

**Date:** March 21, 2009

**Time:** 1100-1300 Hrs

**Venue:** Lale Hall, F 5 ,  
Feshane International Fair  
Congress & Culture  
Center

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**SaciWATERs**

# Up-scaling IWRM education in South Asia: which boundaries to cross?

**Side Event**

**World Water Forum 5, Istanbul, March 16-22, 2009**

## CROSSING BOUNDARIES PROJECT A **SaciWATERs** initiative

The session is based on **SaciWATERs'** initiative on regional capacity building on IWRM and Gender and Water in South Asia, called the **Crossing Boundaries Project**. The project works in four South Asian countries – India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka – to establish and strengthen Masters Level education programmes in IWRM for water professionals together with regional partner institutes.



The session seeks to evaluate the current status of water resources education, assess the demand for interdisciplinary water professionals and identify challenges, opportunities, and new initiatives in the realm of higher education for water resources in the region. Overall the session seeks to examine the demand for interdisciplinary water professionals. It shall also discuss how higher education in South Asia's water resources knowledge system has responded to the changing societal demands on water resources use, management and governance practices and approaches through the findings of the study on status of water education in South Asia. The study suggests that there is a felt need for interdisciplinary professionals in the government as well as amongst non-governmental organization and research institutions but a visible demand still needs to be created on scale.

### Session Speakers

**Dr. Peter P Mollinga**, Senior Researcher 'Natural Resources and Social Dynamics' Department of Political and Cultural Change, ZEF Center for Development Research, Bonn, Germany

**Dr. Vishal Narain**, Associate Professor, School of Public Policy and Governance, Management Development Institute (MDI), Delhi, India

**Prof. Nimal Gunawardena**, Professor, Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and Coordinator, CapNet Sri Lanka

**Ms. Nazmun Naher Mita**, South Asia Water Fellow, Masters in IWRM, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh

### Panel Members

**Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan**, Chief, Sustainable Water Resources Development & Management Section, Division of Water Sciences, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO, Paris, France

**Dr. Paul Taylor**, Director, Cap-Net, Pretoria, South Africa

**Dr. Joke Muylwijk**, Executive Director, Gender & Water Alliance, The Netherlands

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### Session Proposed by:

#### Crossing Boundaries Project

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**SaciWATERS**

*Towards an  
Interdisciplinary  
South Asian Water  
Resources Knowledge  
System*

[www.saciwaters.org](http://www.saciwaters.org)

# CROSSING BOUNDARIES PROJECT

World Water Forum 5  
Istanbul, March 16-22, 2009

## TRANSFORMING WATER RESOURCES EDUCATION IN SOUTH ASIA IN 8 NEXT STEPS

### *Establish a South Asia IWRM education programmes network*

There seems to be clear sense in a broader network or partnership of IWRM-interested water resources education programmes/institutes at South Asian national and South Asian regional level, across engineering, environmental science and social science/humanities programmes.

### *Exchange experience with regional IWRM capacity building networks in other parts of the world*

Reform of water resources education is a global process, and there are possibly many lessons to be learnt for other regional IWRM capacity building networks, particularly those in the South.

### *Development of country-specific outplacement/employability strategies for IWRM graduates*

These strategies have to include concerted effort to 'open up' government employment for IWRM-trained water professionals.

### *Develop a broadly-based South Asia IWRM fellowship programme*

To strengthen and support the ongoing transformation of study programmes in the direction of more 'comprehensive' approaches to water and as a strategic tool for enhancing gender balance in water resources education.

### *Establish social science water resources education programmes*

The South Asian water resources education landscape would be significantly enriched with the establishment of more social science water resources education programmes, as demand for governance, management and regulation expertise is likely to increase.

### *Strengthen the South Asia IWRM and interdisciplinary knowledge community*

To expand the volume and enhance the quality of the IWRM and interdisciplinary water resources knowledge in South Asia.

### *Capitalise on Crossing Boundaries expertise*

The *Crossing Boundaries* project aims to put expertise gained in the project on offer for other programmes and institutes.

### *Crossing Boundaries – phase 2*

A follow up and expansion of the *Crossing Boundaries* project with a larger number of partners and larger (geographical) scope is envisaged.