



The World Meteorological Organisation and the 2005 World Water Week in Stockholm

The World Meteorological Organisation is pleased to be an active participant in the upcoming World Water Week in Stockholm, which takes place August 21–27, 2005, and will be a global gathering of leading experts from the business, civil society, governmental, inter-governmental, science and water management sectors.

The complete World Water Week Programme is located at www.worldwaterweek.org.

The World Meteorological Organisation will co-convene the Stockholm Water Symposium workshop, Coping with Climate Variability, Climate Change and Water-Related Hazards.

Natural climate variability is a reality that must be dealt with all over the world, and we now increasingly live under potential threat of climate change. Though the interrelationships among the frequency and magnitude of various cycles of climate variability are still not well established, evidence is accumulating that while the climatic averages may not be changing significantly, the magnitude of extreme events may be on the increase, giving rise to added climatic hazards. At the same time, economic costs from natural hazards have increased – both as direct costs through damaged infrastructure and more indirectly as cost from lost development opportunities.

This is a reality in both economically developed and developing countries, although capacity to cope differs dramatically. This is serious, as our ability to cope with climate variability and change is crucial for long-term sustainable development in general and improved water management in particular. Direct human suffering (death, injuries, etc.) from natural hazards are many times higher in an economically developing country in comparison to a developed country for the same event. This fact demonstrates that much can be achieved by building societal resilience through improved management and appropriate investments in infrastructure.

This workshop will focus on the proper combination of soft and hard solutions that would increase the ability of society to cope with climate variability, change and hazards related to these. Abstracts which discuss practical management approaches (soft solutions) and which elaborate on necessary infrastructure development (hard solutions) and the combination of both are welcome. Examples from developing and developed countries will help to illustrate variation in approaches and to what extent experiences can be shared between different parts of the world.

Visit www.worldwaterweek.org to learn more and to join the official mailing list for continuing information.

Organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute, the World Water Week in Stockholm is the leading annual global meeting place for the world's diverse water community.