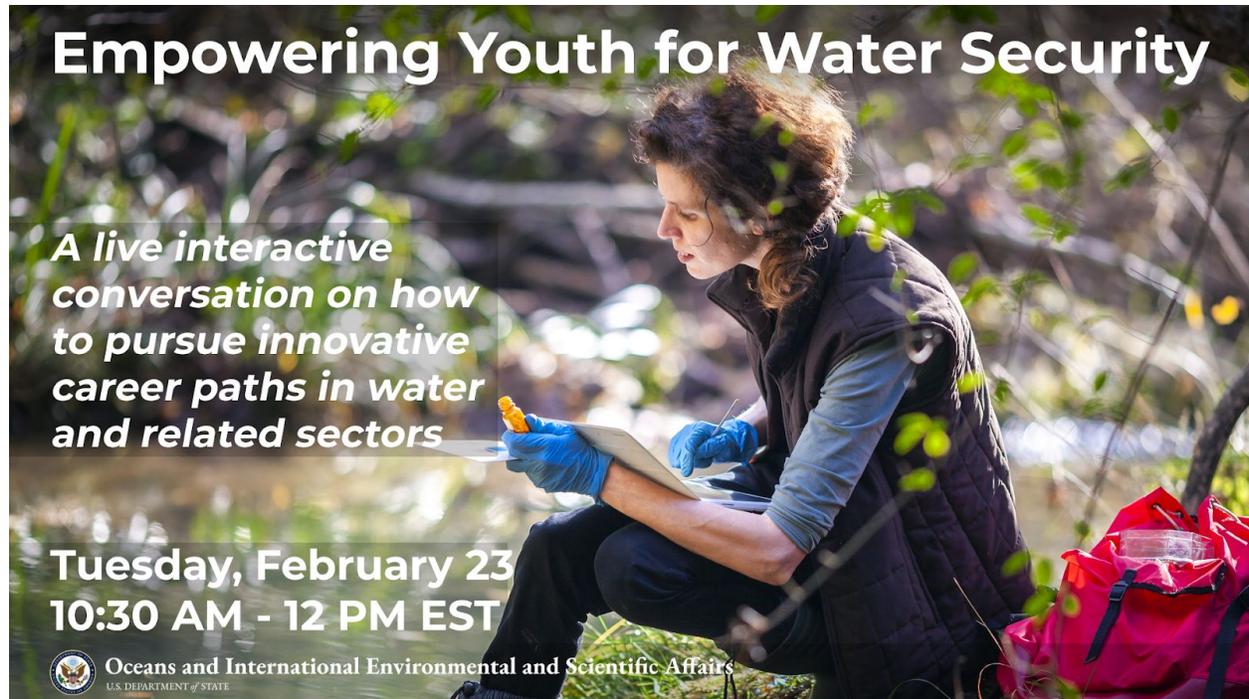


**Empowering Youth for Water Security**  
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 • 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST  
**Social Media Toolkit**

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### **Summary**

In advance of World Water Day on March 22, “**Empowering Youth for Water Security**” focuses on empowering youth and young professionals seeking to develop careers in the water-related sectors by profiling the interdisciplinary nature of professional development opportunities. The expert panel represents different career paths in water resources management - civil society, government, and the private sector - and will explore several example career paths in each area. This program is suitable for all interested viewers with an interest in water diplomacy and water resources management: new and established practitioners in water issues, local, regional, and national governments, related industry, trade associations, nonprofits, and colleges and universities.

### **Program Description**

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and the Bureau of Global Public Affairs are pleased to announce “Empowering Youth for Water Security”. The live, interactive online program will be held on **Tuesday, February 23, 2021 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM EST.**

In advance of World Water Day on March 22, this program focuses on empowering youth and young professionals seeking to develop careers in the water-related sectors by profiling the

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interdisciplinary nature of professional development opportunities. The expert panel represents different career paths in water resources management - civil society, government, and the private sector - and will explore several example career paths in each area. Program viewers will gain an understanding of:

- Why water security is a key foreign policy priority of the United States government and how the USG is committed to working with international partners on this issue
- How effective management of water-related issues is an interdisciplinary endeavor
- The different career pathways available in water security and water resources management
- How others have built their own careers in the water security space and how to access resources to begin their own water-related career paths

The U.S. Global Water Strategy (GWS) is the centerpiece of the U.S. Government's efforts to strengthen water security around the world. Participants in this virtual program will learn why water security is a key foreign policy priority of the United States government and understand the importance of engaging young professionals in developing solutions to water security issues.

