THE VALUE OF “CAPITAL” IN SECURING SAFE WATER AND SANITATION TODAY AND TOMORROW

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According to the 2015 Global Risks report presented at this year’s World Economic Forum, water crises represent one of the most likely risks to occur in the near future and a risk that would have the greatest impact on the global landscape. Hundreds of millions of people already live in a world without safe water and basic sanitation — conditions which destroy human lives, impair people’s well-being, and rob them of their dignity. There are reasons for both hope and concern as we consider our use of water and sanitation in the future. As Director of International Programs at Water.org, Rich Thorsten works with many on the front lines of the water and sanitation crisis in less developed countries. He will draw upon the theme of “capital” to share his thoughts on the origins of today’s crisis, promising models for lifting people out of water poverty, and risks and opportunities which our world faces in the years ahead.

Rich Thorsten joined Water.org in 2007. As the Director of International Programs, Thorsten oversees the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and learning aspects of Water.org’s water and sanitation initiatives in South and Southeast Asia, East and West Africa, Central and South America, and the Caribbean region. He also works closely with the Office of the CEO, Finance/Administration, Development, and Communications teams on global advocacy, financial and human resources management, fundraising and investment, and special outreach projects.

Thorsten has acquired over twenty years of experience in non-profit operations, environmental and international development finance and management, advocacy, research, and evaluation. Mr. Thorsten holds a bachelor degree with a concentration in economics, and master’s and doctorate degrees in international planning.

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