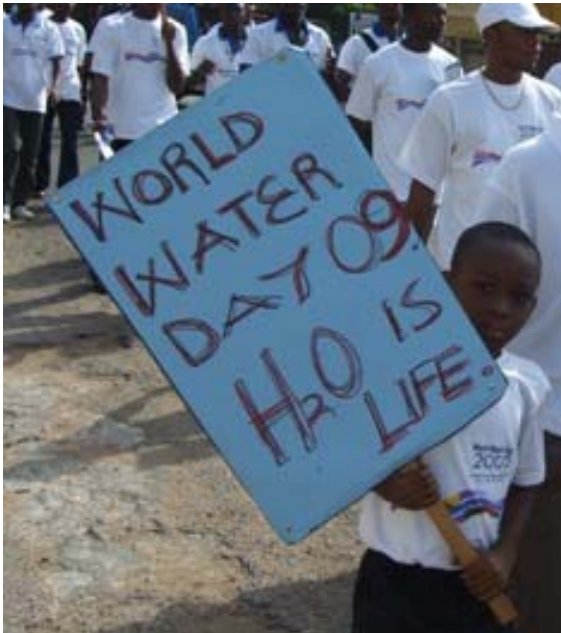


# Ghana marks World Water Day



Ghana dedicated three days to celebrating the 2009 World Water Day. Activities includes a symposium, street procession and quiz. All the activities were held around the global theme: **"Shared Waters, Shared Opportunities."** WaterAid in Ghana joined in the national celebrations.

The celebrations were aimed at drawing attention to the use of integrated water resource management tools to promote co-operation among nations with shared water basins.

***A young campaigner at the Street Procession***

The issue of transboundary waters is particularly important because Ghana shares the Volta River Basin with five other West African countries including Cote D'ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin and Mali. As a result, Ghana stands to gain from collaborating with the other five countries within its shared water basin.

In the first in series of activities line up for the celebration, a symposium was held on the theme. Presenting a paper on *"Shared Waters, Shared Opportunities, in the context of transboundary administration*, Mrs. Bernadette Araba Adjei of the Water Resource Commission said a holistic approach to harnessing water on a sustained basis is required in addressing Ghana's transboundary water management.

Mrs. Adjei called for specific attention to be placed on promoting the implementation of the National Water Policy with emphasis on international waters. She also encouraged the involvement of all actors including civil society and the private sector in the management of shared waters.



As part of the celebrations, a procession, dubbed ***"the End Water Poverty Street Procession"*** was held on Saturday March 21, 2009 through some principal streets of Accra. Over three hundred people from both private and public sector joined in the eight kilometer march to demand their water rights.

At a flag hoisting event, the minister of Water Resources, Works and Housing, Mr. Albert Abongo said the way transboundary waters are protected, sustainably managed and used will affect the successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and safeguard human security and development.

Mr. Abongo drew a close link between Access to water and poverty reduction.



**Mr. Albert Abongo flanked by the UNESCO Country Director Mrs.Moundo, Mr. Cor Livers, Acting MD of AVRIL and Mr. Ntow, CR of WAG**

He said ***“Indeed, access to water for domestic use and productive agricultural and other economic activities has a direct impact on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger in our country”.***

The World Water Day celebration was climaxed with a quiz contest on Ghana Television, the national broadcaster. Six participants answered questions on World Water Day, transboundary waters within Ghana and on the continent as well as questions on general knowledge.



**Dr. Abou Amani of UNESCO presenting the 1st Prize to Mr. A. Abdul-Hannan Legend**

After exhibiting indepth knowledge on water, through three rounds of grueling questioning, Mr. Legend Al-hassan Abdul-Hannan, emerged the over all winner followed by Victor Amartey in the second place and Israel Yao Dzantor third place.

Each contestant received a plaque and certificate of participation.