As 2010 closes, UNITAR is finalizing the second year of collaboration in the framework of the 2009-2011 Cooperation Agreement with Veolia Environnement. However, this hardly represents the long-time partnership the two organizations have established. I am delighted by our achievements since we first began joint local development training activities following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

In 2003, Veolia Environnement officially became UNITAR’s institutional partner to strengthen the capacities of local authorities across the globe. Veolia Environnement was a key partner in the development of UNITAR’s own decentralization of activities via the formation of the CIFAL Network, comprised of 9 affiliated regional training centres for local actors. Throughout the years, the CIFAL Network’s quality, outreach, and recognition have improved in tandem with Veolia Environnement’s continued commitment to UNITAR and local development.

UNITAR benefits from Veolia Environnement’s support not only from a financial perspective, but also through the technical expertise Veolia Environnement draws from its long experience in supplying sustainable urban public services. Veolia Environnement has proven to be an essential ally as its local and global experts showcase the Company’s innovative solutions, and share best practices that enable a vast array of stakeholders to tackle common challenges. This, combined with UNITAR’s use of cutting-edge methodologies, benefits hundreds of local authorities and actors each year through CIFAL events, which enables them to develop their capacities in urban service provision.

I would like to sincerely thank Mr. Proglio for his personal commitment to UNITAR as a Board Member over the last six years. The fruitful collaboration between the two organizations would have not been possible without him. Although he is concluding his second term as a Board Member, it is my wish that Veolia Environnement and UNITAR continue contributing to sustainable local development.

Renewal of the Partnership between UNITAR and Veolia Environnement during the 47th session of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR in January 2009.

A Framework for Public-Private Partnerships

Over the years, strategic engagement with Veolia Environnement has proven to be an effective method for advancing the United Nations goals at the local level.

The partnership between UNITAR and Veolia Environnement is governed by both the “Guidelines on cooperation between the United Nations and the business sector”, and the “United Nations Global Compact Principles”.

These guidelines and principles provide an enabling framework that allows UNITAR to develop effective partnerships with the business sector while strengthening its mandate, which is to conduct research and explore innovative training and capacity development approaches.

For more information on UNITAR partnerships with the business sector please contact: partnerships@unitar.org

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Veolia Environment – The World Leader in Environmental Services

The heart of the business is to ensure access to basic services – under the best conditions – for environmental sustainability and quality of life. Through its global presence, Veolia adds value to the sustainable management of cities and more generally of territories given that in some situations challenges are better managed at the regional or provincial level. The core principle is to adapt to the societies we serve taking into account the diversity of needs, resources, aspirations, constraints and financial resources.

As much as urban growth concentrates in the emerging and developing world, we must invent new solutions to meet the needs of these megacities, and be able to recognize that best practices are also generated in the South while highlighting the socio-economic differences across locations.

This concern is illustrated by the multi-partnership Veolia Environment has developed with UNITAR in order to support the geographic expansion of its non-formal (or informal) training centres focused on local actors, which helps local decision makers to improve the quality of their urban services.

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Veolia Environment

Mr. Henri Proglio, Veolia Environment Chairman of the Board of Directors, has served two terms on UNITAR’s Board of Trustees.

Henri Proglio is a graduate of the École des Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC). He joined Compagnie Générale des Eaux in 1972 and was appointed Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CFE in 1996. He was appointed Executive Vice President of the Universal and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Veolia Water in 1999. He became Chairman of Veolia Environment’s Management Board in 2000 and Chairman of the Board of Directors and was Chief Executive Officer from April 2003 to November 27, 2009, on which date he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of Veolia Environment following the appointment as Chairman and Managing Director of Electricité de France (EDF) by decree of the President of French Republic issued during the Ministerial Council of November 27, 2009.

Additionally, Henri Proglio is also a Member of the Board of Directors of CNP Assurances, Dassault Aviation and Natixis. Henri Proglio has also been elected with the Chairman of the Command of the National Order of Merit and Officer of the Legion of Honour.

As a major supporting partner of UNITAR’s local development since, Mr. Proglio was appointed by the United Nations Secretary General in 2005 and again in 2008, to serve as a key private sector member of UNITAR’s Board of Trustees (BOT). In his capacity as a BOT member, he has been involved in defining core strategies of the Institute and leveraging Veolia’s assets for greater impact on local development across shared priority countries. On the eve of Mr. Proglio’s departure from the BOT, we wish to dedicate this publication to commemorate his long-term service to UNITAR.

Adhesion of Veolia Environment to the Global Compact

Veolia Environment joined the United Nations Global Compact on June 12, 2003, and makes its commitment to the Global Compact a reality through strict compliance with the 10 Principles that support it. Veolia Environment’s annual Sustainable Development Progress Report (on which this report is based) reports on the Group’s progress according to the 10 Principles of the Global Compact.

