



Kathmandu Water Declaration - 2009

A National Water Week was organized between 18 and 23 March 2009 in Nepal to commemorate **World Water Day** (March 22) and **World Meteorological Day** (March 23). A 'National Water Week Organizing Committee – 2009' was formed with the participation of about 50 government, non-government, academic and development organizations to organise the week-long celebration. Activities included a water parade, a series of interaction and talk programs, documentary shows, a water exhibition, photo exhibition, television talk show, media campaign, street drama, art competitions, Bagmati River cleaning program and seminars. The Kathmandu Water Declaration-2009 was prepared by the Organizing Committee as a culmination to the celebrations, and was adopted unanimously by the participants of the Water Week Closing Ceremony on 23 March 2009. The full text of the declaration is shown on the reverse of this document.



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On the collective behest of the Government of Nepal, Nepal National Commission for the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC), Worldwide Fund for Nature-Nepal (WWF-Nepal), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and more than 50 water and climate organizations including 18 youth organizations, the National Water Week – 2009 was held in Nepal from 18 to 23 March 2009 on a nationwide scale.

The **Kathmandu Water Declaration 2009** was adopted as the key outcome of the National Water Week 2009:

Recognizing the significance of March 22 as the World Water Day with the theme this year “Shared Waters - Shared Opportunities,” and March 23 as the World Meteorological Day with the theme this year “Weather, Climate and the Air We Breathe,”;

Appreciating the collective initiative of the Nepal National Committee on the International Hydrological Programme (IHP, UNESCO), the Society of Hydrologists and Meteorologists- Nepal (SOHAM-Nepal), The Small Earth Nepal (SEN) and more than 50 other multidisciplinary agencies to organize a Water Week with the theme “Water, Climate and Our Life: Merging Interests - Creating Synergies,” and the support of the Government of Nepal to provide its patronage to the week;

Realizing that there is a need to join the global campaign to recognize water as a common good and access to water as a basic human right, we the Organizers and Participants of the “National Water-Week (18 – 23 March, 2009)”, collectively

REAFFIRM the right of every citizen of Nepal to have a prosperous future, consistent with water and food security, sustainable development, economic prosperity and a healthy livelihood,

RECALL the essential role of water for the life and health of people and ecosystems and as a basic requirement for the development of countries, and the provision of water through transboundary basins and aquifers that link populations of different countries and support the incomes and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people worldwide,

NOTE the important behavior of international watercourses that create and support hydrological, social and economic interdependencies and thus provide opportunities for cooperation and promotion of regional peace and security as well as economic growth between and among the countries of the world,

RECOGNIZE the poor understanding of, and uncertainties in, hydrological and meteorological processes, the threat posed to water resources from pollution, unsustainable use, land-use changes, climate change and many other forces and the need for harnessing the water resources for the all-round prosperity of people and nations,

Resolve that there is a need to merge our interests to understand that

1. Water is a gift of nature; it belongs to all living beings on earth and has ecological and economic value.
2. Equitable and sustained access to safe and sufficient water and sanitation are basic human rights and are essential to health and well being, and to empower people, especially youth, women, and indigenous and marginalized people through a participatory process of water management.
3. Public awareness on issues related to the shared waters, shared opportunities, weather, climate, and the air we breathe needs to be raised.
4. The issues related to too much and too little water need to be addressed.
5. Information and data must be maintained and shared for the reasonable and beneficial utilization of available water resources and to improve understanding of water availability, quality and predictability.
6. The conservation, development, use and management of water resources must be administered in an integrated manner.
7. It is necessary to reduce the uncertainties related to climate change impacts and to develop sustainable adaptation measures and build community resilience to cope with water, weather and climate related risks.

The Kathmandu Water Declaration, 2009 has been adopted unanimously on March 23, 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal