

XVI World Water Congress Special Sessions

<u>SS#</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Hosting Institutions</u>	<u>Session Summary</u>	<u>Congress Theme</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>
MONDAY					
SS-13	<i>Toward a Special Issue of Water International on the OECD Principles on Water Governance</i>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	There is little debate that water policy making is most effective when informed by science, yet communication gaps and divides endure across communities of practices. To foster dialogue and put the "science-policy interface" into practice, the OECD and IWRA have partnered to develop a special issue of Water International focusing on governance. The special issue seeks to provide the scientific underpinning to the OECD Principles on Water Governance, which set 12 standards for effective, efficient and inclusive design and implementation of water policies. The special session will convene lead authors to share highlights from their articles for the special issue, and will gather economists, policymakers, scientists, legal experts, practitioners and engineers to engage in lively discussions on what makes water governance good or bad.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Monday, 29 May 2017 15:30-17:00 Cozumel 2
SS-45	<i>Water in the World We Want - policy and planning for accelerated SDG success</i>	United Nations University; Korean Environment Corporation, the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, and the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development	Achieving SDG 6 is about more than ticking off indicators. More ambitious, evidence-based and multi-sectoral policy frameworks are needed to meet water-related SDGs. However, this aim can leave decision-makers awash in a sea of complex data that are difficult to base coherent policy on. International policy making and policy implementation support is critical to progress, particularly in LMICs. Conveners propose six policy-critical components for water-related SDGs; discuss how countries can assess these components and use this assessment to plan for more effective policy implementation. Examples from Ghana and Tunisia will illustrate how innovations in policy can accelerate water-related SDG success.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Monday, 29 May 2017 15:30-17:00 Salon Cuba
SS-49	<i>Presentation of the Online Training Course on the "Greening" of Water Law: Implementing environment-friendly principles in contemporary water treaties and laws</i>	International Association for Water Law (AIDA)	The Special Session will introduce the UN Environment "Online Training Course on the 'Greening' of Water Law: Implementing environment-friendly principles in contemporary water treaties and laws", developed by the International Association for Water Law (AIDA). An abridged version of the five modules will be presented by the respective authors, including a demonstration of the group exercises provided in the training course. The main topics covered in the course are the 'greening' of international and national water law, the principles of equitable and reasonable utilization, no significant harm and ecosystem protection, and the protection of aquifers.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Monday, 29 May 2017 A: 15:30-17:00 B: 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 4
SS-56	<i>Innovative water resources management and green development in China</i>	General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design at the Ministry of Water Resources of China	China special session will focus on problems and challenges we are confronted with in the sustainable use of water resources as water resources are getting increasingly stressed in the new period. Speakers ranging from officers from Ministry of Water Resources to well-known experts from China will introduce the innovative water management policies and measures currently implemented in China. Several international experts are also invited to attend the discussion "policies and scientific support for sustainable management of water resources".	Theme: 6. Water and Sustainable Growth	Monday, 29 May 2017 15:30-17:00 Cazumel 5

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SS-63	<i>The National Water Reserves Program in Mexico: allocation of water for the environment and accomplishment of multiple Sustainable Development Goals</i>	CONAGUA, WWF-Mexico	The aim of the Program is to establish a system of water reserves focused on preserving the environment and ecosystems, giving support to all activities that are developed in them and strengthening the integrated management of water resources in 331 hydrological basins identified in Mexican territory. This Session presents the conception and implementation of the Program, showing its development as dynamic process involving the joint work of a large number of institutions, researchers and society. The results obtained have allowed it to acquire international recognition for being an innovative instrument to integrate the social assessment of water in the environment.	5. Water ecosystems and physical regimes	Monday, 29 May 2017 A: 15:30-17:00 B: 17:20-18:50 Salon Xcaret
SS-18	<i>Understanding water Security in cities: empirical evidence and policy implications</i>	CAF–Development Bank of Latin America	Nearly 60 per cent of the world's people will be living in cities that cannot be sustainable without ensuring reliable access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Coping with the growing needs of water and sanitation services within cities is one of the most pressing issues of this century. Sustainable, efficient and equitable management of water in cities has never been as important as in today's world. The seminar will discuss the empirical evidence emerging from the studies and the policy implications for the urban and water sectors.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Monday, 29 May 2017 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 5
