

A Paradigm Shift in Urban Water Management

In 2006 the SWITCH project began a 5 year journey of working directly with cities to catalyse change to more sustainable urban water management. A consortium of 33 research partners from 15 countries have been working with practitioners (urban planners, local government, utilities, NGOs +) in 12 cities on 4 continents to implement innovative scientific, technological and socio-economic solutions.

The SWITCH approach includes:

- Moving to closed loop systems that integrate all aspects of the water cycle – water, wastewater, stormwater and natural systems
- Solutions across multiple scales – household to city level and integrating water into urban planning
- Knowledge sharing between North and South countries and between scientist and practitioners
- Addressing current problems while strategically planning a resilient and sustainable future
- Understanding the best local solutions for different climatic, institutional and economic situations
- Combining the latest technologies with natural systems



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**Global CityWater
 Futures Summit**
 7-10 October 2009
 Delft, The Netherlands



Learning Alliances
 for Change

Science Meets Practice

The Summit will bring together over 50 experts from around the world with 100 practitioners from cities in Africa, Europe, South America, Asia, the Middle East, and Australia as well as donor groups and international organisations to join forces in accelerating change toward a more sustainable water City of the Future.

Over a 3 day period participants will be inspired by speakers who have changed the way things are done,. They will interact, exchange ideas and share experiences. The Summit will culminate in a series of briefing notes, globally authored by the participants, to influence policy by highlighting successes and targeting key impediments to progress towards sustainable urban water management.

Five Focus Areas

- Inclusion of urban water management into city strategic planning including adoption of sustainability indicators, resilience to climate change
- Use of decision-making tools that integrate water, sanitation, drainage, energy, urban planning and agriculture and economics
- Methods for local players to work together to create these cross-disciplinary and organisational plans as well as drive the right science agenda
- Transitioning existing institutional, economic, technological and social systems – roadmap of how to get started
- Mainstreaming demonstrations into common practice. Sharing experiences and overcoming bureaucratic hurdles.

A Global Discussion in Preparation

Draft discussion papers on each of the focus areas will be developed prior to the Summit and a collaborative process (e-discussions) will be undertaken with participants in September.

Summit Schedule (Draft)

Wednesday 7 October

11:00 – 13:30 Joint lunch session with SWITCH Scientific Conference

13:30 pm – 18.00 – Summit Sessions

Thursday 8 October

9:00 – 18:00 Summit sessions

19:00 – 23.00 Gala dinner

Friday 9 October

9:00 – 18:00 Summit sessions

Saturday 10 October

8:00 am – 1:00 pm Tours of Rotterdam “Living with Water” sites + other local innovations in water management

The Purpose of the Summit

To share learnings between a global network of cities, researchers, local government and water utilities with a focus on joining forces to accelerate change to more sustainable urban water management



What is your City's Water Future?

Around the world urban areas are facing enormous challenges from population growth and climate change. The problems are universal but especially acute in the less developed countries. More frequent droughts and floods along with sea level rise and degrading infrastructure are causing us to re-think the ways that we plan for and provide water in our towns and cities.

Recent technological advancements and economic and institutional arrangements are opening up opportunities for implementing innovative, more affordable, integrated solutions.

We invite you to the Global CityWater Futures Summit to chart your City's water future in the direction you want to go.

Attendance of the Summit is by invitation.

To register your interest:

contact

SWITCH Secretariat

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