

## Announcing a Sedona Edge Forum

# WATER CONFERENCE

at **SIAS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

Zhengzhou, China

**October 9 – 12, 2012**

## **WATER, UNPREDICTABLE CLIMATE CHANGE, GLOBAL WARMING, & OVERPOPULATION** leveraging factors for our planetary health and future

**Where:** Sias International University, Henan Province, Peoples Republic of China

**When:** October 9 -12, 2012

**Registration Costs:** \$550.00 for participants

\$400.00 for accepted speakers (includes housing, food and all banquets)

A portion of the registration proceeds will be used toward an environmental studies scholarship fund for Sias' Institute for the Environment and Social Responsibility (IESR) students

Paul Elsner, on behalf of Sias International University in China, has proposed a conference related to water and its complex issues. 27% of the world's countries are classified as "dry lands," a possible turning point toward full desertification. Without counter measures, Syria, Jordan and Israel could become one massive desert as its striking Negev Desert region integrates with the Sinai that also integrates with the massive Eastern Sahara. Water crisis is all but ever-present in past civilization's collapse and looms as a present factor in other world regions such as China, the Southeast Asian peninsulas and many others.

**Why a Forum in China?** China and Southeast Asia countries are fed from massive river deltas from the Yellow, Yangtze, the Mekong and its hundreds of minor and major tributaries. They rely on delta lowland agricultural production. Should global warming even at the impact of loss of micro-inches of glacial field loss on the Tibetan Plateau, global warming could engorge the world's largest river delta regions, causing colossal destruction, death, famine, disease and monolithic relocations of millions of people on a continent that China and India, representing nearly 2.4 billion people, a third of the world's population.

### \*\*\*A Tentative Program\*\*\*

**Dr. Brian Fagan**, publications include three volumes for the National Geographic Society, including the bestselling *Adventure of Archaeology*, *The Rape of the Nile*, *Floods, Famines, and Emperors* (on El Niños), *The Little Ice Age*, and *The Long Summer*, an account of warming and humanity since the Great Ice Age. His most recent climatic work describes the Medieval Warm Period: *The Great Warming: Climate Change and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations*.

**Jeremy Rifkin**: *The Empathic Civilization: The Race to Global Consciousness In a World In Crisis*. He will discuss factors that determine durations of survivability, the global community as construct; the biosphere as a new construct for defining our global boundary.

**Steven I. Apfelbaum**, M.S., *High Quality Water Depends on Healthy Ecosystems and Watersheds*. Water and Restoration, transforming land use as, *Nature's Second Chance Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm*.— owner and principal ecologist of Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (AES). Steven has conducted ecological research, successfully navigated regulatory programs, and contributed his unique creative scientific expertise and enthusiasm to over 1,500 projects throughout North America and beyond.

**Dr Rick Effland**, anthropologist and advisor to Institute for the Social and Environmental Responsibility (ISER) at Sias International University. Water as a determinant factor in the Mayan and Anasazi civilizations.

**Gary Nabhan**, Ph.D., author of *Coming Home to Eat*. Dr Nabhan passionately advocates that we look to indigenous production of food within walking distance to our homes as a major preservationist approach to keeping balance in our healthy nutritive needs, but also revitalizes the prospects of ecological factors that threaten human existence. He is an Arab-American writer, lecturer, food and farming advocate. Nabhan has been honored with the John Burroughs Medal for Nature Writing, a MacArthur "genius" award, a Lannan Literary Award, a Pew Fellowship in Conservation and Environment, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Conservation Biology.

**Jonathan Overpeck**, founding co-director of the Institute of the Environment, University of Arizona, Professor of Geosciences and Professor of Atmospheric Sciences. He received his PhD from Brown University. Jonathan recently served as a Coordinating Lead Author for the Nobel Prize winning UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment (2007). He has also been awarded the US Department of Commerce Bronze and Gold Medals, as well as the Walter Orr Roberts award of the American Meteorological Society, for his interdisciplinary research.

**Sharon B. Megdal**: Director of The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center and C.W. and Modene Neely Endowed Professor for Excellence in Agriculture and Life Science. She is Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science and also serves as Director of The University of Arizona Water Sustainability Program.