SS-79	<i>7th Water Business Forum – Water and the Fourth Industrial Revolution</i>	<i>Korea Water Forum; Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport</i>	We are at the beginning of a technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we interact with each other through global polity and development of diverse methodologies used for linkage between public and private sectors. In its scale, scope, and complexity, the transformation is becoming unprecedented. WBF 2017 in Cancun will provide an opportunity to create direction towards the new era of the fourth industrial revolution. This session will also offer a chance to share the insights of renowned water experts on the roles of cutting-edge technologies and well defined, developed policies in the process of this new movement.	Theme: B. Building capacity	Monday, 29 May 2017 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 2
TUESDAY					
SS-75	<i>Peace for Water: The Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace's Vision</i>	Secretariat of the High-Level Panel on Water and Peace	A group of 15 countries from all parts of the world launched the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace at a ministerial gathering in Geneva in 2015. The mandate of the panel is to propose a global architecture to transform water from a source of potential crisis to an instrument of cooperation and peace. The aim of this Special Session is to present the activities and the main recommendations of the Panel which will be submitted to the United Nations and the international community in September 2017.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Tuesday, 30 May 2017 9:00-10:30 Cozumel 4
SS-10	<i>Smart Water Management (SWM): Bridge to WGG & SDGs - the technological innovation needed for "Water for all"</i>	Korea Water Resources Corporation	As global water challenges increase, the necessity for more systematic and innovative water management approaches now stands out as a critical global issue. SWM is a combination of existing water management practices with ICT technologies applied to the entire water cycle. SWM, which is a new instrument that integrates information and communication technology in all processes of water management, from source to tap, that can provide technological solutions. The objective of this session is to share potential and best practices of SWM as a new technological approach to achieve Green Growth and SDGs by promoting discussion on institutional innovation as an enabling condition.	Theme: 6. Water and sustainable growth	Tuesday, 30 May 2017 9:00-10:30 Salon Cuba

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SS-60	<i>Capacity building in the water sector: Creating and developing training centers for water professionals</i>	International Network of Water Training Centers	Significant investments are made annually in an attempt to bridge the remaining gaps in the management of water resources and water/sanitation services. These investments often fall short of expectations since the lack of skilled water professionals can result in either design faults in infrastructures or multiple deficiencies in the way these infrastructures are operated and managed. In a time of strong budget constraints, it is vital to optimize investments. This session will present the interest to create and develop training programs and training centers for water professionals to address the increasing demand for skilled professionals in water management.	Theme: B. Building capacity	Tuesday, 30 May 2017 9:00-10:30 Salon Xcaret
SS-71	<i>Making investments on multi-purpose water infrastructure fit to finance</i>	CAF–Development Bank of Latin America, and World Water Council	Multipurpose infrastructure (MPI) is very attractive due to the added value of providing energy and water services like water supply, irrigation, flood control, navigation and others, to harnessing economies of scale and scope. Nevertheless, this type of water infrastructure poses formidable policy and operational challenges. Finance, governance, and proper care of environmental and social concerns are cornerstones of MPI development. The seminar will discuss case studies focusing on project cycle of large-scale projects under climate change, and innovative financial mechanisms for MPI. A panel of experts will discuss their implications from the public policy perspective.	Theme: 6. Water and Sustainable Growth	Tuesday, 30 May 2017 9:00-10:30 Cozumel 5
SS-27	<i>Case Studies in the Challenges of Water Sharing Between “Upstreamers” and “Downstreamers”</i>	St. Edward's University	There are challenges to responsible water sharing between “upstreamers” and “downstreamers” worldwide. Science must inform public policymakers; the only fair and reasonable public water policy is scientifically-based following integrated water management concepts. We explore issues in water security in general, we analyze an international case study of the Rio Grande’s waters between the United States and Mexico, we dissect an intranational case study of Pecos River and Rio Grande River waters between New Mexico and Texas, and we examine water sharing issues in the conjunctive interface of water, agriculture, and energy from a local perspective.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Tuesday, 30 May 2017 15:30-17:00 Salon Xcaret
