

World Water Day 2010

Water Quality

Clean and Quality Water for People

One World One Hope

The Millennium Development Goals is Common
Vision & Global Commitments

22 March 2010
Genova (Italy)



World Water Day

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Clean Water for a Healthy World



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Roundtable Organized in Partnership with:



Fondazione Willy Brandt





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Introduction

UN-Water is dedicating World Water Day 2010 to the theme of water quality, reflecting its importance alongside quantity of the resource in water management. The World Water Day 2010 campaign is envisaged to raise awareness about sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being through addressing the increasing water quality challenges in water management and to raise the profile of water quality by encouraging governments, organizations, communities, and individuals around the world to actively engage in proactively addressing water quality e.g. in pollution prevention, clean up and restoration.

World Water Day 2010 is an occasion to raise awareness of these dangers. Yet it is also a time to remember that water does not have to be a source of conflict and competition. If we are wise and just in the way we use and share our water resources, water can also be a catalyst for international cooperation and peace.

Water should be seen as a multifaceted resource that provides opportunities for creating new benefits to be shared, for solving stakeholders' problems and for meeting their respective interests. When the management of shared water is handled with the right tools – that is, through cooperation, tolerance and mutual respect – it can pave a safe way towards sustainable and peaceful development from every angle: social, economic, political, cultural and ecological. Thus, the benefits that accrue from cooperation over water can and should go far beyond the management of the resource itself.

Past experiences confirm that it is possible for parties with divergent interests to use a common resource harmoniously. What is important is learning how to manage shared resources equitably, in ways that guarantee good quality and adequate quantities of water for everyone.

In this occasion of World Water Day 2010 – Water Quality. The World Water Organization (WFO), UN NGO IRENE Western Europe and its partners jointly organized this roundtable to be held on 22 March 2010 in Genova (Italy) to observe and promote the World Water Day 2010 to the theme Water Quality. It is within this context and in support of the Johannesburg Commitment to the "Clean Water for People" initiative - a partnership to improve sustainable management of fresh water resources and accelerate and expand international efforts to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal of cutting in half by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, and similar effort on sanitation.



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World Water Day Highlighted

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day.

Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. On this page, we present a brief overview of the different themes that have been the focus of World Water Day celebrations.

World Water Day Themes - 2009

In 2009, the theme for World Water Day was "Shared Water - Shared Opportunities". Special focus was placed on transboundary waters. Nurturing the opportunities for cooperation in transboundary water management can help build mutual respect, understanding and trust among countries and promote peace, security and sustainable economic growth. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) lead the activities of the day with the support of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

World Water Day Themes - 2008

In 2008, World Water Day coincided with the International Year of Sanitation, and challenged us to spur action on a crisis affecting more than one out of three people on the planet. Every 20 seconds, a child dies as a result of the abysmal sanitation conditions endured by some 2.6 billion people globally. That adds up to an unconscionable 1.5 million young lives cut short by a cause we know well how to prevent. Ceremonies for the day took place at Geneva, Switzerland. Speakers included Royal Highness Willem-Alexander, Prince of Orange and Director-General of WHO Dr Margaret Chan.



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World Water Day Themes - 2007

The growing problem of Water Scarcity was the topic for World Water Day 2007. The theme highlighted the increasing significance of water scarcity worldwide and the need for increased integration and cooperation to ensure sustainable, efficient and equitable management of scarce water resources, both at international and local levels. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) hosted ceremonies for the day which included an opening address from FAO Secretary-General Jaques Diouf, and video addresses from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and Green Cross International President Michail Gorbachëv.

World Water Day Themes - 2006

The Theme of World Water Day 2006 was Water and Culture under the leadership of UNESCO. The theme 'Water and Culture' of 2006 drew the attention to the fact that there are as many ways of viewing, using, and celebrating water as there are cultural traditions across the world. Sacred, water is at the heart of many religions and is used in different rites and ceremonies. Fascinating and ephemeral, water has been represented in art for centuries - in music, painting, writing, cinema - and it is an essential factor in many scientific endeavours as well.

World Water Day Themes - 2005

The Theme of World Water Day 2005 was: Water for Life 2005 - 2015. The United Nations General Assembly at its 58th session in December 2003 agreed to proclaim the years 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", and beginning with World Water Day, March 22, 2005. The Water for Life decade set the world's goals on "a greater focus on water-related issues, while striving to ensure the participation of women in water-related development efforts, and further cooperation at all levels to achieve water-related goals of the Millennium Declaration, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development and Agenda 21."

