



In the rapidly changing water worlds of South Asia and other regions, the right to water, water rights and water justice are increasingly important topics. Unfortunately, in water and development policies as well as in mainstream academic research, too little attention is paid to questions of rights and justice. Too often, the needs of poor and marginalized groups in society are subsumed under larger and more abstract denominators such as economic or water resource development without any real attention to or guarantee for the security of these groups' water rights, livelihoods and existence, and with damage to the environment.

A small funding from the Wageningen University-based INREF fund (Interdisciplinary Research and Education Fund) has given us the possibility of organizing a workshop on water justice in South Asia (see the attachment: *INREF Water Justice background document*). We see this initiative as a first step in our ambition to create and expand the space for research, exchange, capacity building and policy advice about water rights and water justice in South Asia, in close cooperation with a variety of academic and other partners in this region. Another ambition is to link such an expanding water justice network to existing networks in other regions of the world (see e.g. <http://www.concertacion.info/index.php?i=28>) in which Wageningen University (WUR) is a partner.

This workshop, jointly organized by WUR, SOPPECOM and the FORUM for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India, will be held in Pune, Maharashtra, **India from 18 to 22 April 2011**. We intend the workshop to become a stage for in-depth discussion of scientific and policy dimensions of water rights and justice issues, in specific settings within the region, and comparatively between regions. On the basis of these discussions core domains for a water justice framework will be identified and further explored. We also hope to lay the basis for future collaborative work on these themes. Discussions will be structured around paper presentations by all (funded) participants.

If you are interested in participating in this workshop, we hereby invite you to submit an abstract for a paper. This paper should be original, and written in such a way as to contribute to the workshop's main ambitions of furthering discussions on the right to water, water rights and water justice, and of identifying and exploring core domains of the right to water, water rights and justice (for specifications, see below). To give you a better idea of the objectives and ambitions of the INREF project 'Exploring and Advancing Water Justice in South Asia' we advise you to have a look at the attachment *INREF Water Justice Workshop background document*.

Due to funding limits we have to select a balanced set of high-quality contributions. A reviewing committee consisting of members of SOPPECOM and WUR staff will select the abstracts that qualify for funding of travelling and accommodation expenses by the organizers. Those whose abstract are not selected but who still want to participate in the workshop with other funding are, of course, welcome. **For those whose abstracts are selected, it is important to note that actually contributing a full paper (see below) to the workshop is a condition for receiving funding for your participation in the workshop.**

Please note the following important dates:

- **22 February: deadline for the submission of abstracts**
- **25 February: decision on which abstracts are accepted**
- **31 March: deadline submission of full papers**

We are looking forward to receiving your abstract, and to realizing this workshop.

With kindest regards,

Margreet Zwarteveen, Rutgerd Boelens, Dik Roth, Deepa Joshi, K J Joy, Seema Kulkarni

The organizing committee

**Specifications for abstract and paper:**

*Provisional title and abstract:*

- 250-300 words;
- The abstract should give a clear outline of the paper topic and its main contributions to debates about water justice;

*The paper:*

- Should be an original paper (not published earlier or under consideration elsewhere);
- Should have a clear structure (including introduction and conclusions)
- 15-25 A4 Arial 12 (around 7,500-12,500 words, excluding footnotes and references);
- As the workshop should be open to a diversity of inputs, approaches to and views of water justice issues, authors are free to develop the topic of their papers. However, all papers should clearly refer to broader issues, questions and debates about water justice.