SS-61	<i>The Legacy of COP22: Implementing the Global Climate Action Agenda in the Water Sector</i>	International Network of Basin Organizations	The Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) is a permanent global program to boost between the COPs cooperative action between governments, cities, business, investors and citizens to cut emissions rapidly and help vulnerable nations adapt to climate impacts. The water sector’s contribution to the implementation of the GCAA is structured around four Global Alliances for Water and Climate: the Alliance of the basins (“Paris Pact”), the Business Alliance for Water And Climate change (BAFWAC), the Alliance of Megacities for Water and Climate Change and the Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance. This session will present their actions.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Tuesday, 30 May 2017 15:30-17:00 Cozumel 5
SS-41	<i>Water Security in the Americas</i>	El Colegio de México and the consortium of the Hemispheric Observatory of Water Security	The America’s region has the 43% of the water in the world. The strategic management of the water will be important in the near future. the objective of the session is to present the importance of a strategic analysis of the water resources in the Americas, especially in some themes that are crucial for the region.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Tuesday, 30 May 2017 A: 15:30-17:00 B: 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 4

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SS-46	<i>Building a Green Infrastructure Agenda for the Latin American Water Sector</i>	Forest Trends	Green infrastructure – management of the ecosystems that provide and regulate water – is an indispensable complement to conventional “gray” infrastructure in achieving water security. One of the major barriers to scale for green infrastructure, however, is the ability to quantitatively estimate its hydrological benefits. This session will bring together engineers, policymakers, and environmental experts to highlight scientific innovations to support benefit quantification to support innovative policies and advance cross-sectoral efforts to address critical gaps in data, methodologies and capacities. Organizers: Forest Trends, Asociacion de Entes Reguladores de Agua y Saneamiento (ADERASA), the International Water Association (IWA), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).	Theme: 5. Water ecosystems and physical regimes	Tuesday, 30 May 2017 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 5
SS-73	<i>The First Asia International Water Week: Asia Solution for Water</i>	Asia Water Council	Asia is home to 4.4 billion people, or more than 60 percent of the world's population. However, Asia is facing serious water challenges in terms of both quality and quantity due to climate change, urbanisation and population growth, which can be found in South America as well. Water stakeholders all over the world will be met in this session to share their insights and experiences for resolving the water problems in Asia as well as to introduce Asia International Water Week (AIWW), a platform to promote cooperation among the nations.	Theme: 6. Water and Sustainable Growth	Tuesday, 30th May, 2017 17.20-18.50 Salon Isla Mujeres
SS-55	<i>Shared Waters of North America</i>	Natural Resources Canada / Ressources Naturelles Canada; Univ. of Arizona, Water Resources Research Center, Natural Resources Canada; North American Research Partnership; Water Resources Institutes of Texas and New Mexico; and Univ. of Arizona, Water Resources Research Center	“Shared Waters of North America” is a three-part Special Session that brings together water analysts and officials from the three countries of North America to compare approaches to binational water cooperation. First, speakers will consider scientific water resources assessment, with a particular focus on transboundary aquifers along the Canada-US and US-Mexico borders. The second segment will focus on transboundary water resources policies, including legal frameworks, mechanisms for cooperation, and water rights administration. The third and final segment will engage high-level policy makers and government officials in a discussion of their vision for future collaboration, including prospects for binational water management.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Tuesday, 30 May 2017 A: 9:00-10:30 B: 15:30-17:00 C: 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 2
WEDNESDAY					
SS-76	<i>Towards a Green Infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	Inter-American Development Bank	Green infrastructure is an approach to water management that protects, restores and mimics the natural water cycle. It entails restoring wetlands or other nature-based solutions, rather than building costly new grey infrastructure. Green solutions give communities the ability to handle increased floods and droughts that come with global warming, as well as create jobs and supports supply chains and the jobs connected to them. In LAC, many forward-looking cities are already embracing this green infrastructure approach, including Santiago, Lima and Medellin. This seminar will discuss leading cases and opportunities for green infrastructure in LAC.	Theme: 6. Water and Sustainable Growth	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 9:00-10:30 Cozumel 5

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SS-26	<i>Reflecting on Regulating Water Security for Unconventional Gas and Oil</i>	Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University	This session seeks to advance understanding of regulatory and policy regimes around the world in relation to the use of water for shale oil and gas production. Regulatory and policy issues surrounding the water use for hydraulic fracturing are present at every stage of operations, requiring operators to understand the legal, political, and hydrological context of their surroundings. Speakers will examine who is facing and where, water allocation, managing wastewater, and other water impacts, including public acceptance. Some of the research presented will be included in an edited book on water security in the context of shale production, currently in preparation.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 A: 9:00-10:30 Cozumel 2