World Water Day Themes - 2004

The UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization were charged with co-ordinating events for World Water Day 2004. The message of the Day was: Weather, climate and water resources can have a devastating impact on socio-economic development and on the well-being of humankind. According to the World Meteorological Organization weather and climate-related extreme events, such as tornadoes, thunderstorms, storms, cyclones, floods and drought, account for nearly 75 per cent of all disasters. They lead to an enormous toll of human suffering, loss of life and economic damage. Monitoring these events, predicting their movements and issuing timely warnings are essential to mitigate the disastrous impact of such events on population and economy.



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World Water Day Themes - 2003

Water for the Future was the theme for World Water Day 2003. It called on each one of us to maintain and improve the quality and quantity of fresh water available to future generations. This is essential if we are to achieve the Millennium Development Goal to halve, by 2015, the number of people living without safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was the the lead UN agency for World Water Day 2003. The goal was to inspire political and community action and encourage greater global understanding of the need for more responsible water use and conservation.

World Water Day Themes - 2002

Water for Development was the theme for 2002. The International Atomic Energy Agency was the coordinating UN agency. The currently poor and deteriorating state of water resources in many parts of the world demand integrated water resources planning and management.

World Water Day Themes - 2001

Water for Health - Taking Charge was the theme for 2001. The WHO was the coordinating UN agency.





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Background

More than 2.5 billion people, roughly 38% of the world's population, lack access to basic sanitation facilities while more than a billion people across the world continue to use unsafe drinking water sources. This means that the world is not on track to meet Millennium Development Goal (MDGs) - Goal 7, especially on sanitation. The focus now needs to be more specific, particularly on poor and marginalized groups, where access to basic water supply and sanitation facilities are largely unsatisfactory. The majority of this population is concentrated in underdeveloped countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. In Asia, 80.4% coverage in water supply and 46% in basic sanitation facilities shows that the region is not on track to achieving the set MDGs for both water supply and sanitation. A similar situation also prevails in the entire region of South Asia where there is similar gender inequality and a very strong rural urban divide in water supply and sanitation services and access to basic health care facilities. High incidences of water-related diseases have been major cause of death and low productivity of the population in the entire region.

Safe drinking water quality is one of the most basic of human needs. Access to water and sanitation plays a crucial role in overall social and economic development. Therefore, this sector must be at the central core of the development agenda. Water supply and sanitation issues relating to informal settlement and marginalized communities often tend to be neglected in the mainstream development agenda largely because development policies are less sensitive to the issues and therefore do not provide them needed space and importance. Reforms in development policies to promote people-centred development planning is needed, and this would also be crucial in create enabling environment for increasing investment and people's participation. Strong public-private partnership has been found crucial in accelerating the coverage of basic water supply and sanitation facilities, especially in informal settlements.

Simple, low-cost and appropriate technologies have tremendous significance in accelerating the basic water supply and sanitation coverage in poor and marginalized communities. While low-cost and appropriate technologies have gained appreciation among development agencies, these have yet to become part of the formal educational system. Academic curriculum designed to train professionals to work in the water supply, sanitation, hygiene and undertaking sustainable development programs.



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Commitment to the Millennium Development Goal 7 (MDGs)

World Water Day 2010 - Water Quality: WATER IS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE .

Water is crucial for sustainable development, including the preservation of our natural environment and the alleviation of poverty and hunger. Water is indispensable for human health and well-being.

The United Nations General Assembly, in December 2003, proclaimed the years 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life'.

A decade of action! The primary goal of the 'Water for Life' Decade is to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015.

These commitments include the Millennium Development Goals to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015 and to stop unsustainable exploitation of water resources. At the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002, two other goals were adopted: to aim to develop integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans by 2005 and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation.

A major effort is required in this decade to fulfil these commitments and extend access to these essential services to those who remain unserved, the majority of whom are poor people.

As women play a central role in water provision and management, a special emphasis will be placed on ensuring the participation and involvement of women in these development efforts.

Among the themes that are central for the 'Water for Life' Decade are: scarcity, access to sanitation and health, water and gender, capacity-building, financing, valuation, Integrated Water Resources Management, trans-boundary water issues, environment and biodiversity, disaster prevention, food and agriculture, pollution and energy.

