

Richard Soppe

From: Soppe, Richard
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2004 12:11 PM
Cc: Soppe, Richard
Subject: Newsletter #2 NPT/YEM/036 - Strengthening WEC

The logo for Sana'a University, featuring the name in blue and white text over a background image of a university building.The logo for Sana'a University, featuring the name in blue and white text over a background image of a university building.

Water and Environment Center

Newsletter #2
December 15, 2004

Newsletter for Nuffic-NPT project "Strengthening WEC" project NPT/YEM/036 2004-2008

In this issue

1. Project Deliverables
 2. Mission Dr. Frans Huibers (November 2004)
 3. Mission Dr. Frank van Steenberg (December 2004)
 4. Mission Dr. Richard Soppe (November/December 2004)
 5. Newsitems
 6. Planned Activities
 7. Planned Missions
 8. Newsletter #3
-

1. Project Deliverables

The Nuffic NPT/YEM/036 project has six deliverables:

- 1- Development of Mission and Vision of WEC
- 2- Development of Professional Diploma Course
- 3- Development of MSc curriculum
- 4- Development of Consultancy Services
- 5- Development of Library
- 6- Development of Laboratory

On each of these deliveries, activities have been planned for the coming months.

Activity 1 has been discussed during the mission of Dr. Frank van Steenberg (see item #3). For activity 2 and 3, application forms have been sent out to the WEC Academic Staff as a part of the application process. The selection of lecturers is currently underway. Lecturers in Wageningen, Delft and Cairo university are planning the training and discussion on the specific topics, while Meta Meta is planning the training on methods of lecturing and development of teaching material. A meeting with the topic experts will be held in January in The Netherlands to discuss the coherence of the course items. Also for the development of consultancy services we have received application forms from Yemeni staff. Ir. Jack van Hoorn is planning the training sessions in consultancy. Ger Naber will visit Sana'a early 2005 to make an inventory and develop a plan for the library in cooperation with TU-Delft. The idea is to make the library as much available through electronic formats as possible. The laboratory needs assessment is currently underway in cooperation with Richard Soppe.

2. Mission Dr. Frans Huibers (November 2004) to WEC

At the end of November, Dr. Frans Huibers visited the WEC in his function of Project Director. During his mission, he introduced the Dutch manager in Yemen, Dr. Richard Soppe, to WEC staff and other related offices. He visited among others the Rector and two vice-rectors of Sana'a University, the deans or vice-deans of the faculties Science, Agriculture and Engineering, the Dutch representative of Nuffic in Yemen, the vice-minister of Higher Education and the ITC-project representative in Yemen. Dr. Huibers also discussed the final parts of the inception report with WEC and Euroconsult. A mission report (2004-03) is available.

3. Mission Dr. Frank van Steenberg (December 2004) to WEC

Dr. Frank van Steenberg visited Sana'a to discuss the mission/vision, business plan, and input of consultancy training with WEC. A final plan was developed and has been included in the inception report. A mission report (2004-05) is available.

4. Mission Dr. Richard Soppe (November-December 2004) to WEC

Dr. Richard Soppe started the first installment of the long-term representation of the consortium in Yemen. During his stay, he discussed the action plans on the MSc and Diploma curriculum development, laboratory development, library development. Literature was collected for the library as well as background literature to be used in course material. A first case study was selected (Wadi Tubani) to be used in the IWRM curriculum as examples in all courses to highlight the different angles that a problem can be approached from. WEC promotional material was developed (single page brochure available upon request in English and Arabic) and sent out to Yemeni organizations as well as regional partner institutes. A small workshop was planned to be organized in February 2005 to define the type of graduates that is needed in the water world in Yemen and the region. A mission report (2004-04) will be available after the mission is completed.

5. News Items

Al-Jazeera TV interviews Dr. Babaqi and WEC staff

The Arabic newschannel Al-Jazeera interviewed Dr. Babaqi and other WEC staff on a study of well inventory for the Sana'a Basin. Al-Jazeera was doing a special on water scarcity in the Arabic region. During the interview, reference was made to the Nuffic-WEC-project. The interview was broadcast on Thursday December 2.

Strong institutional support for Nuffic-WEC project

During visits to the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the Rector of Sana'a university, the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Ministry of Higher Education it became clear that there is strong institutional support within Yemen for the Nuffic-WEC project.

Nuffic NPT and NFP Programs mentioned in Yemen Times

The Yemen Times (English Language newspaper in Yemen) reported on the current Nuffic projects currently underway in Yemen. The ambassador of The Netherlands, as well as the vice minister of Higher Education, Dr. Al-Mottahar were interviewed. Dr. Al-Mottahar visited The Netherlands in July 2004 and spent one day in Wageningen during that visit. The articles can be found on-line at <http://yementimes.com/article.shtml?i=797&p=community&a=1>

Visitor from Saudi Arabia

Dr. Walid Abderrahman, Professor in water resources management and Manager of the water section research institute at the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals visited the WEC on the 15th of December. Dr. Walid Abderrahman presented a seminar on reaching the millenium goals in water sanitation, as well as on conserving water use through better water planning. In this last presentation a decision support model was presented, tailor made to arid and semi-arid areas. Dr. Mohammed Al-Eryani, the minister of Water and Environment, was one of the guests attending the presentations.

6. Planned activities

For 2005 and 2007 are two large workshops in the planning. Workshop #1 will be held in September 2005, and will coincide with the start of the Diploma and MSc courses. This workshop will focus on the institutional aspects of the course development, and within Sana'a University. It will have a local character.

Workshop #2 will be held in September 2007, and will be a workshop focused on content. The content of this workshop will be Integrated Water Resources Management, and will have a regional character. Papers and posters will be invited from several sources.

Additional local brainstorming workshops will be held in Sana'a to receive input of ideas on the WEC from ministries, university faculties, agencies etc.

The Advisory Committee will have its next meeting in March 2005 in The Netherlands, coinciding with a visit of the Rector of Sana'a University to The Netherlands. The second meeting in 2005 will coincide with the auguration workshop in September 2005 in Yemen.

The shared Diploma and MSc courses will start in September 2005. Classes will be taught by WEC academic staff with support from Lecturers from Wageningen, Delft and Cairo University. A brainstorming meeting will be held in January in The Netherlands for the 'topic experts' who will be supporting the MSc curriculum.

7. Planned missions

For each mission, Terms of Reference are needed before the start of the mission, and a mission report is required after the end of the mission.

Mission 2005-01

February/March, 2005

Dr. Richard Soppe, Long term, second long term visit

Mission 2005-01

February, 2005

Ir. Wouter Schaap and Chrisje van Schoot; Inventory of current lecturing methods and materials

Mission 2005-02

February 7 - 12, 2005

Ir. Ger Naber; Fact finding mission on library development

8. Newsletter Items

This newsletter is meant to inform the consortium partners and other interested parties on the developments of project NPT/YEM/036. When you have news to be distributed via this newsletter, please contact Richard.Soppe@wur.nl (0317-474797)

If you do not wish to receive further newsletters on this project, please send an email to Richard.Soppe@wur.nl and I will remove you from the list