GATS ATTACK!
pamphlet series

Global Water Grab

How corporations are planning to Take Control of Local Water Services

Polaris Institute
January 2003

We encourage you to join or start a local water campaign and to undertake direct action in your community.
We must fight back against the corporate water takeover.
Take action now!

Polaris Institute

Exposing the Private Water Industry

At the dawn of the 21st century, a global water crisis is looming. According to the United Nations, 1.3 billion people in the world today lack access to clean water while 2.5 billion do not have adequate sewage and sanitation. No less than 31 countries are considered to be in water stressed areas. Worldwide demand for water is doubling every 20 years, twice the rate of population growth. By the year 2025, demand for fresh water is expected to outstrip global supply by 56 percent.

For most people around the world, water is not to be treated like any other commodity to be bought and sold in the market place. On the contrary, water is essential for both life and nature. Not only humans, but plants, animals, and the planet itself depend on having access to adequate supplies of water for their very survival. For these reasons, water is considered to be a public trust. That's why water services are generally run by public and municipal systems in most countries today.

Yet, keeping water as a public trust is increasingly being tested. In recent decades, a global water industry has emerged in which for-profit corporations are taking control of public water services around the world. More and more, cash starved governments with aging water infrastructures [e.g. pipes] are turning to corporations to provide water service delivery and waste water treatment. The new trend line is water privatization. Through long-term contracts, corporations are grabbing lucrative profits by providing essential water services.

> *"Water is a critical and necessary ingredient to the daily life of every human being, and it is an equally powerful ingredient for profitable manufacturing companies."*
> **--- Mike Stark, a senior executive at US Filter, a Vivendi subsidiary**

To date, there have been at least three models of water privatization: (1) the complete sell off by governments of public water delivery and treatment systems to private corporations [which took place in Britain]; (2) the granting of long term leases or concessions allowing corporations to takeover the delivery of water services and the collection of revenues [which has been the French model]; and (3) the more restricted approach where corporations are contracted by governments to manage water services for an administration fee.

No matter which model is used, experience shows that transnational corporations, regardless of how responsibly they try to carry out their business, are simply not designed to provide public services to all people on an equitable basis. Indeed, the delivery of water services is based on the 'ability to pay,' which means that poor communities frequently end-up without adequate services. Nor are corporations organized to conserve natural resources like water. Since maximizing profits often means encouraging increased consumption, it is not in the interest of water corporations to promote water conservation.

The main purpose of this pamphlet is to provide a look at how the major corporate players in the global water industry today are able to make use of international trade agreements and financial regimes to accelerate and consolidate the privatization of public water systems. The pamphlet identifies who the major water corporations are, how they operate, and what their track record has been in providing water services around the world. It also provides a few examples of new rules being quietly negotiated in trade agreements like the GATS, that support the corporate takeover of water. In addition, this booklet exposes how water corporations exploit the global south by profiting from the financial levers of the IMF and World Bank.

In short, this pamphlet is about the *water grab* that is going global. We begin with a brief look at some of the battlefronts in communities around the world where people are organizing to fight for their water rights.

Water Battlefronts

There is nothing new about local battles being waged over access to fresh water. After all, water is the essential ingredient for both human and natural life on this planet. What is new is the proliferation of battlefronts arising as fresh water becomes more depleted and profitable at the same time.

Former vice president of the World Bank, Ishmael Serageldin once forecasted: "The wars of the 21st century will be fought over water." He should know. Serageldin has been a prime mover behind the World Bank's program to press Third World governments into selling off their public water services to foreign-based water corporations. He has also been chair of the Global Water Partnership, a corporate friendly institution that defines water as an "economic good" and advocates for governments to adopt policies that promote privatization.

