

SHORT PRESS KIT

(Updated to October 2008)

The Association

- Established in Turin (Italy) in 2001.
- The Association expresses the decentralized approach which is currently in progress in the actions of cooperation, as it is reflected in its membership, which includes - with different responsibilities - the National Government (Ministry of Foreign Affairs); the Regional Council of Piedmont and the Province Council and Municipality of Turin; the two main Universities of Piedmont (*Politecnico* and *e* University of Turin) and its main water service agencies (SMAT and ATO3); the *Compagnia di San Paolo*; *Fondazione CRT* ; the Chamber of Commerce of Turin; CSI-Piemonte.

Hydroaid's projects resort to the support of the International Training Center of the International Labor Organization; Ente Autonomo del Flumendosa, IPALMO; International Association of the Non-confessional Volunteers; *Istituto Italo Latino Americano* as well as of several scientific associations.

Hydroaid deals with two aspects which are universally considered as a top priority in development: namely, the issues related to water and to the so-called "capacity-building".

Countries involved in Hydroaid's cooperation projects

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Central African Republic, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Jordan, Honduras, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority, Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, East Timor, Tunisia, Vietnam, Ukraine, Uganda, Western Sahara.

Courses

- **2008, HYDROAID's Institutional Programme, Italy**

From October 13th to December 12th 2008, HYDROAID is organizing in Turin, in the premises of the International Training Center of the International Labor Organization (ITC ILO), the seventh edition of the Post Graduate Specialization program in management of the Water Resources and Services – addresses to engineers and managers coming from emerging or developing countries. This year, 37 attendees were selected (versus the 24 ones of the 1st edition), plus 3 tutors – also coming from developing countries – who attended the previous issues as students. The purpose of the program is training managers who – once back to their countries of origin - are up to give significant contribution to the modernization of the water services, addressing the development strategies, the investments and management methods towards the most appropriate forms and most efficient implementations to improve the supply, distribution and utilization of water.

The different teaching methods range from the organization of *lectures* held by experts to work cycles and study visits to institutions and companies. The ambitious objective is to make the water management systems of the developing countries autonomous and competitive, and to support the process of optimization in the management and reorganization of the local authorities. In other words coming as close as possible to a high efficiency integrated water cycle which enable the recovery of the waste water for the refilling of the water table (in case of countries affected by drought); the exploitation of brackish water for both drinking purposes and in agriculture through the new technologies; the development of “tailor made” crops and irrigation systems; the setting up of a distribution and collection system which enables to minimize the losses; the detection – through planning and environment impact criteria - of the most appropriate activities for a sustainable social and economic impact.

The program – which was modified and extended in 2007 – has been broken down in three separate specialization addresses:

1. Governance of the water systems and services;
 2. Management of the water resources and use of water in agriculture;
 3. Supply systems for drinking purposes and irrigation uses.
- **Master: Hydroaid-Brazil “Integrated Management of Saneamento Ambiental”.** The Master, which was inaugurated in 2005, is held at Brasilia University and involves the participation of 30 students coming from Brazil, from the countries of Latin America and from the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa. The duration is approximately three months. Hydroaid’s program is within the framework of the activities established with the *Ministerio das Cidades*, as it was defined in the cooperation protocol signed by and between the parties in February 2005. Partners and donors of the course are the Italian Cooperation-Ministry of the Foreign Affairs (DGCS), the Brazilian Ministry of Cities and IILA (Italian-Latin American Institute).

Cooperation projects

- **2009, Training Program for Engineers and Managers from Sierra Leone on the Management of Water Resources, Italy and Sierra Leone**

The participants to the courses dedicated to Sierra Leone (first two curricula, for a total of approximately 28 students plus 2 tutors), shall be hosted and study within the premises of the International Training Center of the International Labor Organization (ITC-ILO), an Agency of the United Nations located in Turin. The third course, on the other hand (30 students plus one tutor), shall be run in *E-learning*, and shall be hosted in the Information Technology Dept. the project will install at the Njala University (Sierra Leone). Partners: Ministry of Energy and Power (SL),

Guma Valley Water Company, ITC-ILO. Donor: MAE (Italian Ministry of the Foreign Affairs).

