

The Purpose and Value of Professional Associations in Capacity Building

Paul Reiter
Executive Director
International Water Association

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International
Water Association



Professional Associations Are Key To Success in Water Services

Observation:

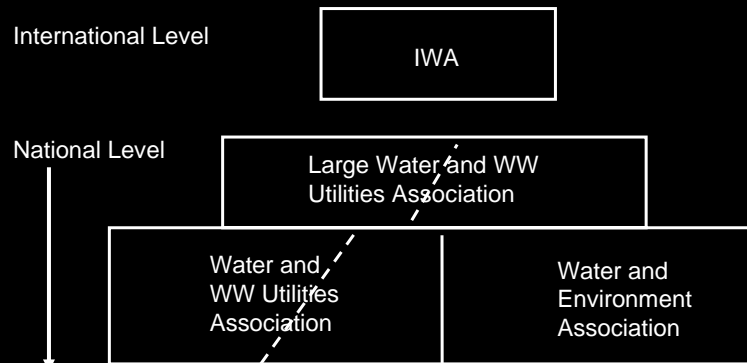
- Professional associations have been fundamental to the protection of health and the environment and the development of well functioning utilities in all advanced countries

Question:

- Given this success, the basic question is why the development of professional water associations hasn't been a fundamental component in water-related capacity building in developing countries?



Typical Structure of Professional Water Associations in a Country – Urban Case

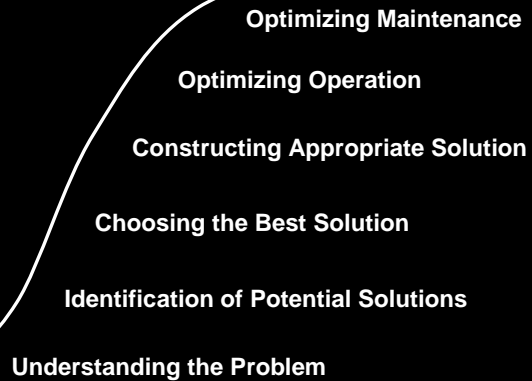


The Functions and Roles of Associations Change Over Time

Basic Roles

- Pooling Expertise to Solve Basic Problems
– *What Works?*
- Codifying Knowledge and Experience into Best Practices and Formal Standards
– *Let's Not Start from Scratch!*
- Teaching, Training, Certification
– *At the Institutional Level & Individual Level*

Response to Challenges: The Innovation Cycle



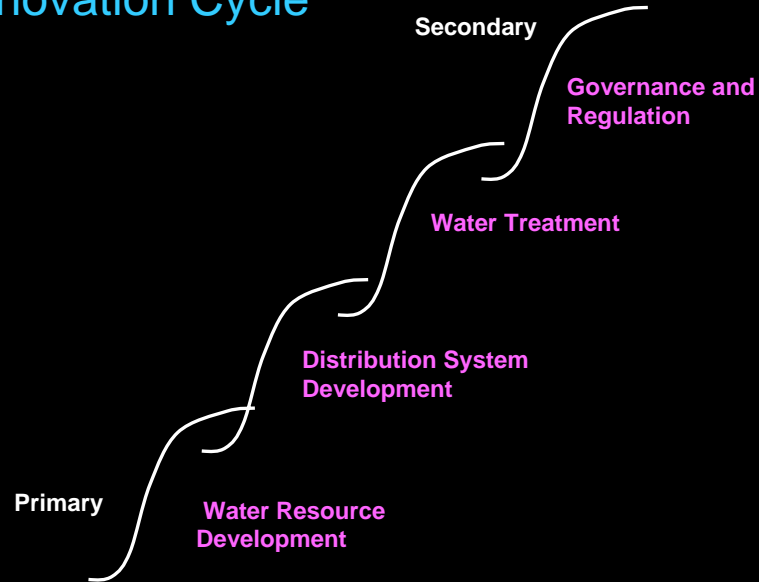
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Evolution of Challenges and the Innovation Cycle



The Functions and Roles of Associations Change Over Time

Additional Roles

- Highly formalized knowledge exchange
- Advocacy, policy and legislative development
– *The expertise of the industry is important!*
- Regulatory Compliance
– *Helping to develop a common roadmap*
- Leadership Development
– *Helping leaders to address a changing set of challenges*



Key Questions for Development:

