

Hilltops 2 Oceans WSSB Partnership Initiative

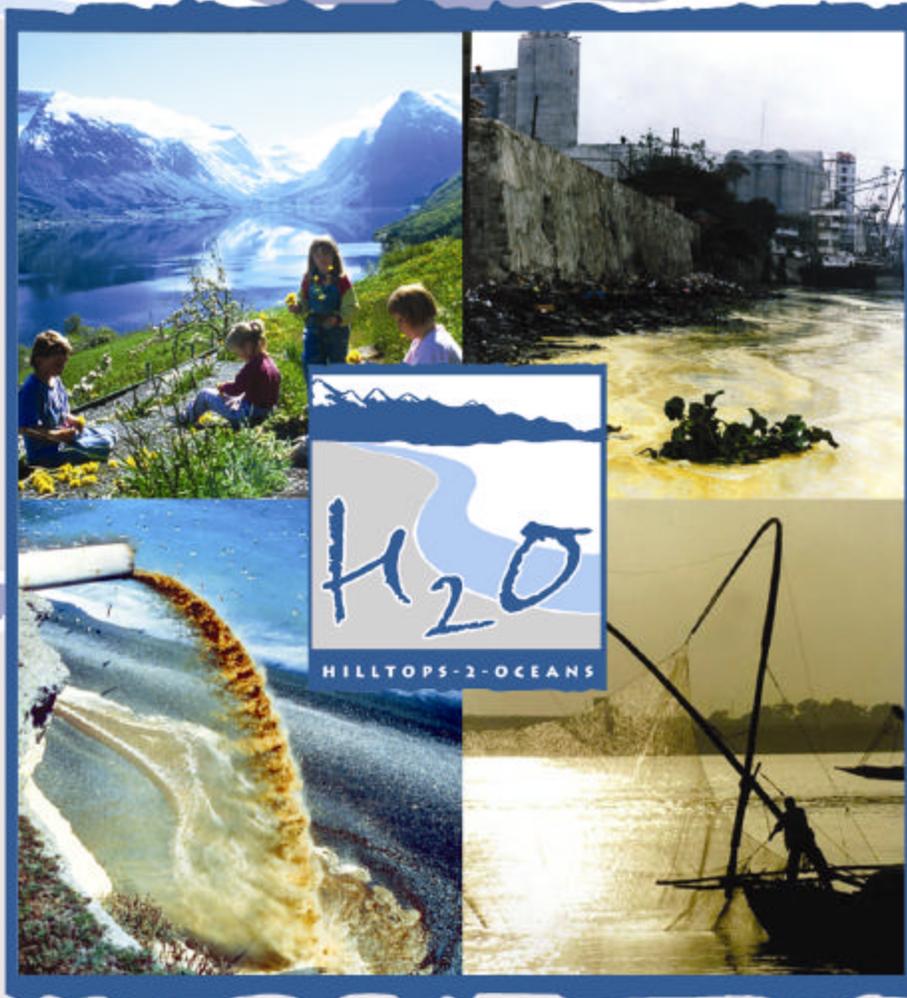
Global H₂O Partnership Conference and Trade Fair

10-14 May 2004

Cairns International Hotel

Cairns, Australia

Second Announcement



www.hilltops2oceans.org



Australia 2004



Dr David Kemp
Australian Government
Minister for the Environment and Heritage

As the Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage I would like to welcome delegates to Australia to attend the Global H₂O Partnership Conference and Trade Fair.

Australia's oceans and coasts are an important part of our identity, culture, and economy. Australia is proud to be hosting this conference in Cairns - the Gateway to the world-renowned Great Barrier Reef. This is a unique place with much to gain from the work of the Hilltops-2-Oceans Initiative and the Global Programme of Action.

I am committed to protecting the sustainability of our oceans and I encourage you to continue the important work of the Hilltops-2-Oceans Initiative by coming to Cairns in May and participating in this Conference.