The first big water war of the 21st century erupted in Bolivia, when the World Bank refused to renew a $25 million USD loan unless water services were privatized in Latin America's poorest country. After the public water utility in the city of Cochabamba [pop. over 500,000] was sold to Bechtel, a powerful U.S. corporation, water rates were immediately jacked up in January and February of 2000. The people of Cochabamba took to the streets, by the tens of thousands day after day, protesting against the rate hikes and subsequent water cut-offs. Eventually, the escalating protests ignited a general strike that shut down the city's economy. At the height of this mass resistance, Bechtel was forced to pack its bags and flee the country. But not for long. Bechtel struck back with a $25 million USD suit against the Bolivian government, claiming compensation for future lost profits under a bilateral investment treaty.

> *"Water promises to be to the 21st century what oil was to the 20th century: the precious commodity that determines the wealth of nations."*
> **--- Fortune Magazine, May 2000**

The inequities that gave rise to the battle against the privatization of water in Cochabamba are found everywhere. In Lima, Peru, the poor pay private vendors $3.00 for one cubic foot of water [which is contaminated and they carry themselves] while the affluent pay 30 cents for relatively clean tap water. In Bangladesh, squatters pay 12 times higher water rates than what the local utility charges. In Lusaka, Zambia, low income people often pay up to half of their household income for water services that are being privatized.

In South Africa, white farmers consume 60 percent of the country's water supplies through large scale irrigation while 15 million black people are denied access to clean water. Recently, the privatization of water services in South Africa has led to sharp increases in water rates. Households in the poor townships who can no longer afford to pay the rate hikes, find themselves with their water being cut off altogether. As a result, people in Soweto and other townships surrounding Johannesburg, Durban and Capetown have been mobilizing their own resistance by ripping out water meters and "illegally" re-connecting water services in their neighbourhoods.

The battles against the privatization of water services are by no means confined to the global South. In the United States, where only 15 percent of municipal water services are run by corporations, cities and towns are beginning to resist the growing push to privatize public water systems. Battles have been waged in cities like New Orleans, Atlanta and Milwaukee. Similarly, in Canada, citizens have been organizing against the corporate takeover of water services in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. Even in Europe, the home base for the major water corporations and the model of water privatization, community resistance is mounting.

NOTE: This PDF version of "Global Water Grab" is adapted from a popular education booklet format, and as such, sources are not included. Specific source inquiries should be directed to darren_puscas@on.aibn.com or to the Polaris Institute directly (contact information is on the last page). Inquiries about obtaining the original booklet version of this document should also be directed at the Polaris Institute.

Corporate Players

Today, there is a global industry that specializes in the privatization of water services. It is dominated by two titans, Vivendi Universal and Suez [formerly Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux], both based in France. Often labeled the General Motors and Ford Motor companies of the global water industry, Vivendi and Suez have monopoly control over approximately 70 percent of the existing world water service market.

While Vivendi is the larger of the two companies, posting bigger annual sales than its rival mainly because of its diverse operations that include communication and media interests, Suez provides water services on a for-profit basis to more people around the world. Vivendi's latest wild buying spree in a bid to become the No. 1 communications giant in the world, has racked up a massive debt load and undercut its water operations, which have been the company's best revenue generator. Indeed, Vivendi's strategy of cross subsidizing its dot.com speculative ventures with profits from its water operations failed, thereby forcing its CEO to resign.

In 2001, Vivendi and Suez were ranked #51 and #99 respectively on the Global Fortune 500. Their monopoly, however, may soon be challenged by RWE, a German electricity and waste management company, ranked #53 by Global Fortune. After purchasing two key water companies, Thames Water in the U.K. and American Water Works in the U.S., RWE has positioned itself to expand its market share in the coming years.

Two other key players in the privatization of water services are the French company Bouygues [through its water company SAUR] and the U.S. construction giant Bechtel [through its subsidiary United Utilities]. The field is rounded out by a string of smaller British water companies such as Severn Trent, Anglian Water and the Kelda Group.

