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Introduction

This is the second newsletter during the summer of 2010. A summer characterised by hot and dry weather on one hand, very heavy rainfall in several parts of the world on the other hand. In July it was flooding in several parts of East- Europe, such as in Romania during the ECRR seminar in Bucharest. Later on in the other part of the world, Pakistan was stricken by extraordinary heavy rainfall.

The area of natural buffers in the landscape has been decreased during the last centuries. Human activities moved gradually to the flood planes of rivers so extreme damage of floods has now occurred. Thousands of lives were lost.

All these phenomena do realise us that respect for nature should be a main issue in water management. It strengthens the approach we as ECRR consider so important. We feel supported by many national and European guidelines and other incentives, as you will find in this newsletter.

Also the ECRR website has been renewed and restructured. It had been shaped as to the new house style of ECRR. We hope you will enjoy this make- over as much as we do! Click here for more: www.ecrr.org

ECRR Seminar

'National River Restoration Centers/ Networks' Bucharest, Romania, 7th & 8th of July 2010

This years' ECRR seminar on 'National River Restoration Centers/Networks' was hosted by 'Apele Romane' (Romanian Waters) in Bucharest. Apele Romane has been so kind to cooperate with the Secretariat and to jointly organise the seminar. Apele Romane has taken care of the site visit and contributed to the seminar by giving fruitful presentations. We are grateful to Apele Romane for their good cooperation and their hospitality.

The main target of this seminar was to exchange information on setting up a National River Restoration Centre/Network and to stimulate the establishment and development of these centres/networks. Special attention was being paid to the harmonisation of river restoration approaches and implementation and the data collection about the best practices of river restoration in international river basins. For that reason, representatives of water management organisations, private

or public, from countries that did not have a river restoration centre/network yet were especially welcomed.

After some introductions of existing National Centers and presentations about water management in Romania enthusiastic discussions were held. A lot of questions popped up about the set up of national centres and the organisational, financial structure of these; these achieved the main goal of the seminar.

It was clear that the identification of questions and needs concerning the establishment of a national centre on river restoration was important. Interesting were the questions and views on the function and the role of an NC and the ECRR as a whole.

What seemed to be a main issue for all participants were the organisational, management and the financial construction and procedures of (during the set up of) an NC.

The participants also wondered how an NC could get financial support but still remain independent.

After all the frequently asked questions were listed and partly answered.

Seminar Site visit 8th of July

On the 8th of July the participants of the ECRR visited 3 sites near Bucharest, in the Ilfov County.

Successively we put in at:

- The Buftea Dam in the Colentina River,
- The Biliuresti Dam, part of the Biliuresti-Ghimpati water derivation which purpose is to supplement the water flow along the Snagov and Colentina Rivers
- The Snagov River



The first two locations are situated in the North West of Bucharest. The third one (Snagov) is situated in the North of Bucharest.

All these sites are an illustration of present works on river rehabilitation and thus not real ecological river restoration in this part of Romania.

Bridging between Ecology and Hydraulics and Exploring Society's New Need Living with Nature

These were the themes of the "8th International Symposium on ECOHYDRAULICS (ISE 2010)", held 12 - 16 September, Seoul, Korea.

The symposium was hosted by the Korea Water Resources Association (KWRA) and promoted by the Ecohydraulics committee of the international Association of Hydro-Environment Engineering (IAHR; <http://www.iahr.net>). The Eco-hydraulics group of the IAHR is focussed on the ecological aspects in hydrology and also morphology.

The symposium was a perfect venue for more than 300 practitioners, engineers, researchers, scientists, managers and decision makers from all over the world to exchange the most advanced developments in the ecohydraulics field. Many of the participants are involved in restoration issues, often related to environmental flows and impacts of hydro-power dams on ecology or rivers : fish ecology, vegetation and macro-vertebrate habitat research are the main issues.

River Restoration was one of the main themes of the symposium and ECRR's Chairman, Bart Fokkens. He was invited to present a key lecture in this field. There was great interest in his lecture: River Restoration Practices and Effective Knowledge Transfer across Europe. In one of the 23 technical sessions he gave a presentation about "10 years Experience of the European Centre for River Restoration".



Imjin river natural river bank



River Restoration Round Table participants with in the middle Dr. Nabuyuki Tamai (Chairman ARRN) and Bart Fokkens (Chairman ECRR).

The presentations and discussions held in this session proved that there is a globally growing awareness about and interest in ecological river restoration. It becomes more and more clear that knowledge about hydro-morphology and geomorphology is a key factor for a successful implementation of river restoration projects.

