



Pushing Progress: 2009 World Water Week in Stockholm

The convergence of climate change with crises in food and finance make finding solutions to the world's growing water problems more urgent than ever. The 2009 World Water Week in Stockholm will explore the circumstances that promote access to water for various populations and sectors in different contexts.

Between August 16 and 22, leaders and experts from all over the world will once again gather in Stockholm to formulate common goals and find constructive solutions to our planet's water crisis. While the event's ambitions grow with every year, the size is maintained to provide an ideal arena for sharing best practices, formulating policies and reviewing international processes. Stockholm provides representatives from governments, industry, NGOs, academia, UN bodies and water professionals with an effective platform to exchange views, gain knowledge and build networks.

Responding to global change: Accessing water for the common good

This year's theme recognises that access to goods and services produced from water is not only a matter of availability, but also of effective water management, adequate supply and services, sound policies and budget allocation. The 2009 World Water Week will discuss approaches, mechanisms and financial options that can lead the way to

sustainable demand management and allocation strategies. We will also look into available options for dealing with water scarcity, such as water storage, green and blue water management, interbasin transfers and trade in water-intense products and services.

In focus

In line with the 2009 World Water Day theme, there will be a special focus on Transboundary Waters. Though allocation and management of shared water resources can be politically challenging, transboundary waters provide an opportunity for cooperation between nations, sectors and communities. At the Opening Day Plenary, the High Level Panel featuring distinguished experts and policy makers in the field will set the stage for the numerous sessions throughout the week that will collectively explore the possibilities for benefit sharing and the revitalisation of international agreements.

Cross-cutting agenda

Over 90 workshops, seminars and side events are planned by a host of collaborating partners, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Inter-American Development Bank, WaterAid, The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Water Association (IWA), WWF, GTZ, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), Sulabh International Social Service Or-

ganisation, World Bank, The World Health Organization (WHO), European Union Water Initiative (EUWI), IRC Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN-Water and many more. Topics encompass agriculture, ecosystems, financing options for water and sanitation, water and energy in the Middle East region, post-conflict and post-disaster sanitation in urban areas, experiences from the EU Framework Directive, collaboration around the Baltic Sea and much more.

The Week will also feature special focus events on Africa, Asia and Latin America as well as on Water and Climate and the Water Footprint concept. A number of related seminars will be held on the region or topic in focus in addition to the full slate of sessions taking place each day of the week.

2009 World Water Week will, as always, also include a variety of social events and prize award ceremonies, including the presentation of the 2009 Stockholm Water Prize to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of the Sulabh Sanitation Movement in India.

The full list of events and updated programmes can be found at the website www.worldwaterweek.org, which will be redesigned with a more attractive and user-friendly interface this June. Discounted early bird registration is now open. Please join us in Stockholm!

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