The program is proposing three separate training initiatives which will enable to achieve three specialization addresses, namely:

- 1) “Management and governance of the integrated water service cycle at an urban scale”

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Methods and issues relevant to the management of the integrated water service, with particular reference to the large metropolitan areas. Introduction to the systems and tools for the governance of the water resources within the territory. Quantitative elements and management issues of the integrated water cycle within the urban environment: Supply and distribution of drinking water, potable water treatment, treatment and disposal of the liquid and solid waste. Maintenance and billing issues (leak detection). Economic sustainability in management, tariffs and investments.

2) “*Management of large regulated reservoirs for hydropower and irrigation purposes*” (Dam management) Management of large artificial reservoirs for the production of hydropower and irrigation. The Course develops the training of the participants on the technologies and methodologies in use for the building of dams for hydropower purposes.

Furthermore, it supplies the tools required for the management of dams for hydro electrical and mixed use.

3) “*Hydraulic works and sanitation*”

The course focuses the technique and technology of the main works of hydraulic and sanitation engineering, with particular reference to their viable applications within the context of the territory and of the needs of Sierra Leone (works of defense against flooding; works of hydraulic protection of the territory; monitoring systems of the hydraulic variables; hygienic and health infrastructures; disposal of the liquid and solid water).

- **2005-2008 Brazil Project:**

The objective established by the Brazil-Italy Inter-Institution Cooperation in *Saneamento Ambiental* is contributing to provide a highly qualified technical reference framework to formulate the plans and manage – through an integrated approach – the water cycle and the waste one as a *unicum* within the urban reality.

The start-up of the program has benefited to the direct support of the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Brazil, which – detecting in the *Ministerio das Cidades* the reference *partner*, has contributed to guarantee the objectives of a cooperation pathway which were consistent with the foreign policy lines indicated by the Italian Government. As a result of a development stage aimed at an appropriate technical proposal (second semester of 2004 – beginning of 2005), an Inter-institution Protocol of Technical Cooperation was signed in February 2005 between the Chairman of Hydroaid, Ambassador Giorgio Giacomelli, and Minister Olivio Dutra (*Ministerio das Cidades*).

The technical references which were committed the management of the activities, are Hydroaid and the *Secretaria Nacional de Saneamento Ambiental* of the *Ministério das Cidades*, through their own *Unidade de Gerenciamento do Programa de Modernização do Setor Saneamento – UGP/PMSS*. The Program was developed with funding shared between the *partners*, which have borne the costs of the activity on a 50-50 basis. (As regards the Italian side, the Program

benefited for – the 2005 – 2007 period – of a funding of Euro 500,000 for 2005, 200,000 for 2006 and 500,000 for 2007). The funding was guaranteed by the Italian Government, through IILA – Italian-Latin America Institute. On the Brazilian side, the funds were allocated through PMSS, which resorts to UNDP funding. Again on the Italian side, a special financial commitment was allocated by *ATO3 Torinese* (100.000 Euro/year in 2006 and 2007). On the Brazilian side, the municipalities which were directly involved in the experimenting activities contributed through the dedicated infrastructures and human resources.

- ***Palestinian Water Authority of Gaza: Project for the Reuse of the waste Water for irrigation purposes on Amended Soils in an area characterized by a remarkable lack of water resources (Gaza Strip – Palestine)***

The project includes, amongst the institutions involved, the University of Sassari, the Ben Gurion University, ENAS and HYDROAID. Funded by the Autonomous Regional Council of Sardinia – EU and International Affairs Department by Regional Law no. 19/96, the project intends to meet two complementary needs, namely: the improvement of the management capacity of the water resources by the local technical personnel and the need to adopt – by Palestinian farms – innovative irrigation techniques and systems which reduce the water requirements of the agricultural sector. The project is therefore aimed at detecting techniques which are appropriate to the reuse of civil waste water in agriculture and the training of engineers from the Palestinian Water Authority.

