



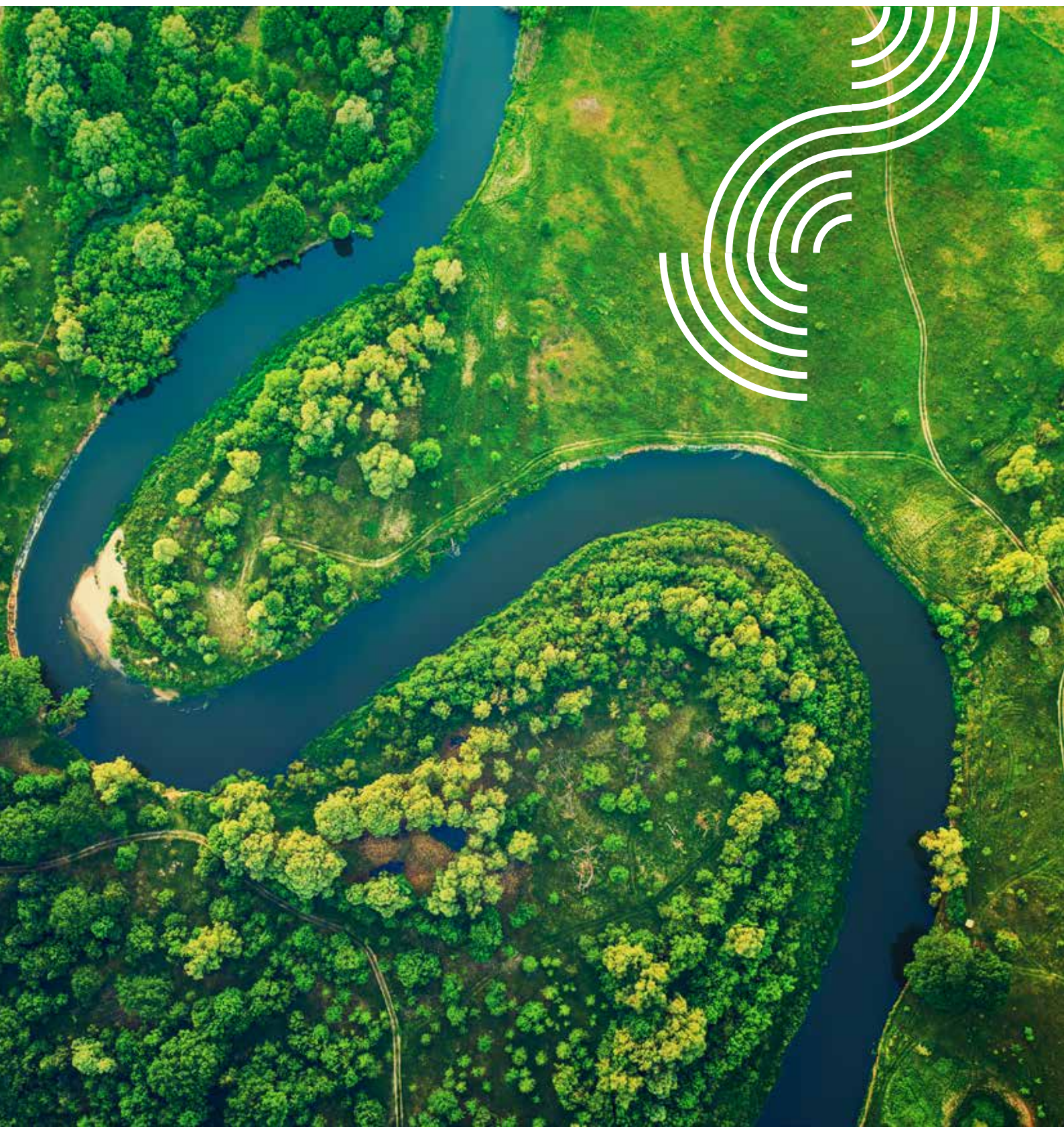
*International  
Water Resources  
Association*

# Activity Report 2022



[www.iwra.org](http://www.iwra.org)







# ACTIVITY REPORT 2022

# INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

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# **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Yuanyuan Li**





After two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 has been a wonderful year of reunions and getting back to “business as usual”. It was also my first year serving as President of IWRA. In

2022, our water community gathered in many places, including Dakar, Senegal, for the 9th World Water Forum; Dushanbe, Tajikistan, for the International High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action (“Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2028”); Stockholm, Sweden, for World Water Week; Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, for Climate COP 27; New York, U.S.A., for the Preparatory Meeting for the 2023 UN Water Conference; Paris, France, for the UNESCO Groundwater Summit; and Daegu, Republic of Korea, for the Korea International Water Week—to name a few.

It has been an honour to work with such a dedicated group of water experts in the Executive Board, as well as with our numerous partner organisations. Supported by the IWRA Executive Office, we have actively engaged on numerous fronts, including projects such as the “Smart Water Cities” with K-water and the Asia Water Council, Global Water Security Issues annual reports with UNESCO i-WSSM, and other collaborative projects with UNESCO IHP, OECD, UN-Water, UN DESA, HumanRight2Water, International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO), World Water Council, Asia Water Council, and more.

Our members have also been very active, participating in various IWRA Task Forces, Working Groups, Chapters, and Committees—and our knowledge-sharing activities have been continuing at full steam, including publications in our excellent journal, *Water International*, webinars, policy briefs, and discussions for 2023 activities, including our 3<sup>rd</sup> online conference on contaminants of emerging concern, a masterclass series on implementing the human right to water, and our preparations for the XVIII World Water Congress that will take place September 11 – 16, in my city of Beijing.

Many members of IWRA’s community were especially lucky for the opportunity to come together in Paris in December to participate in various meetings with UN-Water, UNESCO, and the World Water Council. It also offered the IWRA Executive Board the chance to hold a full day of workshop meetings at our new office at 21 Rue de Madrid. It was a very productive day, one which allowed board members and the Executive Office to hold a deeper conversation about our activities and to discuss strategies for the future development/activities of the Association.

Building on this great, first year, it is my hope that IWRA will continue to enhance our leadership role at the interface of water science and policy. At the start of the year, I set the following goals for IWRA:

1. To explore and produce more influential knowledge products through the development of task forces, research projects, congresses, case studies, master classes, and more.
2. To organise more high-level and influential activities and events, therefore attracting more people across all sectors, scales, and communities at the interface between science and policy.
3. To continue our meaningful contribution to the global water agenda through our cooperation with world-renowned water resources experts and organisations, and through our participation in academic conferences, consultations, and with our membership community.
4. To expand our partnerships, agreements, and collaborations with a wide range of stakeholders, to encourage co-operation with other water-related (inter)national organisations, such as UN agencies, national departments, research institutes, universities, multinational banks, and more.

I am pleased to say that we have made excellent progress in all these areas, as you will see in this report. While 2022 has got us off to an excellent start, there is still much that we are planning to do. I look forward to reporting more to you all when we meet in Beijing in September 2023 at the XVIII World Water Congress.

# 2022, A YEAR OF FULFILLMENT

2022 was a remarkable year for IWRA. We began the year welcoming a new executive board for 2022-2024, and we ended the year with the UN Groundwater summit and executive board meeting in our new office located in Paris, France. The timeline below shows some of the most remarkable achievements of 2022.