UN-Water is coordinating the 'Water for Life' Decade, 2005-2015. UN-Water is the United Nations inter-agency mechanism of all relevant agencies, NGO's, departments and programs involved with water-related issues. **In this context of rapid change, a number of questions arise:**



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How are the many competing interests involved in water being balanced ?

- On what basis are decisions to be made in favour of certain developments at the expense of others?
- What are the scope and conditions for increasing water productivity in different sectors?
- Which tools should be used to enable the more efficient and equitable development and allocation of water?
- How can the best use be made of the water available?
- Which measures should be put in place to protect water resources and increase water supply?
- Which institutional and legal set-ups are the most appropriate for ensuring adequate coordination?
- What kind of information is needed and how is wide public ownership of water-related problems to be ensured?
- In conditions of water scarcity, putting in place effective and equitable management practices requires knowledge, expertise and investment at political, institutional and technical levels.
- Water conflicts can arise in water stressed areas among local communities and between countries because sharing a very limited and essential resource is extremely difficult.
- The lack of adequate legal instruments exacerbates already difficult conditions. There should be a greater focus on the peaceful sharing and management of water at both international and local levels.
- In short, water scarcity is also about equity and rights, and cultural and ethical issues warrant due consideration.



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World For World Organization and UN NGO IRENE Western Europe is promoting the World Water Day activities for 2010, with close partnership and support from: **Fondazione AMGA, Legambiente Liguria Onlus, Fondazione Willy Brand and Aquaphor Corporation**, as Organization Committee is currently hosted in Genova (Italy).

A roundtable discussion will be held on 22 March 2010 to raise awareness on World Water Day 2010 and the political focus required for increased cooperation on shared water resources. It will address issues of adaptation and management of global challenges and changes, including climate change, in a trans boundary water context. The event is intended to provide a platform for interactive dialogue between decision makers and key stakeholders to discuss current and emerging challenges with a focus on how to achieve a sustainable management of shared waters.

The discussion, based on both practical experiences and identified needs, will take place between international organizations and experts on climate variability and trans boundary water management focusing on the following topics:

Themes

World Water Day to the theme Water Quality 2010. It is on this basis that this one day conference intends to focus on appropriate and sustainable program solutions to the marginalized and informal settlements. The roundtable intends to bring together researchers, educationists, development workers, NGO's, local authorities, professionals and policy personnel working on these issues in Italy to discuss and come up with recommendations for policy reforms, of development planning and appropriate application for water quality interventions.

The Roundtable will focus on the following topics:

In general, the progression of involvement will begin with water because it Exploring the issues of informal settlements is the key that opens to other activities within roundtable and World Water Day 2010 to the Water Quality:

- **Water Quality:** Provide access to increased quantity and improved quality of water.
- **Sustainability of the Consuming of Bottled Water:**
 - Quality of the Different Tap Waters
 - Optimization of the Tap Water



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- **Hygiene:** Encourage and facilitate education in basics such as hand washing and the use of latrines.
- **Nutrition:** Encourage and facilitate the use of alternative nutritious plants and irrigated agriculture.
- **Health:** In addition to safe water, better hygiene and nutrition which improves health, encourage and facilitate the use of medicinal plants and mosquito nets.
- **Environment:** Sensitization of the consumers in order to reduce pollution and water waste due to excessive use of bottled water.
- **Education:** Promote Sustainable development programs focusing on the role of Water Quality is essential for the human being, and identifies, adapts and develops simple, affordable and sustainable water development methods and technologies that meet the local conditions.
- Options of Technologies and Services in Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Health and Livelihood Linkages of Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Governance Approaches and Institutional Mechanisms
- Public policies and Enabling Environment and Climate Change on Water Quality Supply, including pollution problems caused by transportation of bottled water and waste of PET containers.
- Big Changes from Small Initiatives: Case Studies on Success (also Failure) Stories

Preliminary Schedule

Schedule content is subject to change. The final program will be available on website. Visit the Website at the following addresses:

<http://www.worldforworld.org> - <http://www.fondazioneamga.org> - <http://www.legambienteliguria.org>
<http://www.altroconsumo.it> - <http://www.aquaphor-water.eu>

for the latest program information.



