

APRIL 2020



2019 ACTIVITY REPORT

INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION



www.iwra.org





INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

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INTRODUCTION



2019 proved to be another productive, fruitful year for the International Water Resources Association (IWRA). It welcomed a new Executive Board (the first truly gender-balanced Board in our history) and additional members to the Executive Office team. Together they developed a new strategy as a basis for IWRA's priorities and action plans over the short, medium and long-terms. The Association also undertook multiple preparatory activities for its XVII World Water Congress planned to take place in 2020, in Daegu, Republic of Korea. In addition, an important Water Security project with UNESCO's International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (i-WSSM) was launched with the assistance of a new, associated member-led Task Force. Two other Task Forces were also set up on "Water and Climate Change", and for IWRA's 50th Anniversary celebrations. In 2019 the new IWRA Board set up several new committees on Budget & Finance, Congress & Events, and External & Public Relations. The IWRA website was renewed and re-launched in October, presenting a more interactive interface, modern look and better security enhancements. The Association continued to participate and collaborate in many international water events, networks and projects. The key activities that took place in 2019 are summarised in this report. This list of activities is not intended to be exhaustive, but instead highlights only the main tasks and initiatives carried out by IWRA.

IWRA President, Gabriel Eckstein

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Gabriel Eckstein. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

IWRA's Executive Office continues to be hosted in Nanterre near central Paris, France, at the Agence de l'Eau Seine-Normandie-AESN (Seine-Normandy Water Agency). IWRA has an office space with IT and printing services fully supported by the AESN.

The address is 51 rue Salvador Allende,
92027 Nanterre, France.

The main email address is office@iwra.org,

The main office telephone number is +33 1 41 20 16 28.

During 2019, **Callum Clench** continued to be IWRA's Executive Director, supported by Project Officer, **Alice Colson**, and Communications Officer, **Ignacio Deregibus**. Two new people were hired to support with the work and activities of this office. **Monica Garcia Quesada** was hired in June as an Administrative Officer to assist on organisational and budgetary tasks with this office, as well as to support logistical issues for the XVII World Water Congress. **Mary Trudeau** joined IWRA in July on a part-time basis to work specifically on the new UNESCO i-WSSM project. Furthermore, **Claire Miller** was hired to replace Nick Griffin as IWRA Policy Brief Editor; **Scott McKenzie**, continued to manage the webinars; and

Nathalie Lyon-Caen, provided graphic design for reports, brochures, campaigns and the IWRA website. Finally, **Sergio Vallejo** continued to manage the World Water Congress archives and websites servers.

The Executive Office shifted to a remote working structure, with the team scattered in 2019 around France, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, Namibia, Canada, and Australia. This mirrors to some extent the very geographically disperse Executive Board, with members from the countries listed in the table of this report. In many cases people in the Executive Office and Board also hold nationality in different countries to where they live, making the geographic balance of the Association richer than ever.

The Editor-in-Chief of IWRA's flagship publication *Water International* continued to be **James E. Nickum**, with the strong support and hard work of **Raya Stephan** as the Deputy Editor-in-Chief.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The new IWRA Executive Board started its term on January the 1st, 2019. This Board remained unchanged from the elections in late 2018, with the exception of Eiman Karar from Sudan who was appointed as a Director in April under the rules for increasing the board numbers on the grounds of geographic diversity.

All Board members have been assigned a portfolio of committee responsibilities, and meet all together a minimum of four times a year, primarily through teleconferences due to their geographic dispersion.

MEETINGS & IWRA STRATEGIC WORKSHOP

The Executive Board held a total of five meetings in 2019, four of which were teleconference meetings, with the other one taking place in March in Paris as part of IWRA's strategic planning Board workshop. Teleconference access was also organised at this workshop to brief and update Board members not able to attend in person, and a cocktail reception was arranged with invited water experts from Paris.

The purpose of this workshop was to review the vision, mission and objectives of the Association; to undertake an in-depth analysis of IWRA's current situation; and to develop goals and guidance for the short-term (1 year), medium-term (3 years) and long-term (10 years). The outputs of the workshop were used to develop a new IWRA Strategy Document, serving as a basis for the Association's strategic priorities and work plan. This document is available online at: www.iwra.org/about-us

The 2019-2021 Executive Board is listed below:

President

Gabriel Eckstein, United States of America

Past President

Patrick Lavarde, France

Vice-Presidents

Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros, Mexico

Karin Krchnak, Slovakia

Yuan Yuan Li, People's Republic of China

Secretary General

Guy Fradin, France

Treasurer

Renée Martin-Nagle, United States of America

Committee Chairs

Awards

Rabi Mohtar, Lebanon

Membership

Tom Soo, Australia

Publications

Henning Bjornlund, Australia

Directors

Asma Bachikh, Morocco

Birgitta Liss Lymer, Sweden

David Molden, Nepal

Eiman Karar, Sudan

Farda Imanov, Azerbaijan

Gary Jones, Australia

Guillermo Donoso, Chile

Jun-Haeng Heo, Republic of Korea

Mingna Wang, People's Republic of China

Raya Marina Stephan, Palestine

Yoonjin Kim, Republic of Korea

COMMITTEES

In 2019, the following committees were set up:

AWARDS COMMITTEE

This committee is mandated in the IWRA by-laws, and works to select the recipients for the Ven Te Chow Memorial Award and Lecture, and both the Crystal and Water Drops awards, as well as IWRA's Honorary and Fellow memberships (the by-laws for which this committee clarified in 2019 in partnership with the Membership Committee).

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee has fiscal and budgetary oversight, while developing and monitoring the annual budget with the Executive Director, and reporting to the Executive Board. It also focuses on raising funds, and identifying new revenue streams.