**JANUARY**  
NEW EXECUTIVE  
BOARD FOR  
2022-2024 TAKE  
UP THEIRS  
POSTS

**MARCH**  
IWRA  
PARTICIPATES  
IN 9<sup>TH</sup> WORLD  
WATER FORUM  
IN DAKAR,  
SENEGAL  
ALONG  
WITH THE  
WORLD WATER  
ENVOYS

**MAY**  
IWRA  
CONTRIBUTES  
TO UNESCO  
EVENT -  
SCIENCE FOR A  
WATER SECURE  
WORLD IN A  
CHANGING  
ENVIRONMENT

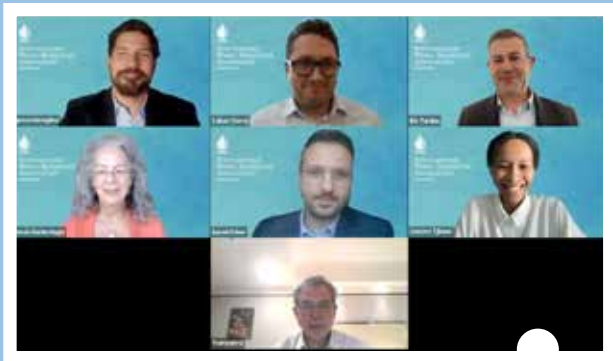


**FEBRUARY**  
SMART WATER  
CITIES PROJECT:  
REPORT  
(PHASE 1)  
PUBLISHED

**APRIL**  
MONGOLIA  
CHAPTER  
LAUNCHES  
FIRST WATER  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAMME

**JUNE**  
IWRA  
PARTICIPATES  
IN DUSHANBE  
WATER DECADE  
& WORLD  
URBAN FORUM  
CONFERENCE





**JULY**  
 IWRA  
 GROUNDWATER  
 TASK FORCE  
 GETS NEW  
 MEMBERS

**SEPTEMBER**  
 THIRD IWRA  
 GENERAL  
 ASSEMBLY  
 HELD; IWRA  
 LAC CHAPTER  
 LAUNCHED

**NOVEMBER**  
 IWRA  
 PARTICIPATES  
 IN COP27,  
 KIWW, SMART  
 CITY EXPO  
 CONGRESS  
 THROUGH  
 BOARD  
 MEMBERS

**AUGUST**  
 IWRA ATTENDS  
 STOCKHOLM  
 WATER WEEK

**OCTOBER**  
 CALL FOR  
 ABSTRACTS  
 FOR THE XVIII  
 WORLD WATER  
 CONGRESS  
 LAUNCHED

**DECEMBER**  
 IWRA'S  
 PARTICIPATES  
 IN THE UN  
 GROUNDWATER  
 SUMMIT AND  
 HOLDS IN-  
 PERSON BOARD  
 MEETING IN  
 PARIS





# AN OVERVIEW OF IWRA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS & STANDINGS IN 2022

RELAUNCH OF  
**2 MEMBER-LED  
TASK FORCES**  
(Water Quality  
and Smart Water Management)



**7 WEBINARS**  
RELATED TO  
*WATER INTERNATIONAL*  
SPECIAL ISSUES  
AND OTHER TIMELY TOPICS



**8 ISSUES** PUBLISHED  
OF IWRA'S FLAGSHIP JOURNAL,  
*WATER INTERNATIONAL*,  
INCLUDING THREE SPECIAL ISSUES



**3,570**  
ACTIVE  
MEMBERS

**5 NEW**  
"GREEN SERIES"  
POLICY BRIEFS

**200+ REGISTRANTS**  
FOR IWRA'S SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
HELD ENTIRELY ONLINE

**7 THEMATIC  
TASK FORCES**

**1 NEW EDITION**  
TO OUR ISSUES ON WATER POLICY  
AND GOVERNANCE BOOK SERIES



**6 GEOGRAPHIC  
CHAPTERS**, INCLUDING  
THE NEWLY LAUNCHED LATIN  
AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN  
(LAC) CHAPTER





# EXECUTIVE BOARD

We began 2022 welcoming a new executive board which had been elected at the end of 2021.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

In 2022, the following 8 committees were in place:

- **Awards Committee:** This committee is mandated in the IWRA bylaws and works to select the recipients of the Ven Te Chow Memorial Award and Lecture, both the Crystal and Water Drops awards, and also the IWRA's Honorary and Fellow memberships.
- **Budget & Finance Committee:** This committee has fiscal and budgetary oversight and works to develop and monitor the annual budget alongside the Executive Director, as well as raise funds and identify new revenue streams. They report to the Executive Board.
- **Congress & Events Committee:** This committee has oversight to develop policies related to Congresses and other Association events such as the online conference. They worked with the Executive Office to identify and evaluate appropriate hosts and venues for the XVIII Congress.
- **Partnerships and Affiliations Committee (formally External & Public Relations):** This committee explores IWRA partnerships and affiliations with other non-governmental, inter-governmental, governmental, civil society and private sector institutions, advising and working with the Executive Office on such initiatives.
- **Governance Committee:** This committee is mandated in the IWRA bylaws to make all necessary and appropriate decisions in the intervals between meetings of the Executive Board, to implement administrative actions, and to act in emergency situations. It is led by the IWRA President.
- **Membership Committee:** This committee develops guidelines and qualifications for membership of various categories and works to enhance membership and stimulate and coordinate active participation by members of the Association.

## THE 2022-2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD IS LISTED BELOW:

### PRESIDENT

Yuanyuan Li, China

### PAST PRESIDENT

Gabriel Eckstein, United States of America

### VICE-PRESIDENTS

Henning Bjornlund, Australia/Denmark

Rabi Mohtar, Lebanon

Lesha Witmar, Netherlands

### SECRETARY GENERAL

Eric Tardieu, France

### TREASURER

Renée Martin-Nagle, United States of America

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Governance

Yuanyuan Li, China

#### Membership

Bassel Daher, Lebanon/USA

#### Budget and Finance

Renée Martin-Nagle, USA

#### Congress & Events

Henning Bjornlund, Australia/Denmark

#### Scientific, Technical Activities & Publications

Jean Fried, France

#### Task Forces & Chapters Oversight

Rabi Mohtar, Lebanon

#### Awards

Lili Yu, China

#### Partnerships and Affiliations

Lesha Witmar, Netherlands

### DIRECTORS

Asma Bachikh, Morocco

Guy Fradin, France

Gary Jones, Australia

Karin Krchnak, Slovakia/USA

Birgitta Liss Lymer, Sweden

Trevor Magwaza, Zimbabwe

Ganesh Pangare, India

Ariana Rossen, Argentina

Dahlia Sabri, Egypt

Raya Marina Stephan, Palestine

Tom Soo, Australia/France

Pilar Carolina Villar, Brazil

Tom Williams, United Kingdom



- **Scientific, Technical, & Publications Committee:** This committee is mandated in the IWRA bylaws and works to provide proposals and advice on scientific and technical activities and publications, including Water International, policy briefs, webinars, task forces, and other projects.
- **Task Forces & Chapters Oversight:** This committee, launched in 2022, provides oversight for IWRA Chapters and Task Forces to ensure that they function within IWRA's scope, mission, and vision. They explore opportunities for expanding Chapters and Task Forces at IWRA and also opportunities for IWRA Chapters and Task Forces to undertake their own initiatives, projects, conferences, and events.

## MEETINGS & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Executive Board held a total of five formal board meetings in 2022, four of which were regular and quarterly teleconference meetings, and one which was an in-person meeting organised at the new Executive office, located at 21, rue de Madrid, Paris, France. This was the first-time meeting in person since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

In addition to these board meetings, IWRA board members and executive office staff members participated in two online strategy workshops mid-year, and one in-person team workshop in Paris, France, during the same week as the formal, in-person meeting.

On 21 September 2022, IWRA held its third online General Assembly, coordinated through Zoom. Moderated and chaired by IWRA Secretary General, Eric Tardieu, the General Assembly included short updates from IWRA President, Yuanyuan Li, Treasurer, Renée Martin-Nagle, Membership Committee Chair, Bassel Dehar, Executive Director, Callum Clench, and Deputy Director, Ignacio Deregibus. It was also supported by the Communications Director, Leonore Tjikune.

The purpose of the GA was to update members on current and upcoming activities, as well as to provide a chance for



*In-person meeting at the new Executive office*

members to learn more about the status of the Association and to ask questions. With a view of making IWRA more participatory and inclusive, an interactive Q&A session was included in the programme. Members were able to ask questions either live or via the Zoom Q&A feature.