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MONDAY, 22 March 2010

- 09:00 – 10:00** Arrival of the participants, registration;
- 10:00 – 10:15** Opening Speech;
- 1st session:** “**Water and sustainable development**” chairing Prof. Vincenzo Riganti (University of Pavia)
- 10:20 – 10:45** “Water Quality and Supply to guaranty clean & safe drinking water to the populations” - by Dr. Mario Sapadari, Director General, Fondazione Willy Brandt;
- 10:50 – 11:10** “Climate Change Water & Health in Developing Countries - Impact and Adaptations” by Dr. Sidi Cherif, Executive President of the World For World Organization
- 11:15 – 11:35** “The environmental impact of PET” by Dr. Giorgio Temporelli, AMGA Foundation;
- 11:40 – 12:00** “A Country in the bottle”, by Giorgio Zampetti, Legambiente Onlus;
- 12:05 – 12:25** “Let’s put it in the jug”, by Pietro Raitano, Altraeconomia;
- 12:30 – 13:40** Lunch Break buffet;
- 2nd session:** “**Technologies and applications for water treatment at the poit of use**”, chairing Prof. Giulinao Ziglio (University of Trento).
- 13:45 – 14:00** “Water in the tanks of yachts”, by Captain Massimo Tixi, Genova;
- 14.00 – 14:30** “The philosophy of water purification at the points of emission (POE) and at the points of use (POU)”, by Dr. Joseph Shmidt, President of Aquaphor Corporation, Sankt Petersburg (Russia);
- 14:35 – 15:00** “The Aquaphor technology for POU water purification”, by Clemente Carlo Kaiser, Aquaphor Corp;
- 15:15 - 15:45** Questions and answers;
- 15.45 - 16:00** Final Declaration and Recommendations
- End of the event
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Planning Committee

Dr. Osvaldo Conio, Vice-President of AMGA Foundation

Dr. Giorgio Temporelli, AMGA Foundation

Dr. Sidi Cherif, Executive President of WFWO & Coordinator UN NGO IRENE Western Europe

Dr. Stefano Ciafani, Legambiente Onlus

Dr. Pietro Raitano, Altraeconomia

Captain Massimo Tixi, Genova.

Dr. Joseph Shmidt, President of Aquaphor Corp., Sankt Petersburg (Russia)

Clemente Carlo Kaiser, Aquaphor Corp.

Date & Venue

The Roundtable will be held in Genova (Italy) in the occasion of World Water Day – Water Quality on 22nd of March 2010. The venue of the conference at the IRIDE Convention Room, Via Serra 3r - Genova (Italy) from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Who Should Attend

- Selected local Authorities
- Water Quality Specialists
- Treatment Plant Managers and Operators
- Scientists of the sector
- Engineers of the sector
- Lab Personnel
- Educational Institutions, Academics, Faculty, Students, Libraries and other related Organizations
- NGO's
- Consultants
- Federal and State Regulatory Agencies



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Abstract & Paper Submission

Original research papers are invited from researchers, educationists, professionals, development workers, students and other practitioners on specific themes of the conference outlined above. Abstracts not exceeding 350 words, along with the title of the paper, on key words and name and the affiliation of the authors and their contact addresses are requested. The authors of the selected abstracts shall be invited to submit full papers for publication in the conference proceedings.

Student Participants

Students pursuing graduate studies leading to Masters or Doctoral degrees are encouraged to develop abstracts for presentation in poster sessions. While they are free to develop abstracts on any of the themes outlined above, in particular contributions are sought on real-life case studies, specially focused to the theme of Big Changes from Small Initiatives on Water Quality.

Registration Informations

All workshop attendees, including speakers, must register. You may register by form online, by fax or by e-mail.

TO REGISTER BY MAIL: Complete the registration form and mail it with full information details to: eventi@legambienteliguria.org or by priority post to: Legambiente Liguria Onlus, Via Caffa 3 int. 5b, Genova - 16129 (Italy)

TO REGISTER BY FAX: Complete the registration form—with full information details — and fax it to +39 010319168 Legambiente Liguria Onlus. To avoid duplicate, do not mail the original of the faxed form.

Please note that: To receive early participant registration pricing, your registration form must be received by 5th March 2010. A confirmation will be mailed to all registrants whose registration is received by 5th March 2010. Registrations cannot be processed without registration .

For further information please contact the Organization Committee - Mrs. Francesca Brusco, Secretary of the Roundtable at: +39 3393536695