



# **RED MUD DISASTER**

# **INCIDENT**

Aika, Hungarian Aluminum Ltd., October 4, 2010, 12:30

## Western containment wall of the red mud waste rezervoir (cassette No. 10) ruptured

"All over the world the red mud catastrophe of October 2010 in Hungary draw the attention to the problem of red mud disposal sites, storage reservoirs and other wastes of mining origin that mean serious threats to humans and the environment." in the news.

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# FACTS

#### ~1 million m<sup>3</sup> NaOH solution sludge flowed out

- pH ~13
- Dry matter content: 5-10% (~8%)

#### ~100,000 tons of red mud flowed out Flooded area 1017 ha (10 km<sup>2</sup>)

- Lower parts of Kolontár, Devecser, Somlóvásárhely (~4 ha)
- Agricultural area (>1000 ha)





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# INTERVENTION

The water management task force initially focused on neutralising the caustic surface waters with addition of acids (e.g. acetic acid, hydrochloric acid) and gypsum into the Stream Torna, Rivers Marcal and Rába in order to avoid the contamination of the River Danube.





To neutralize the strong alkaline pH gypsum was added starting from October 5, 2010. Acetic acid was added to reduce pH in order to prevent the unacceptable damage in the ecosystem of the \$

Rivers. For this reason decision was made to construct so called "riverbed barriers" (artificially created obstacle under the water level) to stop the heavier fractions of contamination (the red mud and the precipitated materials) in the riverbed.



## **RED MUD DISASTER** MONITORING



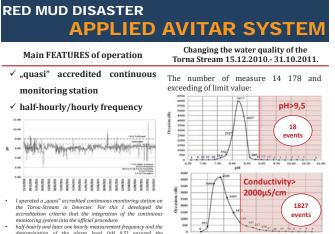
## Feedback:

- Monitor the effects
- Changes can easily be detected Rapid intervention can be implemented

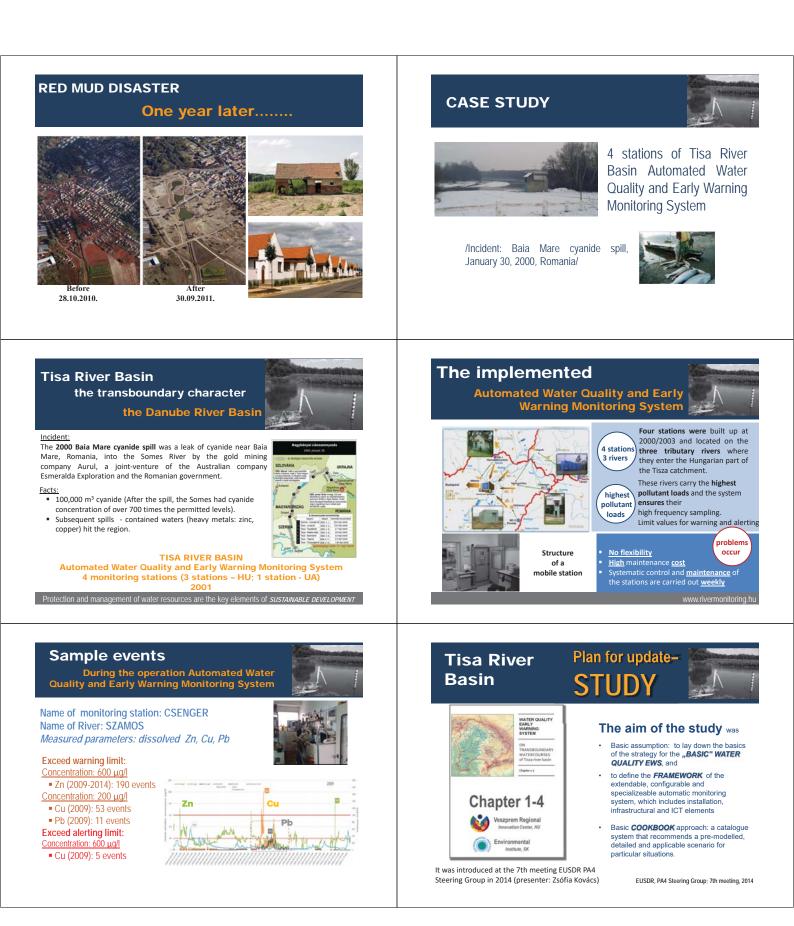
The station was installed directly at the Stream Torna in Devecser about 8 km from the red mud storage cassette No.10.

AVITAR measuring

STREAM TORNA MAL Co. Ltd **RED MUD STORAGE CASETTE** 



The Torine's team in Devecsel. For this 1 developed the accreditation criteria that the integration of the continuous monitoring system into the official procedure. half-hourly and later one hourly measurement frequency and the determination of the alarm level (pH 9.5) ensured the monitoring of the effectiveness of the inventories.



## AUTOMATED CREEPING SEDIMENT SAMPLER **R&D project** Creeping sediment sampler Sediments and ecological status of /Stream prototype/ water bodies are interconnected. Aims of the project Integrated automated quality monitoring system for surface water and creeping **CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PLANS** sediment. - Measuring heavy metal concentration in test (2017 autum different phases water bodies, creeping sediment and biota. Analysis of heavy metal dynamics between water and sediment phases. HOMÉR t (2018 summer BEWARE **Thank for your attention! R&D project plan** Dr. Zsófia KOVÁCS Aim of the project Collaborative action to develop an advanced on-line freshwater biological system for monitoring water quality (BEWARE) E-mail: zsofiakovacs@almos.uni-pannon.hu - 11 partners; 9 countries Prof. Dr. Igor CRETESCU E-mail: icre1@yahoo.co.uk BEWARE technology is based on the use of the valve gape movement of bivalves as a physiological endpoint, reflecting the animal's response to environmental changes. BEWARE will offer a sustainable and reliable technology that could sense

 BEWARE will offer a sustainable and reliable technology that could sense and report online the contamination of pristine freshwater, and alarm if the threshold of the contamination is exceeded the adjusted values, setting the stage for appropriate policy decisions that can saves life and reduce the costs of landscape reconstruction.

Based on the experience Biota Guard AS with help of IRIS Stavanger, Norway

