

Weekly Water Report

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LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN



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OOSKANews Weekly Water Digest, Water news from the developing world.

Weekly Water Reports:

- Middle East & Africa
- Southern & Eastern Asia
- Eastern Europe & Former Soviet Union
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Water Weekly

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A Note From the Publisher

WARRENTON, VA, United States (OOSKAnews)

Welcome to this week's issue of OOSKAnews Weekly Water Report, Latin America and the Caribbean.

This note is to remind readers that we're taking a week off next week for the U.S. Memorial Day holiday.

OOSKAnews Reports publish 47 times a year.



We also take a one-week break for the American Thanksgiving holiday, two weeks at Christmas and New Year (Western calendar) and one week for U.S. Independence Day. Please look forward to us being back in your box on the week commencing June 7, 2010.

For those of you who subscribe to this Report and also one of its sister publications -- "Weekly Water Report, Southern and Eastern Asia," "Weekly Water Report, Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union," "Weekly Water Report, Middle East and Africa," and "OOSKAnews Water Weekly" -- please know that the same applies: this week's Reports will publish as usual, then the next ones will be on June 8-9, 2010.

Many early customers of OOSKAnews are now also subscribers to these other regional publications, and we thank you. If you haven't seen any of them yet, please drop us a line, and we'll send you some free copies.

The purpose of OOSKAnews' Weekly Water Reports is to provide timely, tightly written information on regional trends and opportu

OOSKAnews

OOSKAnews, Inc is the market leading news provider on the water sector in the developing world.

Founded in 2006, the company deploys more than 150 freelance writers in more than 40 countries – local and national business journalists; experts in water and the environment; academics and economists.

OOSKAnews publishes seven email newsletters every week delivering news on all aspects of the water sector in Southern, Central and Eastern Asia; the Middle East; Africa; Eastern Europe; the Former Soviet Union States; Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Around 200 original stories every month cover funding and finance developments; business opportunities; water supply issues; wastewater and the environment; local, national and international water policy. Each newsletter further carries a "Local Press Reports" section, summarizing how local media in developing countries are reporting local water issues.

OOSKAnews subscribers are senior strategic decision makers in the "world of water" in both private and public sectors internationally. For more information about OOSKAnews publications, email us at info@ooskanews.com or phone +1 540 428 3440.

OOSKAnews

OOSKAnews offers water sector research and consultancy services through a strategic partnership with Ergo (www.ergo.net), a global primary research and consulting firm.

This partnership harnesses OOSKAnews' water sector and developing world expertise and contacts to Ergo's proprietary network of over 7,000 global experts and 60 in-country teams, all deeply embedded in their sectors ranging from finance to infrastructure to telecommunications to mining and beyond.

The OOSKAnews – Ergo partnership provides custom water-sector-related studies including: geopolitical analyses; economic risk assessments; market landscaping; opportunity mapping; country sector studies; deep dive research; scenario mapping; competitive intelligence; market entry strategies; partner and management due diligence; and negotiation intelligence.

For more information on OOSKAnews – Ergo research and consultancy services, email david@ooskanews.com or phone +1 540 428 3440.



nities for decision makers in private industry, financial institutions, government, and NGOs.

For the private sector, we write about projects; for the public and private financial sectors, we point out where their capital can produce results; for governments, we show how others have dealt with similar issues; and for NGOs, we shed light on areas of emerging need that may fit with their program goals.

Our contributors (local and national journalists, water industry specialists, academics, economists and regional experts) file content every day to our Editorial Head Office in the United States for editing and weekly distribution.

To supplement OOSKAnews' original content (and as an added value service), the Reports also relay "Local Press Reports," culled from water-related stories as reported by local media in the regions we cover.

OOSKAnews' subscribers include major water utilities, international lending institutions (private and public), governments, NGOs, lawyers, accountancies, aid organizations, water consultancies, construction companies, engineers, and organizations in all parts of the supply chain to the industry in the regions we cover.

We thank you for subscribing to this Weekly Water Report from OOSKAnews, and ask you to remember that we always welcome your feedback. I can be reached at david@ooskanews.com or +1 540 428 3440.

Happy Holidays!