CONGRESS & EVENTS COMMITTEE

This committee worked with the Executive Office to identify and evaluate appropriate hosts and venues for the XVIII Congresses. It also had oversight to develop policies related to Congresses and other Association events.

EXTERNAL & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This new committee is charged with assessing, developing and maintaining relationships with other relevant organisations, affiliated entities, IWRA regional and national chapters, and other parties. It also advised the Executive Office on matters pertaining to the Association's promotion and public relations efforts.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Led by the IWRA President, this committee is mandated in the IWRA by-laws to take all necessary and appropriate decisions in the intervals between meetings of the Executive Board, to implement administrative actions and to act in emergency situations.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee is mandated in the IWRA by-laws, and focused on how IWRA would engage with members, offering discounted group membership options, and extended membership agreements. Furthermore, it re-defined membership categories for high and low income

countries, and supported the preparation of the 2020 membership campaign in order to raise IWRA's profile and increase the Association's membership.

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL & PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee is mandated in the IWRA by-laws, and works to provide proposals and advice on scientific and technical activities and publications, including Water International, policy briefs, webinars, task forces and projects.

The Executive Office provides support to these committees where necessary. The committees are made up of both members and non-members of the Executive Board. In 2019 the committee members were:

Awards

Chair: Rabi Mohtar - **Members:** Ben Braga, Guy Fradin, David Molden, Mingna Wang

Budget & Finance

Chair Renée Martin-Nagle - **Members:** Guy Fradin, Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros, Gary Jones, Mingna Wang

Congress & Events

Chair: Yuanyuan Li - **Members:** Asma Bachikh, Henning Bjornlund, Gary Jones, Jun-Haeng Heo

External & Public Relations

Chair: Karin Krchnak - **Members:** Guy Fradin, Eiman Karar, Yoonjin Kim, Birgitta Liss Lymer, Renée Martin-Nagle

Governance

Chair: Gabriel Eckstein - **Members:** Guy Fradin, Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros, Karin Krchnak, Patrick Lavarde, Yuanyuan Li, Renée Martin-Nagle

Membership

Chair: Tom Soo - **Members:** Victor Arroyo, Asma Bachikh, Guillermo Donoso, Lili Yu

Scientific, Technical & Publications

Chair: Henning Bjornlund - **Members :** Guillermo Donoso, Farda Imanov, Stephanie Kuisma, Jim Nickum, Raya Stephan, David Molden, Cai Ximing

WORLD WATER CONGRESSES



Following a review of applications to hosts the XVII World Water Congress, a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed with the Korea Water Resources Association for the Congress to take place in Daegu, Korea. This MoA was supported by a further Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Korea Water Resources Association (KWRA) and the Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport (later to be replaced by the Ministry of Environment), Daegu Metropolitan City, and K-water to co-host the XVII World Water Congress together.

The date set for the Congress was May 11th-15th, 2020. The theme of the Congress was agreed to be “*Foundations for Global Water Security and Resilience: Knowledge, Technology and Policy*”. This is structured around five sub-themes and three crosscutting issues.

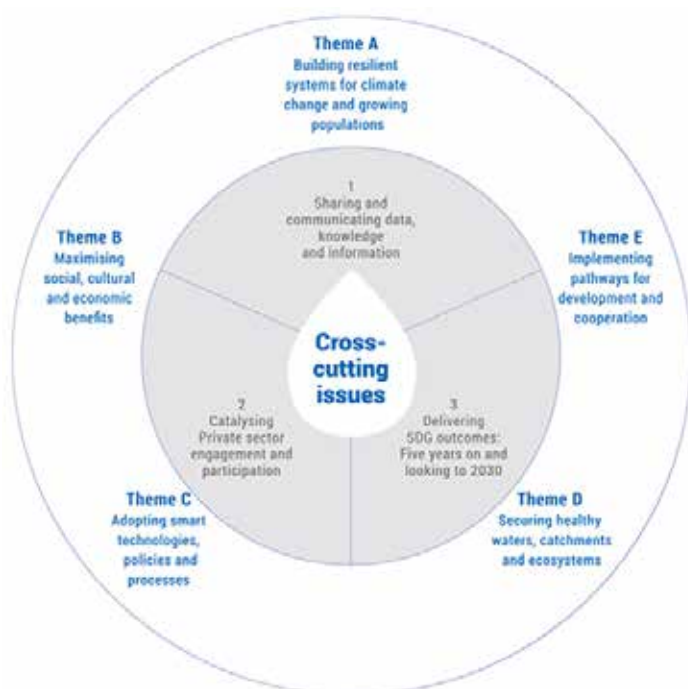
The International Scientific Committee (ISC) for the XVII Congress was established. It comprises 32 members, half of whom are appointed by the National Organising Committee (NOC) in Korea. Gary Jones, a member of the Executive Board, volunteered to Chair the Committee. The ISC is responsible for the content of the Congress, including the development of its thematic framework, congress programme, call for and selection of abstracts for presentation or posters, as well as proposals for special sessions and side-events. Working with the Executive Board and Office, as well as the National Organising Committee (NOC), it also has ultimate responsibility for plenary sessions, such as high-level panels, and the opening/closing ceremonies, etc. Six members of the ISC are also members of the ISC Bureau.

Led by the host institutions, the NOC is responsible for working with the ISC to make high-level decisions; and to direct the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and Congress Secretariat also based in Korea, to execute the decisions of the ISC. The NOC is also made up of 20 Koreans from different universities, foundations, institutes or organisations involved in water related issues in Korea, and is chaired by IWRA Board Director, Jun-Haeng Heo.

It is the first time that the World Water Congress will be held in East Asia. Its main objective is to provide an ideal platform for researchers, professionals, experts, policy-makers, students, and stakeholders to exchange ideas, present new knowledge and learn from each other in the field of water policy and sciences around the world.