Updates were provided to members on the financial status of IWRA, which continued to be in a stable position, and on the current membership status of the organisation, which has seen a growth.

Updates were also provided on activities, publications, and events, including new editions of Water International, the World Water Congresses, the IWRA Online Conferences, and the special congress.

**All related documents, as well as a recording of the General Assembly is available to IWRA members online at:**

**[www.iwra.org/how-we-work/#general\\_assemblies](http://www.iwra.org/how-we-work/#general_assemblies)**



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

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 2022, the committees and their members were:

### AWARDS

**Chair:** Lili Yu

**Members:** Gabriel Eckstein, Rabi Mohtar, James Nickum, Ganesh Pangare, Dahlia Sabri

### BUDGET & FINANCE

**Chair:** Renée Martin-Nagle

**Members:** Guy Fradin, Gary Jones, Birgitta Liss Lymer, Tom Soo

### CONGRESS & EVENTS

**Chair:** Henning Bjornlund

**Members:** Ganesh Pangare, Dahlia Sabri, Tom Soo, Raya Stephan, Fengyue Sun, Eric Tardieu, Tom Williams

### PARTNERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

**Chair:** Lesha Witmer

**Members:** Asma Bachikh, Gabriel Eckstein, Guy Fradin, Karin Krchnak, Dahlia Sabri, Eric Tardieu, Trevor Magwaza, Ganesh Pangare, Tom Williams, Lili Yu

### GOVERNANCE

**Chair:** Yuanyuan Li

**Members:** Gabriel Eckstein, Henning Bjornlund, Renée Martin-Nagle, Rabi Mohtar, Eric Tardieu, Lesha Witmer

### MEMBERSHIP

**Chair:** Bassel Daher

**Members:** Victor Arroyo, Asma Bachikh, Guillermo Donoso, Gary Jones, Lili Yu

### SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL & PUBLICATIONS

**Chair:** Henning Bjornlund

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

### TASK FORCES AND CHAPTERS OVERSIGHT

**Chair:** Rabi Mohtar

**Members:** Raya Stephan, Xiaojun Geng, Dahlia Sabri, Lindsey Blodgett

# EXECUTIVE OFFICE



WRA's Executive Office moved its office from Nanterre to a new central office in Paris. **The new address is 21, rue de Madrid 75008, Paris, France.**

The email address remains to be [office@iwra.org](mailto:office@iwra.org), and the telephone number for the main office has changed to +33-6-44-20-57-53.

During 2022, the IWRA Executive Office experienced significant staff changes with one promotion and three new members joining the team to assist with managing webinars and communications. The new composition of the Executive Office is listed below:

- **Executive Director:** Callum Clench remained in his position.
- **Deputy-Executive Director:** Ignacio Deregibus remained in his position.
- **Administration Officer:** Elizabeth John remained in her position
- **Communications Director:** Leonore Tjikune, who was the previous Digital Media Officer, was promoted to Communications Director in May. She now leads and manages IWRA's internal and external communications.
- **Digital Media Officer:** Awantika Pal, who joined the team in July, creates and manages IWRA's digital media communications.

- **Events Officer:** Nevena Bakalar, manages and supports IWRA's events, mainly the World Water Congress, Online Conference, and webinars.
- **Special Project Officers:**
  - Monica Garcia Quesada, and Sung-Phil Jung, who both work full-time on the Smart Water Cities project.
  - Mary Trudeau, working part-time on the UNESCO i-WSSM project.
- **Policy Brief Officers:** Claire Miller, Kara DiFrancesco, and Kris Hartley, who work part-time editing and drafting policy briefs.

**Webinar Officers:** Lindsey Blodgett and Arturo Salazar, who both joined in mid-2022, help organise webinars on a part-time basis. They've replaced Scott McKenzie, who previously managed IWRA webinars. The IWRA Board and Executive office would like to give special thanks to Scott for the years he dedicated to his role as webinar officer. His time and efforts h greatly appreciated.

- **Graphic Designer:** Nathalie Lyon-Caen, who assists in the graphic design of IWRA's reports and media products, as well as the design of our main website.
- **Webmaster:** Sergio Vallejo, ensuring the security of all IWRA websites and congress and conference databases.

As the IWRA Executive Office continues to operate under a remote working model, the full-time team is currently scattered across Belgium, Croatia, France, Portugal, Namibia, Nepal, South Africa, and Spain. The part-time members of the team are scattered across Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, and the USA. The geographic spread of our Executive Office team mirrors the geographically diverse Executive Board itself, as listed in the section below, further emphasising the international and diverse nature of the Association.



# IWRA MEMBERSHIP

## CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

In 2020, following the approval of the Executive Board, the Association announced the transition to a new IWRA membership structure. The main objective was to focus entirely on members' benefits in a much more straightforward and user-friendly manner, while putting our members back at the centre of everything we do. The new membership structure was formally launched in February 2021.

In 2022, we continued to implement the three individual membership levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. In addition, we also included two new organisational memberships: Silver and Gold Partnerships. The individual and organisational memberships presently offer different benefits for each category, adding more opportunities to collaborate, network, and engage with and within the Association.

In December 2022, IWRA also launched a new Membership grant opportunity. A membership grant offers a free, 12-month silver membership to water enthusiasts anywhere in the world who are unable to afford an IWRA Silver membership subscription otherwise, following an application process.

The membership grant will include all the relevant benefits associated with an IWRA Silver Membership, including voting rights, the ability to run for the Executive Board, and to ability to lead a Task Force/Working Group. The total number of IWRA Membership Grants offered each year will be based on the total number of Gold and Silver institutional members. IWRA's Membership Committee will review all applications and allocate all the membership grants. IWRA will have an annual intake of grant applications.

### BRONZE MEMBERSHIP FREE

Bronze Membership is a free and unlimited membership option for people who just want to keep an eye on IWRA's activities and obtain minimal benefits at no financial cost.

### SILVER MEMBERSHIP 65 USD/YEAR

Silver Membership is aimed at anyone seeking a full IWRA experience. Silver Members can network, get involved in our activities, and are given the opportunity to leverage their membership to advance their careers and reputations, possibly gaining a lead role in IWRA activities.

### GOLD MEMBERSHIP 165 USD/YEAR

Gold membership is aimed at members who want a "Premier" experience and who are planning to participate in IWRA events. This membership provides a discount on registration and provides access to many exclusive events.

### SILVER PARTNERSHIP 550 USD/YEAR

Silver partnerships offer an affordable level of membership to small and non-profit organisations that want to actively engage with IWRA members on activities and at events, and who are looking to promote their activities across the IWRA network.

### GOLD PARTNERSHIP 1500 USD/YEAR

Gold partnerships offer memberships to larger organisations that want to have more representatives actively engage with IWRA members on activities and at events (especially at the Congress), and who would like to promote their activities across the IWRA network.

