

**CIWEM Conference**

# **European Flooding: Managing the Risks**

**June 17 – 18, 2003**

**Thames Barrier, London**

## **Chairmen**

**Peter Matthews, Board Member, Environment Agency**

**Jim Oatridge, Group Services Director, Severn Trent Plc**

## **Opening Address**

**Sir John Harman, Chairman, Environment Agency**

## **Sponsors**

**Arup**

**Babtie Group**

**Environment Agency**

**European Water Association**

**European Flooding– Managing the Risks**  
**Thames Barrier, London**  
**Tuesday, 17th and Wednesday, 18th June, 2003**

## **Introduction**

A decade ago the predictions of extreme weather prompted by climate change seemed remote both in the UK and Europe; however, the major floods of the last 3 years have provided powerful reminders of the costs and threats we are now facing. There is no doubt that major flood events are now a tragic reality rather than a hypothesis. The disaster in Central Europe in the summer of 2002 focussed attention on this not least because of its huge financial implications. This two-day Conference will consider past, present and future problems in flood risk management. As well as looking back fifty years, speakers from France, Austria, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and the UK will focus on changes in extremes of weather and how to cope with them; lessons learned from actual flood alleviation schemes; the implications of recent Directives, including the Water Framework Directive, and how they may need to be altered, and how the issues should affect planning and sustainability in the future.

This is a European scale challenge and discussions are currently underway on how European community initiatives at policy, legislation and economic levels can help address this issue. Meetings between UK and European groups notably The European Water Association, CIWEM and the Environment Agency have identified the need for a high level conference reflecting on these recent major flood events and designed to share the fast developing knowledge in this area.

The meeting is based at the Thames Barrier, one of the most significant engineering solutions to this challenge found in the World. The conference and workshops are aimed at senior technical management that are engaged with flooding issues. Technical visits to the barrier and to view other works on the Thames will be a key part of the meeting.

The **aim of this meeting** is to bring together UK and European experience on recent major flooding incidents to share the knowledge that has been gained and to develop an effective European Forum for these issues.

The **objectives** of the meeting are:

1. To provide a European Forum for the discussion of recent major flooding events.
2. To highlight mechanisms for sharing knowledge and benchmarking management approaches
3. To demonstrate practical solutions that have been adopted on the Thames including site visits to the Thames Barrier.

**This conference will be of interest** to anyone responsible for flood warning, alleviation strategies or the management of river systems, together with all consulting engineers, environmental scientists and academics involved in the analysis of events and design of such systems.

**Itinerary** The conference will use the Holiday Inn Greenwich Peninsula as a key accommodation and networking base for the event. The conference will be held at the Thames Barrier conference centre and there will be a conference dinner which will be based on the Thames vessel MV Elizabethan and will tour the sights of the river. Delegates are advised to book and make travel arrangements early.

**Programme** The conference speakers have been chosen to reflect the European nature and scale of this issue and the range of technical and management information that is currently available. The site visits to the Thames Barrier will be supported by two workshops on flood protection schemes featuring case histories including 'Management and Control of the River Clyde: Past, Present and Future' given by **Ronnie Falconer** of Babcote Group and **Prof. Gruenewald** (Brandenburg University) presenting the 'River Elbe Case Study'.

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**PROGRAMME**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Session 1 – The Scale of the Challenge**

09 00 Registration

10 00 **Welcoming address on behalf of CIWEM and the sponsors** Jim Oatridge, Severn Trent Plc

**Opening Address** Sir John Harman Chairman, Environment Agency

10 15 **Fifty years of flooding** Gerald Manning, Board Member, Environment Agency

10 45 **The implications of future flooding - The Foresight Initiative – Professor Sir David King**, Chief Scientist, Office of Science and Technology, Department of trade and Industry

11 15 Refreshments

11 45 **After a century of floods: The French approach to flood risk minimisation: an example of the River Loire** Nicholas Camp'huis Directeur Equipe Pluridisciplinaire du Plan Loire Grandeur Nature France

12.15 **A review of flooding events with a particular focus in Austria** Prof. Günter Bloeschl , Institut für Hydraulik Gewässerkunde und Wasserwirtschaft Technische Universität , Wien , Austria

