UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme

Established by UNESCO in 1992, the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme is an intersectoral platform that covers all areas of the organization: Education, Culture, Social and Human Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Communication and Information. The programme plays a key role by offering ideas, innovation, knowledge, information and support for achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Programme, we invited UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Cooperation Programmes to reflect on their contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and to illustrate it with brief information on their most significant recent activities and future projects.

We wish to thank the UNESCO Chair holders and the Network Coordinators who responded to our invitation. Hopefully, the following information, organized by SDG, will trigger dialogue and possibly collaborations across the world.

The authors are responsible for the choice and presentation of views contained in these documents and for opinions expressed therein, which are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.

For more information on SDGs, please visit https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org
Cátedra UNESCO: Agua y Educación para el Desarrollo Sostenible

Universidad Nacional del Litoral
Facultad de Ingeniería y Ciencias Hídricas

Actuales áreas de trabajo
• Formación de recursos humanos a nivel de posgrado
• Investigación y Desarrollo
• Educación no formal
• Inserción en la comunidad

Futuras actividades para abordar los ODSs
• Certamen de fotos “Naturaleza del Agua”
• Libro de fotografías elaborado en base al certamen de fotos y presentado en el 8° Foro Mundial del Agua
• Curso a distancia para tomadores de decisión: La Seguridad Hídrica y los ODS
• Publicación: *El Agua como Recurso*, Cap. 2 del Manual sobre Educación en Derechos y Uso Sostenible del Agua
• Coordinación del Diseño Editorial del número especial de la revista Aqua LAC, dedicado a las Cátedras UNESCO PHI. Marzo de 2018

Titular de la Cátedra: Mario Isaac Schreider
Web: www.fich.unl.edu.ar/catedraunesco
Contacto: catedraunescofichunl@gmail.com
UNESCO Chair on Integrated River Research Management

Current areas of activity

• World’s Large Rivers Initiative (WLRI)
• Organisation of World’s Large Rivers Conferences (every 3 yrs.)
• WLRI: Status report of 3 rivers (feasibility study)
• Special issues in SCI-journals

Future activities to address the SDGs

• 3rd Working Group Meeting of the World’s Large Rivers Initiative
• Establishment of a UNESCO Category II Centre
• Global status report of approx. 300 rivers side events in Paris (UNESCO IHP IGC) and New York (High-level Political Forum)

Chair holder: Prof. Dr. Helmut Habersack
http://unesco-chair.boku.ac.at/
Contact: helmut.habersack@boku.ac.at
UNESCO Chair on Natural Resources Management, Land Planning and Environmental Protection

Chair holder: Prof. Oscar Parra B.
www.eula.cl
Contact: oparra@udec.cl; astehr@udec.cl

Current areas of activity
• Water Quality Monitoring Program of the Biobío River
• Promotion of integrated watershed management
• Summer School courses program
• Conservation of wetland in urban areas

Future activities to address the SDGs
• Water Quality Monitoring Program of the Biobío River
• Water safety plans
• Sustainable development of hydropower in Chile
• Implementation of tools for regional land planning
• Climate change vulnerability assessment and education
• Research focusing on improving resilience to natural disasters on rural and urban territories
• Conservation of wetland in urban areas
UNESCO Chair on Water Resources Sustainability

University of San Carlos of Guatemala

Current areas of activity

• Training to prevent and mitigate extreme events
• Coordination of national initiatives, such as the water law and wastewater and solid waste management regulations (to mitigate the contamination of water bodies)
• Workshops addressed to experts and authorities on priority issues and water resources management
• Investigation of issues related to water, sanitation, and the countries water resources
• The legal and institutional framework is promoted through the concept of the Integrated Management of Water Resources

Future activities to address the SDGs

• Impact on the General Water Law
• Institutional training in integrated management of water resources, wastewater and solid waste. As well as in the modeling of rivers for hydraulic infrastructure
• Protection of lakes (Atitlán, Amatitlán, Peten Itza and Izabal) against contamination by wastewater and solid waste
• Governance of groundwater

Chair holder: MA. MSc. Ing. Joram Gil
http://eris.ingenieria.usac.edu.gt/
Contact: joramgil@gmail.com / elfegoorozco@hotmail.com
UNESCO Chair on Water in the Knowledge Society

Current areas of activity
- First Seminar on Water Security
- Workshops: Encaucemos el agua (Water Education), Water Footprint, and The Human Right to Water
- Book: Water Conflicts and Alternatives in the Indigenous Territories of Mexico. Author: José Luis Martínez

Future activities addressing the SDOs
- Second Seminar on Water Security
- Second National Seminar on Mediation, Negotiation, and Agreement Building on Water Conflicts
- Workshops for children and youths
- Photography contest
- Scientific and Technological Dissemination and periodic newsletters through the Chair’s web site (https://www.gob.mx/imta)

Chair holder: Dr. Felipe I. Arreguín Cortés
Contact: felipe_arreguin@tlaloc.imta.mx
UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation in Arid Environments

