



# XVI World Water Congress

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)  
Cancun, Quintana Roo. Mexico. May 29 - June 2, 2017.

MÉXICO  
GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA



SRE  
SECRETARÍA DE  
RELACIONES EXTERIORES

SEMARNAT  
SECRETARÍA DE  
MEDIO AMBIENTE  
Y RECURSOS NATURALES

CONAGUA  
COMISIÓN NACIONAL DEL AGUA





# Message from the IWRA President

**Patrick Lavarde**

**President of the International Water Resources Association - IWRA**

Following the success of over 40 years of World Water Congresses around the world, I am pleased to invite you to the 16th edition of this famous and prestigious triennial water event in Cancun, Mexico from 29 May to 2 June 2017.

Since its creation in 1971, IWRA has always strived to lead global thinking on water resources management. The World Water Congress is the platform that IWRA provides for you to present your perspectives to the world on important matters. In 2017, the main theme of the Congress will be “Bridging Science and Policy”. This comes at a critical moment in water resources management around the world. Water is now increasingly recognised in the COP processes as a key component in climate change adaptation. The UN Sustainable Development Goals have a dedicated focus on water. The 8th World Water Forum is mobilising global stakeholders to work on water issues around the world. In this dynamic context, the IWRA World Water Congress is a unique opportunity for water policy making and management to build closer ties with multi-disciplinary water sciences in order to improve decision making in an uncertain world.

The IWRA World Water Congress is a meeting place to share experiences, promote discussion, and present new knowledge, research results and new developments in the fields of water sciences and policy around the world. Importantly, in this 16th edition of the Congress and in partnership with our hosts in Mexico (CONAGUA and ANEAS), we are looking to move science further, move policy making further - by bringing policy makers and knowledge makers together. The Congress aims to create a concrete, dynamic and fruitful meeting of the scientific and policy communities to make a real impact on water resources management around the world.

I encourage you to join us at the World Water Congress, participate in this important process, and help bridge that gap between science and policy.

*I look forward to welcoming you to Cancun, Mexico in 2017!*



# Message from the National Water Authority

**Roberto Ramírez de la Parra**

**Director General of National Water Commission of Mexico - Conagua**

There is no single resource more fundamental and comprehensive for health, development and prosperity than water. Its importance makes it a strategic, crosscutting and multisectoral element required by all human activities, it is undoubtedly the driving force behind our development.

Nonetheless, we must recognise that the climate change effects largely undermine the hydrological cycle behaviour in our basins, by increasing the natural vulnerability of some and creating new water risks in others.

Every year Mexico experiences these climate changes, from severe droughts to increasingly severe and destructive tropical cyclones. Which is why, President Enrique Peña Nieto is driving new public policies based on technical and scientific knowledge to guide the decision-making process and for our hydraulic sector to move from a reactive scheme in the face of disasters, to one of risk prevention, mitigation and management.

As part of this new vision on water, the President of Mexico presented during the 69th session of the UN General Assembly in 2014, the initiative to create the Intergovernmental Panel on Water, a body of the highest level, dedicated to develop work combining the technical and political part to generate better adaptation and resilience capacities. Its creation was announced on 21 January 2016 in Davos, Switzerland by UN Secretary General and the President of the World Bank Group.

Which is why, following the same line of work based on water cooperation, sharing successful cases and jointly seeking the solutions to water challenges faced by our nations, Mexico shall welcome the members of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) in 2017 to hold the 16th World Water Congress, having as one of its main objectives to contribute to create a specialised platform of technical and scientific tools and instruments, strengthened by the participation of decision-makers as managers of public policies.

I am certain this forum represents a great opportunity to share work and learning experiences on mutual benefits, I hope the outcomes of this Congress to be transformed into benefits for our nations.

Lastly, I welcome all members of this renowned and prestigious organisation to a land of an incredible natural beauty and hydrology, which make it one of the most visited tourist destinations worldwide: Cancun, Quintana Roo.