Top Corporate Players in the World Water Industry

Corporation	Water Subsidiary	Country Base	2001 Total Revenue	2001 Total Profits	2001 Water Revenue
Vivendi Universal	Vivendi Water	France	$51.7 billion	-$1.02 billion	$11.90 billion
Suez	ONDEO	France	$37.2 billion	$ 1.80 billion	$ 8.84 billion
RWE	Thames	Germany	$55.5 billion	$ 1.11 billion	$ 2.8 billion 1 year projected
Bouygues	SAUR	France	$17.9 billion	$ 0.301 billion	$ 2.18 billion
United Utilities	United Utilities Water	UK	$ 2.7 billion	$ 0.467 billion	$ 1.35 billion
Severn Trent		UK	$ 2.6 billion	$ 0.307 billion	$ 1.28 billion
AWG plc	Anglian Water	UK	$ 2.6 billion	$ 0.195 billion	$ 1.03 billion
Kelda	Yorkshire Water	UK	$ 1.1 billion	$ 0.231 billion	$ 0.8 billion
Bechtel	International Water	US/UK	$ 15.1 billion (2000 figures)	N/A	N/A

GATS Power Tools

New global trade rules in services provide foreign-owned, for-profit water corporations with a set of power tools to pry open markets around the world. Under the World Trade Organization's [WTO] General Agreement on Trade in Services [GATS], member countries commit themselves to a program of "progressive liberalization of all services," including public services like water. While the GATS rules do not specifically require countries to privatize public services, they do lay down rules that create conditions for ongoing deregulation and privatization.

For example, one GATS rule on 'domestic regulation' allows countries, on behalf of their client corporations, to challenge laws, policies and programs of another country which are considered to be a barriers to selling services. In effect, laws protecting a public water system could be challenged as a barrier to cross-border trade-in-services under the GATS rules. These rules apply to all levels of government — national, regional or municipal. And, if a country's public water laws or programs are judged by a WTO trade tribunal to be a violation of the GATS rules, then it will be compelled to either change those laws and programs or face the prospect of economic sanctions.

Under the GATS regime, all foreign-based water corporations would be granted "national treatment" and "most favoured nation" status. What this means is that any government in the WTO would be required to give foreign investors (like these water corporations) equal if not better treatment than domestic investors (like local government owned utilities). In the current GATS negotiations, it is being proposed that governments justify their public services [like water] using a "necessity test." Governments would have to prove that any legislation or regulation related to the maintenance of a public service like water is "necessary" and "the least trade restrictive of all possible measures." In effect, government regulations requiring high water quality standards for safety, accessible rates for poor communities, or specific improvements in pipe infrastructure could be declared "unnecessary" by a WTO tribunal.

> *At risk [from the GATS] is the public ownership of water resources, public sector water services, and the authority of governments to regulate corporate activity for environmental, conservation, and public health reasons.*
> **--- Canadian trade lawyer Steven Shrybman in a March 2001 legal opinion on the GATS**

To be sure, water is on the table in the current round of WTO negotiations to expand the GATS rules and their application. A leaked document outlining the European Union's demands in these negotiations shows that the EU intends to make sure that the new GATS rules can be used to pry open markets in other countries, primarily for the French and German based water giants. Specifically, the EU is calling on countries to open up their public services regarding "water collection, purification and distribution" to foreign-based corporations.

These EU demands are also focused on other countries or 'markets' including the U.S. and Canada in the North, and South Africa, India and Brazil in the South. If these demands are incorporated in the new GATS regime when negotiations are completed in January 2005, then Suez, Vivendi, RWE and the other water corporations will have all the tools they need to compel countries to open up their public water systems to privatization.

January 2005 is also the deadline for the completion of negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas [FTAA] which will contain a set of rules on services, including water. The FTAA rules will be patterned after the GATS but could also go beyond the GATS rules. What's more, it is proposed that the FTAA contain an investor-state mechanism for the settlement of disputes which would allow transnational corporations to sue governments directly for alleged violation of the service rules (such has been the case under the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA]).