In addition, in 2007 Veolia Environment joined the Foundation for the Global Compact, chaired by Sir Mark Moody-Stuart.

The Broader Nexus of the UNITAR-Veolia Environment Partnership

UNITAR’s multi-year partnership with Veolia Environment contains several constituents including training for the implementation of the International Guidelines on Decentralisation and Access to Basic Services for all, research on matching of the different modes of local management of water resources through the Water Think Tank, and participation in a variety of global events to highlight the UNITAR-Veolia Environment partnership and its achievements for local development.

The International Guidelines on Decentralisation and Access to Basic Services for All

In addition to its training activities delivered worldwide in the field of urban services, UNITAR, through its partnership with Veolia Environment, developed the International Guidelines on Decentralisation and Access to Basic Services for All with over 30 other nations to define the rights and responsibilities of those involved in the provision of urban basic services to the most vulnerable urban populations.

In July 2009, these Guidelines were endorsed by the UN-Habitat Governing Council and were presented at the UN General Assembly from 2010. UNITAR’s work has continued a pilot conducted in Aguacatenango, Mexico with a feasibility study to contextualise and apply the Guidelines. Building on this pilot, the project’s next stage in 2011 is to develop training toolkits for local governments to implement these Guidelines. Each toolkit will target local governments according to their levels and types of decentralisation, after which regional contextualisation will be developed. To help local governments comply with the Guidelines, Veolia Environment will contribute to toolkits, offering practical cases on how its affiliates provide innovative solutions for universal access to basic services.

Water Think Tank

The Water Think Tank project aims at providing an overview of the role of local authorities in managing water resources in identified Mediterranean water basins. Implemented around UNITAR, Veolia Environment and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the research project’s specific focus is on conflicts arising from the use of water resources by different actors and existing dispute settlement systems. After the research and analytical phase is conducted, a symposium gathering targeted local governments and other stakeholders will be organized in 2011 to discuss current water management practices sharing, and create opportunities for city-to-city cooperation and public-private partnerships.

UNITAR and Veolia Environment – Partners for Local Development through the CIFA! Network

Since the beginning of this global partnership in 2003, over 3,000 local actors were trained through Veolia Environment’s continued commitment to the CIFA! Network’s regional training events. CIFA! Centers host a yearly programme of training events based on identified regional needs and priorities. Veolia Environment contributes to each training programme with regional specialists who share best practices, innovative technology, and production models to enhance the expertise exchanged across sectors and contribute to greater public-private partnerships.

A typical CIFA! event brings together local and national government decision makers, experts from the private sector, such as Veolia Environment, and other stake-holders to explore solutions to critical local governance issues related to sustainable economic development and environmental sustainability, and build partnerships to implement these solutions. Peer-sharing and partnerships among actors confronted with the same challenges are facilitated through the CIFA! Network’s unique CityShare methodology, which engages local actors, especially governments, to plan actions to improve their service delivery.

Below we show examples of topics covered annually by the CIFA! Network in cooperation with Veolia Environment:

- CIFA! Contrib, Urban Mobility in Latin America
- CIFA! Rock Urban Watermain Management in Central and Eastern Europe
- CIFA! Oiapoque / Inter-governmental Relations and Financial Decentralization for Francophone Africa’s Local Development

In addition, Veolia Environment joined the United Nations Global Compact on June 12, 2003, and makes its commitment to the Global Compact a reality through strict compliance with the 10 Principles that support it. Veolia Environment’s annual Sustainable Development Progress Report (on which this report is based) reports on the Group’s progress according to the 10 Principles of the Global Compact.

The adhesion of Veolia Environment to the Global Compact confirms the commitments made during the annual Sustainable Development Report serves as its “Communications on Progress” (COP), where the report collects best practices sharing, and create opportunities for city-to-city cooperation and public-private partnerships.

"CIFAL stands for “International Training Centre for Local Actors” in English. The acronym originally means “Formation Internationale de la main-d’œuvre”. CIFAL Network profiled at the UN-Pavilion at Shanghai World Expo 2010

During the UNITAR Week at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, Veolia Environment sponsored the 2010 UNITAR Networking Committee Meeting. On September 27th, 2010, the UNITAR Networking Committee presented on UNITAR’s global efforts to train local actors and the network’s own results. On this day of the UNITAR Week the number of visitors at the UN Pavilion was the highest during the week, with over 120,000 people.

These global events and platforms provide opportunities not only for showcasing the expertise gained through the partnership but also for improving the quality of our joint activities in the future.

Similarly, UNITAR highlights key achievements from its Veolia Environment partnership through various global events and platforms each year, such as the World Urban Forum (WUF), UN Climate Change Conferences (e.g., COP15), and UNHabitat. These global events and platforms provide opportunities not only for showcasing the accomplishments of this partnership, but also for improving the quality of our joint activities in the future.

