

Water and Climate at the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

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UNESCO-IHE is a postgraduate institute for water education, focusing on developing countries and countries in transition. We run MSc programmes, deliver short (tailor-made) courses, carry out research (including MSc and PhD) and deliver advisory services. For more information, please visit our website (www.unesco-ihe.org).

On the issue of climate change and increased climate variability, we are mainly interested in adaptation, more in particular on how water managers can cope with the expected impacts of cc and cv. Our aim is to integrate climate issues more and more in our educational programmes. We collaborate intensively with the Co-operate Programme on Water and Climate for which I am the co-ordinator for training and education (www.waterandclimate.org). In addition we also do some research on the sources, e.g. the greenhouse gas emissions from eutrophic waters and wastewater treatment plants.

At this moment the following activities are on-going:

- In September 2006, we organised a one-week summer course 'Climate change in integrated water management' for our MSc students as an elective. This year the course will take 2 weeks and will be open to a limited number of external participants as well. The intention is to increase the course to 3 weeks and to offer the course as a stand-alone short course. A next step will be to adapt the course material to make it suitable as an on-line course.
- This year we organise an 'Advanced Institute on Global Environmental Change and the Vulnerability of Water Resources in the context of the MDGs' (with START). This is a 3 week course for MSc/PhD holders from sub-Saharan Africa on impacts of global change on water resources. It will deal with natural as well as socio-economic aspects. Participants will also be trained in proposal writing and research approaches. Good proposals produced during the course will be awarded with a research fellowship for one year.
- A number of MSc participants have done their 6 months thesis research on climate-related topics. In this respect we also co-operate with the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (www.mnp.nl).
- In co-operation with ICHARM (Japan), we are developing a Flood Vulnerability Index.
- In our SWITCH project, which aims at developing innovative and sustainable urban water management approaches, technologies and financing, climate proofing is a major issue.