



The Australian Association of Yoga in Daily Life

United Nations World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) August 26 to September 4 2002

Yoga in Daily Life and the International Sri Madhavananda Fellowship participated in the WSSD in Johannesburg South Africa. Our main focus at the WSSD was the launch of the Desert Rainwater Harvesting Initiative. The aim was to source funding for the projects, make contacts/network and raise awareness of the drought situation in Rajasthan.

Outcomes

Launches/ Exhibits

- Sandton Convention Centre.
We were invited to launch the DRWHI as part of the UN Summit as an official 'Type II Partnership'. The launch took place on Friday August 30. The launch was well attended and generated media interest. (There were also quite a few Norwegian ministers in attendance and the former President of Finland). The DRWHI launch is written in the official UN records.
- Waterdome: The WaterDome hosted water-related events surrounding the Summit. The chief aims of the WaterDome were to increase awareness of (a) water as a key issue in sustainable development and (b) the important initiatives that are being launched to solve the worldwide water crisis.
 - We exhibited at the Waterdome where we were able to display our DRWHI posters and distribute our leaflets for the duration of the event.
 - Launched the Desert Rainwater Harvesting Initiative twice in a two-hour presentation. The launches provided us with a good platform to promote YIDL and the DRWHI. The launches were attended by funding agents and rainwater harvesting experts who will help in implementing the projects.

Contacts/ Networking

- The Summit provided the opportunity to make contact with many different aid-funding organisations. The next step is to write proposals to apply for funding. In the short-term we are seeking funding for immediate disaster relief to pay for the cost of delivering water to villages (ie truck hire etc) and the construction of the water reservoir. We are also applying for funding for the DRWHI. We need to decide exactly in which villages to start the project, what their needs are, and what devices we will use ie. Rooftop harvesting, check dams etc.
- The Summit also provided the opportunity to meet many rainwater harvesting experts from India and the rest of the world who will provide us with invaluable advice and support in implementing rainwater harvesting.

International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance

- An important outcome of the Summit was the formation of the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance at the Implementation Conference organised by the Stakeholder Forum for our common Future. Please see attached summary.