

The Law of Transboundary Aquifers

Advanced Online Course

9 to 29 November 2015



Apply online

unitar.org/event/law-aquifers

Free of charge for
selected participants



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Summary

The Advanced Course on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers is an initiative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the University of Geneva's Platform for International Water Law and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

More than 90% of freshwater resources are contained in aquifers, many of which cross States' boundaries. Over half of the world's population depends on aquifers as sources of potable water. The demand for groundwater is likely to increase in the future in response to the need to offset declining surface water availability due to increased consumption and climate change. In this context, developing and improving existing legal frameworks for the sustainable management of transboundary groundwater is indispensable.

Course Goal

The objective of the Course is to provide advanced knowledge of the key legal aspects governing the management and the protection of groundwater resources.

The course will enable professionals involved in the process of treaty-making to negotiate and adopt specific agreements on groundwater resources taking into account its importance and interdependence between freshwater and groundwater international regulations. Both legal frameworks need to be developed and interpreted in a coherent way to guarantee the further protection of transboundary waters and prevent the risk of conflicts.

Content

The Advanced Course on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers is composed of 2 modules. **Module 1** describes the specific features of groundwater resources and examines the principles and norms applicable to transboundary groundwater resources. **Module 2** analyzes the existing legal and institutional frameworks on transboundary groundwater resources.

Learning objectives

Participants will be able to define the principles of the law on transboundary aquifers and explain the main features of the International Law Commission's Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers and UNECE's and UNESCO's practice governing the use of groundwater resources. They will also be able to examine the scope of main freshwater agreements in relation to groundwater resources.

Duration and Workload

The course will last 3 weeks. On average participants will have a workload of about 8-10 hours per week for an approximate total of 24 learning hours.

Participants will have the flexibility to go through the course, accessing content and learning materials at any time. The course is organized around asynchronous activities, however some assessment activities are time-bound and should be completed in accordance with the course study planning.

Methodology

The course presents 6 interactive lessons and additional resources, such as links to complementary information and a glossary of legal terms, as a primary learning method. Videos, discussing specific issues and featuring international legal experts, are a secondary important component.

This learning approach is complemented by practical collaborative activities, such as scenario based exercises, guided research assignments, and discussion forums in which they have to analyze concrete situations and apply the freshly acquired knowledge.

Throughout the course, participants learn from each other and interact with the facilitator who supports their learning process.

Target Audience

This course is mainly designed for government officials from various ministries and government agencies dealing with transboundary freshwater and groundwater issues, negotiators, specialists from relevant institutions and international organizations working in the field of water management. It also targets civil society representatives and academics.

Registration Procedure

Candidates should have a background in law, political science, economics or international relations, or relevant work experience in freshwater related issues, and be between 25 and 50 years old.

The course is conducted in English; fluency in the language is required, particularly written ability.

Qualified candidates should complete the online form at <https://www.unitar.org/event/law-transboundary-aquifers> and enclose their resumes and motivation letters.

Only complete applications will be taken into account in the selection process. The deadline for applications is 4 November 2015.

Selection Process

35 participants will be selected to participate in the course (free of charge).

The criteria for selection are based on background, professional responsibilities, language skills, and age group. Priority will be given for females and qualified applicants from the least developed and developing countries.

The final selection will be closed on 7 November 2015. **Only selected participants will be notified by email.**

Certificate

Participants who successfully complete assessments based on the established passing grade will receive a **Certificate of Completion jointly issued by UNITAR and the University of Geneva.**