Background

The major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of coastal and marine environments result from human activities on land. In many cases water (H₂O) in streams, rivers and groundwater reservoirs transport pathogens, nutrients, sediments, heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants and litter large distances from the Hilltops to the Oceans. Globally, sewage remains the largest source of contamination, by volume, although industrial pollution and more diffuse sources, such as pollution from certain agricultural practices, and increased sedimentation resulting from deforestation and mining operations, also pose a significant threat to the health and productivity of coastal and marine resources.

To support local, national, and regional efforts to address water pollution during its journey from the hilltops to the oceans, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and partners launched the Hilltops-2-Oceans (H₂O) Partnership Initiative in September 2002 as an official Type II Partnership of the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Initiative builds upon the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities by providing an official WSSD avenue for non-governmental organisations, the private sector, and other international organisations to collaborate with Governments in furthering the sustainable development of oceans, coasts, and islands.

Objectives of the H₂O Initiative

- To highlight links between freshwater, coastal and marine environments
- To develop and implement realistic actions that address river, coastal and marine pollution
- To build effective H₂O Partnerships involving all stakeholders



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The H₂O Partnership Conference

The Global H₂O Partnership Conference represents a major milestone in the implementation of the H₂O Partnership Initiative. It will bring together Ministers, Senior Government Officials, CEOs of Private Sector firms or industry groups, Senior NGO representatives, academia and International Agencies to:

- Renew governments and other stakeholders' commitment to the need for sustained and adequately resourced National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
- Identify methods and tools for initiating sustained, effective and efficient National Programmes of Action.
- Explore Innovative Financial Arrangements for financing capital-intensive initiatives.
- Strengthen the links between water supply and sanitation, and to emphasize the environmental dimensions of realizing the WSSD target on sanitation.
- Review, debate and recommend the appropriate use of Wastewater Emission Targets (WET) as a protective tool.

Trade Exhibition

The Australian Water Association is co-ordinating the trade exhibition, which will open Tuesday 11 May at 0900 and close Thursday 13 May at 1730 hours. Varying options for display space are available for interested private sector bodies and NGOs. For more information, please contact AWA at ldevereux@awa.asn.au or Tel: +61 2 9413 1288 at the earliest convenience.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsorship for H₂O is currently being sought. All sponsors are promoted prior to and at the event as well as in the conference materials, depending on the level of sponsorship agreed. Please contact h2o@unep.nl or Tel: +31 70 311 4467 for details.

Side-events, Workshops & Meetings

Participants are welcome to organize side events during the margins of the meeting. Meeting rooms may be available for this purpose. Please contact h2o@unep.nl at the earliest convenience to ensure an appropriate venue.

Conference Outcomes and Products

- An enhanced body of knowledge and literature on Integrated Water Resource and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) and the use of Wastewater Emission Targets (WET)
- New multi-stakeholder partnerships focusing on concrete activities affecting the lives of riparian and coastal communities, while improving the health of coastal and marine ecosystems
- Multi-stakeholder input to realizing the Millennium Development Goals and WSSD Plan of Implementation, particularly in the areas of water, sanitation, coasts and oceans.
- A Ministerial Communique on managing water (H₂O) from the Hilltops to the Oceans Published proceedings outlining the latest developments in methods and practice for addressing the harmful effects of land-based activities on coastal and marine environments
- A series of recommendations and a H₂O Programme of Work for the international community, including the private sector and civil society (i) to accelerate National and Regional Programmes of Action to protect the marine environment from land-based activities, and (ii) to further develop and realize Wastewater Emission Targets.

Conference at a Glance

Co-Chaired and facilitated by Virginia Chadwick, Chair of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Jan Pronk, Chair of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and former Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment of Government of The Netherlands.

Monday 10 May 2004

Afternoon site visits to the Douglas Shire Water Quality Improvement Plan, part of the Coastal Catchments Initiative Program. Delegates will visit sugarcane propagation facilities and gauging stations to explore Best Management Practices, and to examine difficulties and community involvement strategies. Please contact h2o@unep.nl for more details.