SS-65	<i>Water Security and Climate Change - Challenges and Opportunities in Asia</i>	Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand); TUBS (Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany), and THK (Technische Hochschule Köln, Germany)	The special session will provide a summary of key findings of conference "Water Security and Climate Change – Challenges and Opportunities for Asia". The reports cover the results of thematic sessions, special sessions and roundtable discussions identifying research demand. A further element will be a science policy dialogue with emphasis on relevance of the science agenda for SDGs and Paris agreement implementation. The expected outcome will be a short report with best practice examples on "solution based research" and "future research demand and formats" in the area water security.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 A: 9:00-10:30 B: 10:50-12:20 Salon Xcaret
SS-35	<i>Multi-disciplinary perspectives on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and the future of water resources management and development in the Eastern Nile Basin</i>	Stockholm International Water Institute; Northumbria University, the University of Aberdeen, and International Center for Water Cooperation	This Special Session brings together researchers working on cross-disciplinary themes in the transboundary water resources management and development in the Nile River Basin. The session will focus on how a large-scale and symbolic hydraulic infrastructure such as the GERD can influence future directions in water resources management and development from multiple perspectives - technical, climate/environment, social, economic, legal, diplomatic and political. The presentations, based on recent developments and associated research, will lay the foundations for an in-depth facilitated discussion bringing together researchers and policy-makers.	Theme: A. Bridging science and policy	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 A: 9:00-10:30 B: 10:50-12:20 Cozumel 4
SS-77	<i>Achieving Water and Sanitation SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	IADB, UNESCO-IHP, GWP, ANEAS, USWP and Ministry of Integration of Brazil	More than 150 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) still do not have access to safe water and sanitation. The challenge for the region is to undertake and pursue a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where water is central to the challenge. A dedicated global goal on water, with targets to be achieved by 2030, has been established. While the new targets trigger a service universalization challenge, they go beyond access and emphasize the importance of guaranteeing service quality, sound wastewater management and adequate governance. The post-2015 development agenda is now entering a final phase. It is time to discuss how LAC will effectively implement, measure and monitor the new dedicated goal and targets.	Theme: 6. Water and Sustainable Growth	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 10:50-12:20 Cozumel 5
SS-30	<i>Social Sciences approach to supporting stakeholder engagement for water policy development</i>	IWRA; French Water Partnership; French National Center for Scientific Research; French national alliance for environmental research; WGI initiative	Water-related representations and uses contribute to constructing the human relations to water, however they are still too little taken into account or misunderstood by decision makers and other donors, rendering the implementation or the sustainable continuation of development projects difficult. Human and social sciences help this intercognition and the co-construction of projects, facilitating the projects' appropriation which is a factor of success for the implementation of the SDGs, Habitat III and the Paris Climate Agreement. This session aims to highlight and bring inputs to this reflection process through different case studies from all horizons, showing the territorial, cultural and socio-economic complexities and specificities.	Theme: A. Bridging science and policy	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 10:50-12:20 Cozumel 2

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SS-53	<i>The Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers – Moving forward until the next UN General Assembly session</i>	UNESCO, AIDA, and IAH Commission on Transboundary Aquifers	While the sustainable and efficient management of the 592 transboundary aquifers identified to date is recognized as critical for the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, still only six arrangements are specifically dedicated to transboundary aquifers. One critical tool in bridging the gap between science and policy-making and supporting states in setting appropriate arrangements for the management of their transboundary aquifers is the Draft Articles on the Law of Transboundary Aquifers. This session organized by UNESCO-IHP, IAH and AIDA brings together the science, law, policy-making to address the crucial interlinkages that can allow good governance of transboundary aquifers.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 10:50-12:20 Salon Coba
SS-48	<i>Two Countries, Nine States: Colorado River Cooperation in a Complex River System</i>	International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico Sections	The Colorado River Basin in the United States and Mexico covers 632,000 square kilometers and provides water to more than 2 million hectares of farmland and more than 40 million residents. After years of water scarcity, diverse interests in the basin reached agreement in 2012 on a 5-year pilot program under the auspices of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, to address the challenges. A panel of scientists and policymakers will explain how that effort has laid the groundwork for a longer-term agreement.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 A: 15:30-17:00 Cozumel 5