## IWRA MEMBERSHIP



<b>BRONZE MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>FREE</b>	<b>BRONZE MEMBERS CAN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive newsletters and updates through our IWRA mailing list.</li> <li>• Join Task Forces and Chapters as participants.</li> <li>• Access some “members only” content through the Membership platform.</li> </ul>
<b>SILVER MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>65 USD/ YEAR</b>	<b>SILVER MEMBERS RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF BRONZE MEMBERSHIP, AS WELL AS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain access to Water International</li> <li>• Gain voting privileges for IWRA elections</li> <li>• Sit on a Task Force or Chapter Bureau</li> <li>• Run for election to the Executive Board</li> <li>• Lead or propose Webinars or Policy Briefs outside of Task Forces</li> <li>• Promote activities and publications through the IWRA network</li> <li>• Receive discounts to all IWRA Congresses and Conferences</li> <li>• Access exclusive content for paying members only (in the first year following IWRA events).</li> </ul>
<b>GOLD MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>165 USD/ YEAR</b>	<b>GOLD MEMBERS RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF SILVER MEMBERSHIP, AS WELL AS:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive discounts to all IWRA Congresses and Conferences</li> <li>• Receive invitations to President’s reception at Congress</li> <li>• Receive invitations to at least one online “Gold event” a year</li> <li>• Receive invitations to attend in-person board meetings or workshops</li> </ul>
<b>SILVER PARTNERSHIP</b>	<b>550 USD/ YEAR</b>	<b>SILVER PARTNER ORGANISATIONS CAN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include 2 Gold or 5 Silver Individual sub-members (and receive all relevant benefits).</li> <li>• Be listed as an IWRA Partner Organisation on the IWRA website.</li> <li>• Promote joint activities and institutional activities to IWRA membership.</li> <li>• List job opportunities on the membership space.</li> <li>• Receive 20% discount off any additional individual membership, for up to 150 members.</li> <li>• Become the recognised sponsor of 2 Silver annual memberships for people on low incomes.</li> </ul>
<b>GOLD PARTNERSHIP</b>	<b>1500 USD/ YEAR</b>	<b>GOLD PARTNER ORGANISATION CAN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include 6 Gold or 15 Silver Individual sub-members (and receive all relevant benefits).</li> <li>• Be listed as an IWRA Partner Organisation on the IWRA website.</li> <li>• Promote joint activities and institutional activities to IWRA membership.</li> <li>• List job opportunities on the membership space.</li> <li>• Receive 20% discount off any additional individual membership, for up to 150 members.</li> <li>• Benefit from high visibility advertising on the IWRA website and through our newsletters.</li> <li>• Receive a preferential rate on a World Water Congress stand or space on a IWRA stand.</li> <li>• Become the recognised sponsor of 6 Silver annual memberships for people on low incomes.</li> </ul>



**TASK FORCES**

Like in 2021, 2022 proved to be a productive year for IWRA Task Forces. The existing Task Forces, such as the Early Career & Young Professionals, Groundwater, Water & Climate Change, and Water Security, consolidated themselves and made excellent progress regarding their structure, governance, and activities. The revamped Water Quality and the Smart Water Management Task Forces implemented their new structure, governance, and gained momentum to carry out successful activities.

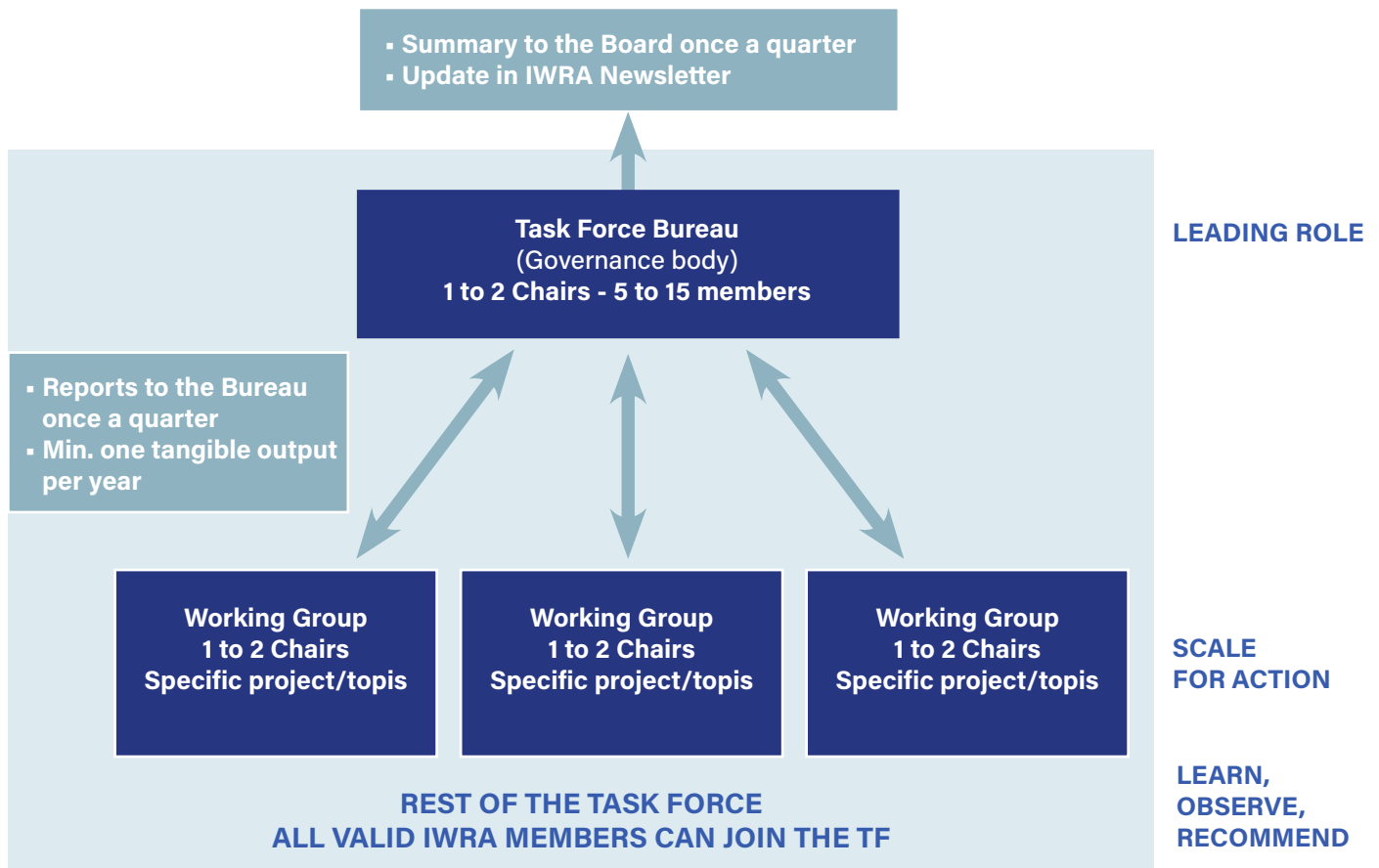
All IWRA Task continued to be led by IWRA members and enabled different Working Groups to focus on important subthemes (e.g., Climate Change, Water and Energy under Water & Climate Change Task Force); as well as specific deliverables, such as webinars, policy briefs, training, etc.; or with specific activities, including communications, partnerships, and recruitments.

A new IWRA Task Force on LAND4FLOOD was also launched at the beginning of 2022. It concentrates on natural flood retention and resilience on private land. This Task Force is a continuation of the EU COST Action LAND4FLOOD project for which IWRA collaborated on and published a Policy Brief titled, "Taking Land Seriously in Spatial Flood Risk Management". The Task Force plans to organise a LAND4FLOOD conference in 2023.

The main highlights from the various Task Forces for 2022 are as follows:

- **Early Career & Young Professionals:** This task force held its first webinar in early 2021 on Water Governance and its second one on SDGs and WASH in May 2021. Additionally, they organised innovative events, such as the Water Global Networking Cafés in April and May, which provided outreach and engagement opportunities through polls, as well as intergenerational experts' conversations and promotional videos. Led

**THE STRUCTURE OF IWRA TASK FORCES REMAINS AS FOLLOW**



by Bassel Daher since its creation in 2020, members actively managed social media, webinars, outreach and engagement, as well as mentorship programmes, with the explicit aim to help leverage the career development and visibility of Young and Early Career Professionals.

