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## **Bancroft Arnesen Explore Launches First Access Water Expedition on Ganges River**

MINNEAPOLIS – October 15, 2015 – Known around the world for their work in education and exploration, Bancroft Arnesen Explore (BAE) is launching a seven-continent, multi-year expedition series this weekend in India. The first 55-day expedition will take place along the Ganges River in India where the eight women from six continents will trek over 1,500 miles along one of the most important and sacred water ways in the world to raise awareness, incite advocacy and ignite action for the global water crisis.

The expedition series, titled Access Water, will lead a conversation with millions of youth around the world to inspire the future leaders to demand a safe and abundant world, starting with access to clean water. After the 2015 Ganges expedition, the team plans to visit each continent every few years, ending the Access Water series with a journey to Antarctica.

“We chose the Ganges River to begin the Access Water series because the area represents a great example of a deep-rooted dependence on water to human existence,” explains Ann Bancroft, educator, explorer and team leader. “There is a critical need to educate students about the water crisis that not only affects overpopulated areas like India, but to connect the same problems to their own backyard.”

The team, led by Ann Bancroft of the United States and Liv Arnesen of Norway includes Olfat Haider of Haifa, Israel; Cindy Jiaojiao Hu of Beijing, China; Marcia Gutierrez of Temuco, Chile; Kim Smith of Cape Town, South Africa; Lisa te Heuheu of Turangi, New Zealand; and Krushnaa Patil of Mumbai, India.

Starting in Himalayan foothills near Gomukh on October 17, the team will travel along the Ganges over 55 days, passing through a variety of communities including Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Patna before concluding near Kolkata and Delhi in early December.

With education being the foundation for the team’s work, they will work with essential partner organizations like TERI, WAGGGS, UNESCO, Young Pioneers of China, Google and Tunheim, to explore the river to find how communities and organizations are working to demand cleaner water and inspiring others to do the same. The team hopes to show how the water and environmental issues along the Ganges River are similar to other places around the world and innovative solutions are vital to the future of this planet.

“We’re a group of female leaders, with a shared vision to create a better tomorrow by inspiring the future leaders to demand safe, clean water for everyone,” says Liv Arnesen, explorer, educator and team leader. “Whether you want to be an engineer, work on a farm or become a doctor, water touches each and every person’s life work and there’s a way to help make instrumental changes in the way we operate to create a better world in which we live, and that’s what the Access Water series hopes to accomplish.”

For more information about the Ganges expedition, the team, the Access Water Expedition Series or to follow the journey visit [yourexpedition.com](http://yourexpedition.com).

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