WORLD WATER ENVOYS PROGRAMME

As this Congress focuses on Water Security, IWRA wanted to hear stories from different younger representatives of communities facing Water Security issues. A competition was launched to identify these individuals. Applicants had to submit a short video and single photo to explain the



water security issue affecting them and their community. The selected representatives are called “World Water Envoys”.

This programme is unique, as it gives an opportunity to young people that are not necessarily from the water world to become the ambassadors of their communities, to meet with international water experts, raise the profile of the water issues their communities face, and hopefully bring some concrete solution back to where they live. The Congress will mark only the beginning of IWRA’s relationship with the Envoys, as the Association is planning to invite them to future events in order to follow up with them and their communities’ situations.

During the opening ceremony of the Congress, the World Water Envoys will have the opportunity to talk about their water security challenge and its impacts it has on everyday life. They will then have the chance to discuss this issue in more detail over the following days with experts attending the Congress, and then will be asked to summarise in the Closing Ceremony what they have learned over the week, including what connections they made that might help their community to overcome its water security challenge.

IWRA received around hundred applications and came up with a shortlist of fourteen candidates. The final decision was very hard, but in the end 5 candidates were selected as winners, trying to ensure a geographical balance, as well as a good variety of water security challenges.

The selected winners were:



1. Georgina Mukwirimba – Zimbabwe.

Georgina focuses on the economics of water supply in big cities, in the context of a failing economy. She is currently doing an internship at UNESCO in Harare, working on the “City Blue Print” programme.



2. Deepesh Jain – India.

Deepesh focuses on the right to water and sanitation in slums, in India. He has a Master’s degree in Water Policy and Governance, worked with the Indian Sanitation Coalition, and currently works on installing temporary toilets during giant pilgrim gatherings similar to Kumbh Mela.



3. Maria Almonte – Dominican Republic.

Maria focuses on urban river management, specifically on the recent contamination of a river in Santo Domingo, leading to severe health problems in her neighbourhood, such as dengue fever. She sees education and awareness raising around waste and water management as a key priority for her community. Maria finished her undergrad in civil engineering.



4. Bayan Khalaf – Palestine, West Bank.

Bayan focuses on agrochemical pollution in Palestine, in rural areas, due to intensive uses of pesticides – which have a big impact on people’s health. Bayan is doing a PhD in Germany on the topic and is very passionate about the subject.



5. Pallavi Pokharel – Nepal.

Pallavi focuses on groundwater pollution in the city of Kathmandu, Nepal, where 90% of people depend on groundwater, contaminated with arsenic, chemicals and viruses. Pallavi understands well the multifactorial complexity of the situation and is very eloquent. She finishes her undergrad in environmental science.

World Water Envoys will be funded to come to Korea, including:

- One economy round-trip ticket to Daegu, Korea
- Accommodation including breakfast from May 10th to 16th (6 nights)
- Travel insurance for the duration of the trip
- Registration to the Congress, including all lunches, a ticket to the gala dinner, and participation in the field trip
- One year free membership to IWRA

XVIII WORLD WATER CONGRESS

At the end of 2018, the call for expressions of interest to host the XVIII World Water Congress was launched. Initial applications were required by the end of March 2019, consisting of a two-page letter confirming interest. This was followed by an invitation to submit full applications by the middle of 2019. Following a review of the full applications, one was selected as the preferred candidate to host the XVIII World Water Congress, probably in 2023. The negotiations with the preferred candidate are on going and the chosen host for the XVIII Congress will be announced in Daegu during the XVII World Water Congress.

IWRA MEMBERSHIP



IWRA MEMBERSHIP SPACE

Following the significant transition made in 2018 by IWRA to a cloud-based membership platform, IWRA members enjoyed new and improved functionalities offered by this new tool. In addition to the existing member on-line options of accessing Water International, managing memberships and profiles, and voting in IWRA elections, the new features included:

- **New improved networking functions** to better connect with other professionals, experts, organisations, institutions, etc., sending private messages or starting discussions when desired. Members can also more extensively complete their profile, adding more details on their background and studies.
- **A better news feed with up-to-date announcements**, keeping members posted on new publications (Water International, Policy Briefs, project reports, etc.), upcoming events and webinars, calls for abstracts, papers and project proposals, etc.
- **The ability to post and search for professional opportunities**, services and calls for contributions from across the IWRA Community. The Executive Office added a dedicated section on IWRA's Community where members can search and find employment and scholarship opportunities, internships, career support, and much more.
- **Payments are now possible by credit card** to renew

memberships and make donations to the Association.

- **Improved communications** (log-in with Facebook, LinkedIn or Google accounts, SMS messages to members, future registration to events, etc.)
- **A new welcome message** clearly explaining all the membership benefits, as well as options to better engage with IWRA

MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

IWRA membership by the end of the year stood at approximately 600 members, including an increasing proportion of student memberships. The numbers started to increase at the very end of the year, when the registration to the **XVII World Water Congress** opened, which means the number of members should significantly increase in 2020, approaching the Congress itself, as IWRA members receive a discount on the Congress registration fee.

The Association is still actively communicating and sharing knowledge with members, partners and influencers (e.g. UN-Water, OECD, UNESCO, Taylor & Francis, K-water, World Water Council, Asia Water Council, etc.). It worked hard to retain current members and attract new ones, with dedicated communication campaigns and stands at international events, focusing on membership benefits.

TASK FORCES

2019 was an intense year for IWRA Task Forces. While the two initial task forces on Water Quality and Smart Water Management were quiet over the year – as both projects were achieved – three new project-led Task Forces were launched over the year:



- **Water Security Task Force:** led by Mary Trudeau, Project Officer. This Task Force gathers a group of experts from among IWRA's membership to assist in the GWSI Paper Series review and to address other

water security issues relevant to IWRA projects. After an open call to IWRA members to join a Water Security Task Force, a group of 12 panellists was selected.