SS-16	<i>What Next for Water Law and Policy? Recent Developments, Future Challenges and Potential Opportunities</i>	Northumbria University Newcastle	The purpose of this special session is to capture some of the most recent trends and developments in water law and policy, both at a national, transboundary, regional and global levels; and to consider how water law and policy might have to evolve in order to address future water-related challenges or respond to advances in scientific knowledge and understanding. The session will draw upon the outputs of a recently published Handbook on Water Law and Policy (Routledge 2017), which reflects a collaboration amongst over 35 leading experts in the field, both academics and practitioners.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 A: 15:30-17:00 B: 17:20-18:50 Salon Xcaret
SS-21	<i>Water security and global-change adaptation: bridging science and policy</i>	El Colegio de Sonora; Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research; Collaborative Research Networks	The Objective of these sessions is to disseminate and apply innovative science and conduct influential science-policy dialogues through the perspective of water security in a manner that strengthens global-change adaptation in the arid Americas. They comprise to undertake river basin assessments, to document human and ecosystem exposure to hydro-ecological and globalization processes, and to conduct science-policy dialogues to diagnose current adaptive capacity and promote climate change adaptation. The sessions are organized the project: Innovative Science and Influential Policy Dialogues For Water Security in the Arid Americas, supported by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI -CRN3).	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 A: 15:30-17:00 B: 17:20-18:50 Salon Isla Mujeres
SS-25	<i>Water Quality Management – identifying opportunities for policy reform</i>	University of South Australia	Water Quality Management is a multi-faceted issue with clear nexuses to water quantity and involves both water for human consumption, industry and agriculture. The sessions will include seven papers presenting scientific information, predominantly from the social sciences, related to a range of water quality issues. Each presenter will provide key scientific findings which they consider represent policy challenges/opportunities or where policy reform is needed. The respondents and the subsequent discussions will focus on the policy dimension. This process is intended to inform an IWRA policy Brief on Water Quality Management.	Theme: 2. Water quality, wastewater and reuse	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 A: 15:30-17:00 B: 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 2

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SS-34	<i>Bridging Stakeholders' Knowledge and the 8th World Water Forum Thematic Framework</i>	World Water Council	The 8th World Water Forum organized jointly by the World Water Council (WWC) and Brazil, will take place in Brasilia in March 2018. Preparations are underway, and following the second Stakeholders Consultation Meeting, this special session will give the opportunity to all interested stakeholders to contribute to the development of the Forum's program. The meeting will gather the Forum's coordinators and other interested stakeholders to develop together the Forum's program at a more detailed level, guaranteeing linkages to other processes (i.e. Forum, SDGs, Implementation Roadmaps).	Theme: C. Stakeholder Participation	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 A: 15:30-17:00 B: 17:20-18:50 Salon Cuba
SS-17	<i>Empowering Young Water Professionals through Engagement in Global Water Community</i>	World Youth Parliament for Water	World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW) is a worldwide youth momentum to engage & empower young generation in water & climate change sector for inclusiveness of youth actions to meet SDGs 6&13. WYPW had been organizing youth activities during the XVIth World Water Congress at Cancun Mexico 2017 comprised of youth Session/Panel Discussion, Young Professional Booths, Signature Campaign & Interviews of senior's professionals and as Youth Rapporteur Team. These youth activities are a setup preparatory series for the 8th World Water Forum Brazil to ensure capacity building & youth involvement in sustainable water development to ensure the water secured world.	Theme: B. Building capacity	Wednesday, 31 May 2017 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 4
THURSDAY					
SS-54	<i>Water Futures and Solutions</i>	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis	This session will explore stakeholder's views on water futures across sectors and countries in central and Latin America. The WFaS Initiative of IIASA is developing a series of communities of practice and regional hubs which builds on a successful global first phase of WFaS. The regional hub will focus on the co-design and implementation of assessing options for future water management (across sectors and between countries). Outcomes could be a report as well as a discussion at Congress. Particularly how the results and opinions expressed fit in with evolving the HLP on Water, the Paris Agreement and achieving the SDG's.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Thursday, 1 June 2017 9:00-10:30 Salon Xcaret
