

The Global Issues Project - Expert Roundtable on Water Issues

November 8-9, 2008

WORKSHEET FOR FOLLOWUP PROGRAM

WATER GOVERNANCE

- Prioritize – first steps toward a national water strategy
- Conservation and soft path as tools for governance
- Economics – full valuation of water, capital cost recovery, non-market valuation
- Constitutional challenges, national and global – mandate of NAFTA and trade agreements
- Trans-boundary water
- Define federal and provincial strategy – separate governance, planned cooperation
- Integrated water resource management
- The issue of privatization; role of decentralization – developed countries; developing countries
- Relating water availability to regulations for buildings/new construction

WATER AND PEACE

- Methods for solving inequitable access; relief from corruption
- Learning from spiritual insights on water and humanity
- Aboriginal water rights – recognized or denied?
- Lessons from ancient societies, e.g. Sri Lanka, Sumeria, Ankor Wat
- sustainable water usage – provision for later generations
- need for a Canadian water ethic – what is our value framework?
- human right to water
- humanitarian assistance to regions suffering from droughts and floods

WATER AND SECURITY

- International experience, developed and developing countries
- Consequences of water-related conflict
- Climate change and security of supply of water
- Trust-building measures
- Canada's role on the world water stage
- Long term planning/governance
- Global stability promotion through water and wastewater management

WATER AND ECOLOGICAL GOVERNANCE

- Securing nature's water needs
- Watershed management
- Risk management for adaptation to climate change
- Transboundary water resources
- Conservation strategies and law
- Protecting and restoring potable water
- River depletion, wetlands protection
- Flood and drought prevention through ecological management

WATER ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

- Energy-water nexus
- Water demand for energy generation - nuclear power, gas or coal-fired plants
- Canadian oil sands operations – excessive water demand, water pollution
- Water strategy for industry
- Cooperative research, joint data collection; information dissemination
- Desalination – a solution or a new problem?
- Overuse of irrigation water – sourced from dams and groundwater
- Pro and con for various water technologies
- Best Available Water Technologies, and new innovations
- Inland Water Transport for energy conservation and economic development

FOLLOW UP PROGRAM

- Report: DIALOGUE ON EMERGING THREATS AND NEW PRIORITIES FOR FRESHWATER
- Promote high level discussions leading to a comprehensive national water policy
- Develop a short list of federal, provincial and municipal government departments- Purpose: interaction to transmit the findings of the roundtable
- Identify opportunities for DFAIT to showcase Canada as a good “global citizen”
- Further study: Promoting equitable access; methods for solving inequitable access
- Further study: A fail-safe viable role for the private sector?

Any other suggestions:

Thanks for your participation.

The Global Issues Project, Committee on Water.

Adele Buckley, Derek Paul, Phyllis Creighton, Claus Brandes, David Harries, Julia Morton-Marr.