- **Climate Change Task Force:** led by David Molden, Director on the Executive Board. This task force gathers another group of expert IWRA members, investigating a number of topics linked to

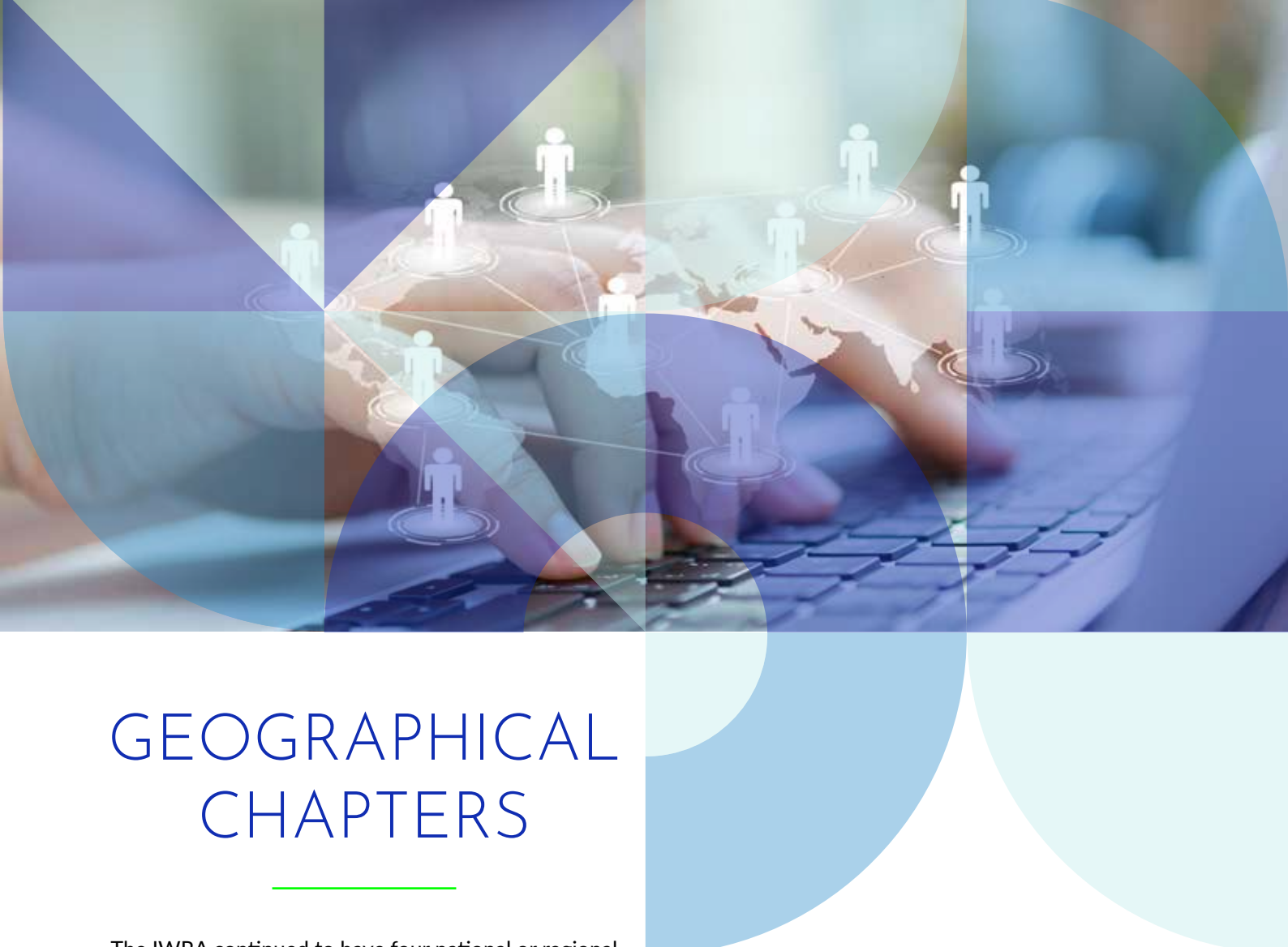
water and climate change, like Climate Change and Ground Water, impacts of afforestation, or carbon dioxide removal. After an open call to IWRA members to join a Water Security Task Force, a group of panellists was selected.



- **IWRA 50th Anniversary:** led by Renée Martin-Nagle, IWRA Treasurer. This Task Force is slightly unusual as it does not have a thematic focus, but rather a historical perspective, as it is looking for

key outcomes and activities to organise at IWRA to celebrate the Association's 50th Anniversary in 2021. Working with an advisory group of long-time members of IWRA, including past Presidents, the Task Force will develop a strategy and plan to make the 50th Anniversary a pivotal celebration for the Association.

Task Forces have proven to be an effective way of engaging more deeply with active members on specific topics and projects, giving them opportunities to get directly involved in projects that IWRA is partnering with other international organisations to deliver. These are opportunities that members might not so easily access without IWRA's support. Membership to Task Forces is by application and all Task Force members have to agree to a basic set of terms of reference. Plans have also been developed in 2019 to allow Task Forces to head up larger groups of members with less strict applications procedures and to have more freedom to decide their own projects and activities.



GEOGRAPHICAL CHAPTERS

The IWRA continued to have four national or regional chapters, namely in China, Oceania, Japan and India, as well as a student chapter at the University of Illinois.

CHINA

The China Chapter is chaired by Yuanyuan Li at the Chinese Ministry for Water Resources, and has an active membership of over 110 members, making it the largest. Proposals for possible future workshops held between World Water Congresses in China were discussed in 2019.

