



GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL WATERS ASSESSMENT

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Dan Claasen chairs steering group

Experts from governments and international organisations in twelve different countries were assembled when the GIWA steering group held its fifth meeting in Kalmar 8–9 October.

The new chairman for the steering group Dan Claasen from Environmental Information Assessment and Early Warning, UNEP, led discussions on a number of issues, ranging from the results from the scaling and scoping exercise to the format of the final report.

Also new at the steering group meeting were Alexei Maximov from GEF in Russia, Anders Jägerskog from the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency and Inesis Kiskis, Lithuania, representing the World Bank.

The steering group listened to reports from the different parts of the GIWA project and had discussion on the peer review process. The outline of the global report and the implementation plan were analysed. The steering group expressed satisfaction with the development of the GIWA project and the results obtained.



Dag Daler, Scientific Director of GIWA, at steering group discussions with Salif Diop from DEWA and Chairman Dan Claasen, UNEP.

GIWA appointed Ambassador

– The world’s water issues are complex and pressing in many parts of the world and their assessment is urgent.

These are words by the newly appointed ambassador for GIWA, Professor Emeritus Gotthilf Hempel. He represents SCOPE in the steering group of GIWA and was named Ambassador at the fifth steering group meeting in Kalmar on October 8–9.

As ambassador professor Hempel will assist in the process of tailoring the GIWA assessment and advice, to the needs of GIWA’s implementing agency, of local and regional administration and of the interested part of the public. He will also make an effort to make GIWA better known in the science community.

Professor emeritus Gotthilf Hempel was born in 1929 in Göttingen, Germany. He received his Ph.D. in 1952 in Heidelberg and turned from general zoology to marine ecology and fisheries research. He worked in various marine laboratories in northern Europe and North America, and for UNESCO/IOC and FAO until he became full professor in Kiel, Germany. From 1981 to 1997 he became the founder of four marine science institutes in Germany. Over the years he had a great number of students from Europe and developing countries. He was in charge of many expeditions to all parts of the Atlantic. He published about 250 articles and various books on fisheries biology, marine ecology and science policy.

Since 40 years Professor Hempel is engaged in international organisations and kept leading positions in ICES, SCOR, IOC IABO, ICSU/IGBP and European Science Foundation. Since he retired in 2000 he is still busy in fostering partnership projects with

marine science institutions in the Middle East and Southern Africa.

He took part in the creation of GIWA and is pleased to see that GIWA is bringing together the marine, coastal and terrestrial



The newly appointed Ambassador for GIWA, professor Gotthilf Hempel.

aspects. On the long-run he expects GIWA’s contribution to be threefold:

– GIWA is producing the assessments for all parts of the globe, making full use of efforts of other agencies and projects, he

“I am pleased to see that GIWA is bringing together the marine, coastal and terrestrial aspects.”

says. It is also establishing a network for monitoring with water issues, both marine and freshwater. A third task is to strengthen the scientific, technical and administrative capacity to cope with water issues in all parts of the world. Training on the job will be an important part of this activity.

– I myself am particularly interested in scientific capacity building, says Ambassador Hempel.