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FOCUS THIS WEEK

No Substantial Repairs to Haiti Water, Sanitation Network Since Earthquake

WASHINGTON, DC, United States (OOSKAnews)

Four months after the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit off the coast of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, there have been no substantial repairs to the water and sanitation systems, Deepak Kenkeremath, a consulting engineer with NGO International Action, told OOSKAnews on May 7.

International Action (www.haitiwater.org) is dedicated to the use of chlorination technology in Haiti to improve the quality of drinking water supplies. The NGO has been around since before the earthquake and has played a key role in relief efforts.

"According to International Action's survey and assessment, the earthquake of January 12 damaged approximately 60 percent of the water delivery and distribution systems in the greater metropolitan Port-au-Prince area. This assessment is corroborated by independent analysis by CAMEP (Centrale Autonome Métropolitaine d'Eau Potable), the Haitian government agency that has traditionally been in charge of Port au Prince's water system. This means that over 250,000 people that used to get clean drinking water now

have to either buy expensive bottled water or drink water contaminated with disease-causing bacteria," Kenkeremath said.

"A significant portion of neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince are still not getting water -- clean or contaminated. Stop-gap measures have been focused on the refugee camps and primarily involve trucked water (some treated, some not)," he added.

Lane Wood of the NGO charity:water was quoted by science-focused digital media site EarthSky.org as saying, "There are over a million people that have been displaced. They're fleeing to these rural areas outside of the city and finding themselves in areas that don't have clean water."

More recently NGOs including International Action, have become more focused on implementing post-relief strategies because they realized they cannot pay for trucked water indefinitely. Many of these NGOs have offered to begin the rebuilding process.

However, the Haitian government wants to maintain strict control and has not given "permission" to any NGO to begin work, Kenkeremath told OOSKAnews.

"International Action has been quietly repairing some of its chlorinators and installing new ones in areas outside of Port-au-Prince," he said.

There also appears to be very little long-term planning being devel-

oped by the Haitian government. Its Action Plan for Reconstruction and Development of Haiti, released in April, has only two paragraphs on water and sanitation and two sentences about water, International Action's Executive Director Lindsay Mattison said at the latest Board of Director's meeting.

"International Action is currently talking with DINEPA (Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement), the agency charged with the national rebuilding of Haiti's water and sanitation system, to offer technical support by American experts to develop detailed plans for the country," Kenkeremath said.

Other actions the organization is currently undertaking include repairing damaged equipment; expanding the use of chlorination to schools, clinics, hospitals and orphanages; constructing 68 2,000-gallon tanks for either replacement or new installations; working with Oxfam to install a chlorinator at the Cap Haitian rainwater reservoir; and constructing a training facility for public health.

However, the organization's efforts are being hampered by a lack of funding.

Kenkeremath also gave a list of what remains to be done: clear the remaining rubble; eliminate the need for refugee camps by creating jobs, shelter and water and sanitation services; develop and initiate plans for reconstruction; and "significantly strengthen" the Haitian government's institutional capacity in the water and sanitation sectors.

"The opportunity is there to rebuild much better than before. But the government of Haiti and the international donor community

need to ensure that this will not just be another case of NGOs and foreign government building new systems and leaving, without training Haiti to take ownership. International Action is committed to the people of Haiti and to working with the government for a better future," Kenkeremath said.

Brazilian anthropologist Omar Ribeiro Thomas, who has been a teacher in Port-au-Prince for the last 10 years, was quoted in Upside Down World's online magazine as saying, "International organizations must have a relationship of equality with their counterparts. Local organizations have to be taken very seriously. Today aid competes with local organizations instead of supporting them and collaborating with them. NGOs compete with Haitian groups and lots of times are under the impression that there are no organizations in Haiti or that they don't need to be taken into account or they don't try to work together."

"Aid worker and aid receiver should have a closer relationship," he added.

Wood said charity water could not function without hydrologists and engineers because the best solution in Haiti is to either dig deep wells or cap mountain springs to protect the water quality and facilitate transport.

"That's a sophisticated process of dealing with gravity, and trying to get water ... up and down the mountains. We work with scientists who know how to make this happen," he added.

Meanwhile, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) is continuing financial support for Haiti recovery efforts. The bank announced a \$10 million USD grant at the

end of April for the expansion of water and sanitation access.