OCEANIA

IWRA's newest chapter was initially chaired by Board Director, Gary Jones, from the Australian Water Partnership. However, due management changes of the Chapter it transferred last year to Nicholas Schofield and then to Gregory Lawrence Leslie, both at the University of New South Wales. Set up under a new model of sharing revenues from membership in the region to support local activities, this Chapter continued to perform well and engage with regional and local IWRA members.

INDIA

The India Chapter became more active during 2019. This Chapter worked to raise its profile and encourage more members from India to join IWRA. This effort translated in the increase of institutional membership applications, distributions of IWRA India Journal to thousands of Indian institutions, and participation in international events such as the 6th India Water Week. Uday Chander from the Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) in India is leading this chapter today.

OTHER CHAPTERS

IWRA is continuing to work with the Japan Chapter and is following up on discussions with constituencies around the world to establish new Chapters, for instance in Central Europe, Latin American, the Republic of Korea, and in Africa.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS AND EXTERNAL EVENTS

In 2019, IWRA continued to liaise with many international water organisations and institutions to further its work and activities. The main partnerships and collaborations included:

OFFICE FRANÇAIS DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ (FORMER AGENCE FRANÇAISE POUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ - AFB)

The IWRA continues to welcome the grant given by the AfB (the French Agency for Biodiversity), formerly provided by ONEMA prior to changes in the French public sector. This grant supported IWRA's work to advance collective and inter-disciplinary understanding and knowledge sharing to address the issues related to water resource management, particularly in relation to water quality and adaptation to climate change. This report serves as a summary of activities undertaken in 2019 in the spirit of this agreement.

KOREA WATER FORUM - 2019 KOREA INTERNATIONAL WATER WEEK (KIWW) & WORLD WATER CITIES FORUM



IWRA participated for the fourth consecutive year at KIWW in the Republic of Korea. Organised by the Korea Water Forum and co-hosted by the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, K-water and Daegu Metropolitan City,

it brought together hundreds of participants from 83 countries, which engaged in more than 60 sessions, events and activities. The theme in 2019 was "Sustainable Water Management for Humans and Nature". This event took place from September 4th-7th in Daegu. Seven IWRA Board members, four Executive Office Staff, as well as the Editor-in-Chief of Water International represented the Association participated. Many international water organisations and institutions were also present from all over the world. This offered a chance for IWRA representatives to promote the XVII World Water Congress that will be hosted at the same venue. IWRA had a stand focusing on the XVII Congress, and also held a joint meeting with the various committees responsible for delivering this major event.

IWRA participated in many sessions and related events, including:

- The 2019 Korea International Water Industry Conference hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a presentation made by IWRA's President, Gabriel Eckstein
- The Water Leader's Round Table represented by both Gabriel Eckstein, and IWRA Past President, Patrick Lavarde, who also attended the World Water Partnership meeting of high-level participants
- The KIWW 2019 Opening Ceremony where IWRA's Executive Director, Callum Clench, joined a panel discussion, and then later took part as a judge of the World Water Challenge as in 2018
- The World Water Cities Forum and Water Industry Forum on which Board member and Chair of the International Scientific Committee for the XVII World Water Congress, Gary Jones, gave presentations
- A led IWRA session on the interlinks of Water Security and Water Quality organised by IWRA Project Officer, Alice Colson, to promote the Association's and further its work on these areas



IWRA Executive Director Callum Clench and IWRA Board Director Farda Imanov at UNESCO.



World Water Council's 68th Board of Governors Meeting in Beirut.



Asia International Water Week (AIWW) Stakeholders Consultation Meeting.

UNESCO - I-WSSM AND THE WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME (WWAP)

Various members of the IWRA Executive Office and Executive Board attended the UNESCO International Water Conference held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris from May 14th-15th. This included Past President Patrick Lavarde, Secretary General Guy Fradin, Executive Board Director Farda Imanov, as well as Executive Director Callum Clench, and Policy Officer Alice Colson.

The meeting also provided the occasion to finalise the agreement between the UNESCO i-WSSM and IWRA to produce the annual Global Water Security Issues (GWSI) Papers series to collect case studies on emerging and future global water security issues in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. IWRA is now managing the collection and editing of the case studies being used in this publication.

Given the complexity and range of the topic of water security, a sub-theme is selected for each GWSI Paper Series. In 2019, the sub-theme was: Water Reuse within a Circular Economy Context. This collaboration is expected to continue on an on-going basis.

The World Water Development Report (WWDR) 2021 Developmental Workshop hosted by UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) also took place September 19-20 in Villa Colombella, Perugia, Italy. IWRA's Communications Officer, Ignacio Deregibus, participated on this workshop on behalf of IWRA. This inception meeting focused on valuing water and the complexity of addressing this important issue. Many

interesting discussions and breakout sessions took place, including brainstorming on the value of water from cultural, social, economic, and environmental and governance points of view. The first draft structure and outline of the report with its annotated table of contents and potential commitments was debated by all 27 organisations and institutions present. IWRA will continue to be engaged in these discussions and contribute to the upcoming report in 2021.

WORLD WATER COUNCIL (WWC) & 9TH WORLD WATER FORUM KICK-OFF MEETING

The WWC was been a strong supporter of the IWRA for many years, including more recently sponsoring and actively participating in the XVI World Water Congress, as well as funding further activity on water quality, continuing the work sponsored by the former ONEMA organisation, now under the AfB. The IWRA and the WWC have a long history, as the WWC was created as a result of the Cairo Statement that came out of the VII World Water Congress held in Cairo in 1996.

IWRA was also honoured to have been elected to join the Board of Governors (BoG) for the World Water Council (WWC) at elections held in Marseille on December 1st, 2018. IWRA is represented on the BoG by Vice President Yuanyuan Li (Governor) and Executive Director Callum Clench (Alternate Governor). This led to more frequent interaction with the BoG in 2019 at their meetings, including the 68th BoG Meeting in Beirut in April, the 69th BoG Meeting in Senegal in June, and the 70th BoG Meeting in Cairo in October. IWRA also co-chairs the World Water Council's Water Security Task Force.