Financial Levers

Along with the power tools of trade and investment agreements, the big water corporations also make extensive use of international financial institutions (IFIs) to finance their takeover of water services in poor countries. Through the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other IFIs, the water giants are able to secure loans and grants for themselves to finance much of their operations in global South. When Suez, for example, took over the water operation in Buenos Aires, all but $30 million of the $1 billion required for investment in new infrastructure came from the World Bank, with assistance from the Inter American Development Bank and local Argentine banks.

In March 2001, the World Bank was the major overseas investor [US $225 million] in a large water services privatization project in Thailand being developed by RWE's new subsidiary, Thames Water International. Following the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in early September 2002, more and more government foreign aid or development assistance monies are expected to be allocated on these types of public-private deals.

At the same time, the World Bank and the IMF have both made water privatization a condition for the renewal of loans with countries of the global south. A random review of IMF loans in 40 countries during 2000 revealed that 12 countries had loan conditions that imposed water privatization or full cost recovery. In general, it is African countries - the smallest, poorest, and most debt ridden countries - that experience these conditions. Tragically, more than 5 million people die each year in Africa from poor water access.

In one case, Tanzania, the government was required by the IMF to "assign the assets of Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority to private management companies" as a condition for receiving debt relief. In Central America, the IMF insisted that Honduras approve a "framework law" for the privatization of its water and sewage services by December, 2000. The irony is that once foreign-based corporations takeover public water systems in the global south, more capital will flow out of the country in the form of repatriation of corporate profits and dividends for shareholders.

> *"water and its infrastructure are the final frontier for private investors to invade."*
> **---Johan Bastin, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [ERDB] (An IFI focused on "central Europe to central Asia")**

As previously discussed, perhaps the best known case is the World Bank's refusal to renew its $25 million loan to the Bolivian government unless the public water system in the city of Cochabamba was privatized. Though the subsequent sale of Cochabamba's water system to Bechtel became the target of mass protests and worldwide attention, international finance pressures on other countries to privatize their water delivery services have, until recently, largely gone unnoticed.

In addition, the World Bank has played a role in developing new regulations and programs for water service delivery in the global south. In South Africa, for example, Bank officials reportedly drafted the main sections of the Urban Infrastructure Investment Framework for the new government following the dismantling of apartheid. Here, the Bank refused to allow cross-subsidies of water services from the central government to local authorities for the purpose of assisting poor communities. As a result, when water prices rose dramatically in the Alexandra township of Johannesburg, people found themselves facing water cut-offs due to unpaid water bills. The high water rates were being charged to pay for the cost overruns on dam projects elsewhere which the Bank itself had promoted and financed. Meanwhile, lacking access to clean water, people in Alexandra became ill with cholera and diarrhea.

Political Clout

Water corporations don't leave these things to chance and the big 3 - Vivendi, Suez, and RWE are all active in networks of water policy think tanks and lobby groups that prime the pump for privatization. This network includes the Global Water Partnership, the World Water Council and the World Commission on Water. All three of these water agencies have working relationships with international finance institutions, the major corporate players in the water industry and governments.

The Global Water Partnership [GWP], for example, was initially chaired by World Bank vice president Sarageldin and funded by both government aid agencies from Northern industrialized countries and various international finance institutions. Along with the WWC, the GWP plays a key role in organizing the World Water Forum every three years with business and government policymakers which put a heavy emphasis on promoting private public partnerships as the solution to the global water crisis. Along with the World Bank, companies like Suez have played an influential role in the GWP.

The World Water Council [WWC] sees itself as a policy think tank whose main task is to provide decision makers in government and industry with advice on global water issues. In spite of their global mandate, the World Water Council began with representation from only 32 countries. They planned for representation in 100 countries by 2000 but are not even close to this global goal. Its member groups include leading professional associations, water corporations, government water ministries, UN agencies and financial institutions. The WWC spearheaded the *World Water Vision* report which largely outlined a pro-water privatization agenda. A third agency, the World Commission on Water for the 21st Century, is a blue ribbon panel of prominent personalities from around the world. It has also been chaired by World Bank's Sarageldin and is officially supported by a network of UN agencies working on water issues.