***Welcome to Cancun! Welcome to Mexico!***



Cenote, Riviera Maya

# Congress Steering Committee (CSC)

## Bureau

Patrick Lavarde	<i>International Water Resources Association</i>
Roberto Ramírez de la Parra	<i>National Water Commission of Mexico</i>
Gabriel Eckstein	<i>Texas A&amp;M University</i>
David Korenfeld-Federman	<i>International Hydrological Programme</i>
Dogan Altinbilek	<i>World Water Council</i>
Roberto Olivares	<i>National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities of Mexico</i>

# International Scientific Committee (ISC)

## Chair

Prof. Gabriel Eckstein	<i>Texas A&amp;M University (USA)</i>
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## Bureau

Víctor Alcocer-Yamanaka	<i>National Water Commission of Mexico (Mexico)</i>
Víctor Bourguett	<i>National Water Commission of Mexico (Mexico)</i>
Torkil Jønch Clausen	<i>DHI Group (Denmark)</i>
Pierre-Alain Roche	<i>Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy of France (France)</i>

## Members

Aziza Akhmouch	<i>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (International)</i>
Henning Bjornlund	<i>University of South Australia (Australia)</i>
Lilian del Castillo-Laborde	<i>International Association for Water Law (Argentina)</i>
Guillermo Donoso	<i>Catholic University (Chile)</i>
Alberto Garrido	<i>Technical University of Madrid (Spain)</i>
Jun-Haeng Heo	<i>Yonsei University (Korea)</i>
Blanca Elena Jiménez-Cisneros	<i>Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO-IHP (International)</i>
Zelmira May	<i>UNESCO-IHP Regional Office (International)</i>
Alfonso Rivera	<i>Geological Survey of Canada (Canada)</i>
Ahmet Saatci	<i>Turkish Water Institute (Turkey)</i>
Paulo Salles	<i>Regulatory Agency for Water, Energy and Sanitation (Brazil)</i>
Salman M.A. Salman	<i>International Association for Water Law (Sudan)</i>
Christopher Scott	<i>University of Arizona (USA)</i>
Vladimir Smakhtin	<i>International Water Management Institute (International)</i>
Mariam Sou	<i>International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering (Burkina Faso)</i>
Cecilia Tortajada	<i>Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Singapore)</i>
Li Yuanyuan	<i>Ministry of Water Resources (China)</i>
Mark Zeitoun	<i>University of East Anglia (United Kingdom)</i>

# About the International Water Resources Association

*IWRA is an international non-governmental, non-political, non-profit, educational association which seeks to improve water resource decision-making, through the collective understanding of the multiple aspects of water: physical, ecological, chemical, institutional, social and economic. IWRA has been recognized and respected as a leading advocate in furthering the understanding and management of water resources worldwide.*

Since its establishment in 1971, the members of IWRA from over a hundred countries represent every profession and academic discipline involved in the sustainable management of the world's water resources.

As a global knowledge network of interdisciplinary experts on water resources, it provides a global forum for bridging disciplines and geographies by connecting stakeholders concerned with the sustainable use of the world's water resources.

IWRA is deeply committed to the proper management of water resources, taking actions as:

- Featuring an international, knowledge based, forum for water resource issues. The IWRA World Water Congress held every three years in various international cities around the world.
- Advancing water resources and related environmental research. IWRA publishes high level content through its Water International official journal, IWRA Update newsletter, IWRA web Site, and scientific and technical reports.
- Promoting water education throughout society by improving global access to relevant data and information.
- Enhancing the quality of knowledge of professionals, students, individuals, corporations and institutions as tool for decision-making.
- Improving exchanges of information and expertise. IWRA sponsors major international or regional conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops and training courses.
- Networking among IWRA members through National and Regional Committees of IWRA, and with other organizations to advance common interests and goals.

# Bridging Science and Policy



The XVI<sup>th</sup> World Water Congress under the overarching theme “Bridging Science and Policy”, is organized by the *International Water Resources Association (IWRA)*, the *National Water Commission of Mexico (CONAGUA)* and the *National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities (ANEAS)* will take place in the global water agenda at a decisive time, in face of the early stages of the post 2015 development agenda implementation, the precedents settled on the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum held in Korea in 2015 and the milestone towards the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum to be held in Brasilia in 2018, the adoption by the *UN General Assembly of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s)* and the COP 21 climate agreement.

In this juncture, the World Water Congress aims to provide a meeting place to share experiences, promote discussion, and present new knowledge, research results and new developments in the field of water policy and science from around the world. For more than four decades, World Water Congresses have been the breeding ground for identification of major global themes concerning the water agenda as well as for bringing together a large cross-section of stakeholders for the development and implementation of decisions in the field of water.

