

# Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Health Newsletter N° 173 / 25 October 2013



## **WHO Water Quality and Health Joint Expert Meeting, Dübendorf, Switzerland, 18-22 March 2013 meeting report** is now available

This meeting brought together experts on drinking-water, wastewater and recreational water, to initiate development of the next edition of the Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality, Safe Use of Recreational Water Environments and the Safe Use of Wastewater, Excreta and Greywater in Agriculture and Aquaculture. At this meeting, the Water Quality and Health Strategy was presented and priorities to be addressed in the next edition of the guidelines and to support harmonization these guidelines to improve integrated approaches to managing hazards in the water cycle, were identified. For further details, see

[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/dwq/meeting\\_reports/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/meeting_reports/en/)

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## **Updated burden of disease from water, sanitation and hygiene**

Preliminary results of the estimates of burden of disease caused by unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene were presented and discussed at a side-event at the Water and Health Conference at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on 14 October 2013. The side event comprised presentations on (a) a comparative review of past burden of disease approaches, (b) a systematic review of water quality worldwide, (c) an analysis of the evidence relating diarrheal diseases to water, sanitation and hygiene using a scaled approach, (d) preliminary results of the burden of disease, and (e) an alternative approach using population impact models. This work is based on the cooperation of a large expert group involving 9 Institutions. Experts further

met to discuss finalization of estimates, which should become available within the next few months.

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### **WHO report on scaling-up household water treatment with communicable disease efforts- Just published**

The report summarizes the outcomes from a group of WHO experts from HIV, child and maternal health, malaria and dengue which met to discuss HWTS scaling-up and provide recommendations on needed action to leverage HWTS benefits with other health efforts. Specific recommendations include: select options that meet WHO performance recommendations and consider key contextual/behavioural factors, implement HWTS within existing health and community channels, invest in operational research, strengthen safe storage and links with dengue, and set ambitious targets. The annex includes a background paper by Dr Thomas Clasen on the health impact of household water treatment and safe storage among target populations.

To access the report please visit:

[http://www.who.int/household\\_water/resources/en/](http://www.who.int/household_water/resources/en/)

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### **WEDC & WSP online learning course – Rural Sanitation at Scale – now in French**

The **Water Engineering and Development Centre** (WEDC) of Loughborough University, UK, in partnership with the **Water and Sanitation Program** (WSP) of the World Bank, have launched a **French version** of a self-paced online course that addresses the important global challenges facing the water and sanitation sector.

The **English version** of the course, titled ***Rural Sanitation at Scale***, was launched in March this year. The course features as a unit in WEDC's master's (MSc) program, and is offered free-of-charge as a non-accredited professional development unit for sector professionals interested in learning more about the issues of scaling-up sanitation in rural areas.

Availability of the course in French, called ***l'assainissement rural à grande échelle***, gives access to French speaking water and sanitation practitioners (including students and government decision-makers), mostly in Franco-phone speaking countries in Africa, to enroll for the course in their own language.

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**Journal of Water and Health** WHO and IWA Publishing collaborate in the

Journal of Water and Health. Click on the links below to view abstracts of some of the papers included in the latest issue of the journal:

Water shortages and extreme events: a call for research

Catriona Carmichael, Sue Odams, Virginia Murray, Matthew Sellick and Jeni Colbourne

<http://www.iwaponline.com/jwh/011/jwh0110377.htm>

Eliminating false positives in a qPCR assay for the detection of the uidA gene in Escherichia coli

Richard Kibbee, Natalie Linklater and Banu Örmeci

<http://www.iwaponline.com/jwh/011/jwh0110382.htm>

Antibiotic-resistance and virulence genes in Enterococcus isolated from tropical recreational waters

Tasha M. Santiago-Rodriguez, Jessica I. Rivera, Mariel Coradin and Gary A. Toranzos

<http://www.iwaponline.com/jwh/011/jwh0110387.htm>

Distinguishing human and possum faeces using PCR markers

M. Devane, B. Robson, F. Nourozi, D. Wood and B. J. Gilpin

<http://www.iwaponline.com/jwh/011/jwh0110397.htm>

Development of a quaternized chitosan with enhanced antibacterial efficacy

Gurpreet Kaur Khaira, Rashmi Kumariya, Manmohan Chibber and Moushumi Ghosh

<http://www.iwaponline.com/jwh/011/jwh0110410.htm>

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