SS-72	<i>Cooperation and Exchange of Experience in Water Resource Management and Adaption to Climate Change</i>	Watershed Council of the Valley of Mexico (CCVM) – Basin Organization of the Valley of Mexico (OCAVM) – Water Agency of Seine Normandy (AESN) – Interdepartmental organisation for the sanitation of the Paris Agglomeration (SIAAP) – International office for water (OIEAU)	Since 2006, water authorities of the Valley of Mexico and Seine Normandy Water Agency have worked together to find solutions for water issues in their basin. This partnership was reactivated on the occasion of COP 21, and deals with urban drainage (rainwater + wastewater) technical exchange in order to develop recommendations designed to strengthen the Drainage Metropolitan Commission of the Valley of Mexico. Moreover, the partnership engages in a comparison of the French and Mexican modes of operation of the two authorities, and seeks to identify strengths and weaknesses in order to reinforce integrated water resources governance.	Theme: B. Building capacity	Thursday, 1 June 2017 9:00-10:30 Cozumel 4

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SS-33	<i>Resilience of coastal watersheds in Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center	Resilience assessment has been methodologically addressed, but we still lack specific tools, proved and quantified. In this session we will analyze the theoretical basis and science-policy bridge of resilience assessment. With this purpose we will present methodologies to assess vulnerability and ecosystem services for resilience analysis applied in coastal watersheds, but able to be used at any territorial scale. We will also present and discuss how good watershed management practices for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as for productive purposes, contribute to build socio-ecological resilience of local communities in coastal zones.	Theme: 5. Water ecosystems and physical regimes	Thursday, 1 June 2017 A: 9:00-10:30 B: 10:50-12:20 Cozumel 5
SS-58	<i>Training in Hydro-diplomacy: Legal and Institutional Aspects of Water Resources Governance – From the International to the Domestic Perspective</i>	International Association for Water Law (AIDA); UNESCO-IHP	The UNESCO training manual “Hydro-diplomacy, Legal and Institutional Aspects of Water Resources Governance – From the International to the Domestic Perspective” (published 2016, available at http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002452/245262e.pdf) will be illustrated and demonstrated. Mock classes on, respectively, the Trans-boundary Legal Perspective module of the Manual (chapter 2), dealing with international water law, and on the Bridging Perspective module of the Manual (chapter 3), linking international water law and domestic water law, will be conducted by the chapter authors. Classes will consist of a lecture followed by a group exercise with the Session participants. Certificates of attendance may be handed out at the end.	Theme: B. Building capacity	Thursday, 1 June 2017 A: 9:00-10:30 B: 10:50-12:20 Cozumel 2
SS-36	<i>Water Stress and Demographic Dynamics</i>	El Colegio de México; Colmex, UdeG and ITESM	Water is used inefficiently and now in the framework of climate change (CC) some areas and population groups will be strongly affected in their quality of life and wellbeing. We emphasize territorial differences in the availability and access to the resource in relation to the scales considered. We focus on two aspects of those changes: 1) Increase in water stress resulting from the necessary allocation of water to different consumptive uses, urban in particular; 2) Increased demand of water and sanitation services due to city sprawl. Relatively insufficient service coverage in quantity and quality affects health and wellbeing of users.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Thursday, 1 June 2017 10:50-12:20 Salon Xcaret
SS-43	<i>Hydropower Development and Reservoir Operation</i>	Middle East Technical University	The sustainable use of water resources to maximize their potential benefits is a big challenge and currently hydropower generation constitutes a significant portion of these benefits. Being a domestic and renewable energy source, hydroelectric power has the additional advantage of acting as a large-scale energy storage alternative through pumped storage hydropower plants. Social and environmental objectives, climate change and political issues further complicate development of optimal operating policies. The objective of this special session is to gather researchers together to share their recent works on hydropower reservoir operation and to highlight challenging problems and future research topics.	Theme: 6. Water and sustainable growth	Thursday, 1 June 2017 10:50-12:20 Cozumel 4

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SS-8	<i>Charges vs. buyback: who pays for water ecosystems restoration?</i>	University of Adelaide	Economic instruments cannot operate in isolation. We ask: what policy (mix) yields a (re)allocation of resources that maximizes welfare? This special session explores the characteristics of these instruments, their applicability in different contexts, and their transferability to the rest of the world. The speakers will debate: the necessary policy sequencing required when implementing instruments; provide real world contexts in their application; and highlight the potential pitfalls in their adoption. Expected outcomes from this session include: closer links to other researchers and policy-makers interested in this topic for future collaboration and project work. We also anticipate gaining useful insights into specific issues or case studies that could be included in this work as we seek funding and other support around topics related to this discussion.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Thursday, 1 June 2017 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 4
