

Mountain as Water Towers

November 23-26, 2003

The Banff Centre

The Summit explored issues surrounding the great storage houses of fresh water in mountain regions of the world. One-half of the world's people drink water that originates in mountain areas. As downstream demand increases, the potential for conflict over the ownership and use of that water increases. As global climate changes and airborne pollution increases, the quantity and quality of water available downstream becomes compromised.

The Summit looked at a 20-year horizon. It highlighted the vulnerability of mountain water towers. It will include world-renowned scientists, advocates and authors: people whose expertise and passion for clean water for the 21st century has translated into creative endeavours, scientific research and action. An integrated approach informed all aspects of the event.

The Summit included daytime conference sessions and evening events aimed at the general public. Daytime sessions followed five sub-themes, focusing on issues of quality and quantity of water in - and from - mountain areas.

Major themes:

- Who Owns It and Who Profits From It?
- Integrated Watershed Management
- Mountain Water Ecosystems: Conservation and Restoration
- Impact of Climate Change
- "20 Year Horizon" – Search for Solutions

Summit Book

"Whose Water is It?" is a book of evocative and provocative essays, exploring the plight of the world's water now and into the future. Guest contributors are world-renowned scientists, advocates, authors and water managers, including: David Suzuki, Margaret Catley-Carlson, David Schindler, Maude Barlow, Marq de Villiers, Aaron Wolf, Lester Brown, Robert Glennon, Peter Gleick and Hans Schreier. Edited by Bernadette McDonald of The Banff Centre and Douglas Jehl, national correspondent for the New York Times, and published by National Geographic, this publication is a treasured keepsake of International Year of Fresh Water.

All participants of the Mountains as Water Towers Summit received a hardcover copy of the book during the Summit book launch.

Summit proceedings will also be published after the Summit – one copy will automatically be sent to each participant, and additional copies will be available for purchase.

About our Sponsors:

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