**Lyvier Conss**, Executive Director, Community College National Center for Community Engagement (CCNCCE), Maricopa Community Colleges. Lyvier will describe her work with several US state service training compacts and also her work with Susan Stroud and Eli Segal at the White House who helped President Clinton form America Corps and other youth and student volunteer programs. Eli Segal is former CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Lyvier commends Sias University's Institute for the Environment and Social Responsibility.

**Dialogue/Conversation with Richard Burton, Bill Li, and Sherry Liu**, the Society for Organizational Learning, SoL Group and Advisors to the Sias Institute for the Environmental and Social Responsibility (IESR): The Leverage Potential of Organizational Learning and Consensus Building to Secure Environmental and Sustainability Goals for:

- Corporations
- Municipalities and Provinces
- Policy and Governmental Entities

**Amy Larkin**, Director of Greenpeace Solutions, is an award-winning entrepreneur and producer who has launched cultural institutions, co-founded one of the first affinity-marketing businesses, and been involved with Greenpeace for 30 years, leading the international organization's financial and business initiatives.

**Presentation:** Connecting the ROI of Business to the Survival of the Natural World. Greenpeace believes that economies must thrive – which means that business must thrive. Our basic stipulation is that the return on investment of business must be connected to the survival of the natural world. The inverse is equally true -- clean air, water, land and ecosystems are as essential to business as they are to living things.

**Pushpa Ramakrishna**, Professor of Biology at Chandler Gilbert Community College will speak about how she has inspired and motivated youth and college students to take a leadership role in working towards solving some of the tough water issues facing us today. Global Action; Water Access: It is inexcusable that one out of 5 children in the world do not have access to clean drinking water. Two thirds of the world population will not have access to drinking water by 2027 if we continue our wasteful habits.

**Dr Roy Schiesser**, Professor of Geology Chandler Gilbert Community College topic: Imperiled Coastal Waters – toxic runoffs from industrial solvents and pesticides and their environmental impact on our coastal sea water.

**Jeff Dean**, University of Arizona Tree-Ring Lab, expert on the Anasazi and climate. Jeff will have a presentation on the effects of drought on people in the Southwest through time.

**David Montgomery:** Author, *Dirt: the Erosion of Civilization*; Professor, Geo-Morphology, Department of Space Sciences, The University of Washington, Seattle.

**Dr Paul Elsner**, Chancellor Emeritus, Maricopa Community Colleges, founder of Sedona Conversations and Sedona Edge Forums, and advisor to the Chairman and Founder of Sias International University, Board of Trustee, President of Paul Elsner Associates and consultant for McCallum Group CBT, Paul Elsner will distribute his hand book titled, Sustainable Adobe plus conducting a workshop on Technology of Adobe Construction. Elsner will speak on America's Six Relentless Decades of Rampant Consumerism and Norman Bel Geddes, designer and choreographer of The 1939 New York World's Fair and its long term environmental implications. Dr Paul Elsner will also co-present with **Dr Megan McShane** on Environmental Waste from the Manhattan Transfer Station that has been dumped in NJ waterlands of the Fresh-kills Landfill.

**Dr Megan McShane**, is a Fulbright-Luce Fellow, expert on contemporary Chinese Art; lecturer, Hangzhou Art Academy; former faculty at Sun Yat-sen University Guangzhou, China curator for Guangzhou Tri-annual Art and Ecology themed presentations, principal organizer for the Sedona Conversations on Digital Media Production and Film, Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. Speaking on Art and Ecology, an overview of Mierle Laderman Ukeles, artist-in-residence at the Fresh-kills Landfill will be provided.

**Special Panel: Quivira Coalition** [www.quiviracoalition.org](http://www.quiviracoalition.org)

**Sue Thomas**, Mesa Community College, sustainable activist, Slow Food Phoenix Board Member will introduce the speakers. This panel has huge implications for China's huge community of rural farmers and growers.

**Courtney White**, Executive Director of the Quivira Coalition, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Courtney White can frame the significance of the above coalition that has coalesced environmentalists, growers, ranchers, scientists, land restoration experts to counter act historical criticism of the cattle ranching industry. This coalition has become a strident positive ecological and environmental force of innovation and research.

