

The Annual High Level Session (HLS) Ministerial Forum

The High Level Session (HLS) is an unmatched regional event, being the only meeting of Caribbean Water Ministers to date. The HLS affords Ministers and senior officials involved in water resources management a unique opportunity to share experiences and ideas for addressing water issues affecting the region and individual countries.

The Ministerial Forum is a joint initiative of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and its partner, the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) which began in 2005 as a session within the CWWA's Annual Conference and Exhibition.

Both CWWA and GWP-C saw the HLS as a proactive approach to addressing the water resources management problems in the Caribbean in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Moreover, it is a means of bringing Ministers and policy-makers together to engage in discussions on critical issues on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and to provide the necessary technical information to support decision-making and the development and implementation of regional approaches/policies for water sector management.

HLS 9 which takes place on October 10th and 11th, 2013 in Barbados will be held under the auspices of Dr. The Honourable David Estwick, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Water Resource Management through the support of the Barbados Water Authority (BWA).

This year's Ministerial Forum represents a collaboration between the CWWA, the GWP-C and the Global Environment Facility's Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (GEF-CReW).



HLS Themes (2005 - 2013)

HLS 1 (Barbados) - IWRM and Effective Water Governance

HLS 2 (Tobago) - Challenges and Opportunities in IWRM in the Caribbean

HLS 3 (St. Kitts) - IWRM Planning and Policies in the Caribbean

HLS 4 (Jamaica) - Water Financing

HLS 5 (St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.) - Building a Water Secure Region: A Caribbean Response

HLS 6 (Grenada) - Water Crisis in the Caribbean: The IWRM Response

HLS 7 (Guadeloupe) - Water Management Financing in the Caribbean: Pricing, Efficiency, Equity and Sustainability

HLS 8 (The Bahamas) - The Water and Energy Nexus in Caribbean Development

HLS 9 (Barbados) - Water and Sanitation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Addressing Wastewater Policy and Financial Challenges in the Caribbean

THE 9TH HIGH LEVEL SESSION MINISTERIAL FORUM

The theme of the 9th High Level Session (HLS) Ministerial Forum is **“Water and Sanitation and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Addressing Wastewater Policy and Financial Challenges in the Caribbean.”**

The cross-cutting theme is extremely important given the United Nation’s (UN’s) work in setting a Post-2015 Development Agenda; efforts that have acknowledged the critical importance of the inclusion of water and wastewater in shaping the Agenda.

Water in all its forms is fundamental to all sustainable development needs. Furthermore, “water sustainability” which will be discussed at the 9th HLS, is intimately linked to: access to water and sanitation; efficient use and development of water resources; and water quality and wastewater management.

The theme of the 9th HLS is very well aligned with regional water development priorities in the Caribbean as outlined in the Caribbean Community’s (CARICOM’s) regional water mandate. Additionally, the context of this year’s Ministerial Forum is timely as it draws on key sub-themes such as policy, wastewater, finance and climate change which embody some of the main focus areas for preparations for the 3rd International Conference on Small Island States (Barbados+20) to be held in Samoa in 2014; a conference that will call for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to showcase their progress in the areas outlined.



The 9th HLS therefore hones in on these international dialogues and regional water priorities and will look critically at the following:

- Policy Challenges
- Wastewater Management and Climate Change
- Sustainable Financing: Achieving Financial Stability in Wastewater Management
- Priorities for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Post-2015 Wastewater Management Development Agenda
- Opportunities for Sourcing Concessionary Capital: Climate Finance
- Frameworks and the Way Forward

It is no secret that for water to advance to the top of the development agenda, there is need for greater political will and attention. The High Level Session (HLS) Ministerial Forum presents a platform to support this and to achieve greater water cooperation in the Caribbean region.

