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# Newsletter

## Federal Water Quality Association

An Affiliate of the Water Environment Federation; [www.fwqa-dc.org](http://www.fwqa-dc.org)

### ***2019-20 Theme - Providing Access to Safe, Clean Water: A Global Challenge***



Ms. Jane Nishida speaking to an enthusiastic audience at FWQA's inaugural luncheon meeting for the 2019-2020 season.

### **Nishida Presents Actions for Providing Global Clean Water** *by K. Jack Kooyoomjian, Ph.D.*

On November 21, 2019 at the Elephant & Castle Restaurant in Washington, DC, the Federal Water Quality Association (FWQA) hosted their first luncheon speaker of the year, Ms. Jane Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA).

Ms. Nishida noted, with respect to water security and the Global Challenge, that up to 2.5 billion people around the world lack access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation. This leads from one to three million deaths every year. Unfortunately, those most likely to die from a lack of safe drinking water and sanitation are young children. According to the United Nations, nearly a thousand children die every day due to preventable water and sanitation-related diseases.

Jane highlighted what the Federal Government is doing and what EPA Administrator Wheeler has identified as priority water issues deserving attention. Ms. Nishida noted that in November 2017, the United States (U.S.) published the first-ever U.S. Global Water Strategy. She highlighted the U.S. government's four key objectives: 1) Access to clean and safe drinking water and sanitation services, 2) Sound management and protection of freshwater resources, 3) Cooperation on shared waterways, and (Continued on Page 3)

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## Executive Board

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Science Fairs	Janet Goodwin
Scholarships	Sharon Nye

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## President's Corner

Happy New Year everyone! I am looking forward to some exciting events this winter and spring and I hope to see lots of you attending.

We have had to make a change in the board make-up. Amanda Waters, our President for this year resigned in late December because she had accepted a new job that took her to Richmond, VA. We all wish her well in her new job but will miss her leadership. I was asked to step back in as President for the remainder of Amanda's term and look forward to continuing with our many activities.

We are once again offering scholarships to graduating seniors from Regional High Schools and will celebrate the recipients at our awards luncheon in May. We want acknowledge and express appreciation for our organizational sponsors: National Association of Clean Water Agencies; Water Environment Federation; the Chesapeake Water Environment Association; and Eastern Research Group. If you would like to make a donation to our scholarship fund, please contact our treasurer at [fwqaboard@gmail.com](mailto:fwqaboard@gmail.com).

We will also be judging at Regional Science Fairs in the metropolitan area most of which are held in March. We are always seeking individuals to judge at these science fairs so please let us know if you would be willing to judge at a science fair listed in a separate article in the newsletter (*See Page 6*).

As always, I welcome your feedback on programs and themes for our organization, feel free to email me at [janetkaygoodwin@gmail.com](mailto:janetkaygoodwin@gmail.com).

Janet Goodwin



*Continued from Page 1 - Jane Nishida discusses global clean water Issues.*

## *Biography*

*Ms. Jane Nishida is Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA). Jane has 30 years of environmental experience working in federal and state government, and international and non-governmental organizations. Prior to joining EPA in 2011, Ms. Nishida served as the Senior Environmental Institutions Specialist at the World Bank. From 1995 to 2002, she was appointed as the Secretary of Maryland's Department of the Environment. Additionally, she served as the Maryland Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Ms. Nishida received a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon and a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown Law Center in Washington, DC. She has 8 years experience in EPA's Office of International Activities, particularly in the water sector.*

#### 4) Strengthening water sector governance and financing.

The U.S. remains one of the world's largest donors in the water sector. Federal agencies like USAID and the State Department have been investing in water infrastructure and capacity-building and engaging with the U.S. private sector on innovative technology and financial instruments to mobilize local capital. Ms. Nishida then shared with the FWQA participants a few illustrative examples of EPA's international engagement in the water sector.

**U.S. EPA Collaboration with Israel:** EPA Administrator Wheeler recently completed a successful mission to Israel in November to further EPA's collaboration with Israeli counterparts on promotion of innovation in water, water reuse, remediation of contaminated sites, and other priority areas. Admin. Wheeler gave the keynote speech on US. environmental priorities at Israel's premier international water conference, Water, Technology and Environmental Control Conference (WATEC). He also discussed public/private partnerships to explore innovative ways to address marine litter. In the U.S., 80% of our states anticipate some freshwater shortages within the next decade. Israel recycles more than 85% of its water, while the U.S. only recycles about 6%. The U.S. EPA has recently released a National Water Reuse Action Plan and hopes to learn much from Israel's best practices and approaches to help the U.S. address its water scarcity challenges. The U.S. EPA has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Israel on water innovation, water reuse and cyber-security.

