

Water, precondition for growth and job creation, according to a new UN report

Paris, xx March- Three out of four of the jobs constituting the global workforce are water-dependent. In fact, water shortages and lack of access may limit economic growth in the years to come, according to the 2016 United Nations World Water Development Report, *Water and Jobs*. The Report will be launched on 22 March in Geneva, on the occasion of World Water Day.

From its extraction, through its various uses and related services until its ultimate return to the natural environment, water is a key factor in the development of job opportunities either directly related to its management (water provision, infrastructure, wastewater treatment, etc.) or in economic sectors that are heavily water-dependent such as agriculture, fishing, energy, industry and health. Furthermore, access to drinking water and sanitation promotes an educated and healthy workforce, an essential factor for sustained economic growth.

In its analysis of the economic impact of access to water, the report cites numerous studies that show a positive correlation between investments in the water sector and economic growth. It also highlights the key role of water in the transition to a green economy.

The United Nations World Water Development Report is produced by the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), hosted by UNESCO. It is the result of collaboration between the 31 agencies of the United Nations system and the 37 international partners that make up UN-Water. Its publication is now timed to coincide with World Water Day, whose theme is also aligned with that of the report.

The Report is **under strict embargo** until 22 March 2016 at 00:00 (CET)

It is available upon request.

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