During the symposium the Asian River Restoration Network (ARRN) organized a round table how to develop technology and guidelines for river restoration through networks. The Chairman of the ARRN Dr. Nobuyuki Tamai from Japan, also IAHR president, chaired the round table. Bart Fokkens, ECRR chairman, gave a presentation about River Restoration in Europe and the European centre for River Restoration in ARRN's 7th International Forum on Waterfront and Watershed Restoration preceding the round table. Participants to the round table were mainly coming from Japan, China and Korea, although there were also a few participants from other continents. The overall conclusion was that the River Restoration Networks can and need to fulfil an essential role in enhancing ecological river restoration all over the world. It was stressed that this should be brought on the table during the World Water Forum 6 in 2012 in Marseille, France. River Restoration Networks from all continents should then launch a global river restoration initiative.

One of the technical tours was to the Wetland on Chopyoung Island. This island is formed by the main stream of the Imjin River, a tributary to the Han River, that

runs with a width between 100 – 400 m and a side channel around it. This natural floodplain is full of poplars and willows and is a resting and nesting place for many water birds such as white-naped cranes, white-tailed sea eagles, eagles, upland buzzards and northern harrier. The island is nominated as an UNESCO World Heritage Site for nature.



Overview of the Chopyoung Island / Imjin River Floodplain

Another tour was organised to a nature conservation area in the demilitarised zone between North and South Korea.



One of the technical tours.

More information can be found: <http://www.ise-2010.org/>

Europe- INBO 2010

“International Conference on the Implementation of the European Water Framework Directive” Megève (France) 22, 23 and 24 September 2010

The work of the 8th International “EUROPE-INBO 2010 Conference” in Megève was organized around six successive round tables that allowed dealing with the following problems and issues:

- Progress made in the preparation of the WFD Management Plans: their contents, follow up methods (indicators, management charts...),
- Programs of Measures 2010 - 2015, implementation, stakeholders' mobilization, local contracts, financing of actions,
- Combined implementation of the WFD and « groundwater », « floods » and « marine Strategy » Directives,
- Strategies for prevention of drought risks in Europe: national strategies, monitoring, warning systems,
- Measures to be planned for adapting Water Bodies to the effects of climate change,
- Resource management, development of upper basins, upstream–downstream common cause, optimization of the water demands, agricultural policy,

hydropower, navigation on waterways, reservoirs, transfers, etc.

- Cooperation with the neighboring Countries, non-members of the European Union, for the application of the WFD principles and methods.

This 8th conference in Megève was also the opportunity for the participants to formulate proposals on the organization and facilitation of the regional European preparation process of the next 6th World Water Forum to be held in Marseilles from 12 to 17 March 2012.

The Declaration of Megève: Conclusion

Integrated and sound water resources management is more than ever an unquestionable priority, if we do not want this essential resource to become the limiting factor for sustainable development in many countries in Europe. Organizing this management on a basin scale seems an effective solution as especially proven by the action taken at the European level with the WFD implementation.

Climate change is a reality that has become unquestionable and the question today is not to discuss it, but to better understand its effects in each large basin, in the various regions of Europe and in the world, and to mobilize themselves as

fast as possible to launch the programs of measures that will allow adapting before it is too late.

Aware of the importance of the European and global stakes and of the urgency to act, the EUROPE-INBO group intends to continue its action, in particular in the European process of the next World Water Forum; especially it wishes to take part in topics such as implementation of the WFD and daughter directives and UNECE Convention, as the management of trans-boundary watercourses and adaptation to climate change have become central issues in Europe; it especially wishes to be actively involved in the preparation of priority objectives and solutions within the guidelines set by the Forum International Committee (FIC).

Thus this “EUROPE-INBO 2010” conference was a first step to mobilize the whole network and to prepare the active participation of all our member organizations in the 6th World Water Forum, which will be held in Marseilles - France from 12 to 17 March 2012 and, of course, to participate in a dynamic way in its European regional process.

The final version of the Megève declaration will soon be available at www.inbo-news.org.

Call for articles

The newsletter of the ECRR should also be a way to share with one another what interesting work is being done or information about seminars or literature can be given when talking about ecological river management.

One way of doing this is by writing an article of any project, event or literature you may be acquainted with. Send this article (**maximum of 500 words**) to the secretariat of the ECRR at info@ecrr.org.

We will take a close look to the content and if it is coherent with the philosophy of ECRR (ecological river restoration and sharing

knowledge) your article will be published with pleasure in the next edition (s) of the ECRR Newsletter.

The secretariat of the ECRR hopes to receive any article on ecological river restoration from any of its members.

Events

International Society for River Science organises every two year an international congress on river and stream restoration. The next one will be from the 8th until 12th of August in Berlin, and it will be organised by IGB. This years' theme will be: *'Rivers as Linked Systems'*. The International Society for River Science (ISRS) is a global society without

political, national, or other social or cultural affiliations. The society exists to foster and develop scholarship in all disciplines contributing to knowledge and wise stewardship of rivers and streams as vital natural and managed ecosystems. Membership is open to all persons and groups with interests in river science and a willingness to become both an active participant in ISRS and a supporter of its basic goals. The ISRS strives to maintain an international reputation as a highly reliable and independent source of information and advice on river science and related environmental issues and will not participate as an advocate on environmental issues. See for more information: www.riversociety.org/berlin.html