



# The River Basin Bulletin



A DHI Water & Environment News Bulletin

April 2008

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## Welcome

News and views on Integrated River Basin Management [IRBM] and water policy. A free information service from DHI Water Environment Health [www.dhigroup.com](http://www.dhigroup.com).

## News

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DHI Water Policy released a Draft Concept Note, March 2008, on the water-energy-climate change nexus - a connection of growing concern. For example, in the U.S., where 39% of all water withdrawals go to energy production and consumption is set to increase by 80% in the next 30 years, the topic has been much debated in recent years. In Europe, where the issue is only beginning to be recognised, water consumption for energy production is expected to be equivalent to the daily water needs of 90 million people by 2030. The note scopes policy dimensions, including water and energy footprints, and the complications resulting from climatic changes; before outlining a roadmap towards building joint policy responses at COP-15.

> [Draft Concept Note](#)

Eminent Australian water scientist, Peter Cullen, died March 13, 2008. He is remembered for the 'positive, inspirational way' he challenged Australians to manage rivers in the Murray-Darling Basin, a brilliant communicator and one who understood the political process. He once said: "You can't drought-proof Australia. We need to learn to live with landscape, not try to fight against it all the time". [Obituary](#) (courtesy The Australian newspaper)

A new agreement for water management in the Murray-Darling Basin (Australia) was released March 26, 2008. The agreement uses a 'cooperative federalist' approach and includes formation of a new Murray-Darling Basin Authority, a water sharing agreement and financial support for irrigation reform.

> [MoU](#)

Professor John Anthony Allan from King's College London has been named the 2008 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate. Professor Allan pioneered the idea of virtual water - a new way in understanding and communicating water issues - how they are linked to agriculture, climate change, economics and politics.

> [SIWI Media release](#)

The Final Report of the Meeting of the Expert Advisory Group: UNESCO-IHP project on Water and Cultural Diversity has been released. The group will establish an experience database and a Community of Practice.

> [Homepage and Meeting Report](#)

A recent report by researcher Francois Molle (IWMI) outlined the development of basin management and new complexities: Planning and Managing Water Resources at the River-Basin Level: Emergence and Evolution of a Concept. (IWMI, 2006). Molle maintains that current basin management approaches "clearly distinguish themselves from earlier utilitarian and managerial approaches by putting humans at the heart of the ecosystem and citizens at the helm."

> [PDE](#)

## Featured Journal Article

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Hellegers, P et al., 2008. Interactions between water, energy, food and environment: evolving perspectives and policy issues. *Water Policy*, 10, Supplement 1, (2008) 1-10. [Abstract](#). [Full paper](#). (requires subscription).

## Forthcoming Meetings

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- | World Water Week. 17-23 August, 2008. "Progress and Prospects on Water: For a Clean and Healthy World". Stockholm, Sweden. [Website](#)
- | 11th International Riversymposium. 1-4 September, 2008. "A Future of Extremes". Brisbane, Australia. [Website](#)
- | 11th International Specialised Conference on Watershed

- & River Basin Management. 4-5 September 2008. Budapest, Hungary. [Website](#)
- | 5th World Water Forum. 15-22 March, 2009. Istanbul, Turkey. [Website](#)

## Surfers' Paradise

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Events/updates/happenings/resources for the basin manager:

- | UK Government Guidance on River Basin Management Planning [News Release](#)
- | A new INBO project on testing performance indicators of integrated water resources management [Website](#)
- | WWF advisory portal on IRBM [Website](#)
- | DHI's river basin management software: [MIKE BASIN](#)
- | 2007 International Congress on River Basin Management, Turkey [Report](#)
- | UFZ Working Group "River Basin Management" [Europe] [Website](#)
- | DHI [portal](#) on river basin governance
- | European Research Input to River Basin Management Final Harmoni-CA Conference [News report](#)
- | The Drainage Basin [Wiki](#) – why not add a comment!
- | The River Basin Initiative [Portal](#)
- | The [Cycleau Methodology](#) for catchment management [EU North West Europe INTERREG IIIB programme]
- | Watersheds of the World [Portal](#)
- | 2005 UNESCO HELP East African IRBM [Conference](#)

## Comment

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### The Water-Energy-Climate Change Nexus

There is increasing concern that rising energy demands resulting from climate change and economic development will impact negatively on global water resources. At the national and regional level, it is expected there will be both winners and losers in the resulting 'water footprint'.

Initial studies undertaken in the USA and Western Europe by DHI suggest a complicated footprint picture. What is needed first are general studies which show the complex relationships between energy production and climate change impacts, and how these translate into water use, from both groundwater and surface water resources. When these studies are done, there will be the opportunity for water organizations to develop mechanisms to adapt to a changing future.

Initial responses in the USA mentioned in the DHI Scoping Note (above), for example, included the need for decision makers to integrate energy issues into water policy, raise the priority of water conservation and efficiency, undertake energy audits of the water sector, phase out energy and water subsidies, and examine the climate implications of federal water policies. What works in the USA will not work everywhere. There will be no generic approach which suits all countries. Adaptive management responses will be needed, appropriate to the level of economic development of societies where these issues are being faced.

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See also resources from the Global Water Partnership and DHI :

[Press Release](#)

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Readership: The River Basin Bulletin is an occasional newsletter which aims to inform the water sector and comment on initiatives in integrated river basin management and water policy. Our 1800+ readership comes from Africa, Australia, Western and Eastern Europe, North America and East Asia, as well as DHI staff.

Comments and contributions: Comments and news contributions are welcome. Items must be on river basin management or water policy topics, be limited to no more than 50 words and include email and website links. For submitting comments click [here](#).

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