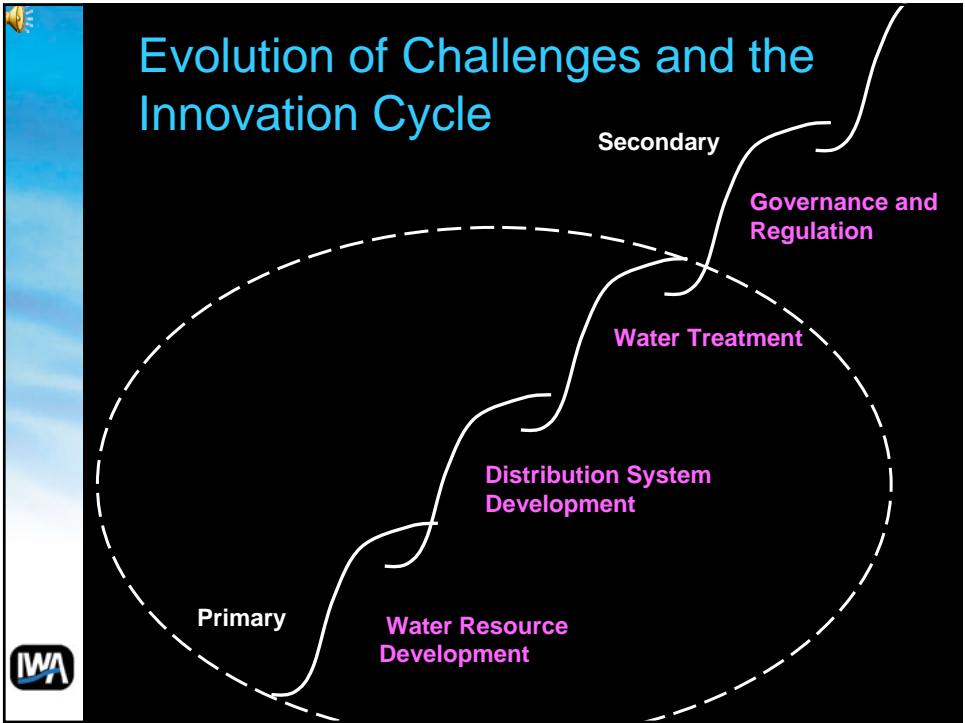
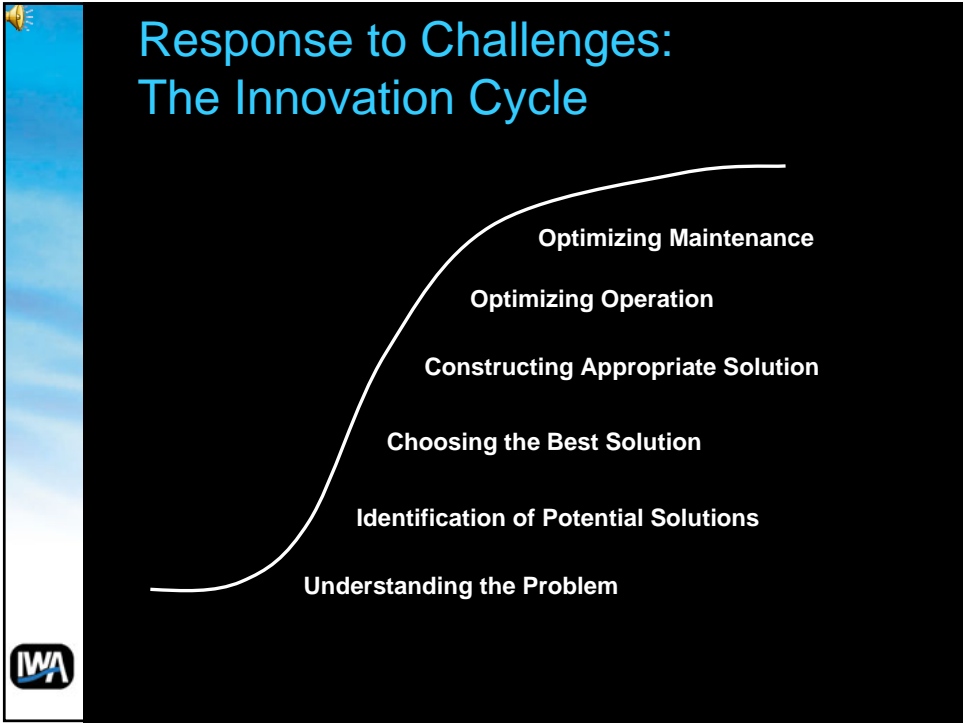
- Do Professional Associations Matter?
- If the Answer is Yes:
 - How do they contribute?
 - In what circumstances do they contribute?



How Do They Contribute?

- Fundamental Contribution
 - Solving Basic Problems
- Solutions Require Innovation
- Great Gains From Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing in Innovative Process








How Do They Contribute?

- Problem Solving – Collaboration in Innovation
- Development of Standards
- Process Optimization (Operations)
- Rehabilitation Strategies
- Training and Certification
- Professional Identity and Pride



Why Haven't Professional Associations Been A Key Strategy in Water-Related Capacity Development?

