

Universities Partnership for water cooperation and diplomacy



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

INVITATION

24 January, 12h15-14h00
Morosani Posthotel, Davos-Klosters

High-level luncheon
in attendance of President Danilo Türk,
former president of the Republic of Slovenia,
Chair of the Global high-level panel on water and peace

Background

Water resources which cross boundaries – be they economic sectors, legal or political jurisdictions, cultural divides, or international borders – set the stage for disputes between users trying to safeguard access to a vital resource, while protecting the natural environment. Without strategies to anticipate, address, and mediate between competing users, intractable

water conflicts are likely to become more frequent, more intense, and more disruptive in the decades to come. Representatives of four universities are launching a new initiative to coordinate research, education, and capacity-building amongst universities worldwide in support of dialogue along the world's shared waterways.

Project description

The *Universities Partnership for Water Cooperation and Diplomacy*, a global consortium, will be coordinated by core universities, including the Geneva Water Hub of the University of Geneva, IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, and Oregon State University. The *Partnership* will help foster applied research, share educational approaches and open-access materials, offer professional capacity building, and connect students to each other and to potential mentors around the globe.

The institutions involved in the *Partnership* comprise both policy and technical expertise within and beyond their respective regions and across academic disciplines. The activities of the *Partnership* will focus on key socioeconomic and geopolitical issues in shared water management at local, regional, national, and

international levels. All activities would be explicitly linked and integrated within three coordinated focus areas:

- 1) Coordinated applied research for increased understanding of water cooperation and diplomacy processes
- 2) Shared and unified data accumulation, analysis, and distribution
- 3) Training on water cooperation and diplomacy
 - a. Online open access learning
 - b. Graduate and professional certification
 - c. Training workshops for local, regional, and international basin stakeholders

Topics of discussion

How can academia contribute to catalyzing efficient water cooperation and diplomacy processes. Three specific topics will be explored:

- “Brokering knowledge”. How can academia contribute to establishing bridges between different communities of practices?
- “Timelines of action”. What are the challenges to accommodate the pace of research and policy needs?
- “Necessary skills”. What teaching area is needed to improve water cooperation?

Host

Prof. Yves Flückiger, University of Geneva Rector

Venue

www.morosani.ch/en/contact/#google-map

Registration

Send an email to research@genevawaterhub.org.

Moderation

Prof. Christian Bréthaut, University of Geneva
UNESCO Chair in hydropolitics, Geneva Water Hub.
Prof. Anamika Barua, Indian Institute of Technology
Guwahati.
Prof. Aaron Wolf, Oregon State University.
Zaki Shubber, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
in Delft.