

Increasing development pressures, population growth, economic expansion, climate change and aging treatment and distribution systems are converging to threaten the world's supplies of safe and plentiful water. Meeting the challenge of these threats will require innovative approaches to water management, including linking such management to larger issues of economic development, community planning and changes in some of the most fundamental hydrological processes that control the environment.

This symposium presented an excellent opportunity to build consensus on the nature of the problems, their diagnoses, their prognoses and potential on-the-ground solutions. Having a venue to build this common understanding was important, since solutions will involve many organizations working together with a common purpose: to keep water both safe and affordable for everyone.

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