This is the latest in a series of online programs focused on the importance of international cooperation in water security and water resources management. This program is suitable for all interested viewers with an interest in water diplomacy and water resources management: new and established practitioners in water issues, local, regional, and national governments, related industry, trade associations, nonprofits, and colleges and universities.

### Speaker Biographies



**Megan M. Livak**  
**Manager, Association Engagement, Students and Young Professionals, Water Environment Federation**

Megan is the Manager of Students and Young Professionals Programs at the Water Environment Federation (WEF), an international organization of water quality professionals, headquartered in Alexandria, VA. In this capacity, she is liaison to the Students and Young Professionals Committee (SYPC), six of WEF's Member Associations and oversees WEF's Students and Young Professionals' programs. Prior to joining WEF, Megan spent 9 years doing the Marketing and Business Development for Van Cleef Engineering Associates, a consulting engineering firm

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based in Central New Jersey. Megan is actively involved with the Global Water Stewardship, a group of volunteers that empower and support local Costa Rican communities to develop a professional wastewater industry. She is also an endurance triathlete, raced for the 2017 USA Triathlon National Team and is a Team USA Triathlon Ambassador.



### **Rakhi Kasat**

#### **Senior International Affairs Specialist, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Rakhi Kasat is a Senior International Affairs Specialist at the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In this role, she covers a range of areas including international water issues, climate, maritime pollution issues, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Prior to joining NOAA in 2020, Rakhi served as the Southeast Asia Program Manager for over ten years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She led and coordinated EPA's programs and partnerships in the region, including partnering with Singapore on mutual water research priorities, collaborating with Vietnam and Cambodia to strengthen environmental laws, and strengthening environmental planning in the Lower Mekong region. Rakhi was detailed to the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues in the U.S. Department of State in 2012 and EPA's Office of Wastewater Management in 2019. In addition, Rakhi is a trained meeting facilitator and has led numerous strategic planning sessions, team retreats, and external stakeholder meetings for the U.S. government. She has an M.S. in resource ecology and management from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and cultural anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis.



### **Vijay Sundaram, PhD, PE**

#### **National Water Reuse Technical Practice Leader, Water Business Line, AECOM**

Dr. Sundaram is AECOM's National Water Reuse Technical Practice Leader. Vijay has 17 years of experience advancing water reuse, including potable reuse, by developing and demonstrating treatment technologies; working with communities to achieve cost-effective water sustainability, and assisting policymakers with development of water regulations. Vijay helps communities develop an integrated approach to water resource planning and management to meet the goals of the UN SDGs and U.S. Water Alliance "One Water Roadmap". He advances AECOM's leadership in developing reliable water reuse strategies to tackle the water stress, climate change and adaptation

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challenges. Vijay served as the Chair for the Water Environment Federation's Water Reuse Roadmap publication in 2017. He most recently won the McKee Groundwater Protection, Restoration or Sustainable Use Award.



**Loren Hurst (Moderator)**

**Interactive Media Producer, Bureau of Global Public Affairs, U.S. State Department**

Loren Hurst is a strategic communications professional and specializes in the strategic use of virtual technologies to engage stakeholders, research target audiences, and build reputation management solutions. Currently, he builds interactive virtual program strategies in the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Global Public Affairs. In Brussels, he led the public affairs office of a sustainable energy trade association and coordinated public diplomacy awareness activities for all U.S. embassies in Europe. In Washington, DC, he created the U.S. State Department's first global audio production and podcasting program, built social media strategies for U.S. Defense

### Event Details - Snapshot

<b>Title</b>	Empowering Youth for Water Security
<b>Date and Time</b>	Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST (duration: 90 minutes)
<b>Promo Page URL</b>	<a href="https://interactive.amedit.lab.prod.getusinfo.com/iip_event/youth-water-paths/">https://interactive.amedit.lab.prod.getusinfo.com/iip_event/youth-water-paths/</a>
<b>Watch Page URL</b>	See link on promo page
<b>Format</b>	90-minute webcast with live Q&A
<b>Topic</b>	Water Security, Youth, Professional Development
<b>Audience</b>	North and South America

