

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

**THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**

AND

THE NETWORK ON WATER RESOURCES

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITWIN COOPERATION PROGRAMME

AGREEMENT

between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Network on "Water Resources" concerning the establishment of a UNITWIN Cooperation Programme

The Network on Water Resources (hereinafter referred to as "the Network"), composed of the Irkutsk State University, the Institute of Geochemistry of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Geography of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the State University of the Republic of Bouriatia, the Science Department of the Republic of Bouriatia as affiliated Member of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation; the Mongolian National University, Mongolia; the Savoy University, France; and the Mediterranean Network of Engineering Schools (RMEI); and co-ordinated by the Irkutsk State University, 1, K. Marx St., Irkutsk, 664033 Russian Federation, represented by its Rector, Professor Alexander I. Smirnov

and

the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as "UNESCO"), 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris, France, represented by its Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura,

Considering that one of the essential factors favouring development in UNESCO's fields of competence is the exchange of experience and knowledge between universities;

Considering the critical importance of fresh-water issues to the international community and the proven competence of UNESCO in this field through the International Hydrology Programme (IHP), UNESCO-IHE, World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the water-related centers under the auspices of UNESCO and the water-related UNESCO Chairs;

Convinced that joint work by university teachers, researchers and administrators from different regions across the world will benefit the entire academic community;

Bearing in mind UNESCO's mission and objectives as set forth in its Constitution, and the role of UNESCO in promoting inter-university cooperation on an international scale;

Taking into account the experience of the international UNITWIN / UNESCO Chairs Programme as a stimulus to the rapid transfer of knowledge through twinning, networking and other linking arrangements;

Have agreed as follows:

I. Purpose

UNESCO and the Network will establish a UNITWIN Cooperation Programme on Water Resources (hereinafter referred to as "the Cooperation Programme") in the framework of the UNITWIN / UNESCO Chairs Programme.

The Cooperation Programme is being established with the principal objective of serving UNESCO's global water agenda by contributing to the International Hydrological Programme. The main aims are to thus improve all aspects of water quality and ensure excellence so that recognized and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, and to reveal regularities, estimate the scale of the transformation of major components in aquatic systems as a result of global change, and assess possible negative consequences.

II. Main objectives

The main objectives of the Cooperation Programme are to:

- promote an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation activities in the fields of hydrology, aquatic systems and ecohydrology;
 - provide advice and expertise in water sciences to all countries, particularly the least developed, in Europe, Asia, and the Arab States.
- Its specific objectives shall be to:
 1. establish long-term cooperation among partner universities for institutional capacity-building in hydrology, aquatic systems and ecohydrology;
 2. facilitate links between the member institutions through the development of interaction and collaboration among partner universities, as well as among related UNITWIN Networks, through joint programmes, visiting professorships and student mobility;
 3. help members of the Cooperation Programme to establish an international cooperative research and training programme in hydrology, aquatic systems, and ecohydrology;
 4. ensure the academic mobility of faculty staff and students with the aim of carrying out exchanges and establishing postgraduate teaching programmes between the participating higher educational institutions;
 5. facilitate the development and use of information and communication technologies; and
 6. enable Cooperation Programme members to update and upgrade their capacities through linkages with other universities in Europe, Asia, the Arab States and other regions of the world.

III. Fields and disciplines concerned

The activities of the Cooperation Programme pertain to the field of hydrology, aquatic systems, and ecohydrology. The main fields of interest are postgraduate teaching and training, as well as research. The disciplines concerned are biology, chemistry, hydrology, and ecology.

IV. Phasing of the establishment of the Cooperation Programme

IV.1 The official launch date of the Cooperation Programme will be December 2009.

IV.2 The development of the Cooperation Programme will comprise two phases:

Phase one: twinning of the Network's activities and those of UNESCO's programmes in the natural sciences, social and human sciences and education.

Phase two: identification, in close collaboration with the members of the Network and with UNESCO, of ways to extend the Cooperation Programme to include other participants and/or institutions. All admission of new participants and/or institutions into the Cooperation Programme must be approved in writing by each of the parties concerned.

V. Contribution of each party

V.1. Each party shall appoint its own Coordinator for the Cooperation Programme and duly notify the other.

V.2. Whenever possible, UNESCO shall provide a "seed-money" contribution. Any such financial contribution shall be the subject of a separate written agreement. UNESCO will also collaborate with the Network in raising extrabudgetary funds in order to contribute to the smooth functioning of the Cooperation Programme.

V.3. The Network shall submit an annual report to UNESCO presenting and evaluating the activities carried out by the Network. If approved, UNESCO will distribute the report to the world academic community. UNESCO shall ensure the international dissemination of information on the experience and potential benefits of the activities of the Network at the regional and international levels. The Network shall provide a detailed financial report indicating support obtained for the Network from different sources.

V.4. UNESCO shall take the necessary steps to facilitate the participation of the Network in its programmes and activities with a view to promoting international academic co-operation in the field of hydrology. Whenever possible, UNESCO shall also promote the exchange of information and documentation as well as of professors, researchers, and students associated with the Network, within the framework of the UNITWIN / UNESCO Chairs Programme.

VI. Other provisions

VI.1 Subject to the terms of this Agreement, the Network shall assume all expenses linked to the implementation of the Cooperation Programme's activities.

- VI.2 Neither the Network nor any member of its staff employed for the implementation of the Cooperation Programme's activities shall be considered an agent, representative or member of UNESCO's staff, nor shall they enjoy any benefit, immunity, remuneration or reimbursement if not clearly foreseen in this Agreement; moreover, they shall not be authorized to present themselves as being part of UNESCO, nor make statements on UNESCO's behalf, nor commit UNESCO to any expense of any nature or to any other obligation.
- VI.3 The Network shall be entirely responsible for taking any measures it deems necessary to insure itself against loss, injury or damage incurred during the implementation of these activities.
- VI.4. The present Agreement shall enter into force upon its signature and will stay in force for a period of 5 (five) years on the date of all signatures having been appended. It may be terminated by either party subject to sixty (60) days' written notice to the other party.
- VI.5 Any renewal of the present Agreement shall be effected by an exchange of letters between the parties.
- VI.6 In the event of a disagreement, the parties shall make an effort in good faith to settle it amicably. In the event that a settlement cannot be reached, any dispute arising out of, or relating to, this Agreement shall be settled by a sole arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement or, failing this, by the President of the International Court of Justice at the request of either party.

In witness whereof the undersigned, duly authorized to that effect, have signed 2 (two) copies of the present Agreement in the English language.

For the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

For the Network on Water
Resources



Koïchiro Matsuura
Director-General

Date:

14 AUG 2009



Alexander I. Smirnov
Rector
Irkutsk State University

Date:

25. 12. 2009.