

The DRBC: A Classroom for the World

The fact that five separate governmental bodies with their own sovereign powers can successfully work together on an equal footing in managing a common resource has caught the eye of other river managers not only in this country, but around the world.

The DRBC welcomed delegations from South Korea, the People's Republic of China, Uganda, and Sri Lanka to its West Trenton headquarters in 2002 and 2003. Deputy Executive Director Bob Tudor also made a presentation to a delegation from Costa Rica at Villanova University in November 2003.

The visitors were interested in learning about the commission's organizational structure as well as its programs and activities in areas such as water pollution control, water conservation, watershed planning, flood control, water supply/drought operations, project review, and public outreach.

The delegations often included high-ranking officials, including the Sri Lankan minister of water management who also serves as a member of his nation's parliament. The Ugandan officials were searching for ideas to help them manage the world's second largest freshwater lake – Lake Victoria – which also borders two other nations and feeds the Nile, the world's longest river. The 20-person Chinese delegation that visited the commission in December 2003

“International exchanges and training provide our nation with a unique opportunity to advance America’s foreign policy objectives and, at the same time, to make a difference in the lives of people around the world ... The purpose of the IAWG is to ensure that we are all in harmony, directing our effort toward the common goal of mutual respect and understanding between the people of the United States and the people of the world. At their core, exchange and training programs are means to that end – ensuring that all that is good and noble about America is shared with the people of the world.”

– IAWG FY 2003 Annual Report



Visitors from the People's Republic of China join DRBC Public Information Officer Chris Roberts for a view of the Delaware River at Washington Crossing on Dec. 6, 2002. (Photo by Clarke Rupert)

included the lead engineer who designed the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River, described as China's biggest construction project since the Great Wall.

The Interagency Working Group on U.S. Government-Sponsored International Exchanges and Training (IAWG), created by executive order and public law, is comprised of members from over 25 federal departments and agencies. It produces an annual compilation of federally sponsored international visitor programs as a way to help facilitate information sharing among federal managers. The DRBC was included for the first time in the IAWG's federal fiscal year (FY) 2002 Inventory of Programs as well as its FY 2003 Annual Report and Directory of International Visitor Programs.