



Competition for food, water on the rise- Big changes needed to ensure global resource security

March 6, 2014

Vancouver, Canada – As rising population growth, increasing urban sprawl, and climate change place increasing pressure on the ability to access fresh water and arable land for food production, the scarcity of both resources is figuring more prominently in public policy and international business agendas. What sustainable solutions can be brought to the table? Who will bear the cost – and reap the profits – of these innovations? And how will we continue to ensure these staples of life continue to be available to meet the needs of a growing population?

Exploring the effect of climate change and rapid population growth as the backdrop to these increasing strains, **GLOBE 2014, taking place March 26-28, 2014 in Vancouver, Canada**, will focus on **Food and Water Security: Protecting Our Most Precious Resources**, with sessions dedicated to innovative approaches for tackling this global epidemic.

“Population growth, increasing urbanization, and energy usage coupled with water scarcity and a lack of arable land means we have to change the way we think about food and water,” notes John Wiebe, President and CEO of the GLOBE Foundation. *“At GLOBE, we’ll hear from the world renowned experts and visionaries on food and water security as they explore new technologies and strategies for tackling the economic, political and nutritional realities of today.”*

Decades of environmental exploitation and degradation in the form of agricultural pesticides, fertilizers, and fossil fuel-powered machinery have massively impacted the quality and quantity of available food supplies. In response to the changing face of agriculture in the 21st century, new investment strategies and targeted policies must be met with social protection policies and long-term commitments to mainstreaming food security.

It is estimated that today, over one billion people do not have access to clean drinking water in both developing and developed countries, combined. With an already tense competition for water between the different levels of government and the public and private sectors, particularly agricultural and manufacturing institutions, how can today’s businesses help proactively alleviate this detrimental resource shortage?

GLOBE sessions related to food and water scarcity will explore how the staples of life are in peril and what businesses, governments, and citizens can do about it. Session topics include **Food and Water Security in a Changing World** and **The Business of Water**.

There are several acclaimed speakers in this GLOBE 2014 series including: **Deborah Harford**, Executive Director of the Adaptation to Climate Change Team at Simon Fraser University; **Marco Ferroni**, Executive Director of Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture in Switzerland; **Torgny Holmgren**, Executive Director of Stockholm International Water Institute in Sweden; and **Rich Cavagnaro**, CEO of Adedge Water Technologies LLC.

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Other key themes for this international forum on business and the environment include: The Changing Energy Landscape; Towards the Circular Economy; Responsible Resource Management; Clean Capitalism: Financing Sustainable Innovation; China – Our Shared Future; and The Aboriginal Advantage.

As the world's largest and longest-running conference and exposition series dedicated to the business of the environment, GLOBE 2014 will boast an impressive lineup of conference speakers, including globally-recognized thought leaders and environmental business experts. The prestigious biennial event will also welcome more than 400 exhibitors from North America, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia to its world-renowned exposition, where they will showcase the latest in green, clean technologies, innovations, and services.

For more information, visit www.GLOBESeries.com.

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About GLOBE

GLOBE 2014 is produced by GLOBE Events a member of the Group of Companies, a conglomerate of privately-held companies dedicated to the business of the environment. GLOBE's expertise lies in project management, event development, and management consulting in the fields of environment and energy, urban development, and corporate responsibility. The GLOBE Group is North America's longest operating producer of environmental events.

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