



International
Water Resources
Association

www.iwra.org



IWRA WORLD WATER CONGRESS PROSPECTUS

The International Water Resources Association (IWRA) organises and supports international water congresses and events related to advancing water resources knowledge, policy, and management around the world. Since 1973, IWRA has held a World Water Congress every three years in different locations worldwide. This event is the world's largest congress linking water researchers and policy practitioners.



The objective of the World Water Congress is to provide a knowledge exchange platform where participants can share experiences, promote global dialogue, and present cutting-edge research findings in the field of water resources. Detailed knowledge of this pattern is held within the IWRA but is often not known, except in general terms, to the host committee in the country where the Congress is being held in a given year.

This document is for information purposes only. The objectives of this document are to:

- Assist national, regional and local organisations in making the decision whether to submit a candidature to host the IWRA World Water Congress.
- Establish a preliminary check list of the organisational tasks related to the preparation and realisation of the World Water Congress.
- Help to ensure effective communication and understanding between IWRA and the bidding organisation.
- Ensure the continuity of traditions of procedure and ambience of the Congress.



The upcoming XVIII World Water Congress will be held in Beijing, China, from 11-15 September 2023. The Congress titled '*Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature*', will be hosted by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China and organized by the General Institute of Hydropower, Water Resources Planning and Design at the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, and the IWRA's China Chapter.

More information will be made available at:

www.iwra.org and

www.worldwatercongress.com



IWRA WORLD WATER CONGRESS HISTORY

For over five decades, IWRA World Water Congresses have provided excellent opportunities to identify major global themes concerning the water agenda. The World Water Congress convenes a wide range of water development stakeholders, including academia, experts, professionals, international organisations, the public sector, civil society and the youth.

The IWRA World Water Congress is one of the longest-running international water events. The first Congress was held in 1973 with the theme, "Importance and Problems of Water in the Human Environment in Modern Times". It formed part of the world water community's first earnest attempts to address global water issues (e.g., the ground-breaking Stockholm Declaration of 1972 and the Mar del Plata conference of 1977). Since then, the Congress has been held in various countries on a triennial basis, attracting high-profile international attention and bringing together major water stakeholders.

The Congress has a proven record of highlighting and addressing emerging developments and leading thought regarding global water management. For example, the 1994 IWRA World Water Congress in Cairo for example resulted in the resolution to create the World Water Council. In 2008, the process of organising the Congress helped the city of Montpellier establish a critical mass and local synergy between water stakeholders that eventually gave rise to the newly created National French Water Cluster. Another more recent example from 2015 is the international spotlight and momentum that the Congress brought to Scotland's ambitious Hydronation programme. And, in 2021 the XVII Congress of IWRA was officially announced as key milestone to the 9th World Water Forum in Senegal, in the lead-up to the UN 2023 Water Conference.



1/ Chicago, USA [1973] - 2/ New Delhi, India [1975] - 3/ Mexico City, Mexico [1979] - 4/ Buenos Aires, Argentina [1982] - 5/ Brussels, Belgium [1985] - 6/ Ottawa, Canada [1988] - 7/ Rabat, Morocco [1991] - 8/ Cairo, Egypt [1994] - 9/ Montreal, Canada [1997] - 10/ Sydney, Australia [2000] - 11/ Madrid, Spain [2003] - 12/ New Delhi, India [2005] - 13/ Montpellier, France [2008] - 14/ Porto-de-Galinhas, Brazil [2011] - 15/ Edinburgh, Scotland [2015] - 16/ Cancun, Mexico [2017] - 17/ Daegu, Rep. of Korea [2021] - 18/ Beijing, China [2023].



BENEFITS FOR HOSTING THE WORLD WATER CONGRESS

Congress benefits include but are not limited to:

- High level of **international visibility** for the host city and country, as a leader on water resources.
- Accelerated collaboration between the local and national water communities, ensuring new **partnership opportunities** in the water sector.
- Global promotion of local and national **water expertise** and an opportunity for contribution to key international scientific and policy debates about recent water issues.
- **Economic benefits** for the host tourism industry resulting from the in-person participation of thousands of Congress attendees.
- **Reputational added value** given the World Water Congress' status as a well-established and globally recognised Congress in the water sector.
- Well established international and regional **media coverage**.
- **High-level representation** from a wide range of sectors including heads of international organisations, Government agencies, the private sector, along with award recipients and renown academics.
- **Engagement and networking** with the international water community.
- **Among many others!**

IWRA provides appropriate support to Congress hosts to help all parties achieve their objectives and leave a legacy in the community.



