In December 2010 the United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. In view of its multi-dimensional mandate UNESCO was appointed by UN-Water to coordinate the Year.

This panel session is therefore a contribution to the 2013 United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. The session is organized within the framework of the project on “Groundwater Governance: a Global Framework for Action” and takes place in The Hague on 21 March 2013, just prior to the official celebration of the World Water Day on Water Cooperation.

An ever expanding global population coupled with a diminishing water supply, has resulted in groundwater becoming increasingly significant as a strategic natural resource. Multi-sectorial cooperation is vital if we are to establish effective groundwater governance at global as well as at regional and local levels. The aim of the roundtable is on one hand to capture the views, and interests of the private sector; on the other hand to explore opportunities for partnerships and information sharing. Roundtable will seek collaboration to define key messages to be incorporated within the project Framework for action.

Main items for the debate

- Evaluating the importance of improved cooperation with the private sector to enhance the groundwater governance
- Thinking out of the ‘water box’: thoughts and ideas from non-water experts on the essential ingredients for effective groundwater governance
- The burning issue of data: how might the issue of data, a key element in terms of the stewardship of groundwater governance, become an opportunity for cooperation? How might we find a balance between the need to share data and data protection?
- Key messages from the private sector in support of, or as a challenge to, the United Nations Year of Water Cooperation (2013).

“Cooperation for groundwater governance seems challenging until it becomes unavoidable”
International Year of Water Cooperation 2013

Roundtable: Public and Private Sector Cooperation
“Working Hand in Hand for Groundwater Governance”

The Roundtable is a contribution to the “2013 - United Nations Year of Water Cooperation”. The consultation is organized back to back with the 22nd March official celebration of the World Water Day on Water Cooperation in The Hague

Programme

Chair: András Szöllösi-Nagy (Rector, UNESCO Institute for Water Education – UNESCO-IHE)

Rapporteur: Alfonso Rivera (Geological Survey of Canada)

Presentation

Panel
- Heineken Mr Ron Bohlmeijer
- Mintails Ltd. Mr Mark Brune
- Vitens Mr Rian Kloosterman
- Deltares Mr Roelof Stuurman
- Overseas Development Institute Mr Peter Newborne
- Nestlé Waters Mr Ronan Le Fanic
- Schlumberger Ms Svetlana Obradovic
- Shell Global Solutions Mr Andrew Cameron (tbc)
- Coca-Cola (name tbc)
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Mr Joppe Cramwinckel (tbc)