OECD's Water Governance Initiative Meeting.

In addition, IWRA is working as a key strategic partner in the preparations for the 9th World Water Forum, which will take place in Dakar, in 2021, focusing on “Water Security for Peace and Development”. This included attending the Stakeholder Kick-Off Meeting in Senegal in 2019. The official Kick-Off Meeting took place on June 20th-21st in Diamniadio, Dakar, and brought together around four hundred participants. This meeting aimed at orienting the preparatory process and discuss the four priorities of the thematic framework, which are: Water Security, Rural Development, International Cooperation, and Means and Tools.

Both the Board and the Executive Office of IWRA were represented during the Kick-Off Meeting: Patrick Lavarde, IWRA's Past President, which is also the co-President of the World Water Forum; Guy Fradin, IWRA Secretary General, was the Rapporteur for the theme of Rural Development. Callum Clench and Alice Colson, from the Executive Office, also participated in the meeting and were rapporteurs for the Water Security theme, for which IWRA was recognised as a Strategic Partner.

This event also provided an opportunity to sign an MoU with Senegal and the World Water Council to strengthen collaboration between the three parties turning IWRA's XVII World Water Congress (11-15 May 2020, Daegu, Korea) establishing it as a key milestone on the road to the Dakar, leveraging the water security theme of the XVII Congress.

ASIA WATER COUNCIL (AWC)

IWRA has been an active member of the AWC since 2017. Since then, IWRA has been elected to the Board of Governors (BoG) for the Council. The election results

were announced in March 2019 during their General Assembly in Manila, Philippines. IWRA was initially represented by IWRA Vice-President, Yuanyuan Li, as Governor, and Gary Jones as Alternate Governor. Due to other work obligations, these positions were later taken over by Mingna Wang as Governor and Callum Clench as Alternate Governor.

IWRA also participated in the 10th AWC BoG Meeting in Wuhan, China, in September, and then in the AWC's 2nd Asia International Water Week (AIWW) Stakeholders Consultation Meeting, in November in Jakarta, Indonesia. IWRA is a strategic partner in the preparatory process for the AIWW planned for October 2020 in Bali, Indonesia.

OECD - WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE (WGI)

IWRA supports the OECD's Water Governance Initiative, an international multi-stakeholder network of members from the public, private and non-for-profit sectors gathering twice a year to share good practices in support of better governance in the water sector. IWRA has been part of this initiative since almost the beginning, and specifically supported the WGI through the publication of a Special Issue of Water International dedicated to this subject and the work being undertaken in the WGI, followed by a dedicated IWRA webinar on WGI held in October. In 2019, a supporting Policy Brief was started that will be published in 2020. IWRA sits in the working groups for indicators and best practice.

IWRA's Communications Officer, Ignacio Deregibus, represented the Association at OECD's 12th WGI meeting held in Berlin on June 20th and 21st. More than 84 people participated in this productive event, used to launch of OECD's report on “Applying the OECD Principles on Water Governance to Floods: A Checklist for Action”. Updates on WGI latest contributions to Global Agendas (SDGs, COP, Habitat III) and progress made on WGI working groups on Capacity Development and Indicators were also provided. Furthermore, participants also discussed very interesting peer-review National Policy Water Dialogues with Argentina, Peru and Brazil; water security and governance challenges in Africa; and learned more about Germany's water governance; and, discussed the role of women in water governance.



Federico Properzi, Chief Technical Adviser of UN-Water Technical Advisory Unit, addresses the 31st UN-Water Meeting.



Alice Colson, IWRA Project Officer during the 1st World Summit on Leaving No One Behind in Geneva.



2019's World Water Week.

UN-WATER

IWRA is a partner of UN-Water. In 2019, IWRA Executive Director, Callum Clench, attended both the 30th and 31st UN-Water meetings on behalf of the Association. The first meeting was held in Rome, Italy, at the headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) between January 30th and January 31st. He also joined the SDG 6 Integrated Monitoring Initiative Steering Committee meeting, which took place the day before at the FAO headquarters. The second UN-Water meeting took part in Stockholm, Sweden, 23-24 August before World Water Week.

During the first meeting, participants discussed upcoming high-level events and reports prepared on water and sanitation policy and practice issues, including on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. They also reviewed the consultation process that was undertaken during the final stages of the preparation of the Synthesis Report, including recommendations for the next Synthesis Report. During the meeting, the report from the SDG 6 Public Dialogue was launched. Participants also addressed on-going work on SDG 6 indicators, upcoming global awareness-raising events, and the UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution that calls for two high-level meetings – one in 2021 and one in 2023 – on water and sanitation issues, and options for how UN-Water could contribute to the preparations for these meetings.

At the two-day meeting in Stockholm, several of the initiatives discussed focused on how to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, with particular emphasis on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. These included the Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, which is supported by the

custodians of the SDG 6 indicators. Participants received a preview of one of the flagship products of UN-Water's Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6, the SDG Data Portal, which was officially launched on 27 August 2019.

IWRA also participated in UN Water's "The Pipe" meetings focussed on communication around water issues, and supported both the UN Water Day with a dedicated webinars in 2019 held on World Water Day and on World Toilet Day both on the theme of "Leaving no one behind". Discussions focused around issues such as expanding access to safe water and sanitation through new, insightful environmental, economic and judiciary perspectives and initiatives.