- **Groundwater:** The task force welcomed over 20 new members in June 2022. They were actively involved in four new Thematic Working Groups: (a) Climate Change, (b) Surface-Water Groundwater Interactions, (c) Governance, Policy and Transboundary Aquifers, and (d) Groundwater Quality & Pollution. These working groups join the current Bureau activities focused on (i) Capacity Building, (ii) Communication and Partnership, and (iii) Special Events. In 2022, they led several important activities to support UN 2022's thematic focus on groundwater. They contributed to the 2022 World Water Development Report and provided support for UN Water's Groundwater Summit 2022. They also participated in planning events and activities for World Water Day 2022. In Partnership with GRIPP, they also hosted webinars in its Groundwater Success Stories series on Large-scale Water Transfer Projects for Managed Aquifer Recharge, and welcomed Professor Robert M. Kalin as the incoming Chair.
- **Smart Water Management:** This task force organised and formed new governance in 2022. They largely supported the Smart Water Cities project by reading and giving feedback to the project's research output. They also reviewed articles for Water International, including the Special Issue on Smart Water Management in China. In 2022, they launched a call for new members to join and received an increase of 35 new members from 20 different countries. The task force is led by IWRA's Project Officer, Monica Garcia Quesada, and it intends to develop upcoming activities for research concerned with rural smart water management and with urban smart water management.
- **Water and Climate Change:** This task force represented IWRA on several international events, including the Water Security and Climate Change Conference and UNFCCC COP27. Through its six Working Groups on Afforestation, Carbon Dioxide Removal Strategies, Climate Change, Energy & Water, Flood Risk Management, Mountains & Plains, and Water Pollution, this Task Force remained active and met regularly to discuss their activities. It was led by David Molden, IWRA's Executive Board



Director, and Raya Stephan, Water International's Deputy Editor-in-Chief.

- **Water Quality:** This task force continued to carry out its work around making a meaningful contribution to Water Quality through the WQ Project. It received strong support from the World Water Council. Dahlia Sabri, Co-Chair of the Task Force also served as a panellist in an important session related to Water quality in UNFCCC COP27. In 2022, they also launched a call for new members, receiving an increase of 40 new members across 25 different countries. It was led by Sisira S. Withanachchi and Dahlia Sabri, IWRA Executive Board Director.
- **Water Security:** This task force contributed significantly to the work and activities of UNESCO's i-WSSM reports based on the GWSI Paper Series and in collaboration with the Smart Water Management Task Force. They also organised a webinar on GWSI issues. The task force is led by Amgad Elmahdi.
- **Land4flood:** This task force organised and formed new governance in 2023. It launched a quarterly newsletter which was distributed to over 200 experts, as well as a website. The Task Force is also preparing for the LAND4FLOOD Conference that will take place in 2023. The task force is led by Lenka Slavíková.





### **GEOGRAPHIC CHAPTERS**

IWRA continued to oversee five national and regional chapters, namely in China, Oceania, Japan, India, and Mongolia, with the launch of a sixth chapter in Latin America and the Caribbean. To be consistent in the way IWRA interacts with its different groups, the decision was taken to manage Chapters like Task Forces, with similar structures and obligations. Each Chapter will have to constitute its Bureau and report to the Executive Office and Board a minimum of once per quarter. Additionally, each Chapter will have to deliver at least one outcome per year.

For one more year, IWRA's Chapters continued to promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences across countries and regions. They also focused on further implementing the Association's mission and key activities, reaching out to an extensive regional network of IWRA members and partners.

#### **CHINA**

In 2022, the China Chapter actively led the preparation and organisation of the XVIII World Water Congress on "Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature," which will be held in Beijing (11-15 September 2023). The China Chapter is chaired by Yuanyuan Li at the General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design of the Ministry of Water Resources (GIWP), and is the largest IWRA Chapter, consisting of nearly 350 active members.

#### **JAPAN**

In 2022, the Japan Chapter continued to engage in discussions and plans to create a robust network in the region, and supported national and international related IWRA events and publications. Kaoru Takara, IWRA Board of Directors (2013-2015), continued to Chair the Association's second dedicated Chapter. In 2022, this Chapter consisted of 17 actual IWRA members, forepast

78 IWRA members and the supporting organisations including the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), the Japan Water Forum and the Society of Hydrology and Water Resources.

#### **INDIA**

In 2022, the India Chapter continued to utilise its quarterly newsletter, biannual IWRA India Journal, and workshops to increase engagement and find ways to raise the Chapter's profile amongst the global IWARA network. They welcomed A. K. Dinkar, Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP), as the new Chair.

#### **OCEANIA CHAPTER**

In 2022, the Oceania Chapter participated in the second edition of the Asia International Water Week (AIWW) that took place in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia. Represented by Chapter member Greg Leslie, they showcased their findings on reclaimed potable water in cities and discussed the value of recycling water in companies in the context of circular economy. They welcomed Andrew Dansie as the new Chair.

#### **MONGOLIA CHAPTER**

In 2022, the Mongolia Chapter kickstarted its very first activity with the launch of the Water Leadership Program in Mongolia. Participants of the program had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge around the water nexus and to participate in open dialogue to bridge sectors, continents, and generations through academy and advocacy. The Chapter continues to engage in several activities and ideas for collaborating and communicating, and was chaired by Angela Million.

#### **LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN (LAC) CHAPTER**

In 2022, the LAC Chapter was launched. They have focused on the publication of articles, organisation of webinars and workshops, as well as the promotion of knowledge about water governance for water professionals from academia, all levels of government, including national and international agencies, and industry and young professionals, and more. This Chapter was led by IWRA Board members, Guillermo Donoso and Ariana Rossen.

#### **OTHER CHAPTERS**

The Executive Office continues to work toward establishing new Chapters in Africa.



# WORLD WATER CONGRESSES

XVIII WORLD WATER CONGRESS



**XVIII  
World Water Congress**  
International Water Resources Association (IWRA)  
Beijing, China | September 11-15, 2023

**T**he XVIII World Water Congress will take place in Beijing, China, from 11 to 15 September 2023, and be themed, *"Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature"*.

Hosted by the Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China, the XVIII World Water Congress aims to promote coordination and balance between the water needs of humans and nature. The Congress will facilitate knowledge and share experiences by investigating the relationship between water, humans, and nature, by identifying and reconciling all water-related factors in a coordinated manner, and by making and implementing water management strategies and policies using systematic approaches.

**To learn more about the themes, [click here](http://www.worldwatercongress.com), or visit [www.worldwatercongress.com](http://www.worldwatercongress.com)**

## CONGRESS SECRETARIAT (CS)

The General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design, MWR, in China has set up the Congress Secretariat, which consists of six working groups: Coordinative Group, Technical Group, International Cooperative Group, Media-support Group, Budget and Finance Group, and the Logistics Group.

## WORLD WATER ENVOYS PROGRAMME

In 2022, IWRA launched its second World Water Envoys Programme, connected to the World Water Congress.

IWRA launched a competition to identify stories from communities facing Water Security issues. Applicants were tasked with submitting a short video and a single photo to explain the water security issue affecting them and their community. Five selected representatives were chosen, called "World Water Envoys". They will be selected and announced at the beginning of 2023.

The programme hopes to give young people who are not necessarily from the water world the chance to become ambassadors of their communities. They receive the opportunity to meet with international water experts, raise the profile of the water issues their communities face, and to bring concrete solutions back to where they live.

The selected World Water envoys will attend the XVII World Water Congress in Beijing. Their contribution to the congress will involve presentations in various sessions, such as High-Level Panels, and they will provide rapporteur assistance for different congress sessions. During the Opening Ceremony of the XVIII World Water Congress, the World Water Envoys will have the opportunity to talk about their water security challenge and its impacts on everyday life. They will have the opportunity to participate in panel sessions alongside prominent water experts. During the closing ceremony, the envoys will be asked to summarise what they've learned over the week, including the connections they've made that could help their community overcome its water security challenge.

