



## Serbian Committee for UNESCO IHP

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Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues and friends,

It was my pleasure having an informal meeting of the National representatives of the IHP UNESCO together with the delegates from permanent Delegation UNESCO, and let me thank you again.

The main reason for the meeting was a proposal of the Strategy document for the IHP VIII Phase "*WATER SECURITY: RESPONSES TO LOCAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES*", and recommended consultation concerning preparation among the IHP UNESCO Regions, and at wider scale.

Concerning consultation for the preparation of the IHP Phase VIII just to remind you on major topics discussed:

1. Integrated water resources management including transboundary waters.
2. Urban water resources including municipal infrastructure management.
3. Real time communication, alert systems and operational plan, concerning water security, including droughts, floods and global changes.
4. Education and research, concerning networking of the IHP UNESCO Centers, UNESCO Chairs and Institutes & Universities.

There is a strong need for cooperation concerning the IHP VIII phases within the countries in the Region, and, as we agreed, including neighboring countries as well. Let me resume that water, moreover large rivers and lakes are most usually transboundary, either rivers or lakes, being international issues.

So, water governance is an issue that is tackled in most of the discussions from different points of view. It is promising to discuss establishing a common ground for planning solutions for management of water resources concerning the both water resources protection and development of the national economies based on improved water management and economy, which could be a major objective for the countries presented at the meeting since theirs economy is increasing but also the problems. Maybe water related conflicts would be increasing, too.

In this respect the basic ground should be the understanding of historical inherited habits (for ex-socialistic countries), and standards as well as major polluted sites, poorly maintained water systems in both rural areas which are still poor-maybe drained of people or rapidly urbanized-and in urban sprawling even more.

On the other hand, the interested states' institutional development and capacity building at the state level, modern education and research developments have to be in compliance with the increasing needs at both national and international domains. Among the most interesting experience could be establishment of the International Sava River Basin Commission among four countries (Republic of Serbia, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina), for which the preparation started soon after unpleasant conflict times at the Balkans. Firstly, there was an establishment of a preparatory commission and J. Despotovic was a member for technical matters, such as Hydrology and Water Resources, Navigation, flood protection and water quantity, and quality in general and this could be an issue for investigation and possible innovative approach at a broader scale.

Moreover, IHP UNESCO also has developed and supported activities of water governance in different countries, and though such experience could also be used.



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Having those in mind, numerous activities should be performed efficiently coordinated by our enlarged group of interested countries, since there is lesser and lesser time to waste, instead to use it for much better benefits out of the implementation of the IHP UNESCO Phases VIII.

Let me remind you on preliminary agreed next meetings:

- Meeting of the IHP Danubian countries under the Romania IHP UNESCO in Bucarest, September 2012 – reported by *Mr Jelev*.
- Meeting of the Asia Pacific countries to be held in Malaysia in October 2012, info by *Mme Yan Huang*, could be good opportunity to combine efforts and to clarify the major issues for the IHP Phase VIII.
- Meeting of the Group II delegates/representative, including neighboring countries, such as China, Turkey and others was proposed to be organized in St. Petersburg in November 2012; offered by Russian Federation Delegation.

Any other ideas/meetings are welcome and could also be promising and challenging.

At the informal meeting were presented:

*Mr Vladimir Jurjevich Georgievski* – Chief of the RF Delegation at the 20 Council Meeting, RF State Hydrometeo Institute, St. Petersburg

*Mme Olga Gorelitz* – NC RF IHP UNESCO, Executive Secretary, Moscow

*Mme Jeanna Balonishnikova* - NC RF IHP UNESCO, Exe. Secretary, St. Petersburg

*Mr Vladimir Sakovich* – Vice Rector, RSHU, St. Petersburg

*Mr Nikita Sikachev* – Permanent Delegation of RF to UNESCO, Advisor

*Mr Ioan Jelev* – Nat. Inst. of Hydrology and Water Mana., IHP UNESCO Nat Com of Romania

*Mr Maciej Zelewsky* – EU Region. Center on Ecohydrology UNESCO, Poland, Lodz.

*Mr Jaroslav Vrba* – Cord. of the CWES project, Czech Republic, Prague.

*Mr Riza Mahmudov* - National Hydrometeo Dept., Min of Ecology and natural Resources, Azerbaijan, Baku

*Mme Yan Huang* – Changjiang Inst. of Survey, Planning, Design & Research / CWRC

*Mme Simla Yasemin Ozkaya* – Permanent Mission of Turkey to the UNESCO, Advisor

*Mme Natalia Sergeevna Shevtsova* – Ministry of Natural Res. and Prot. of the Belarus Republic, GU Republic Hydrometeo Center, Minsk.

*Ms Sarantuyaa Zandaruya* – IHP Secretariat in Paris

*Mr Siegfried Demuth* - IHP Secretariat in Paris

*Mme Biljana Radojevic* – UNESCO Science in Paris.

Invited aslo:

*Mr Pavel Mihlanek* – Member of the Slovak National IHP UNESCO Committee.

Also informed of the meeting:

*Mr Mitja Brilly* – Slovenian Nat Com. for UNESCO IHP, Ljubljana.

*Mr Bardukh Gabrielyan* – Director, Sci Center of Zool and Hydroecology, Yerevan

*Mr Mehmet Ekmekci* - Inter. Research & Appl. Center for Karst Water Res.

*Mr Farda Imamov* – IHP National Coordinator for Azarbaijan, Baku



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*Mr Igor Seversky – Chair of the Kazakhstan IHP UNESCO, Almaty*  
*Mr Johanness Culmann - Chair of the IHP UNESCO Council Bureau*

*Finally, if I may resume, the major issue, which encompasses the vast majority of the listed topics, is the integrated approach of the water resources management, incl. quality and quantity aspects, institutional strengthening, capacity building, information, research and education.*

Let's hope that the months ahead are to be fruitful for preparation of necessary contents for the mutual future cooperation including studies, research and finally, implementation of the IHP UNESCO Phases VIII but not limited to. All of the provided reflexions from any and all of the interested parties shall be taken for further proposals and suggestions.

*Last, but not the least, I kindly ask all of you for any additional information and/or corrections of this Mom, or anything else that you are kindly asked to add/comment.*

All the very best regards,



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