SOURCE TO SEA (S2S)

Under the leadership of the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), IWRA is member of the steering committee of this multi-stakeholder initiative that helps freshwater, coastal and marine experts to contribute to global knowledge generation on source-to-sea interconnections, connect and engage in collaborative projects, promote best practices, and take collaborative action to improve the management of land, water, coastal and marine linkages. In 2019 IWRA launched a call for articles to go in a special issue of Water International focussed on S2S.

WATERLEX AND THE 1ST WORLD SUMMIT ON LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

IWRA collaborated with WaterLex to organise the 1st World Summit on 'Leaving No One Behind' that took place in Geneva from February 7th and 8th, 2019. The event was also supported by the World Intellectual



Group photo from participants representing their organisations and institutions at IAH2019.

Property Organisation (WIPO), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the Swiss Agency for Sustainability and Development, and Valser.

More than 100 experts, academics, water professionals and stakeholders from international organisations, government agencies, research institutions, non-profit institutions, and the private sector participated in this successful event. The format of the Summit was rather different from the usual conference, focusing around a competition to find the most innovative solutions for water and sanitation that will solve problems for people in marginalised communities. The Summit Scientific Committee based its choices on criteria linked to the human rights to water and sanitation, including a human rights-based approach. The finalists had to demonstrate that the projects could be accessible to local communities, affordable and suitable for scaling up, through replication and policy reform.

The Innovation Award was selected by the judges on day one from the six finalist Flagship Projects, which had been pilot tested, and which showed the best chance of success. The winner in this category was IWRA member, Shervin Hashemi, a postdoctoral researcher from Seoul National University, with a nature-based solution for sanitation waste re-use as fertiliser. The project was to be tested in rural Vietnam, using bio seeds as a source of locally-based biological treatment. On day two, three prizes were awarded from fourteen finalist Exploration Projects for human rights-based approaches, such as community-managed rainwater harvesting, community-driven solutions in partnership with local government, and sanitation solutions for disabled children.

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE (SIWI) WORLD WATER WEEK

2019's World Water Week (25-30 August) hosted by SIWI had the theme, "Water For Society: Including All", fitting with this year's World Water Day theme of "Leaving No One Behind". The programme not only focused on issues pertaining to water, but also how to collectively achieve the overall 2030 Agenda. Special attention was given to marginalized and vulnerable groups to ensure that no decision about them is taken without their participation.

IWRA Past President, Patrick Lavarde, as well as Executive Director, Callum Clench, and several IWRA Executive Board members including Asma Bachikh, Guillermo Donoso, Tom Soo, and Birgitta Liss Lymer were in attendance in various capacities. IWRA was directly involved in several sessions, including one hosted by WaterLex on "Water and sanitation solutions for the people left behind" as a follow-up to the 1st World Summit on Leaving No One Behind; and one hosted by Xylem on "Smart water management for water safety, accessibility and affordability", where IWRA focused on some of the key lessons learned from its Smart Water Management report.

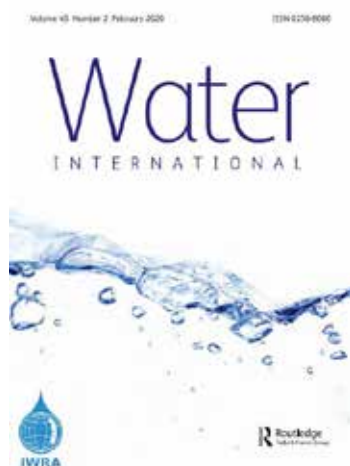
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS (IAH)

The IAH Spanish Chapter (IAH-GE) and the Centre of Hydrogeology of the University of Malaga (CEHIUMA) hosted the 46th International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) Congress in Malaga, Spain in 2019. IWRA attended this meeting, represented by IWRA President, Gabriel Eckstein, and IWRA Treasurer, Renée Martin-Nagle. The Congress focused on "Groundwater Management and Governance – Coping with Water Scarcity".

Gabriel Eckstein is one of the commissioners for the IAH commission on transboundary aquifers, so he took part in a preconference workshop focusing on this. He was also invited to give a keynote lecture at the 46th IAH Congress, as part of IWRA's initiative to engage with its sister organization. Gabriel was one of the high-level speakers at this successful IAH congress, which attracted some 750 delegates from 80 countries. Professor Eckstein presented on "Regulating What We Can't See: International Law and Transboundary Aquifers" together with IWRA member, Rosario Sanches, co-author of this paper with him, also attending in Malaga.

PUBLICATIONS AND WEBINARS

WATER INTERNATIONAL



In 2019, eight issues of Water International were produced, including 4 special issues. The special issues were on:

- *Rural–Urban Water Struggles: Urbanizing Hydrosocial Territories and Evolving Connections, Discourses and Identities*; February (44.2) Lena Hommes, Rutgerd Boelens, Leila M. Harris & Gert Jan Veldwisch, eds.
- *Legal Perspectives on Bridging Science and Policy*; April (44.3) Mara Tignino, Raya Marina Stephan, Renée Martin-Nagle & Owen McIntyre, eds. (AIDA)
- *Flood Resilience of Private Properties*; July (44.5) Thomas Hartmann, Willemijn van Doorn-Hoekveld, Marleen van Rijswijk & Tejo Spit, eds.
- *From the law of the river toward the rights of the river?* November (44.6-7) Cathy Suykens, Herman Kasper Gilissen & Marleen van Rijswijk, eds.

IWRA POLICY BRIEFS



Five Policy Brief documents were published in 2019, either as part of the “Blue Series” based on *Water International* special issues, or otherwise as part of the “Green Series”. The latter are typically published in association with key partners.