**U.S. EPA and USAID Collaboration in West Africa:** The U.S. EPA and USAID joined forces to develop the Drinking Water Laboratory Capacity Building Program in West Africa. This program supports the delivery of clean drinking water in urban areas across West Africa, starting in Ghana, by building the capacity of laboratories for sampling, analysis and quality assurance. This was conducted in collaboration with the African Water Association the International Water Association, Florida International University and other partners. The U.S. EPA provides the technical assistance and know-how, while USAID provides the funding and on-the ground presence. This program and unique partnership resulted in the development of a Quality System and Quality Assurance Manual for Drinking Water Laboratories in Ghana, which will improve water quality for over 500,000 consumers. The manual is now being used as a model for other  
(Continued on Page 4)





*FWQA members listen intently to Ms. Jane Nishida's presentation on November 19.*



### **Nishida** (Continued from Page 3)

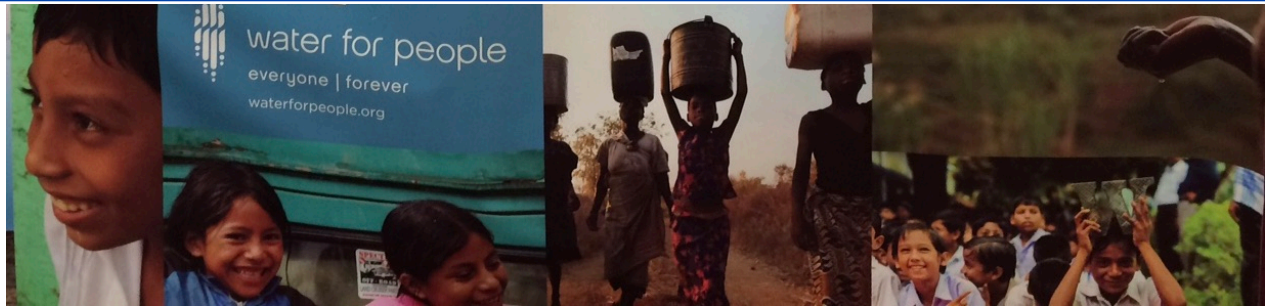
laboratories in the region with the laboratories in Ghana mentoring and sharing this knowledge to laboratories in Nigeria. The U.S. EPA and USAID are excited about this program and believe that this model holds the potential for other areas around the world.

**WIFIA as an International Model for Water Infrastructure:** EPA Admin. Wheeler has targeted water infrastructure finance as one of his international priorities, with an eye toward supporting the international community in achieving safe drinking water supply and sanitation. The model of the U.S. State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovative Act (WIFIA) can help address international infrastructure challenges. Low cost supplemental loans are not readily available in private markets. Although, WIFIA is only 3 years old, EPA has already closed on 14 wastewater projects totaling \$3.5 billion in credit assistance and has invited 38 new projects totaling \$6 billion, which will create up to 200,000 jobs. The U.S. EPA is talking with international institutions, such as The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) about how WIFIA could be a model for other nations. In addition, nine large companies, including Proctor & Gamble, PepsiCo, 3M and Coca-Cola, have committed between \$5 and \$10 million dollars each to provide no- and low-interest loans to build and scale recycling infrastructure and sustainable manufacturing technologies.

**Marine Litter:** An initiative has also been launched to prevent marine litter, which is a growing topic of concern. At this year's G20 and G7 Environment Ministers meetings and the UN Environmental Assembly, the issue of marine litter has taken central stage. Every year, an estimated 8 million metric tons of waste ends up in the ocean. Most of the trash, ~80% that ends up in the ocean originates on land. Six countries together account for a large portion of the total plastic waste leakage, namely China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. Of the leakage that comes from land-based sources, approx. 75% comes from uncollected waste, while the remaining 25% leaks from within the waste management system itself.

The challenge of managing marine litter requires a comprehensive life-cycle management approach. This would include improving waste management practices, systems and recycling, as well as increased public awareness and education. The U.S. EPA just completed their 2nd annual recycling summit in November where leaders from all levels of the recycling chain discussed ways to strengthen the recycling industry and markets. At the G7 & and G20 Environmental Ministerial meetings chaired by France (host last year) and Japan (host yhis year) respectively, EPA led the negotiations on marine litter, and private sector representatives were invited to participate in these meetings and share U.S. perspectives on marine litter.

