted. ■

Sources : UNESCO, *Water Manifesto* (1998), www.fnh.org

World Water Forum : Express yourself !

The 3rd World Water Forum, in Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka (March 16-23), will be the most important event of the International Year of Freshwater (IYFW). On that occasion, an unprecedented on-line service, called "Water Voice" has been launched in order to collect at least 100,000 grass-roots opinions and comments on Water issues, thanks to 10,000 "Water Voice Messengers" recruited all around the world. "This programme offers people in the world the opportunity to influence directly the next set of important decisions on Water issues", according to Hideaki Oda, one of the organizers of the World Water Forum. It's not too late to express yourself !

Contact : General Secretary of the 3rd World Water Forum, Kojimachi Chiyoda-Ku Tokyo 102-0083.
Website : www.worldwaterforum.org ■

■ **February 2** : World day for the defence of damp areas, under the aegis of the International Convention of Ramsar, signed in 1971.

■ **February 6** : Paris (French Senate) : "Water : a Challenge for Humanity".
Contact : d.lasserre.crc@wanadoo.fr
or carlesrheimsconsultants@wanadoo.fr

■ **February 10-11** : Burlington (Canada) : 38th Central Canadian Symposium on Water Quality Research.
meenu.pall@ec.gc.ca or www.cauq.ca

■ **February 24-25** : Singapore : Asia Water
viviane.lee@abf.com.sg

■ **March 4-6** : Nice (France) :
Water and Wastewater Europe (WWE)
Tél : +44 (0)1 992 65 66 41.
Fax. 00 +44 (0)1 992 65 67 00.
www.wweurope.com

■ **March 10-13** : Guangzhou : Water China
www.merebo.com

■ **March 16-23** : Kyoto : World Water Forum Japan 2003. Tél.+31 (0)20 549 12 12.
Fax. +31 (0)20 549 18 43.
office@water-forum3.com
and www.water-forum3.com

■ **March 22** : World Water Day

■ **March 26-29** : Alicante (Spain) : 4^e Salon internacional de agua y medio ambiente (SAMA 2003). Tél. 00 +34 965 10 71 27
ou +34 965 10 71 14. Fax. 00 +34 965 11 08 89.
<http://www.sama2003.com>
(Elena Heinemann)

■ **March 27-30** : Istanbul (Turkey) : Aqua Technology and Ecotec Turkey
Tél. 00 +90 02 12 216 40 10.
Fax. 00 +90 2 12 216 33 60. www.hkf-fairs.com

■ **April 2-4** : Tenerife (Spain) : Efficient use and management of urban water supply
www.iwatenerife2003.org

■ **June 23-27** : Cannes (France), Palais des Festivals :
5th International Water Symposium
www.symposium-h2o.com
and symposium-h2o-expo@lso-intl.com
www.symposium-h2o.lso-intl.com



Stéphane Filone

LSO : A first choice partner for the Cannes Symposium

The 5th International Symposium on Water of Cannes (June 23-27) has just found a first choice partner : LSO (Lenny Spangberg Organisation), founded over 15 years ago, has grown a lot at the end of the 90's and is now able to boast an annual turnover of 35-million euros.

Specialized in business tourism, LSO has over 100 staff and five branches in France (Monaco, Sophia Antipolis, Aix-en-Provence, Lyon and Paris), operating in five distinct fields : Congresses, Production (events, etc.), Sport, Seminars and Outgoing (event management for abroad). The Congress department, which will manage the new partnership with the International Cannes Water Symposium, holds over 20 congresses per year in its portfolio, among them the huge "Tax Free World Exhibition" (12.000 participants) and the "GSM World Congress" (17 000 participants).

"To quadruple the number of participants"

Stéphane Filone is the manager of Congress operations for LSO. In an interview with Symp-EauNews, he insists on the concept of "long term partnership" and hopes that within three years there will be "spectacular progress" for the Cannes International Water Symposium.

Why did LSO choose, for the first time, to collaborate with the Cannes International Water Symposium ?

"Lenny Spangberg, the LSO chairman, is convinced that this congress will quickly expand. LSO intends to participate actively in the growth of this Symposium, which hos-

ted over 800 participants last year. Our ambition is to quadruple this figure within three years."

What is the specific mission of your Congress department ?

"We are going to take care of the management and commercialization of the Symposium internationally, define the sponsoring opportunities and manage the accomodation side. We already have secured 700 bedrooms in Cannes. We also hope to sell 500 square-meters of stands, which would represent twice more than last year."

How are you going to promote the Symposium ?

"We are going to participate in special visits for promoting the Symposium, notably in Dubai and Kyoto, as well as launching an advertising campaign among institutions and the private sector. The progress of the Cannes International Water Symposium will be spectacular." ■

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Fax : +33 (0)4 92 38 56 33

Accomodation : symposium-h2o-hotelbookings@lso-intl.com

Exhibition : symposium-h2o-expo@lso-intl.com

About the Symposium

The Symposium goes to Dubai

A delegation of the 5th Cannes International Water Symposium will go to Dubai from February 3 to 6, for a business and study trip, on the invitation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The delegation will meet business and university people of the UAE, as well as the Prince of the Arab Emirate of Fujirai, in the presence of His Excellency Saeed Salman. The Euro-Arab Network Research, based in the Emirates, is a long time partner of the Cannes International Water Symposium. ■

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