Websites of these supporters of the Global Water Giants

Global Water Partnership (GWP)
www.gwpforum.org

World Water Forum
www.worldwaterforum.org

World Water Council (WWC)
www.worldwatercouncil.org

European Services Forum (ESF)
www.esf.be

U.S. Coalition of Service Industries (USCSI)
www.uscsi.org

Meanwhile, the water corporations have their own network of industry associations for promoting water privatization. Membership in the International Private Water Association [IPWA], for instance, includes water companies ranging from Vivendi's main subsidiary in North America, US Filter, to the British company, Bi-Water. The IPWA is organized to "promote global opportunities for private water project development globally" by arranging meetings with government water ministries and local authorities. In the U.S., the National Association of Water Industries assists water corporations in developing responses to federal and state governments on water policy issues.

The place where the water giants are able to wield considerable political clout has been in the big business coalitions of service industries which have had a powerful influence in shaping the agenda for the current round of GATS negotiations. Vivendi and Suez, the world's two largest water service corporations, are both prominent members of the European Services Forum [ESF]. Vivendi, through its subsidiary US Filter, is also a member of the powerful U.S. Coalition of Service Industries [USCSI].

Both the ESF and the USCSI are in a pivotal position to determine the outcome of the GATS negotiations. The two dominant economic powers in the World Trade Organization, the E.U. and the U.S., rely heavily on the proposals for new rules promoted by the lobby groups (USCSI and ESF) which includes the water giants. Through these two big business lobbies, Suez and Vivendi are effectively writing a new set of global trade and investment rules governing services, specifically their own vested interests in water.

Environmental Violations

The corporate takeover of water services in many countries has often turned out to be bad news for public health and the environment. Today, cash strapped governments, are under increasing pressure to hand over the delivery of local water services to private, for-profit companies. But the push for privatization can also come from like-minded local elites (government or otherwise) who often see financial spin-offs coming their way and who, whether they are under direct pressure or not, value water as a commodity as much as the World Bank and IMF. Once water services are privatized, however, local governments frequently lack the clout needed to ensure that water quality and pollution standards are met and to penalize corporations who fail to meet them. The track record of some water corporations is not inspiring.

Through their water subsidiaries, the big three — Suez, Vivendi and RWE — have been charged and fined for numerous environmental violations. Here are a few examples:

- In July 1999, the Suez subsidiary Northumbrian Water was declared by the Drinking Water Inspectorate in the U.K. to be the second worst company in terms of operational performance in England and Wales. The main reason was poor water quality: high levels of iron and manganese were found in the water Northumbrian was delivering. Elsewhere, in Potsdam, Germany, city officials terminated a contract with Suez when, after discovering that water consumption levels were lower than predicted, the company demanded that higher water rates be levied. Apparently, water revenues were more important than water conservation.

- In July 1994, Vivendi's main water subsidiary, Générale des Eaux, was prosecuted for supplying poor quality water to the inhabiants of Tregeux, France. Due to excessive use of nitrates and pesticides, Générale was charged with supplying water unfit for consumption on 476 days between 1990 and 1993. In Puerto Rico, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fined Vivendi's subsidiary, Compañía de Aguas, $6.2 million USD for environmental violations between 1995 and 2000. During this period, the Vivendi subsidiary managed Puerto Rico's water authority, PRASA.

- RWE's new subsidiary, Thames Water, also has a poor track record when it comes to water loss due to leaky pipes. According to the British water authority, Ofwat, Thames lost enough water between April 1999 and April 2000 to fill three hundred Olympic size swimming pools a day. On another count, Thames Water pleaded guilty in court and was fined GBP26,600 in August 2001, for allowing raw sewage to pollute a stream located within yards of houses in a British community.

Other examples of environmental violations by private water companies include:

- In the U.K., water corporations have been among the country's worst environmental violators. Between 1989 and 1997, five water companies [Anglian, Severn Trent, Northumbrian, Wessex (later Azurix) and Yorkshire (now the Kelda Group)] were successfully prosecuted 128 times. In 1998, the U.K. environmental agency ranked Wessex Water Co. the country's fourth worst polluter, while Anglian Water was ranked the sixth worst polluter in 1999.