### Promotional Banners and Images

Promotional banner image, social media toolkit can be downloaded here at the bottom of the page: [https://interactive.amedit.lab.prod.getusinfo.com/iip\\_event/youth-water-paths/](https://interactive.amedit.lab.prod.getusinfo.com/iip_event/youth-water-paths/)

### Social Media Posts

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### Facebook and Instagram Posts

**Suggested images to use with social media posts can be downloaded here:**

<https://app.box.com/s/y0t1jfjvxxdnfw5bi3iz4p7iizcis5zs>

**Schedule Date: February 10**

Save the date! Are you interested in working on water issues? Want to hear how others started their careers working on water? Join us for an interactive webinar on February 23 at 10:30 am EST to learn more! [insert link] [insert photo]

**Schedule Date: February 12**

Are you interested to join the efforts to strengthen water security around the world? Learn from our panel of water experts about different ways to strengthen water security through careers in the public, private, and advocacy spaces at our February 23 at 10:30 am EST live webinar! [insert link] [insert photo]

**Schedule Date: February 15**

Youth are important stakeholders in water and related sectors. Join our interactive webinar on February 23 at 10:30 am EST to learn why water security is a key foreign policy priority of the United States government, understand how effective management of water-related issues is an interdisciplinary endeavor, and explore several example career paths in water security and water resources management. [insert link] [insert photo]

**Schedule Date: February 20**

Young professionals provide valuable and creative contributions to strengthen water security around the world. Whether in the public, private, or advocacy sectors, young professionals have a key role. Join us for an interactive webinar on February 23 at 10:30 am EST to learn more about the different ways youth and young professionals can engage on water. [insert link] [insert photo]

**Schedule Date: February 22**

Join us TOMORROW February 23 at 10:30 am EST to learn how young professionals from many disciplines can work in the public, private, and advocacy sectors to help strengthen global water security. [insert link] [insert photo]

**Schedule Date: February 23 at 9:30 am EST**

LIVE IN 1 HOUR! Join us for an interactive webinar to hear from experts in the public, private, and advocacy sectors about their work on water issues and how they chose their career paths [insert link] [insert photo]

### Facebook Polls

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Polls are to be loaded directly into Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ScienceDiplomacyUSA/>

### Schedule Date: February 16 – Interactive Poll

We are hosting an interactive webinar on February 23 at 10:30 am EST to explore possible career paths to work on water issues around the world. What is your background? [insert link]

A: Science

B: Engineering

C: Liberal Arts

D: Other

### Schedule Date: February 18 – Interactive Poll

True or False: You need a background in STEM in order to work on water issues. Join our interactive webinar on February 23 at 10:30 am EST to learn more! [insert link]

A: True

**B: False**

## Twitter Posts

Suggested images to use with social media posts can be downloaded here:

<https://app.box.com/s/y0t1jfjvvxdnfw5bi3iz4p7iizcis5zs>

### Schedule Date: February 10

Save the date! Are you interested in working on water issues? Want to hear how others started their careers working on water?. Join us for an interactive webinar on February 23 at 10:30 am EST to learn more! [insert link] [insert photo]

### Schedule Date: February 12

Are you interested to join the efforts to strengthen water security around the world? Learn from our panel of water experts about different ways to strengthen water security through careers in the public, private, and advocacy spaces at our February 23 at 10:30 am EST live webinar! [insert link] [insert photo]

### Schedule Date: February 15

Youth are important stakeholders in water and related sectors. Join our interactive webinar on February 23 at 10:30 am EST to learn why water security is a U.S. government priority, understand how effective water management is interdisciplinary, and explore career paths in water [insert link] [insert photo]

### Schedule Date: February 20

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LIVE IN 1 HOUR! Join us for an interactive webinar to hear from experts in the public, private, and advocacy sectors about their work on water issues and how they chose their career paths [insert link] [insert photo]

### Twitter Polls

**Polls are to be loaded directly into Twitter page at:**

<https://twitter.com/scidiplomacyusa?lang=en>

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- D: Other

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True or False: You need a background in STEM in order to work on water issues. Join our interactive webinar on February 23 at 10:30 am EST to learn more! [insert link]

- A: True
- B: False**