

**American Water Resources Association**  
**2009 ANNUAL WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE**  
**November 9-12, 2009**  
Seattle, WA

**Monday, Nov. 9**

**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

**SESSION 11: Panel – Impressions of the Fifth World Water Forum, Istanbul, March 2009**

**Moderator - Ari Michelsen**

Texas AgriLife Research, Texas A&M University, El Paso, TX

**Panel Participants**

**Ari Michelsen**

Texas AgriLife Research, Texas A&M University, El Paso, TX

**Rachael Paschal Osborn**

Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Spokane, WA

**Gerald Sehlke**

Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Falls, ID

**Michael Campana**

Department of Geosciences, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

With an estimated 33,000 participants, the Fifth World Water Forum, held in Istanbul, Turkey on March 16-22, 2009, was the largest water-focused conference of all time. Istanbul, a beautiful city with an intriguing history based on its strategic water access, was the perfect setting for the Forum. AWRA is a member of the World Water Council, which sponsors the Forum, and AWRA staff, board, and regular members participated in many Forum activities. Members of this panel attended the Istanbul conference and present an overview of the 5th World Water Forum as an event, provide behind-the-scenes information on a few of the many topics covered at the Forum (groundwater management, water as a human right, transboundary watershed management, climate change effects and adaptations, integrated water resource management), and examine the Istanbul Alternative Water Forum, a separate but simultaneous conference that tackled topics not fully covered at the main event.