The grant comes from the Spanish Cooperation Fund for Water and Sanitation in Latin America and the Caribbean (Spanish Fund). It will expand potable water to some 60,000 people in the Artibonite department.

It will be executed by DINEPA.

The Artibonite department was chosen by the Haitian government as being in severe need of water and sanitation investment.

The program will help create autonomous community-based water committees that will make all decisions related to projects in their villages, including between 12-15 water supply systems, as well as latrines and wastewater disposal systems.

"The community participation activities will ensure that water and sanitation systems, and resulting water tariffs, are commensurate with the communities' capacity to pay. In addition, a follow-up program will provide continuous technical support to ensure the sustainability of the potable water and sanitation system," the IADB said in an April 29 press release.

The grant will also be used to create a regional regulator for water and sanitation, as well as strengthen DINEPA's presence in rural areas.

This is the sixth water and sanitation expansion project carried out by IADB and the Spanish Fund, and they are planning to join forces again later this year for another \$50 million USD water and sanitation project for Port-au-Prince.



THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Results of Expert Survey on Water Solutions Released

TRAVERSE CITY, MI, United States (OOSKAnews)

Circle of Blue is releasing results of a survey of experts on the top 19 solutions to the global freshwater crisis, conducted by GlobeScan and SustainAbility.

The Sustainability Survey Poll was conducted last March and surveyed more than 1,200 sustainability experts.

It found that virtually every industry could experience systemic transformation over the next decade in strategic planning, production practices, and business models.

The experts expect water shortages to shift public perception of the value of water, prompting governments and companies to view clean water not as a commodity to exploit but as a precious resource.

As of May 18, 10 of the areas from where experts thought solutions would come were released:

- The 19th is population growth control, with over a billion people presently lacking access to clean water, and agriculture to feed the world's growing population using 70 percent of the world's freshwater.
- The 18th is climate change mitigation, which often has a reciprocal relationship with water management issues. The report pointed out the water consumption of renewable energy sources as an important issue which must be considered.
- The 17th is water projects and transfer of water conservation technologies to developing countries, particularly in drier areas. Weak economies and skill gaps are listed as difficulties in this area.
- The 16th is R&D and innovation. Public-private partnerships were given as a source of innovation, with an example of cities possibly seeking partnerships with clean energy producers to fertilize algae and other biofuel crops with wastewater.
- The 15th is providing equitable access, and ensuring drinking water as a human right. Many countries have reformed their water laws recently, and defining the legal structure is an important issue here.
- The 14th is addressing pollution, including pollution measurement and the monitoring of water quality.

- The 13th is building international frameworks and international cooperation. The report said the climate change conference in Copenhagen last year highlighted how difficult this can be, but that nonetheless policymakers and advocates need to keep trying.

- The 12th is shrinking corporate water footprints (which include both direct use and indirect use through the supply chain), with industrial water use accounting for approximately 22 percent of the global total.

- The 11th is improving distribution infrastructure, with poor infrastructure causing waste as well as spreading water-borne diseases through contamination.

- Finally, the 10th is the holistic management of ecosystems, seeing the whole picture and the interrelations between economic, cultural, and ecological goals.



São Francisco River Basin Proposes Agency to Manage Water Use Charges

BRASÍLIA, Brazil (OOSKAnews)

Some \$10 million USD per year is to be invested in conservation of the São Francisco River, after its hydrographic basin committee voted earlier this month to create an agency to manage charges for use of the river's water.

The committee's proposal will be evaluated at the next meeting of the Water Resources National Council (CNRH, in Portuguese) at the beginning of June.

The river, one of the biggest in Brazil, crosses the arid region in the northeast of the country.

The agency will allow the hydrographic basin to sign agreements and start charging for use of water by industries.

According to Silvano Silvério, Water Resources and Urban Environment Secretary at the National Environment Ministry, the funds generated by charging for water use will guarantee revitalization of the river and management of its water.

He said the cost will be different depending on the activity -- collection, consumption or discharging organic material in the water.

The \$10 million USD the commission expect said will be raised per year will be used 100 percent for rehabilitation of water quality in the river basin, for activities such as reuse, protection, conservation, cleaning programs and use of clean and sustainable technologies.

The practice of charging for use of water in hydrographic basins that crosses more than one state -- giving them a federal status -- was started in Brazil four years ago.

