

ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 2018

"Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies in Asia and the Pacific"

28-30 March 2018 | UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE . BANGKOK, THAILAND

SIDE EVENT

Opening a Decade on Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028)

Commemoration of the World Water Day 2018 and the Regional Launch of the

World Water Development Report 2018 on Nature-based Solutions for Water and the

SDG6 Synthesis Report

Venue: Meeting Room H, 1st Floor, UNCC

Date: Friday, 30 March 2018

Time: 10:30-11:30

Organizers: UNESCO Bangkok / ESCAP

Introduction

March 22 marks the annual commemoration of World Water Day. This year world leaders are gathering in Brazil for the 8th World Water Forum (18-23 March), where ESCAP and UNESCO are leading different political dialogues. The World Water Forum will also celebrate the opening of a new UN Decade on Water for Sustainable Development (2018-2028).

In recent years, ESCAP and UNESCO have delivered a special public dialogue to feature the policy messages and the launch of the analytical products aimed to set up exemplary cases from the region. As part of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, the two agencies will deliver a side event to feature two analytical products; The World Water Development Report 2018 (WWDR 2018) and SDG6 Synthesis report. The event will also raise awareness on global water events, which should help to create synergies between the different initiatives.

The WWDR 2018 is an annual publication by the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO and UN-Water, which involves 31 Members and 38 Partners. The years WWDR aims to inform decision and policy-makers across all sectors on the potential of 'nature-based solutions' for sustainable water management. The term 'nature-based solutions' refers to water management practices that imitate naturally occurring processes.

In addition, UN Water will launch SDG 6 Synthesis report in June 2018, which will report the global progress of SDG6.

Scope and Key Questions

The event will engage distinguished experts from member states and regional think-tanks, private sector and civil societies to discuss potential nature-based solutions for water and how they could be considered for water management policy and practice. The deliberation and discussions from the event will contribute to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

In addition, the event will facilitate networking between different sectors and catalyze regional initiatives for exploring innovative strategy to attain SDG6 in Asia Pacific.

- How can we tackle water challenges using nature-based solution?
- What impactful policy levers would help address SDG 6 in Asia Pacific, to ensure improvement of human livelihood and ecosystem health?

Programme

10:30 - 10:40 Welcome and Opening remarks

Ms. Katinka Weigner, Chief EDPS, EDD, ESCAP

Ms. Maki Hayashikawa, OIC, UNESCO Bangkok

10:40 - 10:50 Presentation on WWDR 2018 on *Nature Based Solutions for Water*

Dr. Boer Benno, UNESCO Bangkok

10:50 - 11:00 Presentation on *Nature Based Solutions: Contributing to Water Security*

Dr. McCartney Matthew, IWMI-Lao PDR

11:00 - 11:10 Advanced briefing of the *SDG 6 Synthesis report*

Dr. Cordeiro Ortigara Angela Renata, Programme Officer, UNESCO WWAP (webex)

11:10 – 11:23 Remarks from the Academia and the Government

Prof. Sucharit Koontanakulvong, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Prof. Lawrence Surendra, The Sustainability Platform for Asia (TSP Asia, Bangalore, India)

11:23 Question

11:30 onwards networking

For more details and information contact:

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