

## Online short course **Water and Environmental Law and Policy**

See <http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/ilearning.htm>

Lack of access to water is a critical, locally recurring global problem, which raises questions about mechanisms for allocation of water rights. The threats to the ecological and social services provided by water have brought the issue of environmental protection to the fore-front. The increasing demand for water and other environmental resources has led to the notion of integrated water resources management within the context of sustainable development. This course focuses on how water and environmental resources can be managed in a specific context using the disciplines of law, politics and policymaking.



### **Goal and Objectives of the Course**

The goal of the course is to introduce the student to the complexities of the relationship between water, environmental and economic issues; the relationship between law, politics and policymaking at local, national, regional and international level. The objectives are:

1. To enhance knowledge of international water and environmental law and how it influences national decision-making on resource use;
2. To enhance knowledge of regional and national water and environmental problems and how law, politics and policies are used to address these problems;
3. To increase the ability of participants to analyze the interrelations between the various issues; and to develop analytical academic skills, policies strategies and negotiation techniques;
4. To connect professionals from different parts of the world and different organizations to allow for exchange of ideas and insights and to learn from each other's experiences; and
5. To create a continuous learning environment where professionals can "meet" and refresh their knowledge on the subject.

### **Why take this online course?**

- because it helps you become familiar with key elements of international law, politics and policy;
- because it informs you about current developments in international water and environmental law and policies
- because it helps you analyze the aspects relevant to your own situation
- because allows you to interact with other international students and discuss problems and solutions
- because it stimulates you to understand the complex interactions between the various scales at which policies and laws are made

### **Target group**

The course is designed for scholars and professionals researching, involved in or affected by water and environmental policy-making, law-making or negotiations on a national or international level and who do not have the time to undertake a course lasting several weeks abroad, such as (senior) civil servants, university staff, directors and staff members of non-governmental organizations, and consultants in the field. In addition, the course is well suited for those involved in water management at a lower level, but whose work is affected by national and international law and policy.

### Time schedule

This online course formally starts in 2006, and is to be completed in ten weeks at 8 study hours per week. The web based I-learning Environment is used for downloading training material and communication. In case of internet difficulties, materials can be obtained on DVD.

### Course content

The course is sub-divided into various subjects and assignments.

The course includes short films, interviews, power-points and texts. The combination of these educational materials should help the participant understand the key elements of the course. For each topic there are multiple-choice questions to help the participants ensure that they have a factual grasp of the subject. There are points to ponder in each subject to stimulate reflection on the subject matter especially with respect to the specific context within which the participant functions.

Participants will be asked to write a paper that reflects their ability to combine the different elements in the curriculum with respect to a specific problem. Where possible, participants may also be asked to prepare a poster that communicates key issues relevant to a particular subject. Where there are a number of participants from one geographical location, it may be possible to set up face-to-face lectures and discussions via video conferencing facilities. The course will be evaluated based on the results from the different assignments. After completion, participants will receive a certificate issued by UNESCO-IHE.

### Innovative learning

*the best of traditional and distance-learning combined*

- The course can be followed at any location; as long as participants have an Internet connection they can access the I-Learning Environment.
- The course combines challenging lectures with group interaction, multi-point discussions and ample further reading material.
- The course focuses on life-long learning where professionals combine the material taught with daily work and directly apply acquired knowledge.
- For groups, there is the option to combine online learning with face-to-face workshops or video-conferences (GDLN).



Innovative Learning

### Fee

The online course fee is 550 Euro, which includes access to the I-learning Environment, training materials and training support. Group discounts are possible.

### Entry Requirements

Participants should have:

- a master's degree or equivalent;
- some professional experience in or affinity with water or environmental engineering, sciences or management;
- access to a computer with 64 MB Ram; Hi-Color (16 bit or better) video card, 512 kilobits per second downstream internet connection.
- Software – Windows (98SE, ME or 2000/XP), Internet explorer (version 7.1 and some plug-ins), Microsoft Media Player and Acrobat Reader.



See and feel the I-Learning Environment at [www.lms.ihe.nl](http://www.lms.ihe.nl) (login irbmdemo; password: 2005)

### More information and registration

For more information, visit UNESCO-IHE's website (<http://www.unesco-ihe.org/education/illearning.htm>) For specific questions, please email [info@unesco-ihe.org](mailto:info@unesco-ihe.org)