

Water experts from around the world come to USF for conference next week

Posted Jun 10, 2011 by Lindsay Peterson

Updated Jun 13, 2011 at 09:25 AM

Officials around the world at nearly every level - government, education, business, military - worry about water supply and quality issues.

One in eight people has no access to safe drinking water and more than 3.5 million die from water-related diseases, says the [World Health Organization](#).

Ultimately, lack of access to clean water can lead to armed conflict, because in the end, it's a matter of life and death.

"The only way out of a problem this global, is to get everyone to work together," said [Thomas Mason](#), USF public health professor.

That's the idea behind his three-day conference at USF, starting on Monday. He used his academic and public health service contacts worldwide to assemble a diverse group of experts.

[Katherine Bliss](#), of the nonprofit Center for Strategic and International Studies, will talk about the many elements that affect access to safe drinking water.

Jean-Paul Chretien, a U.S. Navy doctor and epidemiologist, will explain water issues related to the security of Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

[Greg Allgood](#), of [Proctor & Gamble](#), will discuss the company's effort to provide clean household water in developing countries to prevent childhood deaths.

Registration is free and open to the public. [Go here to register](#) and find a list of the other speakers, who will look at water's political, economic, even religious significance.

"Water really is a unifying issue," Mason said.

"As an academic institution, we have a responsibility to foster these types of cross-cutting collaborations and to create a place where we can have a free and open dialogue.

"We all need to leave our parochial interests at the door and focus on what we need to accomplish."

Link to articles posted by Lindsay Peterson

<http://www.tboblogs.com/index.php/life/related/C977/>

Link to editorial by Cynthia Barnett "Toward a water ethic" St. Petersburg Times Sunday 5 June 2011

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/perspective/article1173383.ece>