Three Potential Answers:

- These associations (and their members) are perceived by some to be out of touch with the basic problems and needs in developing countries
- There is a mismatch between professional associations (designed to connect locally based water service providers in a self-help network) and the nationally run water authorities found in many developing countries, who seek to internalize these association functions
- Significant segments of the development community have had no first hand experience with utilities or the professional associations serving them

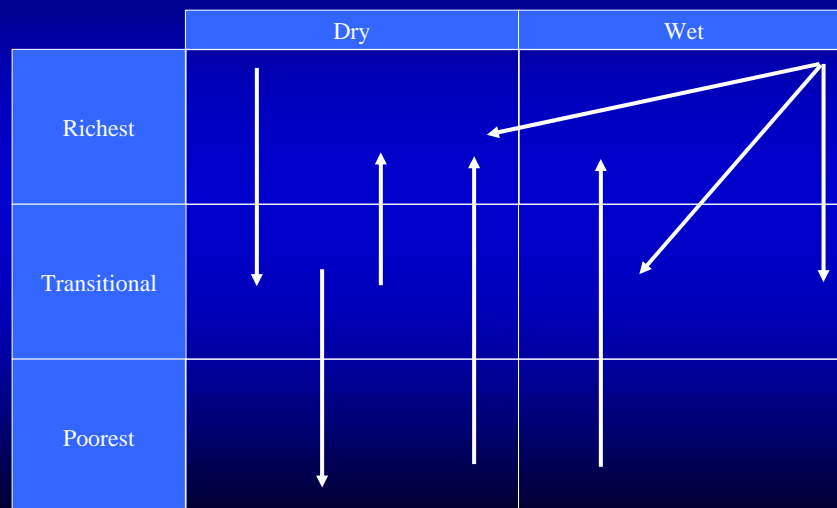


Associations Out of Touch with Basic Problems/Needs in Developing Countries?

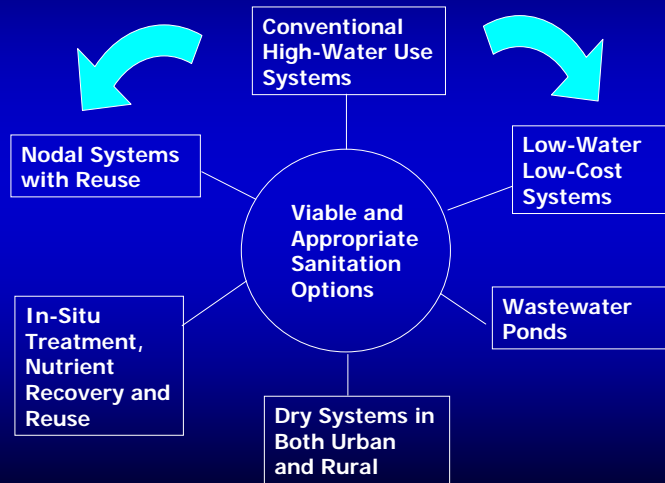
- Many international associations tend to cater to the highest common denominator of their members
- However, it is very possible to tailor programs and recruit members to address regional problems and needs – for example emerging IWA regional programs in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. These can include member placements and twinning
- Associations are part of a supply chain – need to partner with the development community and donors in providing appropriate services and populations -- for example, creating a strong alignment between IWA and national associations, or regional associations like SEAWUN or AIDIS



Knowledge and Tech Transfers Across the Divides



Creating a Portfolio of Viable Sanitation Options



Are Professional Associations in Circumstances of Nationally Organized Water Services Needed/Relevant?

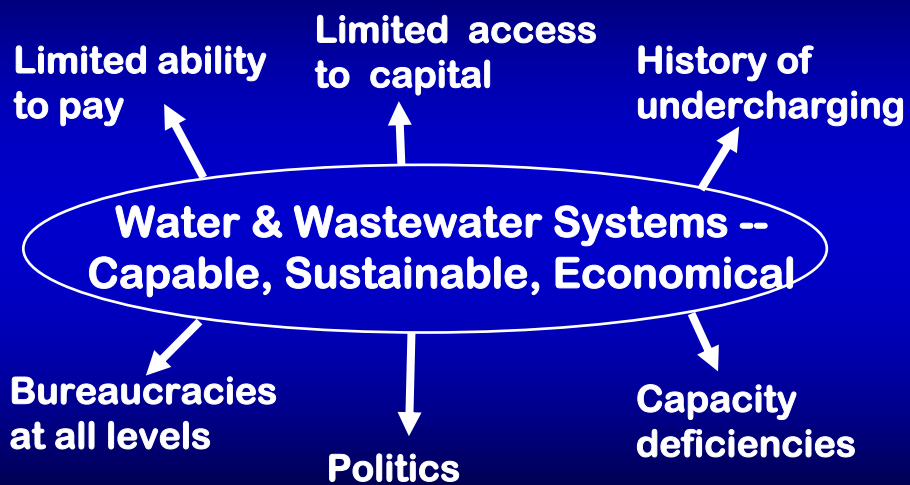
- Some national water services agencies perform very well – e.g. Morocco, Tunisia, Brazil and Colombia, other very poorly
- In all cases however, professional associations like IWA can tailor services to the needs of the national authorities and provide them either at the central or municipal levels. Banks and development agencies should help to broker these arrangements.

Can We Better Acquaint the Development Community to Practical Strategies for Good Practice Through Professional Associations?

- You bet!



Key Challenges



Wrap Up and Summary



- Professional associations are critical for advancing water and sanitation!
- Each country must have functioning and strong utility associations
- International associations like IWA need to (and are willing) to tailor programs to dovetail to national and regional associations needs
- Thank you for your attention!