

# SWALIM New Website

SWALIM officially launched its new Website - <http://www.faoswalim.org/> on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2006. The new Website replaces the old website which was developed in-house.

The new website is the most important component of the project's Client Service Platform (CSP), giving online access to users around the world to a large and increasing amount of SWALIM electronic information products on Water and Land.

The layout of the Website is based on a theme focus, giving details of SWALIM activities within each SWALIM Theme Group.

The website also supports the Somalia Water Sources Information Management System (SWIMS) through interfaces for downloading and uploading field data into the Somalia Water Sources national archive.

To keep abreast with the latest additions on the Website users are advised to visit the News and Announcements Section on the Website's Home page.

Useful URLs:-

**Downloads:**

<http://www.faoswalim.org/link.php?LinkID=4148a369fabd2008032259dfeeb1510b>

**SWALIM Digital Library (Powered by AGRIS):**

<http://agris.faoswalim.org/>

**Floods Page:**

<http://www.faoswalim.org/viewpage.php?PageID=bf88c2a7f49ef5e5d35f474df4464d25>

**SWALIM Geonetwork:**

<http://geonetwork.faoswalim.org:8080/geonetwork>

**FAO AGRIS:**

<http://www.fao.org/agris/>

**FAO Land and Water Division:**

<http://www.fao.org/landandwater/default.stm>

**Satellite Imagery/Maps:**

<http://unosat.web.cern.ch/unosat/>

**FAO-GeoNetwork:**

<http://www.fao.org/geonetwork/>



Puntland Ministry of Land and Environment meeting with SWALIM staff.



Children drawing competition - Award giving ceremony in Puntland.



Children in Class under a tree in Borama Somaliland.

**Comments?**

The Editorial Board of SWALIM Update invites letters, comments and opinions from readers that will help SWALIM to provide wider coverage on Water and Land Information Management issues in Somalia. Kindly address your comments to The Editor, SWALIM Update, 3rd Floor Kalsion Towers, Parklands, P.O.Box 30470-00100, Nairobi Kenya Tel: +254 (0)203743454/64/86, Fax: +254 (0)203743498, E-mail: [enquiries@faoswalim.org](mailto:enquiries@faoswalim.org)

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# SWALIM Update

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## News & Events

**Somalia Floods: SWALIM Provides Information**

With one of the worst floods in recent history hitting Somalia, SWALIM has kept its partners abreast with timely and adequate information about the flood situation in collaboration with FEWSNET and FSAU through the weekly and daily flood watch bulletins availed via e-mail and the website. For more information on the flood situation in Somalia please visit <http://www.faoswalim.org>

**Geo-network: Access to GIS data Online**

SWALIM has successfully integrated a Geo-Network open source node that provides the capacity to access a vast selection of maps and other spatial information through its Website. Some of the resources available include shape files (of limited size), maps and other spatial related data sets. Visit <http://geonetwork.faoswalim.org:8080/geonetwork/> for more information.

**SWALIM Mid-Term Evaluation**

The SWALIM project evaluation team arrived in Nairobi ready for the task ahead on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006. They later visited Hargeisa, Somaliland to assess the progress made by the project on the ground. The evaluation is aimed at detecting existing gaps in the project's strategy, assessing the impact on the ground and recommending new approaches where necessary.

**Irrigation Information Management Mini Workshop**

SWALIM held the workshop on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006 in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The workshop was aimed at assessing the needs of the users and provide information on the kind of database needed by the irrigation practitioners working in Somalia. Similar workshops are scheduled to take place in Garowe, Puntland and in Mogandishu for Southern Somalia. SWALIM will then consolidate all partners' views and build a concept for Irrigation information management system.

**SWALIM promotes Somali Children's Dreams**

Through the Somali Children's drawing competition held in Puntland and Somaliland, SWALIM learnt that the Somali children have a big creative potential. The drawings submitted revealed a wide variety of dreams, and worries, for the environment and a clear appreciation of the role of the environment in the future of Somaliland and Puntland. In all, SWALIM expectations for the children were far exceeded. The drawings from the competition will be used in the SWALIM 2007 calendar as a way of promoting the talents and dreams of Somali children.

**Project Steering Committee Meets**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006 a steering committee session was held at the SWALIM Offices in Nairobi. Among the issues discussed include approval of terms of reference for the project Steering Committee; the SWALIM modified Logical Framework and the concept note about the pastoral Lands.

