

**5th Meeting of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation
(UNSGAB)**

March 14-15, 2006

Mexico City, Mexico

Meeting Summary

The fifth session took place at Nikko Hotel Mexico in Mexico City, Mexico on March 14th and 15th, 2006. Ms. Margaret Catley-Carlson was agreed to serve as acting Vice-Chair of the session.

On the first day of the session, Mr. Wang, Minister of Water Resources, People's Republic of China, was introduced to the Board as new member, followed by the opening remarks by Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, Chair of the Board and Mr. Jose Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary General of United Nations.

The discussions had the focus on the adoption of three elements of the Compendium of Actions, "Monitoring," "IWRM," "Water and Disaster," in addition to "Board's Message at the 4th World Water Forum." At the end of the first day, all of four components were adopted by the Board to be included in the Compendium of Actions, the publication to be distributed at the 4th World Water Forum.

On the second day, Mr. Enrique Pena Nieto, Governor of State of Mexico, was invited to make a presentation on the theme of local government, water and sanitation.

Board's Activities at the 4th World Water Forum

March 16th-22nd, 2006

Mexico City, Mexico

The 4th World Water Forum was successfully concluded on March 22nd, 2006 marking a turning point in a course of the Board activities towards implementation of the Compendium of Actions (COA).

(1) Compendium of Actions (COA)

The Compendium of Actions (COA) "Your Action, Our Action" is the Board's action plan for achieving breakthroughs in vital areas of water management, water supply and sanitation. "Your Action" are the actions that key players should take, some of whom the Board names directly. For "Our Action" the Board, as a collective and individually, will work with these players to remove obstacles and bottlenecks in achieving the internationally agreed targets. The Board selected six themes for this Compendium of Actions, namely, Financing, Water Operators Partnerships, Sanitation, Monitoring, Integrated Water Resources Management, and Water and Disaster.

The Compendium of Actions adopted at the 5th session preceding the Forum has become a core piece of the 4th World Water Forum. The Board and COA were positively mentioned within the Ministerial Declaration and the Ministerial Roundtable Reports.

About 3,500 copies were distributed together with the Brochure of the Advisory Board at the Forum during the Opening Plenary and the Roundtable Discussions to ministers, the Ministerial Conference to governmental delegates, in addition to the International Media Center, desks and booths at session rooms and Water Expo.

(2) Chair's Speech

Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto delivered two speeches as Chair of the Board during the Opening Plenary of the Forum on March 16th and the Ministerial Conference on March 21st.

(3) Press Conference

A Press Conference was held on March 17th attended by the Chair and some members of the Board. Press agencies such as New York Times, AP, Reuters, Kyodo, Economist, CNN radio, and Dutch Press Agency, conducted personal interviews with Mr. Boys, Ms. Catley-Carlson, Mr. Gurria, Mr. Miranda and Mr. Payen.

(4) Sessions

On March 19th, the session was held by the Advisory Board on the theme of "Water Operators Partnerships (WOPs)." Around 100 people including local participants from Mexico attended and actively exchanged opinions with the panelists represented by Mr. Boys and Mr. Miranda.

Mr. Giacomelli was invited as a guest speaker representing the Board at the Plenary Session "United Cities and Local Governments."

(5) Promotion and Partnership

The Board members proactively sought contacts with institutions and stakeholders to obtain their support and cooperation with the Board and the COA.

Mr. Boys and Mr. Miranda reached out to representatives of civil society and were received with a positive response. Individual meetings with key actors such as Vice President of Asian Development Banks (ADB) were conducted as the initiative towards implementation of COA.