Only 2.5 percent of the water on Earth is fresh and, of that, more than two-thirds is locked away in glaciers. Human activities profoundly affect the quantity and quality of available freshwater. The supply of freshwater is under rapidly increasing pressure from population growth, land use changes, deterioration of water quality, and climate change. Already, 1.1 billion people in developing countries—nearly one-sixth of Earth's population—have limited access to freshwater.

At this forum, U.S. scientists, engineers and water resource specialists will review current and anticipated water-related technologies with the international community and identify needs in freshwater research, technology transfer, and capacity-building programs. Participants will exchange information and ideas on how science can help nations better address water problems like drought and drinking water availability and safety. The discussion will focus on developing countries facing the most severe shortages, especially those in Africa.

2008 Water Sciences Forum

Cutting Edge Technologies for Water Services: Applications in Africa

Agenda

Friday, June 27, 2008

8:00am—4:30pm

Welcome and Keynote (8:00am—9:30am)

Welcomes:

Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director
National Science Foundation

Dr. Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs
Department of State

Dr. Sharon Hays, Associate Director and Deputy Director for Science
Office of Science and Technology Policy

Opening Remarks:

Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General
United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Keynote:

Dr. Robert Hirsch
U.S. Geological Survey

Discussion:

Chaired by Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director
National Science Foundation

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Break - refreshments in the Delegate's Lounge

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Panel I: Science and Engineering to Address Water Issues in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions (9:45am—11:45am)

Chaired by Dr. Ralph Cicerone, President
National Academy of Sciences

Topic Presentation:

Dr. Juan Valdes, Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA)
University of Arizona

Respondents:

Dr. Kodjo Amegee
International Geosphere Biosphere Program on Climate Change for Sub-Sahara Africa

Dr. Eugene Stakhiv
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Dr. James Verdin
National Integrated Drought Information System Program Office

Lunch (11:45am—1pm)

Department of State Courtyard

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Panel II: Science and Engineering to Address Issues on Drinking Water and Sanitation (1pm—3pm)

Chaired by Lieutenant General Henry Hatch, retired
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Topic Presentation:

Dr. Mark Shannon, Center of Advanced Materials for the Purification of Water with Systems (WaterCAMPWS)
University of Illinois

Respondents:

Dr. Jean-Claude Bonzongo
University of Florida

Dr. Sally Gutierrez
Environmental Protection Agency

Dr. Garrick Louis
University of Virginia

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Break - refreshments in the Delegate's Lounge

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Concluding Discussion (3:15pm—4:20pm)

Co-chaired by

Dr. Nina V. Fedoroff, Special Advisor, Science and Technology
Department of State

Ambassador Louise Oliver, U.S. Permanent Representative to UNESCO
Department of State

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Concluding Remarks (4:20pm—4:30pm)

Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General
United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)