

GLOBAL WATER DANCES PROGRAM

JUNE 25, 2011

"Thousands have lived without love,
not one without water."

W.H. Auden *"First Things First"*

Welcome to Global Water Dances

Thanks for joining today with thousands of people around the world to highlight the urgent need for access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation. Starting on the Pacific Rim and rolling westward through the time zones, people are coming together to dance for water. At each site, local choreographers have created a 4-part performance blending dances focused on local concerns with a global segment which dancers will perform at every site to signify our connections to each other and our common intentions of clean water for everyone.

The scale of the problem is immense.

On July 28, 2010, the General Assembly passed UN Resolution 64/292, The Right to Water and Sanitation, declaring that the United Nations "Recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights." In the text of the resolution, the UN estimated that 884 million people lack access to safe drinking water and more than 2.6 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation. The World Health Organization's figures show that unsafe water kills more people every year than all forms of violence, including war.

New Threats

In addition to the historical threats to our water supply, there are two rapidly emerging threats that threaten the supply of safe drinking water everywhere:

- Global warming—as burning fossil fuels heats up the atmosphere, local climates are changing, often for the worse. In some areas, rainfall is

disappearing, raising the specter of drought and crop failures; and in other areas, abnormally heavy rainfall has produced catastrophic flooding.

- Fracking—at the very time when we should be reducing the burning of fossil fuels to slow down global warming, the world's oil companies are rapidly expanding fracking. In order to produce more natural gas, the companies are forcing millions of gallons of toxic-chemical-laden water down wells into rock formations at high pressure. There are virtually no regulations of fracking, but scientists have already found massive contamination of underground water supplies.

Global Water Dances at [name of site and country]: [The producers will have to fill in a short description of what the focus of their local event is.]

[Time and location, to be filled in by local producers. This event will take place on June 25, 2011 at [hour] at [name of location, address, etc.]

[For more information, email xxxxx@yyyyyy.com to contact {name of local contact}.]

For more information, please visit the Global Water Dances website, <http://www.globalwaterdances.org>. The website has a global map of dozens of participating sites. Send in your site if you're not listed yet. The site is permanent, with links to high-quality information about water issues. The site will also post videos of many of today's performances.