## Building Capacity for SWIMS

After the release of the Somalia Water Sources Information Management System (SWIMS) software, SWALIM has embarked on a capacity building exercise to familiarize its partner agencies with the software.

Training workshops to equip the technical staff with the operational skills required in using the software and provide managers with practical guidelines for deploying and managing SWIMS took place, with more workshops scheduled for early next year both in Somaliland, Puntland and Nairobi.

SWALIM shall provide continued technical support to the partner agencies. For more details about the SWIMS training calendar contact [swims@faoswalim.org](mailto:swims@faoswalim.org).

## SWALIM Re-establishes Pre-war Rain-gauge Network

In an effort to construct the climate archive of Somalia, SWALIM has installed 50 rainfall stations in South-Central Somalia and in Somaliland. Thirty of these stations were installed in their respective pre-war locations.

In Puntland SWALIM has held discussions with the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Environment (MOLAE) to re-establish the pre-war rain-gauge network.

As part of the installation exercise, observers from the Ministry of Agriculture in Hargeisa were trained in rain gauge installation, best practice in rainfall data collection and transmission, rain gauge and site maintenance. SWALIM also provided the necessary hardware and software towards developing and strengthening the capacity of the Ministries of Agriculture in Puntland and Somaliland.

In addition, a *detailed technical manual* and a *quick reference* guide for rainfall measurement have been prepared for the rainfall observers both in English and Somali languages. Rainfall data are recorded on standard monthly rainfall report cards and annual rainfall record forms provided by SWALIM.



Photo taken after meeting between SWALIM and MOLAE Officials

Standing from Left: Dr. H. Khalaf - Director General MOLAE, Garowe, Puntland; Mohamed Jama - Director of Agriculture MOLAE; Hussein Gadain - Water Co-ordinator SWALIM; Hassan Daher - Vice Minister MOLAE; Peris Muchiri-Hydro-Informatics Officer SWALIM; Osman Haji - SWALIM Liason Officer for Puntland.

Squatting: Abdurahman Gayre - Secretary for the Minister of MOLAE.

## SWALIM Establishes Data Centre in Hargeisa

SWALIM has established a data centre at the Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources (MWMR) premises in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The centre serves as a reference point for the ministry where both soft and hard copies of the water sources databases are kept.

SWALIM's role; after equipping the data centre, was to develop the necessary capacity to enable the ministry staff to manage their data. Two trainings have already been conducted for the ministry staff; one for data collection, organization and filing process, and the other for the use of SWIMS software.



Training going on at the newly established data centre

## Drawing Competition Marks History in Somaliland and Puntland

In October 2006, SWALIM organized a drawing competition for primary school children within Hargeisa (Somaliland) and Garowe (Puntland) cities. The aim of the competition was 3-fold: to encourage creativity among Somali children, promoting awareness on the importance of the environment and good management of water and land resources, and to create awareness about SWALIM activities to a wider audience, particularly in the Somaliland and Puntland regions.

The competition was organized in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education in the two regions. The theme of the competition was "Children's dream about Somali future".

29 schools (18 in Hargeisa and 11 in Garowe) registered to participate in the competition. Since art is not a standard school curriculum in the two regions, SWALIM provided drawing materials (art paper, color pencils and paints) to the participating schools.

Judging of the winning drawings started at the school level where the teachers in charge pre-selected the best 5 of the drawings created by the children in their school. These 5 best drawings from each school were then submitted to SWALIM. In total, 145 drawings were received from the 29 participating schools. The judging of the drawings was done by a panel of 4 judges, an artist, a representative of the Ministry of Education, an observer from SWALIM and a translator.

This was followed by an award giving ceremony which was held at Daarwish Primary School Puntland on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and the Maansoor Hotel Somaliland on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

As part of the technology transfer process, SWALIM has planned more trainings for the ministry staff in other fields such as IT and GIS. The objective is to build sustainable capacity at the ministry where they can receive and manage data/information on their own. The data available at SWALIM offices in Nairobi are gradually being transferred to the data centre for easy access by local and international partners in Somaliland.

In Puntland, trainings of government ministries staff, local and international NGOs and UN agencies took place in December 2006.