**Trash Free Waters International:** One of the U.S. EPA's key programs on marine litter is our Trash Free Waters Program. The U.S. EPA works directly with states, municipalities, and communities to  
(Continued on Page 5)



## WATER FOR PEOPLE NEWS

*See Updates in Next Issue!*

### **Nishida** (continued from Page 4)

reduce litter, prevent trash from entering waterways, and capture trash that is already in our waters. The U.S. EPA believes in a holistic approach to the marine litter problem rather than a ban on single use plastics. Real-world examples of efforts to deal with marine litter are close at hand. For instance, a liter trap has been installed on a tributary to the Anacostia River in Washington, DC. Another close-at-hand example is the world's first solar-powered trash water wheel, which was created and installed in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. The U.S. EPA has taken what they have learned through the Trash Free Waters program and expanded it to communities in the Caribbean and Latin America. For instance, in Panama, the U.S. EPA helped stakeholders to install the country's first-ever trash boom to control the flow of trash in a highly polluted Panama City river before it reaches the ocean. In Jamaica, the U.S. EPA joined stakeholders together with the Peace Corps Jamaica and the Sandals Foundation to improve solid waste management practices. As a result, the U.S. EPA helped the Sandals Foundation to establish a program for better waste collection and separation. In Peru, the U.S. EPA helped expand the number of communities that collect and separate recyclable materials. The U.S. EPA also assisted local governments in identifying and removing waste "hotspots" in southern Peru and in and around waterways. Looking ahead, the U.S. EPA will focus on expanding these efforts with our interagency colleagues to the six Asian countries that contribute nearly 60% of all the world's marine waste. The U.S. EPA plans to share the Trash Free Waters Program in other watersheds in North America, Latin America and Asia. Ms. Nishida's presentation was followed by a brief but lively question and answer session. Topics addressed issues with microfibers, and also a discussion on the unique partnership of the USAID providing the financial assistance, while the U.S. EPA provides the technical assistance and expertise to deal with the issue at hand.

### **Calendar of FWQA Events for 2019-2020:**

***Theme: Providing Access to Safe, Clean Water: A Global Challenge***

March 19: Luncheon with speaker Jeff Lape, Director, EPA's National Water Reuse Program

May 21: Annual Scholarship and Science Fair Awards Luncheon

# Wanted: Science Fair Judges

*By Janet Goodwin*

I would like to invite you to participate with FWQA in judging at Regional Science Fairs in the Metropolitan area. Each year FWQA participates in many of the science fairs in our region by sending members to judge projects that relate to water quality or pollution control. This year we are facing particular challenges because several of the regional science fairs are being held on the same day. So we desperately need volunteers to help with the judging.

I provide all the judging materials, including T-shirts, certificates, ribbons and, for first place winners, a letter instructing the winner on how to contact us to RSVP for our May awards luncheon and to receive a check from FWQA.

Judging at these science fairs is a very rewarding experience and it is fun to meet the young people and hopefully encourage their interests in science. Please let me know if you are interested in judging at any of the science fairs listed below. You can contact me at [janetkaygoodwin@gmail.com](mailto:janetkaygoodwin@gmail.com).

## Schedule:

Prince William-Manassas  
**Saturday March 7**  
 Edward Kelly Leadership Center

DC Secondary STEM Fair  
**Saturday March 14**  
 Dunbar High School

Loudoun  
**Thursday March 19**  
 Rock Ridge High School

Prince George's County  
 Saturday March 21  
 Charles Herbert Flowers High School

Montgomery County  
**Saturday March 21**  
 FDA White Oak Campus

Fairfax County  
**Saturday March 21**  
 Robinson Secondary School

Northern Virginia (Arlington and Alexandria schools)  
**Saturday March 21**  
 Wakefield High School



Previous Science Fairs Winners  
 Recognized at the FWQA Awards  
 Luncheon.

# 2018-2019 FWQA Election Results!



The The FWQA is pleased to announce the official results of the 2019-2020 Executive Board elections. The new Executive Board was effective July 1, 2019. (See President's Corner Page 2 for Update)

President Amanda Waters  
President Elect Christian Davies-Venn  
Vice President Claudio Ternieden  
Secretary Sharon Nye  
Treasurer Jim Wheeler  
WEF Delegate Greg Mallon  
Past President Janet Goodwin

Four additional at large members will be appointed by the President to make up the full FWQA Executive Board.

Current At-Large Members are:

Mary Klein  
Tessa Roscoe  
Jack Kooyoomjian  
Joe Ford

