

Summary of conference "Innovations in coping with water and climate related risks", Amsterdam 25-27 September

Over 100 participants benefited from 35 presentations. Key points of relevance for SIWI and Swedish Water House:

- A number of countries are currently experiencing climate induced water vulnerability.

Examples from Perth (Australia), Seattle (USA), Netherlands, and California (USA) were

presented as cases in point. Some of these changes are non-linear (e.g. one degree of change in mean temperature -> 50% decrease in availability of freshwater resources annually).

- Although a number of uncertainties remain considering the impacts on climate variability and change on water resources and ecosystems, scenarios from a number of institutes show increased water vulnerability (floods, droughts, changes in quality and quantity) in almost all regions of the world in the next 10-20 years.

- Estimations by insurance companies of costs involved in rebuilding after extreme weather events indicate that there is much to be gained in investing in mitigation and risk reducing initiatives.

- The international water policy community should target climate induced risks to water resources in a much more systematic way than done until today.

- UNESCO is very keen on maintaining links with Swedish water competence for future policy relevant projects. Swedish strength here is on issues related to ecosystems-water, water and livelihood vulnerability, resilience issues and IWRM (global-Africa).

- Sweden has the potential to have a very strong international position on issues related to water and climate change.

The summary and the presentations are pasted on website:

www.waterandclimate.org