



IHP-HELP

Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science

under the auspices of UNESCO

News and Updates - September 2013

News and Events

UNESCO Strategic and High-Level Meeting on Water Security and Cooperation

Professor Geoffrey Gooch recently attended the Strategic and High-Level Meeting on Water Security and Cooperation, held within the framework of the International Year of Water Cooperation 2013.

The event was held in Nairobi, Kenya on the 11 - 13 September and was organised by UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, with the kind support of the Government of Kenya and other sponsors.

Besides chairing sessions he was also a panellist on the panel discussing 'Contributions of water related centres and chairs'. Over 140 participants attended the meeting, including 8 ministers and representatives of UNESCO and international organisations.



Africa Focus: 'Cooperation and Hydro-Diplomacy - Successful Approaches to Optimise Transboundary Water Management'

Professor Patricia Wouters was invited to participate as a legal expert on a panel convened by the Africa Water Facility at the African Development Bank, "Africa Focus: Cooperation and Hydro-Diplomacy - Successful Approaches to Optimize Transboundary Water Management" convened at the recent Stockholm World Water Week (1-6 September 2013).

The session explored opportunities and barriers to transboundary water cooperation across Africa, which is home to numerous international watercourses. The session was streamed live and closed with reactions from 9 Ministers of Water Resources from across Africa. The High Level Ministerial panel involving HE John Agyekum Kufuor, former President of Ghana & Chair, Sanitation & Water for All (SWA), AMCOW President, EXCO members, AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and other AMCOW Ministers to receive report on the Africa Focus seminars and adopt resolutions on transboundary water cooperation. Africa has seen an increase in transboundary cooperation over recent years, but still faces serious challenges across the continent.

Dr Michelle Lim Presents Paper on Non-Doctrine Environmental Law Approaches at Society of Legal Scholars Conference

On the 6th of September, Dr Michelle Lim presented a paper entitled 'The need for non-doctrinal environmental law approaches: an exploration in Central Asia, Borneo and the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta' at the 104th Annual Conference of the Society of Legal Scholars. The conference was hosted by the University of Edinburgh. The Environmental section of the conference brings together academics from across the UK and Ireland as well as a range of jurisdictions from around the world. Speakers also include those from private practice, government and regulatory bodies.

The ESPA Deltas project is a large multidisciplinary and multinational project which seeks to evaluate the relationships between ecosystem services and poverty in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta. The Water Centre is responsible for the governance component of this research project. During her presentation Michelle highlighted the importance of non-doctrinal methods for addressing the question of legal effectiveness. She presented interdisciplinary methods used in her PhD and in the ESPA Deltas project and discussed the challenges of interdisciplinarity. Michelle's presentation concluded with a proposal for potential ways forward for environmental law scholarship.



Musa Abseno - Successful Viva

On 29th August Musa Abseno successfully defended his PhD thesis. The thesis was titled “An Analytical Framework for Assessing the International – National Water Law Interface: A Nile Case Study” and the external examiner was Dr Stefano Burchi, former legal counsel to the FAO. Musa’s internal examiner was Andrew Allan and the convenor was Professor Andrea Ross. Dr Ali Rieu-Clarke was Musa’s supervisor, along with Dr Sarah Hendry. Musa is to make minor revisions within 2 months.

Our congratulations to Musa, who will now return to Ethiopia with his family, and thanks to the panel for all their work.



CWLPS Academic’s Edinburgh Fringe Debut

On Sunday the 25th of August Dr Michelle Lim made her Fringe debut with a stand-up comedy routine entitled ‘the Judge Dredd of Environmental Law’. As part of ‘Bright Club at the Fringe’, Michelle was one of 90 academics from around the UK performing at the world’s biggest comedy festival.

Bright Club is a public engagement event which runs in cities across the UK. Part funded by the Scottish Government’s Talking Science grant scheme, academic researchers from all fields and backgrounds take to the stage to perform short stand-up comedy routines about their work.

Commenting on her complex heritage and lamenting her status as neither scientist nor lawyer, Michelle attempted to convince the audience of the importance of enforcement, effectiveness and implementation in environmental law. The audience was however far more interested in what Michelle’s superiors at the Water Centre were intending to do with models.

The UN Watercourses Convention in Force: Strengthening International Law for Transboundary Water Management

The recently published joint WWF-CWLPS edited collection, “The UN Watercourses Convention in Force: Strengthening international law for transboundary water management,” published by Earthscan, offers a unique collection of viewpoints that brings together the work of over 30 world-renowned experts in the multidisciplinary field of transboundary water management.

The contributions describe the content, drafting and negotiation of the UNWC; the value of its entry into force; its relationship to other multilateral environmental agreements; and, through a series of case studies, the specific role of the convention at various levels across Latin America, Africa and Asia.

The book concludes by suggesting how the UNWC’s future implementation might further strengthen international cooperation in the management, use and protection of shared water resources and their ecosystems.

Further details can be found at:

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781849714464>

The UN Watercourses Convention in Force

Strengthening International Law for Transboundary Water Management



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