

Paths Forward for the Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector

On the afternoon of World Water Day, March 22, 2010, the Global Water Futures Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies will partner with numerous water and sanitation related organizations, including PSI, Water Advocates, PATH, CARE and Global Water Challenge, to host an event entitled *Paths Forward for the Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector*. The event is scheduled to take place between 2:00pm and 5:00pm at 1800 K St, NW, Washington DC. The afternoon sessions will complement an event earlier that day: *World Water Day: Americans Doing Our Part*, which will take place at the National Geographic Society Grosvenor Auditorium in Washington DC.

Paths Forward for the Global Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Sector will feature four expert roundtable discussions, each of which will focus on a key challenge facing the water, sanitation and hygiene sectors. The goal of the activity is to generate strategies on how to improve the outcomes of WASH programs and increase the capacity of the U.S.-based public and private sectors to address the global WASH challenge.

Each roundtable discussion will offer approximately 30 participants a unique opportunity to critically discuss these timely issues, to strengthen the network of WASH-professionals, and to share lessons within and outside of the WASH sector in a creative format. Participants will include non-profit leaders, policy specialists, academics, government officials, and representatives from corporations and philanthropies. CSIS will distribute the proceedings of each session without attributions on the CSIS website in order to amplify the impact of the working groups.

The first part of the event, from 2:00 to 3:15pm, will feature two sessions. One is entitled “Making Our Investment Count” and will focus on strategies to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of WASH programs. Discussion will emphasize identifying and filling knowledge gaps, and sharing the best innovative practices for implementing and monitoring WASH projects. The other concurrent round table discussion, “Growing the Resource Base for WASH Efforts,” will address

strategies that attract new donors to WASH projects, draw attention to high-impact funding opportunities, foster partnerships with NGOs, and strengthen public-private partnerships.

“Building the Momentum for WASH Awareness,” will occur in the second half of the event, from 3:30 to 5:00pm. It will highlight the tremendous need to increase awareness and support of WASH in the US, in order to engender greater political will in the government and assistance from private citizens. Participants will discuss efforts to bring WASH (and World Water Day) to national attention in the media, while generating strategies to develop a visible, collaborative movement within US civil society. The other discussion during the same time slot, “Breaking the WASH Silo,” will focus on enhancing synergistic relationships between WASH and other sectors, such as environmental conservation and health in the developing world, and on leveraging support (financial and otherwise) for WASH within existing non-WASH programs.

Please contact Katryn Bowe, at kbowe@csis.org and (202) 775-3156, if you are interested in attending this event or have any questions.