Chair holder: Prof Nnenesi Kgabi
www.unesco-chair.nust.na
Contact: unesco-chair@nust.na

Current areas of activity

• Participation in the IAHS Scientific Assembly 2017
• Chair Symposium during the International Society for Ecological Modelling Conference – ISEM2017
• Special Session during the 18th WaterNet Symposium

Future activities to address the SDGs

• Foster linkages between scientific research and the management of basins in the semi-arid and arid environments
• Undertake research on water quality and climate variations in different basins
• Promote scientific cooperation related to sustainable water consumption and production, and water scarcity
• Develop water-climate models for the arid environment, and build capacities to support their implementation
The UNESCO Chair in Ecologically Safe Development of a Large Region – the Volga Region

Nizhny Novgorod State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering

Current areas of activity
• Organisation of the annual International scientific and industrial forum “Great Rivers” (ICEF) (Nizhny Novgorod, Russia)
• Water consumption technologies for industrial and municipal users aimed at ecological safety and resource-saving
• Study of natural water body conditions and their ecosystems
• Preservation of cultural and natural heritage

Future activities to address the SDGs
• Ecological safety and resource-saving mechanisms through water consumption technologies for industrial and municipal users
• Participation in establishing Geoparks in the Volga basin
• Organisation of intercultural dialogue and partnerships for sustainable development

Chair holder: Prof. Andrey Aleksandrovich Lapshin
http://www.unesco.nngasu.ru
Contact: unesco@nngasu.ru
UNESCO Chair on Water Resources

Irkutsk State University
Russian Federation

Current areas of activity

- The monitoring of Lake Baikal ecosystem and other large water bodies: the study of the impact of local biotic and anthropogenous factors on production-destruction processes balance; the monitoring of hydrobionts biodiversity

- Characteristics and analysis of water resources management: the study of forming, spreading and composition of mineral water sources; estimating fish capacity and working out recommendations for sustainable use of fish resources; the analysis of high-mineralised lakes in Baikal region

Future activities to address the SDGs

- Developing international interdisciplinary research and educational platform to study Lake Baikal and unique natural objects of Baikal region

Chair holder: Prof. Arkady Matveev
is.u.ru/ru/about/chairs/unesko
Contact: matvbaikal@mail.ru
Current areas of activity

- Environmental technology, recycling and disposal of waste and man-made formations
- Risk reduction and reduction of consequences of natural and man-made disasters
- Energy saving and energy efficiency at industrial enterprises and in housing and municipal services;
- Geo-informational technologies in environmental management
- Underground waters as a renewable and environmentally friendly source of energy

Future activities to address the SDGs

- Implementation of long-term programs for solving regional and global problems in the field of environmental management and water use through joint activities with other Russian and foreign scientific and educational institutions

Chair holder: Professor Yuriy Skolubovich
http://www.sibstrin.ru/struct/chair/unesco/
Contact: rector@sibstrin.ru
Current areas of activity

- The monitoring of Lake Baikal ecosystem and other large water bodies: the study of the impact of local biotic and anthropogenous factors on production-destruction processes balance; the monitoring of hydrobionts biodiversity
- Characteristics and analysis of water resources management: the study of forming, spreading and composition of mineral water sources; estimating fish capacity and working out recommendations for sustainable use of fish resources; the analysis of high-mineralized lakes in Baikal region

Future activities to address the SDGs

- Developing international interdisciplinary research and educational platform to study Lake Baikal and unique natural objects of Baikal region
UNESCO Chair in Water Resources

Chair holder: Prof. Eltayeb Hassan Onsa
http://www.unesco-cwr.org
Contact: ucwr@ucwr.org

Current areas of activity

• Research activities
• Local, regional and international network
• Training and capacity building
• Consultancy activities

Future activities to address the SDGs

• Establish and manage Integrated Water Resources Management Network in Sudan (IWRM-Net-SD)
• Organise conference on Integrated and Sustainable Management of Non-Nile Water, November 2017
• Continue MSc Programs (3 Semesters + Research Project)
• Start PhD Program (2 Semesters + Research Project) December 2017
• Continue more regional projects and training courses
UNESCO Chair on Water Sciences

Chair holder: Professor David M. Hannah
Contact: d.m.hannah@bham.ac.uk

Current areas of activity
• To develop a transformative approach to tackle such ‘wicked water problems’
• Leveraging new, more cost-efficient sensing technologies
• Harnessing the knowledge of local people as 'citizen scientists' and stakeholders
• Bring together researchers, policy makers and the public

Future activities to address the SDGs
• Inaugural “International Connected Water Societies Conference” held in Birmingham, UK, 2019
• International task force established to develop a concept for a global sensor network of hydrological variables, which can be implemented at the local level
• Student and staff exchanges amongst partners located across our planet
• Dissemination of research of practical relevance to improve integrated, sustainable water resources and management

University of Birmingham
United Kingdom