Amongst the most significant experiences in the Mediterranean area, besides Tunisia, which has consistently used the waste water for irrigation purposes since 1970, and Spain, there are Israel and Sardinia.

Hence the need to support the local population through a transfer of know-how and technologies which has seen the same countries, which are currently implementing this program, dealing with the same issues.

- ***2008-2009 Project “Cooperation to development: training is learned”***

The Regional Council of Piedmont entrusted to HYDROAID the project called “*Cooperation to development: training is learned*” within the Regional Program of Food Security and Fight against Poverty in the areas of Sahel and North Africa.

Such initiative was started on indication of the Solidarity Committee of the Regional Council of Piedmont and - thanks to the directives of the program – the commitment was confirmed towards countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Benin, Mauritania, Ivory Coast and Cape Verde, countries with which HYDROAID traditionally entertains programs of cooperation and training through the significant presence of officers and engineers who have been attending the Institutional Courses for several years.

The specific project consists of developing a database on a territory information basis which would systematize all the sector interventions in the area of Sahel, thus enabling the user to

detect the criticalities met by colleagues in the implementation of projects or – on the contrary – appreciate the successful achievements.

The aim of this initiative was making available to all the *cooperation* operators the vast heritage of experience accrued by the interventions of horizontal cooperation which have been developed so far in the region of Sahael. A precious experience which – as such – is worth being shared.

- **2005 Israel – Palestinian Authority:** This project was part of the “*Ali della Colomba*” (Dove Wings) project of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and included a two-week course in Turin, a week of field training in cooperation with the staff of the *Ente Autonomo del Flumendosa* (Cagliari, Sardinia) and a week of research in innovative farming techniques at the *Fondazione Minoprio*. The project has given a concrete thrust to the process of coordinated, sustainable management of the water resources in the pilot basin of Yarqon. Co-financing institutions: ITC-ILO, *Fondazione Cariplo*; Project Management by the Municipality of Como; Coordination of the scientific, pedagogic and relationship aspects by *Landau Network Centro Volta* (LNCV) and Hydroaid.
- **2005, 2006 Cambodia:** The Cambodia 2000 project – Phase II - for training in management of the drinkable resources and building of waterworks in Taing Krasaing is part of European project *Asia Urbs*, whose aim is broadening the relationships between local authorities of Asia and Europe through decentralized cooperation. Hydroaid is providing a pedagogic contribution to the training for the managers of local hydraulic systems. Project Manager: ICS (Institute for Cooperation to Development). Co-financers and partners: EU, Province Councils of Alessandria (Italy), Limburg (Belgium) and Kampong Thon (Cambodia), ICS, AMAG, ATO5, ATO6 and HYDROAID.

Top management structure

- **Chairman of the Board** – Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli, former deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, member of *UNSGAB* (United Nation Secretary-General Advisory Board on Water and Health).
- **General Manager** – Ms. Rossella Monti, former head of the Water Security Division at the *Landau Network Centro Volta* in Como, environmental engineer, second stage of tertiary education in Hydraulic Engineering and postdoctoral research degree in Fluid dynamics.

Hydroaid’s International Attending

- ***IXth Cannes Water Symposium*** (*Cannes, June 25th-29th, Palais des Festival*) Organized by: UNESCO, the City of Cannes, United Nations University, University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis, under the high patronage of Christian Estrosi, *Ministre délégué à l’Aménagement du Territoire (France)*
- ***Terra Madre, an event sponsored by Slow Food*** (*Torino, October 28th 2006*)
- ***4th World Water Forum in Mexico City*** (*Mexico City, March 16th through 22nd 2006*). Organized by the International Water Council.
- ***3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto*** (*Kyoto, Shiga, Osaka, March 16th through 23rd 2003*). Organized by: International Water Council.

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- ***World Summit of Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa, August 26th through September 4th 2002). Organized by the United Nations.***