SS-38	<i>Water security issues for developing countries in changing environment</i>	Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (China)	Water scarcity, water pollution, ecosystem degradation are the major water problems in China also in the world. Water security means water supply security, water quality security, eco-water security and so on. China is the case to address all these water problem and water security related to social & economic development in the future. This section purpose is to address this issue and how science & technology and good water governance can give support for the solution of water security issue. This section would be one of special issue for water international in coming years. Several international experts most coming from China will be invited as key note presentation to address this issue on the social sciences approach to support stakeholder engagement for water policy development in China and also other developing countries in the world.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Thursday, 1 June 2017 17:20-18:50 Salon Xcaret
SS-52	<i>Offshore Aquifers – Why Should We Care?</i>	UNESCO-IHP & University of Strathclyde	In a 2013 Nature magazine article, scientists highlighted the presence of major reserves of fresh and brackish water in continental shelves around the world, with reserves that could amount to 100 times the volume of water extracted from the Earth's subsurface since 1900. If confirmed, this phenomenon may potentially help addressing the "global water crisis". Vast offshore freshwater reserves raises complex issues regarding applicable legal regime(s), exploration, resource preservation, extraction, transportation, treatment. UNESCO-IHP and the University of Strathclyde are co-organizing this session to raise awareness of the existence and accompanying challenges of this potentially vast reservoir of freshwater.	Theme: 4. Water policy and governance	Thursday, 1 June 2017 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 2
SS-64	<i>Toward an Integrated Water Management by Sub-basin: Mainstreaming of Science and Policy</i>	Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM) - Azcapotzalco	Only in the basin, it is possible to establish relationships between water availability and its uses, and it is where different demands and competing uses come together for formulating management alternatives. In this context, the panel will analyze alternative methodologies for water availability estimation and water economic valuation by type and use. It will also discuss advances and challenges in the implementation of the IWRM model in Mexico. Three hydrological subregions were studied at the north, center and south of Mexico with the objective of evaluating the relevance and viability of current water management practices.	Theme: A. Bridging science and policy	Thursday, 1 June 2017 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 5

XVI World Water Congress Special Sessions

<i>SS#</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Hosting Institutions</i>	<i>Session Summary</i>	<i>Congress Theme</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>
SS-74	<i>Getting to a Water Security Framework: Breaking it Down to Build it Up</i>	Center for Water Security and Cooperation	A comprehensive water security framework can provide a clear, long-term vision for water management and governance. However, water is a complex resource with an intricate relationship to our lives and livelihoods. In this Special Session, we break down the concept of water security and engage participants in breakout discussion groups. After an opening panel discussion, participants will discuss focus questions on the concept of water security and its underlying nexuses. These discussions will be reported and published as part of the Center for Water Security and Cooperation's Water Security Challenge and offer a unique opportunity to influence the development of a water security framework.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Thursday, 1 June 2017 17:20-18:50 Cozumel 1
FRIDAY					
SS-5	<i>Regulation and Transparency for Water and Sanitation Services in Countries That Lack Them</i>	Instituto Mexicano de Tecnologia del Agua	To discuss needs and experiences about regulation for public water services. Those could range from social overseers, to proper regulatory watchdogs for tariffs and service quality. Will comment if those improve quality and reduce operation costs by benchmarking their supervised utilities. To comment if legislation for water services in some countries hinders or promotes the establishment of such regulators. The session will present cases and strategies to promote regulation and certainty and clarity of information about the performance of water utilities, with weak or lacking regulation and transparency.	Theme: 1. Water, sanitation and health	Friday, 2 June 2017 9:00-10:30 Cozumel 5
SS-11	<i>Understanding the Forest-Water Nexus: a new global monitoring framework and tool</i>	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN	Forests play a crucial role in the hydrological cycle, influencing water availability and quality, as well as reducing water-related risks such as landslides, local floods and droughts. Forested watersheds and wetlands supply 75% of the world's accessible freshwater for human and ecological needs. This special session will highlight the need to mainstream an integrated approach to forest and water resources management and policy. The occasion provides an opportunity to present a forest-water monitoring framework that is under development. Participants are invited to engage in a workshop to discuss the benefits of such a framework and how best to implement it.	Theme: B. Building capacity	Friday, 2 June 2017 9:00-10:30 Cozumel 4