Natural and social scientists, engineers, technological innovators, policy and decision-makers, financial stakeholders and investors, legal and regulatory specialists, and groups involved in capacity building will discuss and present initiatives bringing together science and policy as well as possible solutions and pathways for the sustainable governance and management of the water, through best practices and recommendations for global, regional and local policies, by connecting the scientific knowledge and policy actions, between those making scientific and technological discoveries and those who can mobilize governmental and societal adoption and implementation.

## KEY DATES

**16 March 2016:** Abstract, special session and side event submission is open now

**September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016:** Deadline for abstract, and special session submission

**September 2016:** Registration opens

**November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016:** Deadline to submit Side Event proposals

**January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017:** Deadline for submission of full papers

**February 2017:** Approval of Side Events



# Call for papers

The XVIth World Water Congress International Scientific Committee (ISC) welcomes papers for oral and posters sessions that aim to incorporate science and policy for the water challenges facing our world. Experts, academics, water professionals, and stakeholders from all disciplines – including science, policy, economics, management, and governance – who wish to present their work and research during the Congress must submit an abstracts from **March 16 to September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**.

Abstract proposals must be prepared in English and submitted through the **Abstract Submission Platform** (<http://wwc2017.iwra.org/index.php>). Abstracts should clearly describe the

research, project, study, or paper (“project”) in under 500 words and include: (a) the purpose or thesis of the project; (b) a summary of the key issue(s) or problem(s) addressed; (c) the methodology or procedures used; (d) a summary of the results or conclusions derived from the project; (e) a summary of the implications of the project or its results; and (f) incorporate a science-policy dimension. Abstracts should not include graphs, charts, diagrams, images, references, or citations. Abstracts will be reviewed by the ISC on a rolling basis. All authors of accepted abstracts (for both oral and poster sessions) are expected to prepare and submit a paper, due on **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017**, for inclusion in the Congress Proceedings.

## CONGRESS THEMES AND SUBTHEMES

Under the Congress objectives, six main themes will provide the framework for the conference:

### 1. Water, sanitation and health

- Safe and affordable drinking water
- Adequate and equitable sanitation
- Water and public health

### 2. Water quality, wastewater and reuse

- Water quality and pollution management – from ridge to reef
- Water technologies
- The circular economy – reduce, remove, reuse

### 3. Water security in a changing world

- Risk management, disaster risk reduction, and the economics of water security
- Climate change adaptation
- Sustainable and efficient water use – surface water and groundwater
- Reliability, equitability, and adaptability

### 4. Water policy and governance

- IWRM and transboundary issues at all levels
- Financing, tariffs and the economics of good governance
- Water law and regulation

### 5. Water ecosystems and physical regimes

- Ecosystem and biodiversity
- Natural and engineered hydrological systems
- The hydro-climatic dimension

### 6. Water and sustainable growth

- Managing urban growth - IUWM
- The Water, Energy and Food Nexus and Green Growth
- Water infrastructure – investment and financing

As well as the following cross-cutting issues:

#### A. Bridging science and policy

- Policy-relevant science
- Scientifically-based policy and management
- Modelling and decision support systems

#### B. Building capacity

- Research, monitoring, innovation, and education
- Technology transfer, information & communication technologies, water information systems and capacity building at all levels
- International cooperation

#### C. Stakeholder participation

- Promote multi-stakeholder dialogues that involve all: public, private, civil society – women and men – young and old
- Bridging levels: bottom up and top down
- Keeping focus on culture, poverty reduction, justice, and equity
- Transparency, corruption, and integrity

# Call for special sessions

The XVIth World Water Congress International Scientific Committee (ISC) welcomes proposals for special sessions that aim to incorporate science and policy for the water challenges facing our world. Governmental, non-governmental, and inter-governmental organizations, as well as private sector, who wish to organize special sessions on relevant topics during the Congress must submit a Special Session Proposal from **March 16 to September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**.

A special session is a special type of parallel session comprising one or two modules with a particular title and content, under the responsibility of a particular institution or consortium of institutions. Special sessions are fully integrated into the Congress programme and are open to every registered Congress participant. Such sessions must not require special funding from the Congress. Participants in these sessions, including coordinators and speakers, must be fully registered at the Congress. The coordinators have the right to invite speakers and participants to the sessions at their own expense, possibly with a specific sponsor. Special sessions will take place within the normal time schedule of the Congress, whilst trying to avoid an overlap with similarly themed sessions. Although ordinary congress participants may attend special sessions, the special sessions themselves are responsible for encouraging participants to attend their own session.