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Veolia Environnement joined the United Nations Global Compact on June 12th, 2003 and makes its commitment to the Global Compact by committing to the 10 Principles of the Global Compact framework. The heart of its business is to ensure access to basic services — under the best conditions — for environmental sustainability and quality of life. Today, its growth as a leading player in the global environmental services sector is closely linked to its commitment to the Global Compact.

The adhesion of Veolia Environnement to the Global Compact confirms the commitments made during the Johannesburg summit to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Since then, government representatives have met to discuss basic services, and Veolia Environnement has been involved in a number of initiatives to improve access to basic services.

In addition, in 2007 Veolia Environnement joined the Foundation for the Global Compact, chaired by Sir Mark Moody-Stuart.

The Broader Nexus of the UNITAR-Veolia Environment Partnership

UNITAR’s multi-year partnership with Veolia Environment contains several constituencies including training for the implementation of the International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for all, research on matching of the different modes of local management of water resources through the Water Think Tank, and participation in a variety of global events to highlight the UNITAR-Veolia Environment partnership and its achievements for local development.

The International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for All

In addition to its training activities delivered worldwide in the field of urban services, UNITAR, through its partnership with Veolia Environment in the “International Guidelines on Decentralization and Access to Basic Services for All” with other United Nations institutions to define the rights and responsibilities of those involved in the provision of urban services to the most vulnerable urban populations.

In July 2009, these Guidelines were endorsed by the UN-HABITAT Governing Council and were formally approved by the 63rd General Assembly from 2010. UNITAR’s work has continued with a pilot conducted in Aguascalientes, Mexico with a feasibility study to contextualize and apply the Guidelines. Building on this pilot, the project’s next stage in 2010 is to develop has training tools for local governments to implement these Guidelines. Each tool will target local government according to the type of decentralization, after which regional contextualization will be developed. To help local governments comply with the Guidelines, Veolia Environment will contribute to training, offering practical cases on how to affiliate innovative solutions for universal access to basic services.

Water Think Tank

The Water Think Tank Project aims at providing an overview of the role of local authorities in managing water resources in identified Mediterranean water basins. Impacted around the world, Veolia Environment and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the research project’s specific focus is on conflicts arising from the use of water resources by different actors and existing dispute settlement systems. After the research and analysis phase is conducted, a symposium gathering targeted local governments and other stakeholders will be organized in November 2011 to present the research, stimulate practical sharing, and create opportunities for city-to-city cooperation and public-private partnerships.

The Profiling Partnership’s Results across Global Fora

During the UNITAR Week at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, Veolia Environment sponsored the 2010 OIF Networking Committee Meeting. On September 23rd, 2010, the OIF Networking Committee on Veolia Environment’s global outreach efforts to train local actors and the benchmarking of success. On this day of the UNITAR Week, the number of visitors was over 40,000 people during the week, with over 30,000 people.

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Stuart.
the whole corporate social responsibility policy of the company. A correspondent monitors the relationship and close contacts with the management team of the Global Compact in New York. Veolia Environnement’s initiatives and its best practices according to each of the 10 Principles under the Global Compact.

Veolia Environnement joined the United Nations Global Compact on June 12th, 2003 and makes its commitment to the Management Board in 2000 and Chairman of the Board of Directors and was Chief Executive Officer from April 2003 to November 2008. He was also appointed member of the Board of Directors of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in 2000. Henri Proglio is a graduate of the École des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC). He joined Compagnie Générale des Eaux in 1972 and was appointed Executive Vice President and member of the Executive Committee of the Company in 1983 and President and Chief Executive Officer of Veolia Environnement in 1994. He became Chairman of Veolia Environnement’s Management Board in 1995 and Chairman of the Board of Directors and was Chief Executive Officer from April 2003 to November 2008, on which date he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of Veolia Environnement following the appointment as Chairman and Managing Director of Electricité de France (EDF) by decree of the President of French Republic issued during the Ministerial Council meeting of November 25th, 2008.

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Veolia Environnement
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Profiling our Partnership’s Results across Global Forums
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Similarly, UNITAR highlights key achievements from its Veolia Environment partnership through various global events and platforms each year, such as the World Urban Forum (WUF), UN Climate Change Conferences (e.g. COP15, COP16, and COP17). These global events and platforms provide opportunities not only for showcasing the accomplishments of this partnership, but also for improving the quality of our joint activities in the future.
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Carlos Lopes
United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, UNITAR Executive Director

UNITAR and Veolia Environnement – A Strategic Global Partnership for Local Solutions

Veolia Environnement
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Strategic Partners for Sustainable Local Development

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Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para la Formación y la Investigación
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