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World Rainwater Day: groups band together to improve harvesting

IRHA blue school rainwater harvest project

Geneva, Switzerland (GenevaLunch) – The world has in the past two weeks focused heavily on the damage nature can cause, following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, but Tuesday 22 March the celebration of World Rainwater Day offers a reminder that nature also brings us much that is good, if only we know how to harvest it.

"Rainwater is a valuable water resource and its management desires drastic improvement," three organizations, including Geneva-based International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance, note in a statement issued Tuesday. " Better rainwater management will decrease the over-exploitation of surface and underground water resources, will shorten the dry periods and reduce the peak of floods in rainy seasons."

Forty-five organizations, universities and companies this week published the Rainwater Harvesting Joint Statement, which states that "the UN Human Rights Council affirms the human right to safe drinking water. Now is the time for the world's governments to contribute to the provision of a regular supply of safe, accessible and affordable drinking water in sufficient quantity for 884 million more people."

The joint statement calls for rainwater catchment to be included in the development plans of all governmental agencies as part of their integrated water resource management strategies. It also encourages technical schools and universities to introduce the concept of rainwater management, "maximizing rain's benefits as a vital resource while minimizing potential rain hazards".

World Rainwater Day comes a day before World Climate Day, 23 March.

IRHA: rainwater harvest system at a school

Posted by **:: Ellen Wallace** on 22 March 2011 at 18:48 | **permalink**

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