## XVIII WORLD WATER CONGRESS THEMES

**Six themes will be addressed as critical for achieving  
*Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature***

### **1. Water-Human-Economy-Ecology Nexus under a Changing Environment**

- 1.1 Rules and mechanisms of natural hydrological cycling and socio-economic water cycling evolution under climate change
- 1.2 Vulnerability and adaptability of water-land-energy-food nexus
- 1.3 Balanced and coordinated development of water-economy-ecology system
- 1.4 Water security challenges in key regions
- 1.5 Water security assessment and risk management
- 1.6 Water security, human development, and economic growth linkages
- 1.7 Climate-induced risks in irrigation and water supply

### **2. Promoting Water Efficiency, Productivity and Services**

- 2.1 Water supply and demand management
- 2.2 Water use efficiency and productivity improvement through scientific, technical, economic, and educational means
- 2.3 Agricultural/Irrigation water and other rural water systems for livelihood improvement
- 2.4 Wastewater treatment and reuse
- 2.5 Water pricing and water rights reforms
- 2.6 Covid-19 and safe drinking water
- 2.7 Water services and water service providers

### **3. Building Resilience for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation**

- 3.1 Prevention and mitigation of extreme weather induced water-related disasters
- 3.2 Development of flood control projects
- 3.3 Nature-based Solutions for water-related disaster prevention and mitigation
- 3.4 Floodwater resource management and utilisation
- 3.5 Monitoring and early warning of water-related disasters
- 3.6 Improving resilience of water infrastructure projects for extreme events
- 3.7 Management of water risks induced by extreme weather and climate events

### **4. Supporting Aquatic Ecosystem Health and Functions**

- 4.1 The ecological health of rivers and lakes
- 4.2 Maintenance and restoration of the river basin eco-hydrological process
- 4.3 Protection and management of major rivers and lakes, from headwaters to estuaries
- 4.4 Ecological restoration of degraded rivers and lakes
- 4.5 Value of aquatic ecological products/goods and services
- 4.6 Aquatic biodiversity protection
- 4.7 Groundwater and ecosystem
- 4.8 Water quality improvement

### **5. Establishing Sustainable Water Infrastructures**

- 5.1 Exploitation and development of Nature-based Solutions in water engineering and technology
- 5.2 Large inter-basin water diversion projects
- 5.3 Digital twin river basins and digital twin projects
- 5.4 Intelligent business application system for water regulation and management
- 5.5 Joint operation and regulation of water projects
- 5.6 Multi-functional utilisation of water projects, including hydropower stations

### **6. Innovation for Water Governance and Management**

- 6.1 Water rights and water markets
- 6.2 Innovation of investment and financing mechanism, including green finance
- 6.3 Adaptive water management
- 6.4 Integrated River basin management
- 6.5 Information transparency and public participation
- 6.6 Role of Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) initiatives and reporting
- 6.7 Role of national and international law
- 6.8 Creative technology and tools for water resources management
- 6.9 Water footprint analysis and its application in regional land use planning

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### CHAIR

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# ONLINE CONFERENCES



## 2023 ONLINE CONFERENCE "EMERGING POLLUTANTS: PROTECTING WATER QUALITY FOR THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT"



From 17 Jan – 19 Jan 2023, IWRA in partnership with UNESCO, will hold its third Online Conference with the theme, "Emerging Pollutants: Protecting Water Quality for the Health of People and the Environment." The online conference will highlight the ways the world can advance knowledge, research, and solutions for managing emerging pollutants to improving and protecting water quality in a changing world.

The main objectives of the conference are to:

- Explore the impacts of emerging pollutants on water resources, considering technical and policy solutions to mitigate and reduce human health and ecological risks and bearing in mind increasing demand on water resources, as well as impacts of global climatic and demographic changes.
- Identify the appropriate water policies and technologies needed to motivate change in water management and business, as well as for addressing emerging pollutants.

- Highlight the bold policy and institutional changes needed to support the transformation in water management and policy and across other sectors, ensuring better and more reliable water quality and protecting human health and ecosystems.
- Showcase successful efforts of innovative, nature-positive, and technological solutions for improved water quality and reduced water pollution.
- Examine the life cycle management of emerging pollutants to find solutions not only at end-of-pipe, but also those based on a circular economy approach; and working with industry, regulators, and local communities, as well as engaging all relevant stakeholders (including under-represented groups).

The development of IWRA's Online Conference for 2023 began in 2022, and major decisions such as the organisers, programme structure, and themes were finalised. The call for abstracts was launched in 2022, and 161 submissions were selected out of 203.



The conference will have five main sub-themes to be addressed by speakers in both regular and high-level sessions. These themes were:

**THEME 1:  
EMERGING POLLUTANTS IN AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS**

- Identifying and assessing ecological risks
- Science informing policy / policy informing science
- Institutional, policy, and regulatory challenges and approaches.
- Technological versus nature-based versus regulatory solutions
- Success stories and case studies

**THEME 2:  
EMERGING POLLUTANTS AND GROUNDWATER**

- Identifying and assessing human health and ecological risks
- Science informing policy / policy informing science
- Institutional, policy and regulatory challenges and approaches
- Success stories and case studies

**THEME 3:  
EMERGING POLLUTANTS AND WASTEWATER**

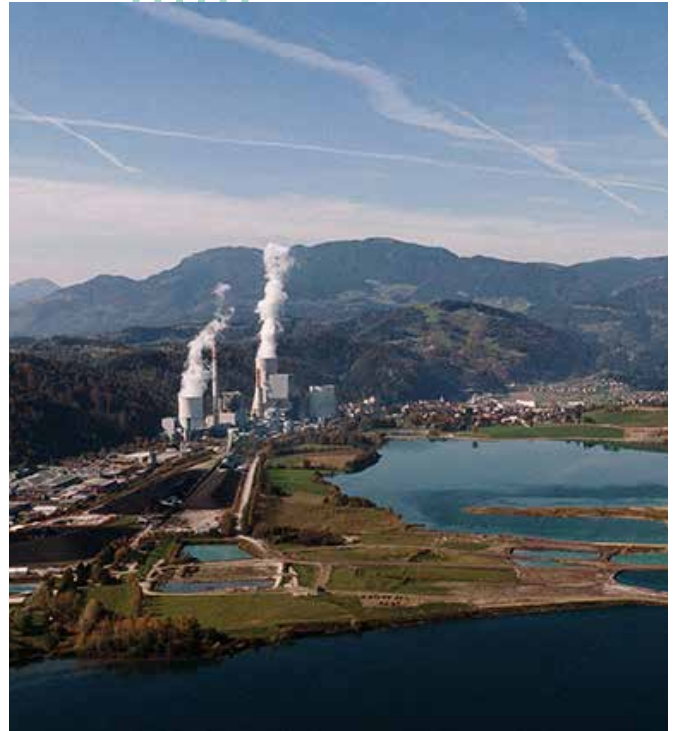
- Identifying and assessing human health and ecological risks
- Science informing policy / policy informing science
- Wastewater and the circular economy
- Institutional, policy, and regulatory challenges and approaches
- Innovative infrastructure to reduce risk of trace contaminant release
- The roles, responsibilities, and contributions of the private sector
- Success stories and case studies

**THEME 4:  
A CIRCULAR ECONOMY APPROACH: LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING POLLUTANTS**

- Science informing policy / policy informing science
- Institutional, policy, and regulatory challenges and approaches
- The roles, responsibilities, and contributions of the private sector
- Success stories and case studies

**THEME 5:  
“PRIORITY” EMERGING POLLUTANTS IN THE HYDROCYCLE: MICROPLASTICS, NANOMATERIAL, PFAS AND PPCPS**

- Science informing policy / policy informing science
- Institutional, policy and regulatory challenges and approaches
- Identifying and assessing human health and ecological risks
- The roles, responsibilities, and contributions of the private sector
- When is the hazard/risk too high?



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Learn more at [www.iwraonlineconference.org](http://www.iwraonlineconference.org)



# PUBLICATIONS

## WATER INTERNATIONAL



*Water International*, IWRA's flagship publication since 1975, is maintained by veteran senior management consisting of Editor-in-Chief, James E. Nickum (since 2007), and Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Raya Marina Stephan (since 2018). It is also supported by 5 Associate Editors and a strong Editorial Board.

