

# The United Nations Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters

6 March  
2013

*The first high-level event at the UN dedicated to the issue of water and disasters*

**Date and Time:** 9:30 - 13:00 and 15:00 - 18:15 hrs., Wednesday, 6 March 2013

**Venue:** The Economic and Social Council Chamber, North Lawn Building, The UN Headquarters

**Organizers:** Secretary-General, The United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), High Level Expert Panel on Water and Disaster (HLEP/UNSGAB)

## ● **Part I: (9:30-10:45) Opening Session with Special Lecture on Water and Disasters**

Chair: Mr. BAN Ki-moon, Co-chair: Dr. Han Seung-soo

<b>Opening Address</b>	<b>Mr. BAN Ki-moon</b>	<b>UN Secretary-General</b>
<b>Congratulatory Address</b>	<b>Mr. Vuk Jeremić</b>	<b>The President of the United Nations General Assembly</b>
<b>Keynote Address</b>	<b>HIH Crown Prince of Japan</b>	<b>Honorary President of UNSGAB</b>
<b>Keynote Address</b>	<b>HRH Willem-Alexander</b>	<b>The Prince of Orange, the Netherlands, Chair of UNSGAB</b>
<b>Closing Address</b>	<b>Dr. Han Seung-soo</b>	<b>Founding Chair of HLEP/UNSGAB</b>

## ● **Part II High Level Session on Water and Disasters** Chair: Dr. Han Seung-soo

### ● **Morning Session (11:00 -13:00) Deliberations by high-level experts**

H.E. Mr. Kittiratt Na-Ranong	Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand
H.E. Dr. Mohamed Bahaa El-Din	President of African Ministers' Council on Water(AMCOW) Minister of Water and Irrigation, Egypt
H.E. Ms. Melanie Schultz van Haegen-Maas Geesteranus	Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands
H.E. Mr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto	Head of Presidential Work Unit, Indonesia
Dr. Jim Yong Kim	President of the World Bank (tbc)
Prof. Dr. Peter Hoespe	Head of Geo Risks Research/Corporate Climate Centre, Munich Re
Ms. Honoka Miura	High school student, from Minamisanriku, a town affected by Great East Japan Earthquake

### ● **Panel Discussion 1 (15:00-16:30) "Experience and Lessons of Water and Disasters"**

#### **High Panelists :**

Mr. Michel Jarraud*	Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization (Chair of UN-Water)
Ms. Irina Bokova*	Director General, UNESCO
Mr. Shigeru Kikukawa	Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure Transport and Tourism, Japan
Mr. Thomas P. Bostick	Chief of US Army Corps of Engineers, U.S.A
Mr. Bai-mass Taal	Executive Secretary, AMCOW
Mr. Rae-kwon Chung	Director, UN ESCAP
Ms. Florika Fink-Hooijer	Director, Strategy, Policy and International Co-operation, DG Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, European Commission

\* represents Session Co-Chairs

### ● **Panel Discussion 2 (16:30-18:00) "Regional and Global Cooperation to Address Mega-Water-Disasters"**

#### **High Panelists :**

Ms. Margareta Wahlström*	Special Representative of Secretary-General, UN-ISDR
Ms. Rosa Pavanelli	General Secretary, Public Service International
Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss	Chair, Global Water Partnership
Dr. Benedito Braga	President, the World Water Council
Representative (tbd)	UN Global Compact (tbc)
Dr. Hans Guttman	CEO of Mekong River Commission
Ms. Gretchen Kalonji	Assistant Director General, UNESCO
Mr. Mr. Woochong Um	Deputy Director General, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank

\* represents Session Chair

● **Closing Session (18:00-18:15)** Wrap-up Mr. Jan Eliasson Deputy Secretary-General  
Closing Remarks Dr. Han Seung-soo Co-Chair

○ **Participants: All representatives, staff members and experts of Missions, Observers, Secretariat & UN Agencies; invited experts & officials, and Media are also admitted**

○ **To consult the complete programme, please visit "<http://www.unsgab.org>".**

○ **For further information, please contact Meeting Secretariat (e-mail [hlep.unsgab@gmail.com](mailto:hlep.unsgab@gmail.com); tel.212-963-8590).**

Side Events will be held on 5 March 2013 in NLB Room6 organized by HLEP/UNSGAB, UN-ISDR, WMO, UNESCO, International Flood Initiative, ICHARM, US Army Corps of Engineers, MLIT of Japan, Japan Water Agency, NARBO, GWP, WWC, World Bank/GFDRR and others (tbc).