

Virtual Water and Water Footprint: From Theory to Practice

Convenors: University of Twente, The Netherlands (UT), Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and UNESCO Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE)

The seminar aims to use tangible examples to demonstrate the evolution of the virtual water and water footprint theories towards application in policy and practice in the field and by business. The 2008 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate Professor John Anthony Allan from King's College London and the School of Oriental and African Studies will be the honoured guest speaker. Speakers will illustrate how the concepts of virtual water and the water footprint have helped to improve understanding of the relations between water management, international trade

and politics as well as between water resources use and human consumption. Cases that illustrate how the approach is helping to measure and act as a practical and necessary tool for decision-making that can decrease negative impacts on the water environment will be discussed. The seminar will be concluded with a panel debate.

The outputs of the seminar will be a report that includes papers from the presenters, a summary of discussions, and suggestions for additional practical applications in water management.

Seminar Programme

09:00-12:00, Room K21

Chair: *Dr. Li Lifeng*, WWF-International, Switzerland

Co-Chair: *Richard Holland*, WWF-International, the Netherlands

09:00 Virtual Water: A Concept, a Word, Much Discursive Politics and Increasing Policy Engagement. *Prof. John Anthony Allan*, King's College London and the School of Oriental and African Studies, UK

09:30 Water Footprints of Consumers and Producers: From

Accounting to Impact Assessment to Policy Formulation.

Prof. Arjen Y. Hoekstra, University of Twente, Netherlands

10:00 Coffee Break

10:30 Virtual Water and Water Footprint: A Case Study from Spain.

Prof. M. Ramon Llamas, Complutense University, Spain

11:00 Impacts of the UK Water Footprint. *Stuart Orr*, WWF-UK, UK

11:30 Discussion and Panel Debate

12:00 Close of Seminar

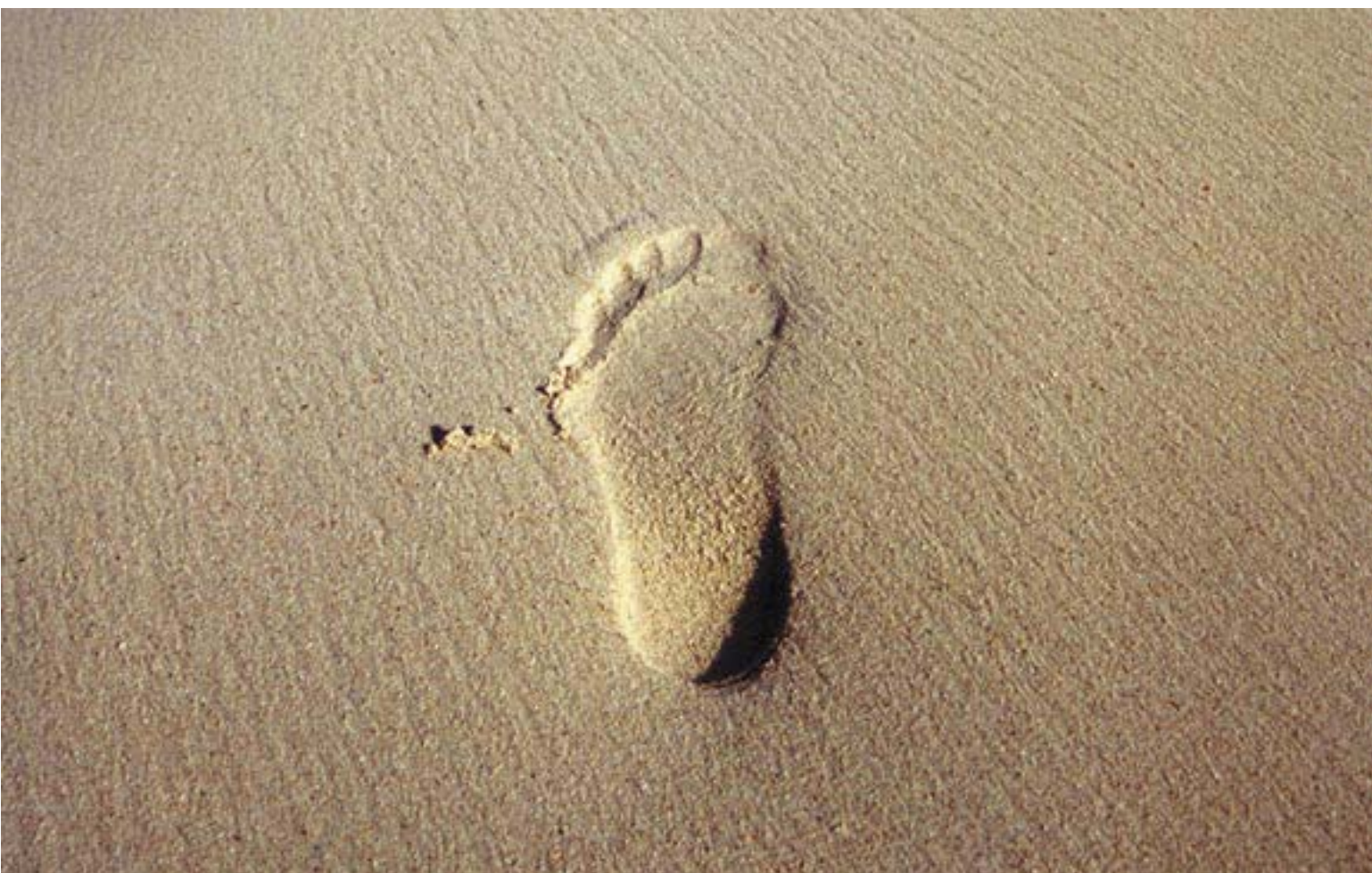


Photo: Corbis