In 2022, the journal published three special issues. The first of these was a collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), "Measuring the Impacts of Water Governance" (47.2). This was followed by "Public Banks and Public Water in Europe" (47.5) and then by a double issue, "A Life Exploring

Blind Corners," which combined research articles with commentary on the life and contributions of J. A. (Tony) Allan (47.6,7).

**2021 IMPACT FACTOR: 3.395,  
UP 27.5% OVER 1.899 (2022)**

### MOST READ 2022

Natalija Vojno et al. *Beyond barriers: the fluid roles young people adopt in water conflict and cooperation*

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- Lee Kuan Yew, School of Public Policy, Singapore





### **IWRA's Mentored Publishing Scheme for Early-Career Professionals**

IWRA launched an innovative programme in 2020, initially led by Robert G. Varady, that aimed to support early-career scholars and water professionals to publish interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in *Water International*. Articles are co-authored with or supervised by senior water professionals, and are published regularly in a special section of *Water International*.

**You can learn more about recent publications here:**  
[www.iwra.org/water-international](http://www.iwra.org/water-international)

### **IWRA POLICY BRIEFS**

IWRA publishes two series of policy briefs, a "blue series", or *Water International Policy Briefs*, which are based on special issues; and a "green series", or *IWRA Policy Briefs*, which are published in association with key partners in the framework of IWRA events and activities. James E. Nickum is the Coordinator of the Policy Briefs, working with a team of Policy Briefs Editors (Kara DiFrancesco and Kris Hartley). **Two "Blue Series" and five "Green Series" policy briefs were produced in 2022.**

- **Water International Policy Brief N°19** - Power and Water Diplomacy
- **Water International Policy Brief N°20** - Source-to-Sea Management
- **IWRA Policy Brief N° 19** - Governance for Water Reuse in a Circular Economy
- **IWRA Policy Brief N° 20** - Water Reuse and Water Quality Challenges/barriers
- **IWRA Policy Brief N° 21** -River Basins as the Basis for Water reuse Planning
- **IWRA Policy Brief N° 22** - Environmental Flows: Harmony between Humans and Nature
- **IWRA Policy Brief N° 23** - Water Security: The Role of Sound Groundwater Management and Governance

**Learn more here:** [www.iwra.org/policybriefs](http://www.iwra.org/policybriefs)

### **SPECIAL ISSUE BOOKS**

*Water International* special issues and thematically related articles form the basis of a subsequent publication as a book in the Routledge Special Issues on Water Policy and Governance book series. James E. Nickum and Cecilia Tortajada are co-editors of this series. The following was published in 2022:

***Wicked Problems of Water Quality Governance***, ed. by James E. Nickum, Raya Marina Stephan and Henning Bjornlund

### **IWRA'S NEWSLETTER: IWRA UPDATE**

The Association's quarterly newsletter, the *IWRA Update*, produced its usual four editions in 2022. The objective of the newsletter is to inform IWRA members and key partners about upcoming activities of the Association, as well as to share recent water news and publication information about IWRA members. This year, the communications team put extra effort in making the newsletter more dynamic and concise. These four newsletters were made available to IWRA members, partners, and to the public and were available entirely online. The newsletters were distributed via email (Mailchimp), as well as promoted on social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. For each issue, open calls enabled members to participate in updating the IWRA community on latest activities and research.

**IWRA Members, partners, and the wider public can access these newsletters here:**

[www.iwra.org/newsletter](http://www.iwra.org/newsletter)





# CAPACITY BUILDING



## IWRA WEBINARS

In 2022, IWRA held online webinars on seven different topics throughout the year. These webinars were based on water-related topics or on selected special issues of *Water International*:

- **Webinar n°50:** Groundwater Success Stories: Large-scale Water Transfer and Managed Aquifer Recharge – 17 February 2022
- **Webinar n°51:** Peering into the Crystal Ball: The Future of Water – 21 February 2022
- **Webinar n°52:** World Water Day: Future Gazing: Groundwater Action as Climate Action – 22 March 2022
- **Webinar n°53:** Global Water Security Issues – Management and techniques for reliable groundwater access – 28 June 2022
- **Webinar n°54:** The Launch of the IWRA Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) Chapter – 14 September 2022
- **Webinar n°55:** Governance insights for groundwater management challenges – 27 September 2022
- **Webinar n°56:** World Toilet Day - Don't WASTE Time: Managing Sanitation Systems to Protect Groundwater– 17 November 2022
- **Webinar n°57:** Public Banks and Public Water in Europe: Water International Special Issue – 22 November 2022

More than 1,000 registrants participated in these free webinars. All webinars were recorded and are accessible on IWRA's website as well as on our YouTube channel.

**Access recordings and presentations here:**  
[www.iwra.org/webinars](http://www.iwra.org/webinars)



## IWRA MASTER CLASSES

Following the success of the first series of master classes in 2021, IWRA will continue to host master classes annually with the assistance of various water organisation partners, IWRA Task Forces, and Chapters. These master classes consist of public lectures and member-focused skill-building workshops, based on timely themes of interest in the water sector.

During 2022, IWRA's Executive Office established various partnerships to potentially host the second and the third series of Master classes. The next master class series will take place in 2023 in collaboration with the Human Right2Water.

**To learn more about the most recent Master Classes, visit:** [www.iwra.org/master-classes](http://www.iwra.org/master-classes)

# IWRA AWARDS 2022



Since its creation, IWRA recognises the contributions towards water management and the excellence of water researchers, professionals, and organisations. IWRA currently presents 5 main awards. They are as follows:

## THE CRYSTAL DROP AWARD

This is awarded once every two years to individuals or organisations in recognition of their laudable contribution to the improvement of the world's water situation. It is presented at the IWRA World Water Congress, organised by IWRA.

## THE VEN TE CHOW MEMORIAL AWARD AND LECTURE

This award was established to honour IWRA's first president and provides for an outstanding lecture to be delivered at the IWRA World Water Congresses.

## WATER DROP AWARD

Established in 2020, the Water Drop Award recognises a nominated student or early career professional, typically under the age of 35, who has made an innovative contribution to the water sector.

IWRA opened its call for nominations in November 2022 for the above three awards and will close it at the end of January 2023. The winners will be announced in 2023 and awarded at the XVIII World Water Congress in Beijing, China.

## OTHER IWRA AWARDS

### HONORARY AND FELLOW MEMBERS

IWRA has an annual selection process for Honorary and Fellow members.

**Honorary Membership** is the highest honour granted by the Association. It is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of water resources or have achieved acknowledged eminence in a specific area of water resources. Once elected as an Honorary Member, the individual is exempt from paying membership fees and holds the honorary designation indefinitely.

Fellow Membership is awarded to individuals who have been IWRA members for a minimum of ten years and have made substantial contributions to both the Association and the field of water resources. Upon election as a Fellow Member, the individual will be required to pay for the Silver level membership but will be automatically upgraded to the Gold level membership.

In April 2022, IWRA opened its call for nominations for the Honorary and Fellow membership awards. The winners will be announced in 2023 and will be presented with their awards at the XVIII World Water Congress in Beijing, China.

### HONORARY MEMBERS



**David Molden**, Former Director General International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)



**David L. Feldman**, Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy, School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine. Courtesy appointment Department of Political Science. Director, Master of Public Policy. Director Water UCI

### FELLOW MEMBER



**Giuseppe Rossi**, Emeritus Professor of Hydrology and Water Resources, University of Catania (Italy)

### WATER INTERNATIONAL BEST PAPER AWARD

This awarded is given to the author(s) of an article appearing in *Water International* that displays great originality, innovation, technical quality, and contribution to water resources management. The best paper is usually selected in the year(s) following publication of a specific issue. The 2021 and 2022 Best Papers will be announced in 2023.