SS-62	<i>Towards SDG implementation – ensuring water quality from source to sea</i>	IWRA and SIWI	This session will share experiences in addressing freshwater, coastal and marine water quality priorities at different scales from source to sea, and discuss water quality in the context of the SDGs. Local experiences from marine pollution in the Yucatan peninsula will set the scene for the session. Technical presentations will cover gaps and opportunities for coordinated water quality management from source to sea, and case studies related to micro-plastics. A panel will discuss needs and ways to maximize synergies in the SDGs when addressing water quality priorities. The session provides an opportunity to craft messages for the upcoming High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG14.	Theme: 2. Water quality, wastewater and reuse	Friday, 2 June 2017 9:00-10:30 Salon Xcaret
SS-23	<i>Enhancing irrigation productivity and profitability in small scale irrigation schemes lessons from three continents</i>	University of South Australia; ACIAR (Australia); and IDRC (Canada)	This special session is about enhancing irrigation productivity and profitability for small-holder farmers, in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, India and Latin America. Soil moisture and nutrient monitoring tools were introduced to farmers in Mozambique, Tanzania Zimbabwe, and Punjabi to improve crop productivity. In the Sub-Saharan countries this was done in conjunction with the establishment of Agricultural Innovation Platforms (AIP) to connect farmers to markets and overcome other systemic problems. The theoretical underpinning of the tools and the AIPs will be outlined and research on their combined impacts will be discussed. This session is sponsored by ACIAR (Australia) and IDRC (Canada).	Theme: B. Building capacity	Friday, 2 June 2017 A: 9:00-10:30 B: 10:50-12:20 Cozumel 2

XVI World Water Congress Special Sessions

<u>SS#</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Hosting Institutions</u>	<u>Session Summary</u>	<u>Congress Theme</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>
SS-42	<i>The scientific underpinnings of global water law instruments: the UN Watercourses Convention, the UNECE Water Convention, and ILC Draft Articles on Transboundary Aquifers</i>	Northumbria University Newcastle	The 1997 UN Watercourses Convention, the 1992 UNECE Water Convention, and the 2008 ILC Draft Articles on Transboundary Aquifers are all the outcome of political processes. However, each instrument, while legal, was informed to a great or lesser extent by science and scientific experts. The purpose of this special session is to compare how science underpins each of the aforementioned legal instruments, and what processes were in place (formal and informal) to engage scientific experts in their drafting. In addition, the session seeks to explore how contemporary science can help inform and strengthen the implementation of, and compliance with, the commitments set out in the instruments.	Theme: A. Bridging science and policy	Friday, 2 June 2017 A: 9:00-10:30 B: 10:50-12:20 Salon Coba
SS-44	<i>Sustainable watersheds: emerging economic instruments for water security</i>	University of New Hampshire	This session explores emerging economic and financial instruments for enhancing water security worldwide in a changing climate, with a focus on understanding which instruments are the most suitable for a given watershed or basin. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the challenges and opportunities of developing effective economic instruments for improving water resource management. Specific initiative that will be addressed include national assurance schemes, water abstraction licenses, and payment for watershed services programs. Successful application of these instruments requires a deep understanding of the interactions and feedbacks between the human and natural systems that determine watershed sustainability.	Theme: 3. Water security in a changing world	Friday, 2 June 2017 10:50-12:20 Salon Xcaret
SS-67	<i>A “ts’ono’ot” cosmovision: Interdisciplinary science and policy in the Yucatan Peninsula’s sinkholes</i>	Department of Water Sciences at Centro de Investigacion Cientifica de Yucatan and the King’s Water Activity Hub in the Department of Geography at King’s College London	The Yucatan’s iconic cenotes present a challenge – and opportunity – for water governance. The sinkholes’ cultural, historical, and ecological value competes with the economic benefits of their overuse. Limited extant research joins the lack of a legal framework governing tourism and consumption. This session will use cenotes as a case study for how holistic research can inform policy. After a hydro-legal overview of the aquifer ecosystem, an interdisciplinary team will present results from speculative fieldwork considering what truly interdisciplinary research on the cenotes would look like. Participatory discussion will debate if and how researchers can produce integrated, policy-relevant water science.	Theme: A. Bridging science and policy	Friday, 2 June 2017 10:50-12:20 Cozumel 5
SS-78	<i>Introducing the World Water Data Initiative: How water data can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals</i>	High Level Panel on Water	This session will be the first time the World Water Data Initiative has been presented to the international water community. The session will include explanation of the features and purposes of the Initiative by the project leads, and will be supported by a panel discussion on implementation of the Initiative including the roles of international water agencies. The World Water Data Initiative is an outcome of the High Level Panel on Water, consisting of 11 sitting Heads of State and Government and one Special Adviser. The Panel was convened by the United Nations Secretary-General and President of the World Bank Group to provide the leadership required to champion a comprehensive, inclusive and collaborative way of developing and managing water resources, and improving water and sanitation related services.	Theme: B. Building capacity	Friday, 2 June 2017 10:50-12:20 Salon Isla Mujeres