## Somalia Reference Grid

A need for an effective means to report locations has been expressed by many NGOs and other agencies such as UNHCR and FSAU who do regular field data collection. These agencies often are not equipped with GPS in the field and because of this data collection such as refugee numbers are reported on an aggregate district level. This is often not very useful when it comes to tracking of people and reporting of resources as a more precise location is required.

The Somalia reference grid has been developed to help agencies working in the field reference their information without using GPS. District maps have been compiled, in conjunction with UNHCR, with the reference grid overlaid. These will be distributed to field personnel who can then report locations by marking the grid block of the location they wish to report or by quoting the grid reference number.

From the experiences of this competition, we learned that the Somali children have a big creative potential. All the drawings submitted were of high quality. The drawings revealed a wide variety of dreams and worries and a clear appreciation of the role of the environment in the future of Somaliland and Puntland. In all, our expectations of this exercise were far exceeded. The drawings from this competition will be used in the SWALIM 2007 Calendar as a way of promoting the talents of Somali children and communicating their dreams with the rest of the world. SWALIM greatly appreciated the effort of all those people who contributed in different ways to make the competition a success.



Sample Drawings of Children from Somaliland and Puntland.

## Human Development Report 2006 Launched

The report which focused on 'Power, Poverty and the global water crisis' was compiled by UNDP and launched in Mogadishu at the Somali Centre for Water and the Environment (SCWAE) of the Mogadishu University, on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

The event, which was co-organised by FAO SWALIM Liaison Office for south-central Somalia and UNDP, included the following participants among others; UN Agencies, Local and International NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, Universities and other educational institutions in Somalia, and local authorities.

Among the key note speakers was Dr. Ali Sheik Ahmed president of the Mogadishu University who gave a welcoming speech on behalf of SCWAE. Mr. Hussein Iman; SWALIM Liaison officer for south-central later made a presentation with facts and figures extracted from the report. The main message was to adopt water as a human right and have at least 20 litres of water per person a day.

### One step closer to the real beneficiaries

The international aid and development community has been trying for years to organise humanitarian response and development projects from an external location. The centres of most of these organisations are located in Nairobi, while the communities that are the targets of all aid activities are living in various parts of Somaliland, Puntland and/or Southern/Central Somalia. This was the setup of the SWALIM project too until mid 2006.

The nature of our work, however, revealed very soon that data collection, data processing, information management has to be taken closer to Somali institutions, public administration, to the people who will benefit from the information and in the long term be responsible for the activity.

As a first step on the road leading to the achievement of the above goal SWALIM established Inter-ministerial Coordination Committees in Garowe in April and in Hargeisa in July. The participating ministries are those dealing with land and water resources management. In Garowe four ministries are active in the committee besides SWALIM and in Hargeisa three ministries participate in the work of the committee. As the name indicates, the primary task in each committee is to coordinate, to give directions within the accepted mandate of the project for the various activities, help implementation and give recommendations for future development.

Experience gained in the first half year in the life of the committees has proved that this coordination forum is very much needed and provides excellent opportunities to start a process towards self-sustainability.

### "Civilized man could embark on no task nobler than sanitary reform"

Boston board of Health, 1869

Among the topics also highlighted include "problems related to water scarcity", "experience of water scarcity and sanitation with reference to Kibera Slums in Nairobi".

The ICU representative, Mr Abdikadir Omar Abdullahi also emphasised the importance of research on the theme of water scarcity that the university should take seriously.

The closing remarks were made by the Minister for Water and Mineral resources of the TFG (Transitional Federal Government) Mr. Mohamud Salad Omar. He touched on crisis related to water scarcity and sanitation citing the case of Somalia. He also emphasised on the need for international organisations and UN agencies to put more aid to finance the provision of clean water and proper sanitation to the Somali people in the post civil war era.



Part of the participants at the launch of the Human Development Report in Mogadishu

## Did you Know?

You can send information regarding your organization's intervention efforts to SWALIM via the website link: [http://www.faoswalim.org/swims\\_infosheet\\_intervention.php](http://www.faoswalim.org/swims_infosheet_intervention.php)

You can obtain technical support and expert advice for the Somalia Water Sources Information Management System (SWIMS) via email [swims@faoswalim.org](mailto:swims@faoswalim.org)

SWALIM wishes you a Merry Christmas & a peaceful and prosperous New Year