Call for papers

WATER SAFETY CONFERENCE

Improving Service Delivery and Protecting Public Health

Kampala, Uganda
13-15 November 2012

www.iwa-watersafety2012.org
A message from the Chair of the Programme Committee

Securing safe water supplies remains a top priority for water and public health professionals. The last decade has seen good progress in increasing access to safe drinking water and by 2015 we will know whether the drinking water component of MDG 7 target c has been met. The recent recognition of safe drinking water and sanitation as human rights gives further impetus for governments to take action and provide an enabling environment to realise universal access for all.

Progress to attaining such global commitments can be significantly enhanced through the implementation of effective interventions at scale. Water Safety Plans (WSPs) are one such intervention. Over seven years after they were introduced in international guidance documents, they have been extensively applied across the spectrum of developed and developing countries and for rural and urban water supply systems. Whilst this paradigm shift has assisted governments and water suppliers in transitioning to policies and practices that embrace risk-based, preventative management of drinking water supplies, there needs to be a sharper focus on the elucidation of health impacts of WSP implementation and greater integration of WSPs into overall water utility planning and operations to ensure safe drinking water is delivered by efficient service providers.

As with the two previous editions of this conference series – 2008 in Lisbon and 2010 in Kuching – this event will bring together global practitioners, researchers and decision makers to discuss best practices and emerging trends for improving the safety of global water supplies. And in sub-Saharan Africa, the region most in need of accelerating improvements to water supply, we have the ideal location to reflect on lessons learned and drive the implementation of WSPs that are accruing tangible benefits to service levels, water quality and public health. I hope that you can join us in Kampala to present, discuss and contribute to the realisation of these objectives.

Jamie Bartram
University of North Carolina

A message from the Chair of the Organising Committee

Water supply utilities worldwide are currently faced with the challenge of providing adequate safe drinking water in their areas of jurisdiction. Although there has been great technological advancement in the tools and methods of water supply management and maintenance there are equally challenging issues especially climate change, population growth leading to unplanned settlement and improper land use practices amongst others. These have led to increased water pollution and scarcity in many developing countries. The challenge of unplanned rural-urban migration without matching utility service provision has created pockets of low income informal settlements in cities of the developing world. Many well to do people now have more access to safe drinking water while on the other hand, an increasing number of disadvantaged communities or the urban poor, especially those living in informal settlements experience shortage of drinking water or consume contaminated water.

One key approach to improved management of both small scale household and large continuous urban water supply is the development and implementation of Water Safety Plans (WSP), which is recommended by WHO as most effective approach to ensuring the supply of safe drinking water. The benefits of WSP implementation go beyond quality assurance and safety to improved system maintenance and sustainability. With the increased adoption and institutionalization of WSP worldwide, there is hope that more and more communities will get sustainable access to safe drinking water. This will boost the drive towards achieving the MDG 7 target c: “Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”.

The pace of WSP development in Africa has been understandably slow, mainly due to low access to information and inadequate training and funding. With increased awareness and promotion of institutional reforms, African utilities will improve the pace of WSP adoption, development and implementation. This will ensure improvement in service delivery through curbing un-accounted for water and illegal water use practices which are common challenges for utilities in the developing world. It is anticipated that this conference will bring together water utility managers and water supply professionals to brainstorm and map out ways of applying WSP as a means of adapting to unchangeable challenges and taming those that are within solution capacity.

Silver Mugisha
National Water and Sewerage Corporation

“...there needs to be a sharper focus on understanding the health impacts of WSP implementation and greater integration of WSPs in water utility planning and operations...”

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Location

Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, is the largest city in Uganda stretching its border to the shore of Lake Victoria. Kampala is a 45 minute drive from Entebbe International airport, from which there are numerous flights daily.

Themes and topics

The theme of the conference is water quality and public health. The programme committee are seeking contributions that highlight practices and policies with demonstrable impact on service delivery levels, drinking water quality and public health. Themes and topics of interest include:

- Water Safety Plan Implementation
- Risk Assessment / Risk Management
- Source Protection
- Health Impact Assessments for Water Quality Interventions
- Innovative Policies and Regulations for Drinking Water Quality
- Risk-based Investment Planning for Water Supply Systems
- Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Systems
- Water Safety in Informal Settlements
- Community Managed Water Supplies
- Household Treatment and Safe Storage
- Emerging Water Quality Risks

Of particular interest are submissions which respond to the management of water safety in the face of significant global challenges such as climate change, population growth and urbanisation.

All submissions selected for presentation at the Conference will be included on the proceedings USB device given to all conference delegates.

Who will attend?

The conference organisers are expecting over 300 international delegates to attend the Conference. Given the integrated nature of managing safe water, the conference will attract a wide variety of water professionals: from operational staff of water suppliers to social scientists; from government administrators to source protection specialists. The conference aims to provide unique opportunities for delegates to interact with professionals across disciplines and regions to share their experiences and ideas and discuss common challenges and appropriate solutions.

Submitting a Paper

The conference programme will consist of platform presentations, poster presentations, workshops and keynote speakers. You can submit an outline paper of about 1,000 words (2 A4 pages) by 30 March 2012 for consideration as a platform or poster presentation. Guidelines and full instructions on submitting a paper can be found on www.iwa-watersafety2012.org

All submissions will be peer-reviewed by selected international reviewers to assist the Programme Committee in their final selection of papers. The Programme Committee will make their selections for the programme based upon the scores and comments submitted by reviewers.

Notification of selection of your presentation will be sent to you in May 2012. For your paper to be included in the programme and presented at the conference, a paid registration must be received by 30 June 2012 for the presenting author. Presenters will be responsible for their own expenses.

Please go to www.iwa-watersafety2012.org

Deadlines

Call for papers 30 March 2012
Presenters notified 15 May 2012
Registration opens 1 June 2012
Submit full paper 15 June 2012

Enquiries

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