

PRESS RELEASE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS IN BONN: Celebrating eight years of successful capacity development in water – UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development closes with the end of the “Water for Life” Decade

Bonn, 23 June 2015 – With the [International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’, 2005-2015](#), coming to an end, the [UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development \(UNW-DPC\)](#), located in Bonn, will be closing in July 2015 in fulfillment of its mandate. High-level representatives of [UN-Water](#), the [United Nations University](#) and German Ministries convene on 23 June 2015 at the UN Campus in Bonn for the closing ceremony of UNW-DPC, to celebrate crucial achievements related to the ‘Water for Life’ Decade and to reflect on the future of water-related capacity development.

The UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) was established in 2007 in Bonn, within the framework of the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’, 2005-2015, as a Programme of UN-Water, the United Nations inter-agency mechanism on all freshwater-related issues, including sanitation. The Programme is funded by the Federal Government of Germany and hosted by the United Nations University. UNW-DPC’s objective has been to strengthen the capacity development activities of UN-Water Members and Partners, supporting them in their efforts to help UN Member States achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other international goals related to water and sanitation.

Fostering cooperation among UN-Water’s Members and Partners in collaborative activities, UNW-DPC filled an important niche in the UN-System, bringing together the expertise from different disciplines to build Member States’ capacities on complex water issues. With a holistic approach on capacity development, including personal, organizational and institutional perspectives, UNW-DPC has conducted more than 125 capacity development activities with 34 of UN-Water’s Members and Partners and trained nearly 2500 people from 151 countries around the world. UNW-DPC’s activities spanned a wide range of topics, assisting water utilities to reduce water losses in urban water supply systems around the world, supporting Member States to promote safe practices where wastewater is used in agriculture, to develop national capacities on improved drought management, and also facilitating the exchange between the UN and industry, to name a few.

Beyond the immediate work of UNW-DPC, many achievements have been made during this Decade for Action. In 2010, the world has reached the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water – five years ahead of schedule. That same year, the human right to water and sanitation was explicitly recognized by the United Nations General Assembly. Despite the remarkable progress, water remains one of the major challenges of our time and capacity development a crucial tool to address current and future challenges.

In fulfillment of its mandate and with the end of the 'Water for Life' Decade, UNW-DPC will be closing its office in July 2015 based on UN-Water's decision. Highlights of UNW-DPC's capacity development activities on water-related issues will be presented in a closing ceremony on 23 June 2015, and includes contributions from high-level speakers such as Michel Jarraud, Chair of UN-Water and Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization ([WMO](#)), David Malone, Rector of UNU and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as high-level representatives from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development ([BMZ](#)), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research ([BMBF](#)) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety ([BMUB](#)).

As 'water' is set to become one of the main pillars of the post-2015 development agenda that will steer the world's development objectives for the next 15 years and more, capacity development remains crucial in addressing water-related challenges, and in supporting the successful implementation of the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). An outlook on Water and Capacity Development will be provided by Laurent Sédogo, Executive Director of the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use ([WASCAL](#)).

Photos of the event at the United Nations in Bonn flickr account: <https://goo.gl/NxnKlj>; Please respect the picture credits as indicated.

For more information about UNW-DPC: <http://www.unwater.unu.edu/>.

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