12.45 **A review of flooding events in the Czech Republic** Ing. Jan Kubat Deputy Director of Hydrology , Czech Hydrometeorological Institute , Prague , Czech Republic

1.15 Lunch

14.15 – 16.15 **Session 2 Technical visit to the Thames Barrier and Workshop Groups** Technical Visits & Workshops. The delegates will split into two groups. One group will visit Thames Barrier for a technical briefing – the other half working in the workshop sessions: **Ronnie Falconer** and **Prof. Gruenewald** will present the workshops. This programme will be reversed for session 3. Includes refreshments at the end of the session

**Session 2 The Threats of Today**

16 30 **Changes in extremes of weather** Jean Palutikof, University of East Anglia

17 00 **Coping with and accommodating extremes of weather** Brian Empson, Environment Agency

18 00 **Depart (from the Thames Barrier pier) on MV Elizabethan for reception, dinner and tour of the Thames**

22 00 Return to Thames Barrier pier Coaches to hotel.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**

09 30 **Session 3 Technical visit to the Thames Barrier and Workshop Groups**

**Session 4 Planning Future Scenarios & the European Dimension** Chairman: Peter Matthews Board Member, Environment Agency

11 30 **Engaging local people in managing flood risk** Lindsay Frost, Lewes District Council

12 00 Lunch

12 45 **Flood risk management and sustainability** David Collins DEFRA

13 15 **Flooding and the Water Framework Directive** David Rooke, Environment Agency

13 45 **Coastal Flood protection in the North Sea Region** Richard Jorissen, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, Rijkswaterstaat Netherlands

14 15 Conference ends

The programme may be subject to change

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**CIWEM Conference**

**The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)**

is the leading professional and qualifying body for those who are responsible for the stewardship of environmental assets. The Institution provides independent comment, within a multidisciplinary framework, on the wide range of issues related to water and environmental management and sustainable development.

**The Venue:** The conference venue is the Thames Barrier, London

**Accommodation:** The conference is using the Holiday Inn at Greenwich. Rooms £75/night (concessionary rate for delegates). Delegates should book directly with the hotel quoting the 'European Flooding' conference; phone 0208 269 5052/ fax 0208 269 5057. Hotel accommodation in the area is limited and the Holiday Inn will act as a key base for the event. There will be coach transport to and from the hotel and Thames Barrier venue.

**The Organisers:** The conference is being organised by Bob Earll of Coastal Management for Sustainability (CMS) on behalf of CIWEM.

**Conference fee:**

CIWEM Members	£400 + £70 VAT	= £470
Non CIWEM Members	£450 + £78.75 VAT	= £528.75
PhD Student rate:	£ 75 + £13.25 VAT	= £ 88.25 [a limited number of places are available]
Group rates:	Contact CMS 01531 890415.	

The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers.

All non-CIWEM member delegates will receive Environmental Partner grade of membership up to the end of December 2003. They will receive free copies of our magazine and have the opportunity to be involved in local CIWEM events and activities. Please note on the booking form if you are not a CIWEM member.

**Conditions:**

- Cheques should be made payable to 'CMS'.
- **They should be sent to CMS, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos GL18 2BU.**
- Credit cards cannot be accepted.
- **Invoices can be provided** on request.
- Confirmation of registration and receipts will be forwarded on payment.
- Payment should be completed **BEFORE** the event otherwise entry may be refused
- No refunds will be made for cancellation less than 10 working days before the meeting.
- **Overseas payments:** Bookings should be sent to CMS then bank transfer /VAT details will be mailed to delegates

Further details from Bob Earll: Phone / Fax 01531 890415  
Joining details – maps, directions and hotels – programme are on the  
CMS website: [www.coastms.co.uk](http://www.coastms.co.uk) CMS VAT No: 742 436 734

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**European Flooding: Managing the Risks**

Booking Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation \_\_\_\_\_

[BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE]

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone / Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Please register \_\_\_\_\_ place / s Total amount \_\_\_\_\_

Your ref. / order number \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a CIWEM Member? please tick Yes No

VAT No: 742 4367 34

Please return completed booking forms to: CMS, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos GL18 2BU

**Cheques should be made payable to 'CMS'**