Tuesday 11 May 2004

Opening Ceremony
Ministers' Dialogue on Partnerships and Cooperative Action
H₂O Partnership and Objectives
Keynote H₂O Panel on Linking Integrated Water Resource and Coastal Area Management through Partnerships
Key Note Presentation by Government of Australia
WW2BW Meeting Report
Review of GPA Implementation from IGR1 to WSSD to IGR2

Wednesday 12 May 2004

Discussions on Sustained National Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities:

- Challenges and Opportunities to integrating coastal area and river-basin management
- Engendering Political Support

Discussions on Wastewater Emissions Targets (WET) as a Tool for Protecting Coastal and Marine Environments.
The Role of Civil Society

Thursday 13 May 2004

Financial Frameworks for National Action from the Hilltops to the Oceans
The Role of the Private Sector
Institutional Frameworks for National Action
Regional Dialogues
Environmental Legislation* for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment from the Hilltops to the Oceans

- Case Studies
- Enforcement and Compliance

*Co-convened with the Queensland Environmental Law Association

Friday 14 May 2004

Raising H₂O Awareness: Strategies for Outreach
Building H₂O Capacity: Training, Sharing Information and Technology Transfer
Chairman's Summary
Where to Now?
Closing Remarks

Saturday 15 May 2004

Optional Field Trips to the Great Barrier Reef or Rainforest. Co-organized with the Queensland Environmental Law Association (QELA), please contact h2o@unep.nl for details. Per delegate cost is estimated at A\$120 (subject to booking numbers). This field trip is subject to interest expressed.

Conference Steering Committee

Mr. Larry Awosika, Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research
Dr. Patricio Bernal, UNESCO-IOC
Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain, Center for the Study of Marine Policy, University of Delaware
Mr. Felix Dodds, Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future
Dr. Makram Gerges, Egypt Environmental Affairs Agency
Dr. Gourisankar Ghosh, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
Mr. James Greenwood, GLOBE International
Mr. Niels Ipsen, UCC-Water
Mr. Magnus Johannesson, Ministry for the Environment, Iceland Hon.
Dr. David Kemp, Australian Government Ministry for the Environment and Heritage
Mr. Tom Laughlin, NOAA
Mr. David Osborn, UNEP/GPA Coordination Office
Dr. Klaus Töpfer, UNEP
Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd, UNEP/GPA Coordination Office

Cairns Area Information



Conference Venue: Cairns International Hotel

Cairns is the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef and tropical North Queensland. Within short distance of World Heritage listed rainforests, long white beaches, outback plains, and more, Cairns is Australia's premier nature-based destination.

The Great Barrier Reef, stretching more than 2000km along Queensland's north-east coast is the world's largest reef system.

Hotels

Cairns-area hotels, with rate and contact information, are listed on the Conference web site at www.hilltops2oceans.org. Delegates are responsible for making their own hotel bookings. A limited number of rooms have been reserved at the Conference venue, the Cairns International Hotel, at a negotiated rate, and are available on a first come basis. Be advised to book early, as May is high season in Cairns. Make sure to refer to the Global H₂O Partnership Conference when booking.

Travel

Delegates are responsible for their own travel arrangements. Cairns International Airport is served by numerous international airlines, including Qantas Airways, Australian Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Continental Airlines, Air New Zealand, and Air Niugini. Domestic service is provided by Qantas and Virgin Blue, Macair, Skytrans, and Qantas Link.

Supplementary Information About Area

Weather: Weather in May typically ranges between 20-28C and is sunny.

Region: Information about Cairns and its surrounds can be found at www.tropicalaustralia.com.au

Time: GMT +10 hours

Power: Australian outlets supply 240 volts AC and accept v-shaped plugs

Currency: 1AUD= 0.74USD (March 2004)

Visas: Visas are the responsibility of each individual

delegate, and please note that all visitors to Australia require one. Please contact your Australian Embassy or Consulate as soon as possible to ensure efficient processing. Visit <http://www.immi.gov.au> for more information. Contact the Conference secretariat at h2o@unep.nl with any problems or for assistance with your application.

Registration

All participants must register for the Conference. There is no fee. Please download the registration form (available at www.hilltops2oceans.org) and submit it via email at h2o@unep.nl or fax at +31 70 345 6648.



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