Special Session Proposals must be prepared in English and submitted through the **Special Session Submission Platform** (<http://wwc2017.iwra.org/index.php>). Special Session Proposal should clearly describe the proposed program in under 750 words and include: (a) a description of the session's topic/theme; (b) a description of the session's objectives, justifications, and projected outcomes; (c) a description of how the session will be organized and managed; (d) an explanation how the session incorporates a science-policy dimension; (e) who is proposed to speak/present at the session (including who has already committed); and (f) description of resources that could be committed to realizing the session. Special Session proposals should not include graphs, charts, diagrams, images, references, or citations unless they are fundamental to the session. Special Session proposals will be reviewed and selected by the International Scientific Committee by December 2016.

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# Call for side events

A side event is an independent event that is associated with the Congress with a subject that is connected to the main theme of the Congress and that lasts one or several days. Side events can take place prior to, during, or following the main Congress programme.

The organizer of the XVIth World Water Congress welcomes proposals for side events to take place in conjunction with the Congress and that aim to incorporate science and policy for the water challenges facing our world. Governmental, non-governmental, and inter-governmental organizations, as well as private sector, who wish to organize side event on relevant topics on conjunction with the Congress should contact [office@iwra.org](mailto:office@iwra.org) with their proposals from **March 16 to November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**.

## Venue

The XVI World Water Congress will be held in the port of Cancun in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico. Cancun is built on 22 kilometers of pristine white beaches which together form the number “7” crystal clear water.

Located in the northeast corner of the Yucatan Peninsula in the state of Quintana Roo, Cancun is part of the territory of the ancient Mayan civilization. Cancun is distinguished by having modern entertainment centers (renovated in 2006) and a philosophy of service which rivals with business and tourist destinations around the world. Unlike many other parts of the Caribbean and Mexico, Cancun continues to meet the needs of its more than 3.3 million visitors annually.

This destination offers travelers the best of many worlds: the Caribbean and Mexico; of modern and ancient times.

## Coastal Area

The hotel zone is a strip of white sand that runs through the east of the town and is the main tourist attraction of the city. From north to south you will find public beaches from Puerto Juarez (Playa del Niño or Playa Niños) until you reach the Hotel Zone, where there are 9 accessible public beaches along the 22 km of the island: from 0 to 22 km Playa Las Perlas, Playa Langosta, Playa Tortugas, Playa Caracol, Playa Chacmool, Playa Marlin, Playa Ballenas, Playa Delfines (the famous sightseer) and Playa Nizuc.

Access to the remaining strip of beaches has been restricted by the various hotel chains, so only accessible way to other points is walking on the beach from any of these mentioned access.

## Weather

Cancun is influenced by warm ocean currents, especially the Gulf Stream of Mexico, which fosters a warm and rainy climate. The climate of the municipality Benito Juarez is included in group A, type Aw that is warm humid with rains all year but most abundant in summer.

The average annual temperature ranges from 25.5 degrees Celsius. The total annual rainfall ranges between 1,000 and 1,300 millimeters. Predominant winds from the east and southeast; during the summer the area is affected by tropical storms and cyclones. The hurricane season begins in mid- June; most affected months are September and October.



Coastal Area Cancun, Quintana Roo

# CANCUN International Convention Center

*Cancun International Convention Center (Cancun ICC)* is located at the heart of the hotel zone in "Punta Cancún", just 20 minutes away from the International Airport, the second busiest in Mexico and the largest in Latin America, with excellent international connectivity.

Punta Cancún is the main business area, including our facility and more than 4,237 nearby hotel rooms within walking distance. It also offers a wide variety of services, such as banks, money exchange houses, restaurants, nightlife entertainment, which provide special prices for congress, meetings and exhibitions participants.



Cancun International Convention Center

## ITS FACILITIES:

7,296.00 m<sup>2</sup> for exhibition, divided between the ground floor and the first level.

7,018.00 m<sup>2</sup> available for conferences and conventions.

11 meeting rooms, divisible into 36 rooms for simultaneous sessions (breakouts)

# We look forward to seeing you in Cancun!!

## Contact details

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**For more information visit our website**  
**[www.worldwatercongress.com](http://www.worldwatercongress.com)**



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