



Save the Date

WATER-ENERGY-FOOD SECURITY: New Directions for Water Management

Date: May 1-4, 2012 — Venue: Inn at the Forks, Winnipeg, Manitoba

In its 2011 report, the World Economic Forum identified the Water-Energy-Food (W-E-F) security nexus as one of the greatest threats to the global economy and sustainable development over the next few decades. In order to address this issue the Water Innovation Centre of IISD is collaborating with the Global Water System Project (GWSP) to host a conference on Water-Energy-Food Security on May 1 to 4, 2012. The conference will feature international experts and opinion leaders, policy makers and scientists who will discuss the nature of water management problems affecting food and energy security and review possible pathways to adapting water management practices to foster a sustainable approach to the development of energy and food resources.

Conference Elements:

Symposium on the use of Governance and Policy Instruments to achieve Water-Energy-Food Security (May 1-2, 2012): This symposium will consider a range of issues from science to governance, their role in water security and their contributions to energy and food security. The Symposium will explore the hypothesis that Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is the best paradigm to deal operationally with issues associated with water security when it is embedded in an adequate governance framework.

Bioeconomy Symposium (May 2, 2012): The IISD Water Innovation Centre is developing a strategic management plan for the Lake Winnipeg Basin, based on leading-edge natural resources management principles such as the Lake Winnipeg Bioeconomy Project. In addition to this approach, other approaches to resolving basin imbalances will be reviewed including the capture, recycling and reclamation of phosphorous from fertilizers, and the transformation of other materials into high-value biomaterials and biofuels.

The Global Water System Project (GWSP) Global Catchment Initiative Workshop (May 3-4, 2012): The GWSP is studying the Water-Energy-Food nexus as a critical science-policy interface issue. It has undertaken a survey of 18 major river basins across the globe to explore all dimensions of this issue. During this workshop, findings from this survey will be reported along with insights from scientific experts and basin managers on key management issues. The workshop will result in a synthesis that will provide a basis for assessing the options proposed for managing water to promote energy and food security.