

MEDIA RELEASE

The World Toilet Summit comes to Australia

14 November 2017

The World Toilet Summit & Expo will be held for the very first time in Australia next week in Melbourne. The World Toilet Organization, a Singapore-based non-profit and the Australian Water Association have joined hands to promote international partnerships to meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal #6 for clean water and sanitation.

Australia has certainly taken a lead in commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals from all sectors, but more can be done within the region for Goal #6.

"In Australia, we talk about SDGs in relation to foreign aid, but not about what we can be doing on our own turf," Kathryn Silvester, Australian Young Water Professional of the Year 2016 and program committee member of World Toilet Summit said.

"The summit will help highlight the lack of access to water and sanitation even within Indigenous communities, and the role the Australian water sector should play in terms of contributing to developing countries in our region."

The Summit in Melbourne will elevate topics such as menstrual hygiene management, waste management, toilet culture and behaviour, things that can no longer be viewed as taboo conversation topics if change is to occur. Other topics include sanitation and hygiene response in crisis zones, social enterprise solutions and collaborative approaches.

Global leaders in the water, sanitation and hygiene space who will present at the Summit next week include Bruce Gordon - World Health Organization, Rosie Wheen - WaterAid Australia, Rose George - Journalist and Author, Prof. John Thwaites - Melbourne Water, Mark Balla - WeCantWait, and Jack Sim – World Toilet Organization.

Global hygiene company Reckitt Benckiser is strongly supporting this event in their commitment to provide healthier lives. The expo will bring innovative ideas from international organisations including a "Toilet Take Over" Virtual Reality section hosted by summit sponsor Kimberly-Clark. Other sponsors committed to meeting SDG #6 include the Civil Society WASH Fund, Global Citizen and the Victorian Department of Health & Human Services.

Toilets have a strong link to education, tourism and public health in this region, making it extremely vital for Ministries of Health, Education and Tourism to participate at the summit. Corporate leaders in water, engineering, waste management and hygiene are encouraged to participate and share expertise towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals both locally and internationally.

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And while the World Toilet Summit will dedicate two days to the discussion of global sanitation, the Australian water and sanitation sectors should not forget World Toilet Day this Sunday as an opportunity to raise awareness within communities.

For more information on the World Toilet Summit, visit www.awa.asn.au/wts17.

To view the latest articles on this event, click on the below links:

[Here's how lack of access to water holds back gender equity](#)

[Here's why more toilets are crucial to achieving water and sanitation goals](#)

[Remote Indigenous women face many barriers to good sanitation. What can we do?](#)

Presenters are available for interview as well as media passes to the Summit. To secure your media pass, please contact:

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About the Australian Water Association

With a membership of over 5,000 individual and corporate members, the Australian Water Association is Australia's biggest water network promoting sustainable water management and connecting members through three core principles of information, networking and recognition.

www.awa.asn.au

About the World Toilet Organization

Founded on 19 November 2001, World Toilet Organization (WTO) is a global non-profit committed to improving toilet and sanitation conditions worldwide. Breaking the silence on the sanitation crisis is at the heart of WTO's efforts. WTO established World Toilet Day and the World Toilet Summit in 2001.

worldtoilet.org