

## Today's Snapshot



*Istanbul, host of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum  
The bridge which links the two forum venues: Feshane and Sötlüce*

### The 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum kicks off!

Some 15 000 participants arrived in Istanbul, Turkey this weekend to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Water Forum. Every three years, this event offers the opportunity for water stakeholders and political decision makers to come together with a view to giving water a higher profile on the international political stage.

The six key themes of this forum were chosen to help focus on all the challenges facing the water sector: climate change (Theme 1), the Millennium Development Goals (Theme 2), water resource management and protection (Theme 3), water governance (Theme 4), financing (Theme 5), and knowledge and capacity building (Theme 6).

With this newsletter we will bring you a daily update from the forum on the key themes traditionally focused on by pS-Eau: access to sanitation and drinking water for all, and solidarity. Thus, through a few carefully selected highlights from each day's events, we hope you will be able to follow what is happening at the forum, particularly those of you who are unable to attend in person.

### The French Water Pavilion unveiled

Inaugurated at 3.30pm on Monday, the French pavilion, located at the heart of the World Water Forum, provides a place for the members of the French Water Partnership (FWP, <http://www.partenariat-francais-eau.fr>) and their partners to meet, make presentations and share ideas and experiences throughout the forum in the form of side events. Interpreting services

in French, Turkish and English are available.

## Reaching agreement among stakeholders, essential in the North and the South

To fulfil its role as a place for meetings and dialogue, the French pavilion launched its programme of side events with a focus on "consultation and agreement among water management stakeholders".

Frameworks for deliberation and reaching agreement among water service stakeholders have been developed in many countries both in the North and South, and at different levels: national, basin or local.

One of the key lessons learned from this side event was the need to establish an on-going dialogue among water management stakeholders, within the framework of recognised and legitimate structures, aiming primarily at ensuring the voice of service users is heard. Where users already benefit from services, the deliberation and agreement process will help them to be involved in improving that service and in better understanding the (ever changing) constraints faced by management and operators. Where services are yet to be established (which is the case in many towns where populations lack access to water), the deliberation and agreement process aims at responding to users' needs by using proven tools (demand analysis and household surveys

for instance). Finally, regardless of the form that the process takes, its vocation is to facilitate the spread of information in particular to users, and to increase transparency in service management.

## The African Water Association highlights the challenges of on-site sanitation

The African Water Association ([www.afwa-hq.org](http://www.afwa-hq.org)) organised a session at the World Water Council stand on the challenges facing access to sanitation, in particular on-site sanitation. The South African Minister of Water and Sanitation ([www.dwaf.gov.za](http://www.dwaf.gov.za)) presented the significant advances made in terms of access to sanitation in South Africa and highlighted the fact that these positive results should not obscure the challenge of latrine emptying and effluent treatment. EAWAG (the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, [www.eawag.ch](http://www.eawag.ch)) presented the urban constraints facing a town such as Dakar, where collective and on-site sanitation solutions need to be developed in parallel. In this context, mechanical pit emptying services play a crucial role, but must overcome several hurdles which weaken businesses' (usually individual entrepreneurs) economic activity. To consolidate the mechanical pit emptying profession, the diversification of activities by operators combined with tax rebate facilities (total or partial) helps to reduce the financial fragility of this rapidly growing sector.