Yet, governments have been largely ineffective when it comes to penalizing these water companies for such environmental violations. For the most part, their penalties have amounted to relatively small fines which are not effective deterrents.

Global Resistance

Around the world, communities are beginning to rise up against the corporate takeover of their public water services. The following chart highlights a few examples of community-based water campaigns on a continent-by-continent basis.

AFRICA	- In Ghana, a broad range of civil society organizations have formed a National Coalition against the Privatization of Water; issued the "Accra Declaration on the Right to Water; and developed a campaign for action. www.citizen.org/cmep/Water/cmep_Water/reports/ghana/articles.cfm?ID=7331 - In South Africa, the South African Municipal Workers Union and the Anti-Privatization Forum are spearheading a campaign of resistance in the townships against water cut-offs and the corporate takeover of water services. (See: www.apf.org.za and www.cosatu.org.za/samwu)
ASIA	- In India, the All India Trade Union Congress and the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology have been working with community-based groups to mount a national campaign of resistance to water privatization and the GATS. - In the Philippines, municipal water workers and groups like the Alliance for Progressive Labor have been organizing resistance to the corporate takeover of public water services in Manila. - In Indonesia, workers and community groups were active in challenging corruption involving the Suharto regime and water companies in Jakarta.
LATIN AMERICA	- In Bolivia, La Coordinadora de Defensa del Agua y la Vida,which successfully mobilized to stop the privatization of the public water system in Cochabamba is now building a community based public water system. - In Nicaragua, the Red Nacional de Defensa de los Consumidores (National Network in Defence of Consumers) has led the struggle against the privatization of water imposed by the IMF. - In Brazil, the Brazilian Workers Party has led the way in establishing community based public water systems in cities like Porto Alegre demonstrating resistance to privatization and corporate control.
N. AMERICA	- In the United States, the 'Water for All' Campaign organized by Public Citizen has helped to galvanize community based opposition to water privatization in cities from New Orleans, Louisiana to Stockton, California - In Canada, the 'Water Watch Campaign', organized by the Council of Canadians and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has mobilized opposition to the corporate takeover of water services in cities like Vancouver, Toronto, and Halifax.
EUROPE	- In France, the home of the two largest water corporations, citizen and environmental organizations like Eau Secours have led the way in taking back public and community control over water services in the city of Grenoble. -The Global Water Contract movement, based in Italy and France, is now spreading to other European countries, calling on parliamentarians and local governments to pass legislation guaranteeing free access to water for every person, forbidding uncontrolled consumption and pollution of water, and ensuring local and democratic forms of public water management.

Books, Reports, and Articles on the problems of Water Privatization

The Alchemy of Water", Krystal Kyer, July 1st, 2001
www.commondreams.org/views02/0701-06.htm

Blue Gold: The Battle Against Corporate Theft of the World's Water
Tony Clarke and Maude Barlow, 2003, McLelland & Stewart (Two chapters available online)
Ch. 5 "Global Water Lords" http://www.polarisinstitute.org/pubs/pubs_blue_gold_ch5.html
Ch. 6 "Emergent Water Cartel" http://www.polarisinstitute.org/pubs/pubs_blue_gold_ch6.html

CorpWatch India: Water www.corpwatchindia.org/issues/PII.jsp?topicid=109

"Development Funds Encourage Privatization That Costs Nations Control"
S. Nolen, *Globe & Mail*, June 29, 2002 www.commondreams.org/headlines02/0629-02.htm

"Liquid Assets: Enron's Dip into Water Business Highlights Pitfalls of Privatization",
Public Citizen, April 2002 - www.citizen.org/documents/LiquidAssets.pdf

"Up Against the (Crumbling) Wall: The Privatization of Urban Services and Environmental Justice."
by David McDonald in Environmental Justice in South Africa 2002