Today two basins, in the southeast already have implemented these charges -- the Paraíba do Sul and Piracicaba, Capivari and Jundiá basins.

The São Francisco River emerges in the southeast of Brazil, at Minas Gerais state, and runs to the northeast, where it flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

It is 2,830 kilometers long and drains an area of about 641,000 square kilometers.

Embasa Launches Four Water and Sewerage Tenders

SALVADOR, Brazil (OOSKAnews)

Embasa, the state water and sanitation utility for Brazil's Bahia state, has launched four tenders for water and sanitation works. The tenders are only open to Brazilian companies.

One tender is for maintenance work on water and sewerage systems in Feira de Santana, the second most populous city in the state. It is \$6.5 million USD, and proposals must be submitted by May 31.

Another tender to expand the sewerage sys-

tem in the Canavieiras municipality is worth \$3.7 million USD, and bids must be submitted by June 7.

A tender to expand the sewerage system of the Camacan municipality is due on June 7, and is worth \$2.1 million USD.

Finally, a \$2.2 million USD tender was launched for the second stage of works expanding the sewerage system in the municipality of Andaraí, for which bids must be submitted on June 9.

Majes Siguas II Concession to Be Re-Launched

LIMA, Peru (OOSKAnews)

The Peruvian investment promotion agency ProInversión will start a new concession process for the Majes Siguas II irrigation project in September or October, according to the Finance and Economy Minister Mercedes Aráoz.

The project has experienced a number of setbacks, the most recent being when no companies submitted bids for the previous \$235 million USD tender in March.

The project is now valued at \$399 million USD, but this amount is expected to rise based on technical studies, Peruvian newspapers quoted Aráoz as saying. She said there may be additional funding from the Arequipa regional government and the central government, which would be compensated by the concessionaire through the sale of water and land.

The project involves construction, operation, and maintenance of the 1 billion cubic meter

Angostura Dam, the Colca Angostura diversion tunnel, hydroelectric systems, and a system to distribute water to irrigate 46,000 hectares of land.

High-level officials floated the option of carrying out the project as a public work, and the project could be carried out as a private-public partnership.

Power company Egasa recently said it might be interested in financing part of the dam and diversion tunnel, for which as much as \$150 million USD will be provided by national and regional governments, out of a required \$190-\$211 million USD, La Revista reported.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, ProInversión, and the government of Arequipa all are working together to create optimal economic conditions for the project, to encourage bidders and to ultimately make the project self-sustaining, according to government news agency Andina.

The project remains controversial, with a request from the regional government of Cusco to end the project recently rejected. Many are worried that the project will create water shortages in other areas, particularly in the Espinar province, according to La Republica.

Anheuser-Busch Reduces Water Use by 8.5 Percent

ST. LOUIS, MO, United States (OOSKAnews)

Brewing company Anheuser-Busch announced it has reduced its water use by 8.5 percent as part of environmental standards outlined in its 2009 Global Citi-

zenship Report.

The report, released on May 12, summarizes AB InBev's environmental performance during the calendar year 2008 and 2009, including its commitment to reduce water, particularly in areas where water scarcity is an issue.

Recognizing that high-quality water was a key ingredient for the company's products, the report describes how water is recycled back into the local water supply saying "...the majority of water not used in our products is then returned to watersheds through bio-treatment systems that meet local water quality standards."

Adding that water conservation was an important issue, especially in operations in water-stressed parts of the globe, the report said climate change was one of the major factors in why the company looked to reduce water consumption.

"Water use is important to our stakeholders, especially in parts of the world where availability is limited. Looking to the future, climate change may also have an impact on water availability, which could affect our business and the communities in which we operate," the report continued.

It outlined the brewer's water efficiency regime which consists of: "...conducting operational reviews to minimize use and identify opportunities to recycle and reuse, as well as capital expenditures when justified by a return in cost savings."

The brewer has already saved nearly 23 billion liters of water since 2004, reducing its water use by nearly 32 percent since that time.

As part of ongoing commitment to save water, AB InBev will follow three-year-goals set following a 2009 global water risk assessment and will be implemented as part of its Better World initiative to reduce water use per hectoliter of production by 3.5 percent.

"Beer is a product of natural ingredients, and stewardship of our land, water and other resources is fundamental to helping ensure the quality of our brands for the long term," said Chief Executive Officer Carlos Brito.

