



Contact: James Clarke +94 773369533 j.clarke@cgiar.org

Media advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New director general appointed for International Water Management Institute

(Colombo, 1 March) The board of governors are delighted to announce the appointment of Jeremy Bird as the next director general of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

Mr Bird brings diverse experience to IWMI as it faces the challenges of sustainable land and water management in an environment of increasing competition for resources.

Originally from the UK, Mr Bird has worked extensively across a number of regions in natural resource research, policy and strategy development and project assessment. Following research assignments with HR Wallingford, he worked for the Asian Development Bank, the World Commission on Dams, the United Nations Environment Programme and, until 2011, was the CEO of the Mekong River Commission Secretariat.

Jeremy has bachelors and masters degrees in civil and irrigation engineering respectively, as well as a master's degree in water law with a specialisation in shared river basins.

He places a strong emphasis on increasing our understanding of the complex and multi-dimensional processes that shape water management. He is committed to getting research results into the public domain as the basis for identifying integrated and effective solutions.

Jeremy has contributed to several international processes on water resources management. He was recently appointed as an 'outcome ambassador' of the Bonn2011 initiative on the Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for UNEPs water programme.

Jeremy will commence at IWMI on 1 October 2012.

He aims to build on the outstanding foundation of research excellence and relevance that the current Director General, Dr Colin Chartres and his team have built up at IWMI over the past 5 years.

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The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is a nonprofit, scientific research organization focusing on the sustainable use of land and water resources in agriculture, to benefit poor people in developing countries. IWMI's mission is "to improve the management of land and water resources for food, livelihoods and the environment." IWMI has its headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and regional offices across Asia and Africa. The Institute works in partnership with developing countries, international and national research institutes, universities and other organizations to develop tools and technologies that contribute to poverty reduction as well as food and livelihood security (www.iwmi.org).