Water Manifesto: Arguments for a World Water Contract
Riccardo Petrella, Zed Books, 2001

Water Wars: Privatization, Pollution, and Profit, Vandana Shiva, South End Press 2002

Case Studies

Bolivia: Water Privatization Case Study: Cochabamba
www.democracyctr.org/waterwar/index.htm "Bolivia's War over Water"

Brazil: Struggle Against the Privatization of Water
Go to: www.fnucut.org.br/saneamento then click on"Brasil Luta e Resist INGLES.pdf"

Ghana: "Why Water Privatization in Ghana Must Be Stopped"
Report from Ghana National Coalition Against Privatisation of Water
Download at: www.citizen.org/documents/ACF950.pdf

United States: Case Studies of US Cities. "Water Privatization: A Broken Promise"
www.citizen.org/cmep

Key Groups Opposing the Corporate Takeover of Healthcare in Canada

Contact these groups for more information or to get involved in their fight against privatized Water!

Anti-Privatization Forum (APF)
Johannesburg, South Africa
www.apf.org.za

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
Ottawa, Canada
www.cupe.ca
Tel: 613-237-1590

Centro Humbolt
Managua, Nicaragua
www.humbolt.org.ni
incedencia@humbolt.org.ni

Council of Canadians
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
www.canadians.org (click on "Water Campaign")
inquiries@canadians.org

COC - Blue Planet Project
www.canadians.org/blueplanet/index2.html

Coordinadora de Defensa del Agua y la Vida
Contact: marcelaolivera@entelnet.bo

Ghana National Coalition Against the Privatisation of Water
Accra, Ghana
Tel: 233 21 306069/310634
email: isodec@ghana.com

IBON Foundation
Manila, Philippines
www.ibon.org
Tel: 63 2 7132729
email: admin@ibon.org

Instituto de Ecología Desarollo de la communidades Andinas (IEDECA)
Ecuador
Tel:+593 2 360 189
iedecadir@andinanet.org

Public Citizen - Water for all Campaign
Washington D.C. USA
www.citizen.org/cmep/water
Tel: (202) 588-1000
CMEP@citizen.org

Public Service International
Cedex, France
www.psiru.org
ph: +33-(0) 4 50 40 64 64
email: psi@world-psi.org

Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology
New Delhi, India
www.vshiva.net
email: rfste@ndf.vsnl.net.in

South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU)
Johannesburg, South Africa
www.cosatu.org.za/samwu
Tel: +27 21 6969175

GLOBAL ACTION PRIORITIES

Although our own local community is still the best place to fight against the global water grab, there are some actions that can and must be taken by workers and communities in the international arena. In 2003, here are some global events and institutions that could become priorities for action in the struggle for water rights around the world.

1. World Water Forum: The next World Water Forum takes place March 16-22 in Kyoto Japan. This is where the World Bank and global water corporations try to build a "consensus" for water privatization. Join with community organizations in campaign activities this March to stop the water privateers agenda at the WWF!

2. World Trade Organization: The next ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization takes place in Cancun, Mexico, September 10-14. Water activists need to mobilize against the GATS attack on water rights at the WTO. Tell your government to stay out of the new GATS negotiations - water is not for sale!

3. World Bank & IMF: The campaign to stop the World Bank and IMF from using its resources to fuel the privatization of water services in the developing countries of the global South is heating up. Organize localized campaigns against these programs while the Bank and IMF meet this September 23-24 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates!

4. Free Trade Area of the Americas: The new FTAA may also impose service rules that will lock-in the privatization of water services and resources. Water rights activists must demand an alternative vision for water in the Americas. Tell your government to get out of the FTAA negotiations! Organize locally this fall against the upcoming FTAA ministerial in Miami!

5. Global Water Corporations: Civil society groups around the world are calling for an international campaign against one of the global water giants. Which water corporation do you think would make the best target for such a campaign? What actions could be taken in your community or country?

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