

## Afternoon Seminar Part 2

### Panel Dialogue: How Can Political Leadership Increase Water Security?

Convenor: Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)

#### Seminar text

*Eye on Asia* concludes with a panel discussion among leaders from government, civil society and private sector on water security in Asia and Europe. The panel and participants will discuss the role that political leadership must play in achieving universal access to water for the common good. The panel discussion is part of APWF's *Ministers for Water Security* initiative, which was announced at the start of the 5th World Water Forum by APWF's President Yoshiro Mori, a former Prime Minister of Japan.

The initiative is raising public awareness and encouraging cooperation among leaders in government, private sector and civil society on policies, investments and innovations that will increase water security in Asia. Ministers from 18 countries in Asia, top officials of international organizations and a representative of the G8 Experts Group on Water and Sanitation, confirmed their support for the initiative.

APWF encourages ministers of finance, planning, health, disaster management, infrastructure, agriculture, energy, environment, water, and other water-related portfolios to join the initiative to demonstrate how water security can be increased by working jointly across these sectors. Leaders from the private sector and civil society are also invited to join the dialogue with the Ministers.

#### Programme

Chair: Mr. Ravi Narayanan, CBE, Vice-Chair, APWF Governing Council

Facilitator: Prof. Torkil Jønch-Clausen, Senior Adviser, DHI and Global Water Partnership

16:00 Welcome and Introduction. Mr. Ravi Narayanan

16:05 Speech. Minister of the Environment of Sweden (tbc)

16:15 Speech. Mme Khempheng Pholsena, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office, Head of Water Resources and Environment Administration, Lao People's Democratic Republic (tbc)

16:25 Speech. Mr. Timothy McCarthy, Chairman and CEO of Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd.

16:35 Facilitated Discussion and Panel Debate.

17:20 Summary

17:25 Closing remarks. Dr. Kotaro Takemura, Secretary General, APWF