The four new “Blue Series” policy briefs produced:

- Water International Policy Brief N° 11: *Towards Equitable Water Governance*
- Water International Policy Brief N°12: *Putting Water Security to Work*
- Water International Policy Brief N°13: *Should Rivers Have Rights?*
- Water International Policy Brief N°14: *Bridging Science and Policy Through Law*

One “Green Series” Policy Brief was also published:

- IWRA Policy Briefs N° 3: *Compensation for Flood Storage* – also available in Czech, French, Portuguese and Spanish

IWRA UPDATE



IWRA Update, the Association's quarterly newsletter, produced its usual four editions in 2019. The objective of the newsletter is to inform IWRA members and key partners on the latest and upcoming activities of the Association, as well as recent water news, publications and information. These four newsletters all made available entirely online. They were distributed via email, as well as promoted on social media channels, such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn. For each issue, contributions from members through open calls were requested to update the IWRA community on their latest activities and research.

IWRA WEBINARS



In 2019, IWRA held webinars on eight different topics. These online events were based on either selected special issues of *Water International*, or in relation to other water related events:

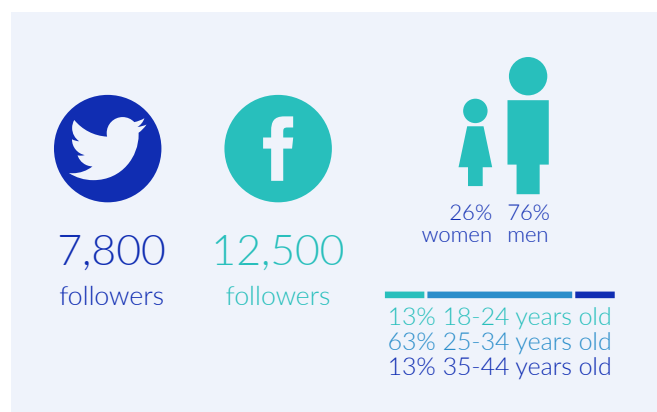
- Webinar n°19: *World Water Day 2019, Leaving No One Behind* – 22 March 2019
- Webinar n°20: *The Global Water Security Challenge* – 16 April 2019
- Webinar n°21: *Bridging Science and Policy: Legal Perspectives* – 16 May 2019
- Webinar n°22: *Leaving No One Behind* – 27 June 2019
- Webinar n°23: *What South Korea Can Offer the World of Smart Water Management* – 18 July 2019
- Webinar n°24: *Smart Water Management: Current Water Challenges Around the World* – 25 September 2019
- Webinar n°25: *World Toilet Day 2019, Leaving No One Behind* – 19 November 2019
- Webinar n°26: *Rights of the River* – 5 December 2019

Overall, 825 registrants participated for free in these eight webinars. Throughout the year, all webinars were recorded and are now accessible on IWRA's website and YouTube channel.

MEDIA COVERAGE

IWRA's work and activities were also promoted through various media channels. The main focus was via social media channels (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and YouTube) and published articles in journals and other publications.

For instance on Twitter, IWRA attained more than 7,800 followers with more than 1,500 tweets overall, tweeting at least once or twice a day. On Facebook, IWRA has gained more than 12,500 followers (26% women, 76% men; 63% 25-34 years old, 13% 18-24 years old, and 13% 35-44 years old), and over 12,000 likes. These numbers continue to increase monthly, posting too at least once or twice a day.



Media articles on dedicated journals, magazines and portals included the following:

- *Future Eco* interview with IWRA's President, Gabriel Eckstein, in March
- IISD Article on "*The Transformative Potential of Women in Water Resource Management*" by Callum Clench, in March coinciding with International Women's Day
- The Korea Herald article on "*World Water Day 2019*" by Callum Clench, also in March
- Thomson Reuters Foundation article on "*Thirsty Singapore taps into innovation to secure its water future*" by IWRA's President, Gabriel Eckstein, in June
- IISD Article on "*Water and Waste: Opportunity Knocks*" by Ignacio Deregibus, in July.

WEBSITE

A renewed IWRA website was launched in October, presenting a more interactive interface and a fresher look. The website is completely redesigned with new features and more user-friendly menus and sections, as well as security enhancements. Among the many changes, there are better navigation menus, with clearer information and updates on what IWRA is doing, including IWRA member benefits, recent publications, current projects, etc.



Over the year, IWRA's website received over 150,000 visitors and more than 480,000 visits.



PROJECTS

In 2019, IWRA continued to develop new opportunities with key partners and members through funded projects. The Association started a new project together with UNESCO i-WSSM on water security, as set out below. Ultimately, IWRA's mission via this sort of project is to improve and expand the understanding of water issues through education, research and information exchange, and to continually improve water resource decision-making by improving our collective understanding of the physical, ecological, chemical, institutional, social, and economic aspects of water.

WATER SECURITY

IWRA started to work in close collaboration UNESCO Headquarters and UNESCO i-WSSM (International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management) to document relevant case studies on water security issues. Both organisations co-publish annually the Global Water Security Issues (GWSI) Paper Series. Given the complexity and range of the topic of water security, a different theme is selected each year to provide a focus for the GWSI Paper Series. IWRA manages and edits the collection of case studies to identify current issues, broadening discourse, and sharing diverse perspectives on the sub-theme of Water Reuse within a Circular Economy Context. The specific objectives of the GWSI Paper Series include:

- To share research and studies on similar topics in order to strengthen cooperation among researchers engaged in the water sector internationally
- To encourage and enhance research on water security-related issues
- To identify solutions for improving global water security-related issues and to contribute towards achieving water security in the long term

In August, IWRA launched a call for abstracts and in October selected a group of distinguished researchers to produce full case studies that contribute to the better understanding of the economic, social, political, technological and institutional influences on this water security topic in connection to the SDGs.

The IWRA set up a Task Force of members who are water security experts to assist in the GWSI Paper Series review and to address other water security issues relevant to IWRA projects. After an open call to IWRA members to join a Water Security Task Force, a group of 12 panellists was selected in 2019.



IWRA

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