He said the company was serious about its role as a responsible steward of the environment.

"We strive to be as efficient as possible in our use of natural resources, while maintaining our quality, in order to reduce our impact and preserve and protect the planet for future generations," said Brito.



World Bank Lends \$40 Million USD for Water, Sanitation in Panama

WASHINGTON, DC, United States (OOSKAnews)

The World Bank Board of Directors on May 18 announced a \$40 million USD loan to Panama for its Metro Water and Sanitation Improvement Project.

The project plans to increase potable water supply for 100,000 people and sanitation services for 60,000 in lower-income neighborhoods in the metropolitan region east of the Panama Canal.

"Access to drinking water and proper sewage systems is crucial to sustain Panama's continued growth and development, and the Panama Metro Water and Sanitation Improvement Project is an important contributor to the country's Development Plan water strategy. It involves crucial investments in water quality and quantity, but most importantly it seeks to boost the efficiency of the State's water supply and sanitation sector," World Bank Country Director for Central America Laura Frigenti said in a statement.

The project will do this through increasing quality and efficiency of the supply network. It will also finance network extensions and rehabilitation in Alcalde Diaz and Chilibre and parts of the district of San Miguelito.

It will support and improve the National Water and Sewer Agency (IDAAN, in Spanish) by revisiting its approach to lower-income neighborhoods, using best practices, strengthening outreach, reducing leaks in the networks, installing meters and developing a management information system to build capacity and monitor activities.

"This project will strongly contribute to IDAAN's focus of achieving efficient, transparent results while ensuring effective public expenditure and accountability, and improve the overall provision of water supply and sanitation services. It will support the government's vision of turning IDAAN into a modern, sustainable utility with efficient and reliable services for the urban population, particularly in lower-income areas." Project Managers for the World Bank David Michaud and Lilian Pena Pereira said.

The loan is a five-year IBRD Specific Investment Loan (SIL). It has a 20-year maturity, with a five-year grace period.

The Panamanian government will contribute \$15 million USD.

AngloGold Expanding Latin American Operations

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (OOSKAnews)

South African mining company AngloGold Ashanti, third largest gold producer in the world, expects to receive a water permit from Colombia for the La Colosa gold project before the end of the year, La Colosa Project Site Manager Aurelio Ganoza said on May 19.

“We’re expecting the water permits this year, providing there is luck and (the government) is willing,” the International Business Times quoted him as saying.

Waiting for the permit has caused some operational delay, but if it comes through, the company could have exploratory work concluded by the end of 2012. Mine construction would take place between 2014 and 2016, and production could begin in seven years, the company said.

Ganoza said, “The company is very optimistic that negotiations with government authorities regarding the use of water resources will come to a good end.”

Local authorities shut down the project in February 2008 due to environmental concerns. However, the central government later granted a partial permit. The La Colosa site was found in 2006, some 93 miles from Bogota.

Ganoza also announced that the company plans to re-start its Peruvian exploratory operations.

“We are holding preliminary talks with mining companies operating in Peru and seeking to speed up joint ventures. We cannot say who we are meeting with, but we hope this will be clarified soon,” Peru’s Andina news agency quoted him as saying.

The company stopped operations in 2005 after investing some \$20 million USD and five years without finding a major gold deposit.

“We had some small projects; AngloGold Ashanti came to Peru when exploration reached a mature stage, but the company is weighing the possibility of resuming operations in Peru in the short term,” Ganoza said.

After reporting its first quarter earnings, the company acknowledged strong performance from its American operations.

Chief Executive Officer Mark Cutifani said, “Our operations in Brazil and Argentina had another strong quarter and the turnaround progress in the U.S. and Tanzania was also very encouraging. Our focus now is to build on those performances and improve the contribution from our South African division.”

Part of that focus is a \$195 million USD investment in its Carrego de Satio mine in Brazil.

Conagua Awards Wastewater Tunnel Consulting Contract to Pöyry

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (OOSKAnews)

The Mexican National Water Commission, Conagua, has awarded a \$7.7 million USD contract to Finnish consulting firm Pöyry for specialized advisory services during construction of the Emisor Oriente wastewater tunnel, according to Pöyry’s website.

