

The right to water and water rights in a changing world



30 years University for Peace

Colloquium

**22 September 2010, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water
Education, Westvest 7, Delft, the Netherlands**

Convenors:

Alliance for UPEACE ■ UNESCO-IHE ■ The Netherlands National IHP Committee
CPWC ■ PCCP ■ Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO



University for Peace



The University for Peace (UPEACE), a United Nations affiliated institution based in Costa Rica, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The mission of UPEACE, the Graduate School for International Leaders, is “to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace with the aim of promoting among all human beings a spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress”. The Dutch Alliance for UPEACE supports this celebration by organizing a number of high-profile colloquia on topical issues to take place in The Netherlands throughout the year.

One such colloquium will be dealing with ‘The right to water and water rights in a changing world’. It will be hosted at the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft, the Netherlands.

The topic is very timely: in the face of global changes, what role can law play in safeguarding basic needs and rights, including that of water? Can law be more effectively mobilized to protect vulnerable communities better against droughts, floods and other climate-related disasters? In doing so, to what extent can it contribute to world peace? As laws tend to be rigid, how can they play a more progressive role in a rapidly changing world? Currently water management is stepping away from the idea of stationarity – but what about legal issues? Are they set in stone?



Afternoon programme

Opening (14.00 hrs)

by **Marius Enthoven** (chairman Alliance for UPEACE)
and **András Szöllösi-Nagy** (rector UNESCO-IHE)

Key-note speech

by **Laurence Boisson de Chazournes** (Professor of Public International Law and International Organization, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva, Switzerland)
on «**International environmental law and access to water: the challenges ahead**»

Discussants:

- **Thea Hilhorst** (Professor of Disaster Studies, Wageningen University)
- **Joyeeta Gupta** (Professor of Environmental and Water Law, UNESCO-IHE)

Key-note speech

by Justice **Gregory Hobbs** (Associate Justice, Colorado Supreme Court and Adjunct Professor in Environmental Policy and Management, University of Denver)
on «**Water-sharing: a necessity for peace in an era of uncertainty and risk**»

Discussants:

- **H.E. Barend ter Haar** (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to UNESCO)
- **Juan Amaya-Castro** (Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Law, VU University, Amsterdam and Visiting Professor, Department of International Law & Human Rights, University for Peace)

Prominent scientists knowledgeable on the topic (a.o. **Ellen Hey, Catherine Brölmann**) have been invited to trigger the debate, lead by the rector of UNESCO-IHE, Professor **András Szöllösi-Nagy**.

Registration: www.allianceforupeace.nl

Up-to-date information: www.hydrology.nl





Alliance for UPEACE

The **Alliance for the University for Peace** is a non-profit organization, based in Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

The Alliance was founded in 2002 and serves to support the activities of the university by stimulating cooperation with other institutes in the fields of the diverse peace issues that are covered by UPEACE Master programmes. Through the Alliance UPEACE receives a yearly donation from the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

► www.upeace.org



Established in 1965, the **Netherlands National Committee IHP-HWRP** coordinates the Dutch

contribution to the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO. The Committee is an interdepartmental advisory commission to the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (V&W) and the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW).

► www.hydrology.nl



The **Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC)** aims to stimulate activities in the water sector that contribute to managing

the effects of climate variability and change, in particular for the most vulnerable communities.

► www.waterandclimate.org



IHP is UNESCO's international scientific cooperative programme in water research, water resources management, education and capacity-

building, contributing to the building of peace, the eradication of poverty and sustainable development.

► www.unesco.org



PCCP facilitates multi-level and interdisciplinary dialogues in order to foster

peace, co-operation and development related to the management of shared water resources.

Through research, education and process support, the programme brings players engaged in transboundary water management together and helps increase the opportunities for actual co-operation and development. PCCP's ultimate objective is to use science diplomacy initiatives to support and maintain peace-building processes.

► www.unesco.org/water/wwap



The **UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education** carries out research, education and

capacity building activities in the fields of water, environment and infrastructure. UNESCO-IHE continues the work that began in 1957 when IHE first offered a postgraduate diploma course in hydraulic engineering to practising professionals from developing countries.

► www.unesco-ihe.org



The **Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO** forms the link between the UNESCO world community

and those involved with UNESCO in the Netherlands, such as the national government, professional organisations, and organisations and experts in the fields of education, culture, communication and the sciences. This contact goes in both directions.



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