

Protecting our urban water from corruption WIN at the Stockholm World Water Week 2011

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The Water Integrity Network will be part of a high level seminar at Stockholm World Water Week 2011 during the morning of Sunday 21st of August 2011. The seminar will be attended by the highly esteemed ministers of Water and Environment from Uganda, Maria Mutagamba, and of Energy and Water from Mali, Habib Ouane.


Uganda has pioneered the promotion of integrity and transparency in the water sector in its work in East Africa and has supported the work of the Water Integrity Network in Uganda. During 2008-09, a close collaboration between the Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment, the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) and the Water Integrity Network led to the completion of a comprehensive two-part water integrity study in Uganda. This led to the development and implementation of a water integrity programme to address specific corruption challenges and risks. The collaborative action plan developed after the studies was formally adopted by the Ugandan Water and Environment Joint Sector Review in October 2009. In Mali, big steps are being taken in the sustained integrity of the national water sector. There has been increased interest in the implementation of Integrity Pacts that were designed by Transparency International and adapted for the water sector with the support of WIN.

Says Teun Bastemeijer (Director Water Integrity Network): " This emerging good practice in two African countries would be an essential step towards improved water and sanitation sector performance in Africa as a whole as the lessons learnt by these pioneering countries would help other countries to engage in improving transparency and integrity"

The Integrity Pact is a tool that supports contracts between bidders and the authority in a procurement process, committing all participants to transparency and integrity throughout. In this particular case, subject to results of ongoing dialogue, the Integrity Pact would be applied to the Kabala project in Bamako. The technical and financial partners involved in the implementation of the Kabala project - Bamako water supply scheme of an amount of 250 M € - include 10 donors as well as the Malian government who is very supportive of the idea of the implementation of an Integrity Pact process. An informal working meeting is planned in Stockholm directly after the seminar which will provide an avenue to get the Malian Government acquainted with the Integrity Pact in the water sector.

Cities are dynamic magnets for growth, migration, innovation, culture, finance, pollution and consumption. By 2050, urban residents will account for 80 per cent of all people on the planet and will outnumber our entire global population today. This will shift the dynamics of where, and how, water will flow for domestic, industrial and agricultural needs. One consequence of this rapid urbanisation is that issues of poor governance linked to water supply and sanitation in the developing world can significantly increase the risk of corruption, in particular when the effects of the gaps between rich and poor become more evident in service delivery. This issue, combined with the complexity of urban water management makes it an ideal ground for corruption to fester on and the poor are particularly prone to fall victim to it. The Water Integrity Network works with partners and members to improve integrity and transparency in the water sector.

Says Ravi Narayanan (Chair of the Water Integrity Network): This seminar is a perfect example of the collaboration between public sector, private sector, water operator partnerships alliances and civil society to make integrity in urban water and sanitation work.



Co-conveners of the seminar: Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance/UN-HABITAT, Transparency International, UNDP Water Governance Facility and Water Integrity Network

For media contacts and interviews with the participants and organisers of the seminar, please contact **Alexandra Malmqvist** – amalmqvist@win-s.org - **+49 (0) 15123690109**