The Emisor Oriente is to be the world’s largest wastewater tunnel, with a length of 62 kilometers, a diameter of 7 meters, and a depth of 200 meters, serving Mexico City. It will have a capacity of 150 cubic meters

per second, doubling the city’s drainage capacity, and is scheduled to be completed in 2012, at a cost of more than \$1.1 billion USD.

About half of the investment will go toward construction of six wastewater treatment plants. The project will significantly reduce the risk of flooding in Mexico City.

Pöyry’s consulting services will cover scheduling, risk management, interface management, performance monitoring of the tunnel boring machines, and installation of Pöyry’s 2DOC underground data management system. The services will be completed by December 2012.

Pöyry is a global consulting and engineering company listed on NASDAQ OMX Helsinki.

The company operates in about 50 countries, with sales of \$852 million USD for tunnel projects worldwide, such as railway and metro tunnels, road tunnels, water and wastewater tunnels, vertical and inclined shafts, and caverns and shelters, according to the Pöyry website.

Jamaica to Increase Potable Water Access in Rural Areas

KINGSTON, Jamaica (OOSKAnews)

The Ministry of Water and Housing on May 18 announced plans to increase potable water access in rural areas from 45 percent to 60 percent before the fiscal year ends.

Water and Housing Minister Horace Chang told the House of Representatives that the Rural Water Supply Limited program was working well, with continued work on 18 projects in 10 communities, including sev-

eral projects that have been completed.

“Marlie Hill, Browns Hall, Macca Tree, Colbeck Heights, Red Ground, Bartons, Duxes, Point Hill, Johns Groin, Colbeck Planters and Waugh Hill Water supply systems in the parish of St. Catherine (have all been completed),” Jamaica Information Service quoted the minister as saying.

Other projects that have been completed include the Cascade water supply in St. Ann, the Peace River and James Hill systems in Clarendon, the Fruitfulvale in St. Thomas, Bottom Coffee Grove water supply system in Manchester, New Roads distribution in Westmoreland and the Askenish/Dias water supply system in Hanover.

“When all are completed, these projects will provide a combined total of 1.6 million gallons of water per day for some 45,962 residents,” Chang said.

Meanwhile, the ministry is also advancing water projects around Kingston. A new pipeline installation project, which falls under the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) Water Supply Project, is being implemented in the Spanish Town Bypass of St. Catherine.

Approximately 18 kilometers of the needed 22 kilometers of pipeline have been laid.

Some 19 rehabilitation projects have been completed, as well as repairs to water mains and storage tanks.

“The rehabilitation works have not only improved efficiency levels of these production facilities, but has provided significant improvement in the water supply to major sections of the Greater Spanish Town Area,” Chang said.

The Jamaican government, the National Water Commission and the

Japan International Cooperation Agency are funding the project.

Boquerón Residents Lack Water Supply

DAVID, Panama (OOSKANews)

Residents of the Boquerón district in Panama’s Chiriquí province lack potable water and are calling for the government to launch a tender for second stage works of the Chorro Blanco potable water plant.

Some 19,000 residents of Boquerón currently lack access to potable water, due to insufficient capacity by national water and sanitation utility Idaan, according to a report by the paper La Prensa.

Schools and health centers in the area are being supplied by tanks, which are often empty.

Idaan is currently supervising construction of the first phase of the plant, which is began in June 2008 and is valued at \$1.8 million USD, for the benefit of 21,505 users.

The project is being carried out by the firm Sermaco, and works include approximately 4 kilometers of pipeline.

Residents have been waiting for a year for second stage works, according to La Prensa. Idaan technical engineer Guillermo Ardila said the government will provide enough money for the second stage of the project, but that beneficiaries must be patient.

LOCAL PRESS REPORTS

MEDIA BRIEFS FROM THE REGION

BELIZE

Water System Upgraded in San Antonio Village

BELMOPAN

San Antonio Village upgraded

its water system by 9.45 kilometer of water mains to pipe fresh water from Oak Burn Creek.

The project was funded by the government of Belize and the Caribbean Development Bank

at a cost of nearly \$500,000 USD.

A new pump house and a chlorinator unit will also be built, according to Social Investment Fund Public Relations Director Mike Hernandez Jr.

The Social Investment Fund is supervising the project.

Some of the water will be diverted to farms in the area before it reaches the treatment plant.