**We hope to secure Constance Neely and Christie Jones to be part of this special panel with Courtney White:**

**Constance L. Neely:** The contribution of global grazing lands to the mitigation of global warming and climate change adaptation. Senior Consultant for the CGIAR World Agro-forestry Center in Nairobi, Kenya. Rome, Italy, Constance has served as a visiting expert and senior consultant to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome over the last 12 years [clineely@earthlink.net](mailto:clineely@earthlink.net)

**Christine Jones Ph.D.:** Regenerative soil expert, a participant in training workshops and forums in Zimbabwe, South Africa and New Zealand as well as the USA; Australian Soil Carbon Accreditation Scheme (ASCAS), Founder, Amazing Carbon [www.amazingcarbon.com](http://www.amazingcarbon.com)

### **Special Panel on Gender and Water Issues:**

**Dr. Alan Brown**, Sias International University Board President. Gender Issues and Social Impact of Water Shortages. How bad water policy effects indigenous populations whose livelihood is tied to river delta agricultural production, fishing and transport such as conveyor passage on the Mekong river from Cambodia to Thailand to Laos to Vietnam and vice versa.

**Dr Zahra Tamouh**, Professor and Fulbright Scholar, Mohamed V University, Rabat, Morocco. Dr Tamouh has dual doctorate degrees in History of African Societies and History of International Development from the University of Mohamed V in Rabat, Morocco, and at the Sorbonne University in Paris. Dr Tamouh is a highly respected Moroccan scholar on Women in Muslim History; The Muslim World from Tradition to Modernity; Globalization, Development and Immigration; Women and Democratization in Muslim Countries. Zahra will share her perspective on gender issues of water.

**Dr. Titus Levi**, Economist and expert on World Music, Jazz, and Communications, co-edited China's Environmental Yearbook. He has taught at the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Southern California and currently teaches Environmental Journalism at the International University in Zhuhai.

### **Speakers we hope to secure:**

**Yao Tandong**, a glaciologist at China's Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research. "Full-scale glacier shrinkage is inevitable, and it will lead to ecological catastrophe." Source: Special issue, National Geographic, 2010. "Our Thirsty World." P. 68 <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/04/tibetan-plateau/larmer-text/3>

**Peter Senge**, founder of the Society for Organizational Learning (SoL), author of *The Fifth Discipline: the Art and Practice of the Learning Organization* and *The Necessary Revolution*. Dr. Senge inspired Sias International University formed an Institute on the Environment and Social Responsibility (IESR).

**Dr Jared Diamond**, is a Pulitzer Prize Winner for his book *Guns, Germs and Steel*. His best-selling book, *Collapse, How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, was a world-wide success. Professor Diamond teaches at the University of California, Los Angeles.

**A MODEL OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION – THE NETHERLANDS & INDONESIA WATER PARTNERSHIP.** We hope to recognize **Jeroen van der Sommen** of the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) and **His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange**, and **His Highness Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono**, the President of Indonesia, as a model of International cooperation on Water issues.

**Colonel Sharon Davidovich**, National Director of the Jewish National Fund (JNF) – Parsons Water Fund. Col. Davidovich was the Commanding Officer of Operations in Gaza; the acting Commander for Southern Lebanon’s Eastern Front and the Commander of the Nahal Division, one of Israel’s leading divisions. Col. Davidovich has been a major coordinating force for the development of reservoir catchments to capture waste water for processing its use for irrigation. **Dr Uri Shani**, Director of Israel’s Water Authority stated that Israel faces its worst water crisis in the Nation’s history.

**Dr. Farouk El-Baz**, Geologist, Director of the Center for Remote Sensing and Research Professor in the Boston University College of Engineering, “Desalination: An Option for the Poor.” An overview of new desalination technologies.

**Art Light-Water Festival:** This festival, curated by Sias Foundation Emeritus Chair, **Judith Luther Wilder**, will present the work of artists whose artistic vision has been informed and profoundly influenced by their concerns about the natural world. Their expertise and talents will explore a wide range of themes and points of view about contemporary society’s impact on the environment. Lectures including Q & A sessions with the artists will be open to all Sias students.

**Special Tour and Scientific Research Trek: Inner Mongolia and Moon Lake (Tengger Dalai)** – for environmental studies and science majors, students and faculty teaching in environmental and science areas.

- **1st trek:** the Outer Mongolian Steppe region, where grazing communities reside. Nomadic groups in Mongolia are some of the most sustainable people in the world.
- **2nd trek:** Moon Lake is a region surrounded by Mongolian desertification sprawl, the most delicate terrain in the world.

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[www.sedona-edge.com](http://www.sedona-edge.com) for further information

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