SELECTION CRITERIA & FINANCIAL GUIDELINES

Candidates to host the IWRA World Water Congress should consider four main criteria if they decide to submit a full proposal based on the Terms of Reference, as they will be kindly requested provide further information on each of the following after the letter of intent is accepted by IWRA.

These criteria are:

1. Organisation and Management
2. Scientific Quality and Capacity
3. Logistical Quality and Capacity
4. Financial Stability and Capacity including support by regional and/or national water authorities

Note: Candidates for all upcoming Congresses are encouraged to meet or exceed the guidelines for financial arrangements, which are derived from the experience of previous Congresses.

More information about the call for latest IWRA World Water Congress can be found at:
[www.iwra.org/
callsforworldwatercongress](http://www.iwra.org/callsforworldwatercongress)

Terms of Reference

The applicants must acknowledge agreement with these basic terms of reference when submitting their Expression of Interest:

- The Host Organisation shall pay a fee of €550,000 to IWRA to host the Congress, paid in agreed instalments.
- The Host Organisation shall, at its own cost, send representatives to the World Water Congress host city, to announce its successful candidature and to create links for the Congress.
- The Host Organisation agrees that the World Water Congress will last for 5 consecutive days, starting on a date of its own choosing, with consideration given to the expected timing of other significant water conferences.
- The Host Organisation shall prepare and manage the website and brochure to promote the World Water Congress, ready to go live 12-18 months prior to the Congress.
- The Host Organisation shall prepare the registration website and revised brochures ready to go live 9 months before the Congress.
- The Host Organisation agrees to hold monthly update teleconferences with the IWRA Executive Office beginning 24 months before the Congress.
- The Host Organisation (and/or its partners) agrees that it is responsible for the entire funding for the organisation and hosting of the Congress and that IWRA shall not be responsible for any financial losses incurred by the Host Organisation through the organisation or hosting of the Congress.
- The Host Organisation will collect and keep all registration and associated fees for the Congress (including stands), as well as any sponsorship that they are able to secure.
- The Host Organisation agrees to arrange and pay for a site visit of the conference venue for the IWRA President, Executive Director and Chair of the International Scientific Committee at least 18 months prior to the Congress.
- The Host Organisation agrees to cover Congress registration fees, hotel costs, and travel costs for a minimum of 20 individuals to be nominated by IWRA (e.g., keynote speakers, IWRA president and certain Board members, IWRA's Executive Director, the ICS chair, etc.).
- The Host Organisation agrees to work with the IWRA Executive Office to prepare official invitations for VIP and key-note speakers at least 12 months prior to the Congress.



IWRA

ABOUT IWRA

The International Water Resources Association's (IWRA) goal is to improve and expand the understanding of water resources through education, research, and information exchange. This is based on the core belief that sustainability requires interdisciplinary and international cooperation.

Mission

To be a cross-disciplinary, membership-focused, international association that uses events, projects, publications, and research to facilitate and inspire dialogue, knowledge sharing, and science-based solutions for the sustainable management of water resources across all sectors, scales, and communities at the interface between science and policy.

Vision

To be the leading global platform and community of researchers, educators, policy-influencers, and managers addressing local to global water-related challenges, and improving water outcomes for all.

Values

IWRA's culture is driven by respect, transparency, collaboration, and equal opportunity. We foster and value international cross-cultural and crossdisciplinary communication and working practices. We are non-political and care most about the sustainable management of water resources to ensure that they are adequately available for present and future generations and for the environment

CONTACT

The IWRA Executive Office is available to address any questions on the Call for Bids for upcoming IWRA World Water Congresses.

Please contact:

IWRA Executive Office

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