Members of the San Antonio Water Board will be trained on how to operate the new system.

The Prime Minister was the keynote speaker at the official

inauguration of the project. Others included Erwin Contreras, Minister of Economic Development, Commerce, Industry and Consumer Protection, Rene Montero, Minister of Agriculture & Fisheries

and officials of UNDP, S.I.F., the San Antonio Village Council and the San Antonio Water Board.

The two wells that traditionally supplied the village ran

dry 10 years ago, leaving the village without water. Since then, villagers have had to rely on nearby creeks in the Mountain Pine Ridge for water.

Source: The Reporter (Belize)

CANADA

Wheater to Head University of Saskatchewan's Global Institute for Water Security

SASKATOON, SK

British scientist Howard Wheeler was appointed to head the University of Saskatchewan's Global Institute

for Water Security, a research and training institute focused on water resource management.

The institute is intended to cut across academic disciplines, bringing together researchers from water-related sciences, engineering, health and social sciences.

"Water is our most pre-

cious resource, but it's facing unprecedented challenges," Wheeler said.

He said the institute aimed to address global problems using local examples.

Wheater identified three areas of interest for the institute: a "far-reaching" study of environmental changes in the Saskatchewan River basin;

agricultural water use and pollution; and how natural resource projects such as mining and oilsands reclamation affect water systems.

"This has the potential to transform how the world uses and manages water," said University of Saskatchewan President Peter MacKinnon.

Source: The Star Phoenix (Canada)

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Energy Recovery to Provide PX Pressure Exchanger for Grand Cayman Desal Plant

SAN LEANDRO, CA

Energy Recovery Inc. will provide its PX Pressure Exchanger energy recovery devices to replace the Dual Work Exchanger Energy Recovery units currently being used at the Red Gate seawater reverse osmosis desalination plant on

Grand Cayman Island.

The plant was built in 1989 by Consolidated Water Co. Ltd. Energy Recovery's PX devices are expected to help Consolidated Water and the Water Authority-Cayman to deliver more than 4,900 cubic meters of potable water per day.

"The SWRO desalination has been an integral part of Grand Cayman's water supply for years but in order to sustain the process long-term

it is important that the cost of producing potable water be kept to a minimum," according to Energy Recovery Senior Vice President Borja Blanco.

"Downtime due to equipment failure is a dual problem in a desalination facility, as you have to spend time and money to resolve issues, while your revenue stream is interrupted by the lack of production. We are pleased that Consolidated Water has selected Energy Recovery's PX devices as an

upgrade to the existing [Dual Work Exchanger Energy Recovery] units. Retrofits like this continue to represent a growth opportunity for Energy Recovery as desalination facilities all over the world continue to recognize the PX as the most reliable, and easiest to operate, isobaric energy recovery device."

Source: Energy Recovery Inc

DOMINICA

Etinoffe Calls for Legislation to Support Integrated Water Resources Policy

ROSEAU

Development of a national integrated water resources management plan requires

suitable legislation and policies, according to General Manager of Dominica Water and Sewerage Company (DOWASCO).

Etinoffe told stakeholders at a recent fathering that public education and awareness-raising to preserve water resources were key.

“DOWASCO is charged with

the primary responsibility of the management of Dominica resources, to ensure that future generations have safe drinking water... however the issues of water management are many and cannot be the work of DOWASCO only,” he said.

He said there was a role for government, civil society, schools and special interest

groups that use water.

An effective plan also requires input from legal authorities to review existing legislation, enhance or change laws and enact new ones when necessary, he added.

Source: Dominica News Online

JAMAICA

Water Resources Authority Studies Rainwater Harvesting Program

KINGSTON

The Water Resources Authority (WRA) launched a project to assess the potential for rainwater harvesting throughout the island, according to Minister of Water and Housing Dr. Horace Chang.

He told members of Jamaica’s House of Representatives on May 18 that the study would to analyze rainfall data for stations in elevated areas with rainfall above a certain threshold value, in order to determine the feasibility, system and design for effective rainwater harvesting.

The United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) asked the WRA to

expand the project to include two pilot agricultural areas that could use rainwater for irrigation. The project will be completed within six months.

