

---

**Transboundary Water Cooperation Workshop Series**

**Sharing Benefits from  
Transboundary Water Management  
The Nile, SADC/Zambezi Basins and the Mekong**

**First workshop announcement**

**Danish Water Forum  
Technical Advisory Services, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mekong River Commission**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Event  
Vientiane, 20-22 January 2010**

**Venue: Mekong River Commission, Vientiane, Laos**

---

**FIRST WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT**

***Background***

Transboundary water cooperation is important for improving water management in various transboundary basins in the SADC area, in the Nile Basin and in the Mekong.

**The first workshop** arranged by Danish Water Forum and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Technical Advisory Services was held in March 2007 and highlighted stakeholder participation in transboundary water planning, management, and decision making as well as national commitment to transboundary water cooperation. A Workshop Theme Paper with recommendations for future activities was developed at the workshop. Relevant documents are available on [www.danishwaterforum.dk](http://www.danishwaterforum.dk)

**The second workshop** on transboundary management focussed on climate change and developed recommendations to take forward to other international events during the year. Among key topics discussed at the workshop was the knowledge base and the importance of downscaling of global climate models, including socio-economic impacts, conflicts between national and transboundary climate change adaptation activities, and the necessity to take advantage of existing experiences with IWRM also for climate change activities in a transboundary setting. Finally it was agreed that there is a need to move towards implementation and to translate knowledge and research into concrete actions.

**The third workshop:** During World Water Week in Stockholm, August 2009, Transboundary Water Cooperation in the Nile, the SADC/Zambezi Basin and the Mekong was discussed at a seminar convened jointly by Danish Water Forum, DANIDA, Sida, Mekong River Commission and DHI.

Among issues discussed was the topic of sharing benefits from transboundary water management, which participants found to be a very relevant topic for the three basins: to look at benefits for communities and livelihoods from sharing waters and taking this perspective into the regional cooperation. Energy implications should be included as one of the benefits from the water resource. The topic of benefit sharing may link to cost sharing and to implications for other sectors.

Following the seminar in Stockholm it was decided to have « Sharing Benefits from Transboundary Water Management » as the topic for the 3rd workshop.

Mekong River Commission has volunteered to host the workshop at the premises of the Mekong River Commission in Vientiane, Laos.

The workshop will be held on January 20-22, all days included, and will also contain a field trip probably looking at hydropower implications and reservoir fishery options.

First draft of the program for the workshop will be distributed within short time along with formal invitations, but due to visa considerations for participants coming from the Nile Basin and the SADC region it is relevant for the basin organisations now to start identifying participants for the workshop.