



# Looking Forward: 2008 World Water Week

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**With over 40 seminars, 30 side events, and 8 workshops preliminarily scheduled and an expanded conference venue, this year's World Water Week in Stockholm aims higher than any ever before. So, we hope you don't miss the opportunity to join the growing number of participants who have already signed up to explore a wide variety of exciting themes and topics at the Stockholm International Fairs and Congress Center between August 17 and 23.**

As always, the 2008 World Water Week in Stockholm will cover a wide breadth of topics to address the multiplicity of issues in water and development policy, planning and management. This year's theme, Progress and Prospects on Water: For A Clean and Healthy World with Special Focus on Sanitation, recognises that while the challenges faced by the water and development community are many – ranging from ecosystem protection and integrated water resource management, effective monitoring and evaluation to responsible finance and climate change adaptation – they are interconnected and must be tackled together to steer a path toward healthy future development.

Plenary sessions, panel debates, technical tours, social events and prize ceremonies, including the presentation of the 2008 Stockholm Water Prize to Professor John

Anthony Allan, the innovator of ground-breaking concepts such as “virtual water,” round out the programme for the Water Week. Details on all scheduled events can be found in the printed Second Announcement and Call for Registration, and also at [www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org). The website will be continuously updated with additional information up until the World Water Week by including, for example, the full list of workshop oral presentations and their topics, and programme details for different side events, seminars and plenary sessions.

## **A Special Focus on Sanitation**

With the UN declaration of 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation, the special focus on sanitation at the 2008 World Water Week in Stockholm will serve as a forum for experience-sharing of current efforts in the field and to evaluate progress made in implementation.

Long regarded by many policy makers as a symptom of poverty, the role that investing in sanitation and hygiene plays as a driver of poverty reduction will be taken up over the week's events. Investing in sanitation and hygiene is not only about saving human lives and dignity; it is the foundation for investing in human development in poverty stricken areas. At the opening session, the High Level Panel will feature distinguished leaders and experts in poverty reduction, hunger eradication, gender equality, pri-

mary education, major disease prevention and water and sanitation. They will discuss the cross-cutting role, links and benefits of sanitation investments as cost effective policy options to secure progress towards the achievement the Millenium Development Goals (MDG) targets.

This powerful kick-off will be followed by seminars, workshops and side events throughout the week that will highlight a range of issues in research, implementation and the application of socio-economic approaches to health and hygiene on several levels – from community action to national policy and global response. Further events will follow-up and drive forward the agendas of the year's earlier large regional international sanitation conferences at AfricaSan, LatinoSan, SacoSan and EaSan.

## **Great Days a Week: Water and Climate**

For a second consecutive year, the World Water Week in Stockholm will put water, climate change and adaptation issues on centre stage. As was concluded at the 2007 Water and Climate Day, changes in the water balance are what will hit us first in the face of climate change and the need to focus on how to adapt to inevitable changes has become evermore urgent. This year, the Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate, German Federal Ministry of Environmental Cooperation and Development, German Federal Ministry for the



Photo: Getty Images.

Changes in water balance will hit us first in the face of climate change. The World Water Week has allocated two days to the challenging and complex issue of climate change.

Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, SIWI and a host of other participating organisations are holding a two-day expanded Water and Climate session to address the immense scope of the changing climate's impact on human development and the complex but central role water plays in adapting to those changes. The events will include a presentation of the latest International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Technical Paper on Climate Change and Water and a panel discussion on the implications of those findings on policy implementation. Building on the theme of the 2007-2008 Human Development Report, a two-part seminar will take up climate-proofing water and development strategies and include a panel discussion on political implementation featuring ministers from Africa, Asia, Europe and Australia. Other key topics to be covered include vulnerability, adaptation projects, climate and water impacts on drinking water, groundwater and agriculture, and regional perspectives.

#### Asia Day

With the world's eye on Asia for the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games, the World Water Week will feature a number of seminars, side events and workshops that will take an in-depth look at the critical water and sanitation issues which will shape the future development of the largest and most populous continent.

With two-thirds of the world's population and half of them – close to two billion people – living without sustainable access to safe water and sanitation, the scale of water and sanitation issues in Asia is mind numbing. Against this background, the Asian Development Bank, together with several development partner agencies, will lead a day-long session of technical presentations and discussions that will present Asia's experience and identify solutions to address the multiple challenges of managing water resources in river basins. In particular, these challenges include: widespread and deteriorating water quality; improving water supply, sanitation and irrigation services through institutional reforms; initiating performance benchmarking in national water sector apex bodies, river basin organisations and utilities; and addressing the issues of increased risk of flood and drought as a result of climate change. Crucial to the success of the events of Asia Day at the World Water Week will be the continued partnership and network building that is helping, and can further help, to meet these challenges.



Photo: Manfred Matz, SIWI.

Asia is home to many of the world's fastest growing megacities. Its also home to nearly two billion people living without sustainable access to safe water and improved sanitation. At the upcoming World Water Week, a series of events will be held on Asia Day to discuss how to meet the water related challenges in the largest and most populous continent.



Topics such as ecosystems and biodiversity, transboundary groundwater management and solving emerging conflicts between food production and bioenergy will be addressed.

### **A Cross-Cutting Agenda**

The diverse range of topics taken up each year at the World Water Week in Stockholm – such as anti-corruption and good governance in water, drinking water supply, ecosystems and biodiversity, transboundary groundwater management and solving emerging conflicts between food production and bioenergy – will all be continued and followed-up upon. Further, new thematic areas will grow through scientific workshops that will focus on topics including: Preventive Action for Health; Sustainable Cities; Using Waste as a Resource; Water Afteruse and the Ecosystem Approach; Human Behaviour and Communication and Sanitation under Different Climate Conditions. The broad scope of areas covered by the events of the 2008 World Water Week in Stockholm reflects the present nature of the challenges in water and development and the latest progress made by all the co-convening organisations. In Stockholm, partnerships will be built to drive forth the cross-cutting development agenda to build a clean and healthy world.

### **The Place to Be**

SIWI is pleased to announce that the World Water Week in Stockholm's new venue, the Stockholm International Fairs and Congress

Center, features the city's finest display capabilities for exhibitions and most comfortable conference facilities. The warmth and intimacy of the event will be retained while the new venue offers opportunities to improve the experience of attendees. Please join us in Stockholm to get the latest on leading-edge

science, research and practice; to develop fruitful partnerships; and to encourage accountability to promises and processes in the water and development sector.

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# **WORLD in Stockholm, August 17-23, 2008 WATER WEEK**

August 17-23, 2008, is the date for the 2008 World Water Week in Stockholm. The Second Announcement and Call for Registration is available at [www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org). The theme of the week is Progress and Prospects on Water: For a Clean and Healthy World with Special Focus on Sanitation.

To make sure you receive the announcements in printed or electronic form, add your name (or update your record) to the mailing list via the links at either [www.siwi.org](http://www.siwi.org) or [www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org).