The WRA is also planning to upgrade the national hydrological data network, installing data loggers in wells and at river sites and upgrading six stations under the Caribbean Hydrological Cycle Observation System (Carib-HYCOS) project to provide real-time data.

“The data collected will allow for a more robust analysis of climate variability and change on water resources, and the provision of information for the determination of action to be taken to mitigate the impacts,” Chang said.

“Nowhere else in the Caribbean is there a similar network that allows for the provision of data on a monthly basis, to provide support for the

management of the water supply in such a severe drought,” Chang said.

Source: Jamaica Information Service

National Water Commission Concerned Over Water Levels in Southeast

KINGSTON

The National Water Commission (NWC) is concerned by the levels of Jamaica’s water reserves, particularly in the southeastern part of the country.

“...Frequent showers which normally begin in late-April and continue through much of May and into June, are desperately needed this year

following several months of below normal rainfall across many parishes,” the NWC said.

It noted that “...the significant sustained and islandwide rainfall normally associated with the month of May is yet to be seen.”

At this time of year reservoirs are usually full and watershed areas highly saturated.

The NWC said drought was still affecting operations at about 20 percent of its water supply systems

To combat the effects, it is carrying out:

- *Well drilling and rehabilitation exercises;*
- *Scheduled distribution of the existing supplies;*
- *Sharing and transfer of water from least-affected to worst-affected systems; and,*
- *Trucking water to worst-affected areas.*

"While it is hoped that the normal May rains -- albeit now late -- will soon bring relief, the NWC continues to implement its drought management program within the limit of its resources and appeals for the continued co-operation and understanding of its affected customers," the company said.

Source: Jamaica Observer

Grange Says Jamaica on Target for MDGs

KINGSTON

Jamaican Minister of Sport and Culture Olivia Grange said the country is committed to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for environmental sustainability.

Grange was speaking at an event at the office of the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) in Kingston to observe the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

She said Jamaica had a mixed record on achieving MDG seven, which calls for ensur-

ing environmental sustainability.

However, she said Jamaica was on track to meet the MDG targets related to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Source: The Jamaica Gleaner

PERU

Sedapal Strike Won't Affect Potable Water Services in Lima

LIMA

A workers strike at state water utility Sedapal will not affect potable water services in Lima or the port city of Callao, according to Sedapal Vice

President Víctor López.

"The potable water service and sewage systems are guaranteed thanks to an emergency [team] that will work 24 hours," López said. "Despite the workers going on strike, the company has taken precautions so the [water] service is not restricted."

He added that Sedapal has

carried out inspections of some of the principal valves to ensure they have not been sabotaged ahead of the strike.

He claimed that that striking workers had tried to damage two main valves in Monterrico and the San Juan de Lurigancho district.

"Fortunately they quickly detected this problem and

the systems began operating again," he said.

Sedapal workers are demanding a salary increase of \$52.80 USD, according to RPP radio station. Union leaders rejected Sedapal's offer to increase salaries by \$47.14 USD.

Source: Peruvian Times (Peru)

UNITED STATES

Oasys Water Commercializes FO Membrane

CAMBRIDGE, MA

Oasys Water Inc. will commercialize its high-performance forward osmosis (FO) membrane.

The company called this a

next step toward the introduction of disruptive, lower-cost desalination and water reuse technology.

Use of forward osmosis technology has been limited by the need to find a recoverable solute and a membrane with both high flow rates and high salt rejection. Last year, Oasys Water announced a new solu-

tion for solute recovery -- an ammonia carbonate formulation producing high osmotic pressure that is recoverable using low-grade heat.

The forward osmosis membrane Oasys is commercializing was developed by Yale University, which is disclosing performance specifications for full-scale production of these

membranes.

"We are excited about the performance of this first generation FO membrane using thin film composite polyamide chemistry and we've tested modules produced on existing membrane manufacturing lines without modifications. By releasing performance specifications we are further

encouraging the development of new FO membranes and accelerating the deployment of lower cost desalination,” said Oasys Water’s Vice Presi-

dent of Markets and Strategy Lisa Sorgini.

“Yale continues to lead in the scientific understanding

of forward osmosis and we look forward to incorporating future developments into our products. We believe that open collaboration with academia

is critical to educating the public on FO,” said Oasys Chief Technology Officer Rob McGinnis.

Source: Oasys Water Inc.

