



# Philadelphia Global Water Initiative

## Highlights

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This year PGWI has and will play a significant role in major water- related events. World Water Forum 5 was held in Istanbul, Turkey in March and I attended with PGWI Treasurer Christiaan Morrsink and 14 University of Pennsylvania students. The students were competitively selected for a 90 minute presentation [the only university students in the world selected for this honor]. We also distributed information at our PGWI/UPENN booth. With over 35,000 attendees we received quite a bit of positive exposure. On November 7-11, 2009, the American Public Health Association will hold their annual national meeting in Philadelphia. This year the emphasis will be on water and PGWI will again be present, making presentations and distributing information about our many partners. These major events are wonderful opportunities to make the world aware of the good work that is being done by organizations and individuals in the Philadelphia Region. You may want to look ahead and plan on attending the World Water Week Conference with us in Stockholm in August 2010.



Stan Laskowski, President



As part of the 2009 World Water Week initiatives, the WWF has accepted a four-year \$1 million award from JohnsonDiversey to support efforts in developing water stewardship standards. The WWF is one of several interested groups that joined together to form the Alliance for Water Stewardship. The purpose of the Alliance is to develop a certification program that recognizes and rewards users who minimize their water footprint on the environment. The Alliance will convene a group of stakeholders including the government, scientists and industry, to form a Global Water Roundtable. To learn more go to [www.allianceforwaterstewardship.org](http://www.allianceforwaterstewardship.org).

On June 26, 2009, U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, delivered the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act Congressional Report, June 2009. Her introduction to the report can be found at <http://www.irc.ni/pages/48090>. Of the many U.S. agencies that contribute to water and sanitation issues, USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) provide the majority of U.S. financial support. So far, more than 7.7 million people have improved access to safe drinking water and almost 6.3 million have improved access to sanitation (<http://www.reliefweb.int>, Sept 01 2009)

California may be the first state in the U.S. to endorse clean water for basic needs as a human right. A bill to that effect, AB 1242, has been authored by California Assemblyman Ira Ruskin. The bill passed a key Senate committee in July and it might be on Governor Schwarzenegger's desk by this fall. To view an analysis of the bill please see; [http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab\\_1201-1250/ab\\_1242\\_cfa\\_20090427\\_115849\\_asm\\_comm.html](http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_1201-1250/ab_1242_cfa_20090427_115849_asm_comm.html)

The Philadelphia Water Department has entered into an agreement with the US Geological Survey as part of their comprehensive watershed monitoring program. The PWD will continue to be responsible for the water quality instrumentation and the USGS will perform the monitoring operations and post the water quality conditions online. Go to <http://pa.water.usgs.gov/pwd/#> for an online view of your watershed map and real-time data, specific to your watershed.

More than 10,000 visitors attended the second Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) held June 22-26, 2009. Key topics included a WHO Working Group Meeting on Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in Drinking Water, the second meeting of the International Network of Drinking-water Regulators (RegNet), and a planning meeting for the Global Water Safety Plan Conference 2010 with the International Water Association and Malaysian Water Association. More information on the SIWW 2009 and the future SIWW 2010 can be found at; <http://www.siww.com/sq>.

The 2009 Stockholm Water Prize was awarded to Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak during a royal ceremony at the Stockholm City Hall on August 20, 2009. Dr. Pathak founded the Sulabh International Service Organization in India to address health and human rights issues. He

established the Sulabh Sanitation Movement in 1970 and developed a twin pit, pour-flush toilet system that has been declared a Global Best Practice by United Nations HABITAT and Centre for Human Settlements. To learn more about Dr. Pathak and World Water Week go to <http://www.worldwaterweek.org>.

## Notes

**I**n the Mid-Atlantic region, 'peak' water use occurs during late July and early August when temperatures are at their highest. According to the EPA, residents use up to four times as much water during this time period compared to the rest of the year. [WaterSense](#), a program sponsored by the EPA, helps residents save water and protect the environment. Go to <http://www.epa.gov/watersense> to test your watersense, learn ways to save water, and find [Watersense](#) labeled products.

**F**or a quick test of your individual water footprint, go to <http://www.waterfootprint.org>.

**T**he July 8, 2009 EWB meeting minutes are online and can be found at: [EWB-MAP July Chapter Meeting Notes \(rev\).doc](#).

**I**nterested in becoming a tour guide or education volunteer at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center? Please contact the center at 215-685-0720

## Upcoming Events

- September 3, 2009 – Engineers Without Borders (**EWB-MAP**) monthly meeting at Drexel University, Room CAT 276. See <http://ewb-map.org> for times and maps.
- September 20, 2009 – Southeastern Pennsylvania Coast Day at Penn's Landing from 11am-4pm. For information about participating venues and activities, go to <http://www.fairmountwaterworks.org>.

- November 7-11, 2009 - The American Public Health Association (**APHA**) will be holding their 137<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Symposium in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. This event attracts over 13,000 health and related professionals. Please go to <http://www.apha.org/meetings> for
- more information and to register.

## **PGWI Partners**

**Aqua America**

**Delaware River Basin Commission**

**Engineers Without Borders- Mid Atlantic**

**Keiyo Soy Ministries**

**Meta Quality of Life Improvement Foundation**

**Pennoni Associates**

**Philadelphia Water Department**

**Rotary District 7450**

**Traveling Mercies**

**Uhl Baron and Rana Associates**

**United Nations Association – UNA-GP**

**USEPA**

**University of Pennsylvania**

**Water for People**

**Please participate with us and submit all suggestions, copy and upcoming events to:**

### **Contact Info**

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