

GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) is an international network created in 1996 that includes over 3000 institutional members related to the integrated water resources management. The Association has an Executive Secretariat established in Stockholm, Sweden, a Technical Committee, 13 Regional Associations, and Member Societies in more than 170 countries in South and Central America, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and China.

GWP promotes an integrated approach based on the principles and practices established at the International Conference on Water and the Environment held in Dublin, Ireland, in 1991 and at the Rio Earth Summit celebrated in Brazil in 1992. The value of this approach was again recognized at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012.

The strategic objectives of the Partnership *towards 2020* include a new direction with the goals of catalyzing change, sharing knowledge and strengthening collaboration in order to achieve a water secure world. Water security is pursued in the different regions as a fundamental challenge for the sustainable development of the countries, understanding water security as the capacity of the population to have access to adequate amounts of water of an acceptable quality to ensure its subsistence and socio-economic development, securing the protection of the resource and the conservation of ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability.

In order to reach these objectives, in all of the regions that make up the GWP, as well as in the countries that conform them, interrelated associations and specific projects relating to the realities existing in each of them have been established. In the case of South America, the South-American Association for Water (GWP South America), currently

integrated by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, promotes strategies to solve conflicts concerning water, at the same time that it develops processes to be adopted to attain a responsible and adequate management of the available water resources.

In each of the mentioned countries that integrate GWP South America a National Association has been set up. In the case of Venezuela, in the year 2005 was created the Venezuelan Association for Water (AVEAGUA), which to this date comprises 53 members, among academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, public organisms and private institutions. It is a knowledge and experience exchange society with the aim to generate the national strategies that are required for the integrated management of the water resources of the country.

For the 2015-2016 period, the presidency of AVEAGUA corresponds to the Universidad Metropolitana, in Caracas, and is exerted by the undersigned, who together with the rest of the members of the directive council are in charge of orienting the guidelines for the works and actions to be executed in the country, as well as ensuring the support required by the members that conform the association. Additionally, during the current year of 2015, AVEAGUA received the distinction of presiding over GWP South America, which constitutes a very significant challenge, such as is to give the needed support in the promotion of governability and the management of water resources so as to achieve a sustainable and equitable development in the whole region.

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