

Central Africa combats cholera

Four Central African countries have, since 2008, been trialing an integrated approach to combating cholera, combining the development of water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is one of the worst affected countries, with more than 150,000 cases and 4,000 deaths recorded by the WHO between 2002 and 2008, representing 20% of deaths from the disease worldwide. Enter the Global Alliance Against Cholera (GAAC), an international advisory group supported by the Veolia Foundation. The town of Kalemie in Katanga province was the first place to try out the scheme, which involved water pipe rehabilitation, building storage tanks and doubling the capacity of a water treatment plant, as well as increasing awareness of the basic rules of hygiene. Today, as the initial results show a decline in the number of cholera cases in Kalemie, the program is being extended to a second town, Uvira. And to assist in the rehabilitation of the town's water infrastructure, GAAC can count on €8.5 million in aid allocated by the French Development Agency and the European Union. ■



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Cleaner cheese from Bel. With 27 production sites around the world (including nine in France) and products sold in over 120 countries, French cheese manufacturer Bel, the name behind the popular Laughing Cow® brand, is working to minimize the environmental impact of its activities. One of its goals was to be recycling 100% of the waste generated at five of its production sites in France by the end of 2013. The solution, provided by Veolia, entailed optimizing recycling/recovery and reducing waste at source. As a result of these measures, the plants have cut the amount of waste generated by three quarters in 10 years, even though production has increased by 10% on average. Today, the Bel group recycles 80% of its waste and is aiming for 85% by the end of 2013. ■

79% in the European Union, **90%** in the USA, **91%** in Japan, **84%** in Africa, **86%** in India and **87%** in China... Fossil fuel still accounts for the vast majority of the world's energy.

Burgundy knows how to save water. 350,000 m³ of drinking water was saved in one year in the French town of Beaune, population 23,000, thanks to a combination of Veolia's time-honored water management expertise and high-tech solutions proposed by M2ocity and Endetec. This has resulted in better control of the amount of water consumed—through remote meter reading, for example—and raising awareness of the problem of wasting water, which is often unintentional. It also makes it easier to locate leaks and intervene quickly, with full knowledge of the facts, across the system concerned. ■

PERU SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE FOR THE RAINFORESTS ■ Peru's efforts to protect its primary forest against illegal logging have paid off. Thanks to a satellite-based deforestation monitoring system—after Brazil, Peru is the second country to acquire one—the results published last spring show a 37% drop in deforestation in the Peruvian Amazon over the 2010-2011 period, which peaked at 163,000 hectares/year between 2005 and 2009. ■

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE SPOTLIGHT ON THE SEOUL DECLARATION ■ Making safety and health in the workplace a high priority in every country is the core commitment of the Seoul Declaration, adopted at the World Congress on Safety and Health at Work in June 2008, in which some 50 high-level government and corporate representatives from around the world participated. In 2008, the Seoul Declaration had only a handful of signatories; now, there are more than 300. All commit to play an active role in maintaining a safe and healthy workplace by implementing a well-defined system of rights, responsibilities and duties, in which the principle of prevention is accorded the highest priority. Building on its position as one of the first signatories, in June 30, 2008, Veolia has now ratified the declaration to cover its full range of activities. ■

RAMSES SHARING KNOWLEDGE ■ Developing methods to evaluate the impact of climate change on urban infrastructure and helping European cities to better understand and accept the measures needed to adapt... these are the goals of the RAMSES – Science for cities in transition project, the winning tender for the European research project “Strategies, costs and impacts of adaptation to climate change.” Co-funded by the European Community under the 7th Framework Programme for Research, RAMSES is led by a consortium of academic and institutional partners, including the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research (PIK), the London School of Economics and Political Science, the World Health Organization, the European Secretariat of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Institut Veolia Environnement. ■