Invitation

Fifth United Nations Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters
"Building Back Better towards More Resilient and Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World"
Friday, June 25th, 2021 - Virtual

We are delighted to invite you to the 5th United Nations Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters which will be held virtually on Friday, June 25th, 2021. The Session is the highest-level event globally around this issue where representatives of the member states and diverse stakeholders share the recognition and understanding that addressing the issue of "water and disasters" is a critical element of achieving sustainable development.

This year's session will be held under the title of "Building Back Better towards More Resilient and Sustainable Post-COVID-19 World" with Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP) and National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) of Japan as co-hosts.

The Session will focus on sharing experience and promoting actions to realize more sustainable, resilient and climate adaptive post-COVID-19 world based on the lessons learned from the Pandemic. It will also provide a concrete step towards acceleration of SDGs and other globally agreed agendas to be back on track under and post-COVID-19 by providing with useful lessons, innovative ideas, and common understandings.

Draft Agenda (Japan time)

18:30-19:45	Science and Technology Session
20:30-22:15	Opening and Plenary Session
22:30-24:10	High-level Panel Discussion and Closing Session

*Please see the concept paper of the Session for the detailed agenda of the Session.

Confirmed speakers include:

<for Opening and Plenary Session>

- H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
- His Majesty the Emperor of Japan
- H.E. Mr. János Áder, President, Hungary
- H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President, The Republic of Tajikistan
- H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
- H.E. Ms. Sheikh Hasina, Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh
- HRH Princess Victoria, Crown Princess of Sweden, Duchess of Västergötland
- HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan
- Dr. Han Seung-Soo, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and Chair of the High-level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disasters (HELP)
- H.E. Mr. Danilo Türk, former President of Republic of Slovenia/ Chair of the Global High-Level Panel on Water and Peace
- Dr. Uschi Eid, Former Chair of United Nations Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB)/ President of the German-Africa Foundation

RSVP from Online registration form by Tuesday, June 22nd. The link to the virtual meeting will be sent to the registered attendees after Monday, June 21st.

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<for Science and Technology Session>

- Prof. Akihiko Tanaka, President, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)
- Prof. Li Yanrong, President, Sichuan University
- Mr. Ricardo Mena, Director, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO
- Dr. Elena Manaenkova, Deputy Secretary-General, WMO
- Dr. Blanca Elena Jimenez Cisneros, Director-General, National Water Commission (CONAGUA), Mexico
- Prof. Joy Jacqueline Pereira, Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative (SEADPRI-UKM), Malaysia
- Dr. Gretchen Kalonji, Dean, Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction, Sichuan University
- Prof. Toshio Koike, Executive Director, International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)

<High-level Panel Discussion/Closing Session>

- H.E. Ms. Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands
- H.E. Dr. Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister for Public Works and Housing, Indonesia
- H.E. Mr. Kazuyoshi Akaba, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan
- Major General William (Butch) H. Graham, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo, Chair of UN-Water / President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Mr. Loic Fauchon, President, World Water Council (WWC)
- Prof. Howard Bamsey, Chair, Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- Mr. Bambang Susantono, Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank
- Mr. Ilkka Salmi, Director of Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Directorate, European Commission
- Mr. Masamichi Kono, Deputy Secretary-General, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Mr. Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- Mr. Thomas Stratenwerth, Head of Division, Federal Ministry for Environment, Germany

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