**For more information about IWRA Awards, please visit: [www.iwra.org/awards](http://www.iwra.org/awards)**



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS AND EXTERNAL EVENTS

In 2022, IWRA continued to grow and increase its work and activities with various partners, organisations, and through events. IWRA's growth and increase in activities were attributed to the collaboration with key water partners, such as the Asia Water Council, Human Right2Water, Korea Water Forum, K-water, OECD, SIWI, UNESCO-IHP, UNESCO i-WSSM, UN-Water, and the World Water Council—to name a few. As the majority of COVID-19 travel restrictions were eased or removed in 2022, IWRA travelled and participated in various international events. While it is hard to list everything, some prominent highlights include:



## ASIA WATER COUNCIL (AWC)

IWRA continued to be an active member of the Asia Water Council and participated in several webinars and online discussion sessions. Members played an active role in the 2nd Asia International Water Week (AIWW) in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, which was postponed from November 2021 to March 2022, due to the pandemic. Many distinguished speakers, moderators, and participants, attended this event, both online and onsite, and IWRA took an active role in the organisation of a special session and a thematic session.

The first session, on 14 March, was jointly organised between the Association and UNESCO-iWSSM, and it addressed “Water reuse as a key strategy for water security”. Both IWRA Past President, Honorary and Fellow member, Cecilia Tortajada, and IWRA Oceania Chapter member, Greg Leslie, showcased their findings on reclaimed potable water in cities, and discussed the value of recycling water in companies in the context of circular economy, respectively. Many common issues and lessons learned were also shared from agriculture practices in Qatar for addressing water-related SDGs in Asia. The second thematic session, March 15th, focused on “Delivering ecosystem services through stakeholder engagement and water quality guidelines”. Presentations were interesting and informative, and they inspired further discussion related to IWRA's previously published report, “Developing a Global Compendium on Water Quality Guidelines” and to the European Framework Directive. The session was presented by IWRA's Water Quality Task Force Chair, Heather Bond. Other sessions included the “Paying for Ecosystems Services” schemes in the Philippines and Vietnam, a collaborative stakeholder effort on the Surabaya River Fish Sanctuary in Indonesia, how water quality may affect ecosystem health and its sustainability, and how UNESCO initiatives and activities can have an effective impact on water resources management, globally.

IWRA Project Officer Monica Garcia Quesada and Sung Phil-Jang also continued to collaborate with AWC for the Smart Water Cities Project and in launching the Call for Smart Water Pilot Cities.



## HUMAN RIGHT 2 WATER

Established in 2020, Human Right 2 Water replaced WaterLex. Its mission is to use and share expert knowledge on how human rights to water and sanitation should be integrated into law, policy, and practice. In 2022, IWRA Executive Director, Callum Clench, continued to represent the Association as Secretary to the board.

The year 2022 also saw the Associations collaborate on several important discussions and resource-sharing. Human Right 2 Water's CEO served as a panellist in an IWRA webinar on the occasion of World Toilet Day. The organisations will also be collaborating on the second Master Classes series in 2023.



## KOREA INTERNATIONAL WATER WEEK (KIWW) 2022

IWRA coordinated and contributed to three sessions during the Korea International World Water Week (KIWW) in Daegu, Republic of Korea, which took place from 23-26 November 2022.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, IWRA Project Officer, Mary Trudeau moderated the session, "Case Studies of Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) for Water Security," where speakers presented case studies that will be published in the upcoming Global Water Security Issues (GWSI) report by UNESCO and UNESCO i-WSSM. On the same day, Monica Garcia Quesada, IWRA Smart Water Cities Project Officer, discussed the Smart Water Cities

Index & Certification scheme during the special session, "Comparing Smart Water Cities: Key performance indicators and a certification for cities worldwide." In her presentation, Monica emphasised how smart Water Cities Index & Certification Scheme will provide cities with a comprehensive diagnosis for the strengths & weaknesses of their local water systems. The certification is scheme is part of the Smart Water Cities project led by IWRA, K-water (Korea Water Resources Corporation), and the Asia Water Council (AWC).

On 25 November, Mary Trudeau, IWRA Project Officer, participated in a panel discussion on "Nurturing Science-Policy-Practice Interface: A Paradigm Shift in Water Governance". During this event, she—with other esteemed speakers—addressed the influence of scientific assessment on decision-making in water resource management, the barriers impeding the engagement of users in the design of assessments, and how a science, policy, and practice interface can be enhanced for sustainable water governance. The event was well received, and as a result, IWRA was successful in raising awareness on important water issues and establishing connections with other organisations working on water resources and governance issues.



## K-WATER

During 2022, IWRA continued to progress with the Smart Water Cities project, which it has led since July 2020, in collaboration with Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) and the Asian Water Council (AWC). It is a three-year project that aims to contribute to knowledge-sharing and capacity building related to smart water technologies in urban environments around the world. It also seeks to promote their implementation, thanks to the development of a Standard and Certification Scheme for Smart Water Cities.

In early 2022, the first report of the project, entitled “Identifying Smart Water Cities” was finalised and published. The second report was also finalised at the end of 2022. Its main purpose is to present and describe the Key Performance Indicators of the Smart Water Cities Index: 114 indicators that help assess and compare how cities perform with regards to the management of urban water resources and the provision of urban water services. In 2022, a call for Pilot cities was made, enabling the indicators to be prepared and tested in two cities.



### **OECD WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE (WGI)**

IWRA is a supporting member of the OECD Water Governance Initiative and has supported the WGI by offering a platform and publication in two special issues of Water International. The resulting OECD Principles on Water Governance have guided decision-makers and practitioners on water-related policy development, implementation, research, and assessment. The principles lay out 12 framework conditions for governments at all levels to achieve effective, efficient, and inclusive governance systems in shared responsibility with citizens and stakeholders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. They also provide a framework for understanding whether water governance systems are performing optimally at local, basin, or national levels, as well as advocate for better policies and reforms.

The first special issue of Water International, released in 2018, introduced the OECD Principles on Water Governance: looking at how to put policy standards to into practice. In 2021, a call for follow-up contributions for a Water International special issue was launched. The objective of this special issue was to understand the extent to which good governance (as a means) contributes to good outcomes for people, planet, and places (as an end), and how to measure such impacts. Articles used the OECD Principles on Water Governance as a common

thread for describing and analysing the state of play, and for discussing the main challenges related to measuring water governance and its impacts in different geographical and institutional contexts. This special issue was released in 2022, at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Senegal.



### **STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE (SIWI)**

From 23 August – 1 September, IWRA participated in World Water Week in Stockholm, organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

IWRA was well represented, particularly by IWRA Past President, Gabriel Eckstein, IWRA Vice-President, Lesha Witmer, IWRA Project Officer, Mary Trudeau, and IWRA Groundwater Task Force Member, Anita Milman.

All IWRA representatives provided valuable support and input to sessions and debates under this year’s World Water Week, themed: “Seeing the unseen: The value of water”. All sessions were grouped under three theme headings: the value of water for people and development, the financial and economic value of water, and the value of water for nature and climate.

IWRA also continued to serve on the Steering Committee of SIWI’s Source to Sea (S2S) Platform.



### **UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO)**

IWRA continued to join forces with UNESCO to work on various activities with their Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), including a dedicated project with their International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (i-WSSM).



## UNESCO-IHP

UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) is an organising partner for the third series of IWRA's Online Conference which will take place in early 2023. It is the second consecutive time that UNESCO-IHP helps put together this IWRA event, which is hosted entirely online. UNESCO's generous contribution helps further the implementation of UNESCO's Phase Eight of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (2014-2021). Thanks to this financial contribution, the event will be free and participation by experts from Africa, low-income countries, women, and youth is possible.

IWRA also actively participated in the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater, held at UNESCO's HQ in Paris, France from 6-8 December. (See more information below).



## UNESCO I-WSSM

IWRA has continued its collaboration with UNESCO i-WSSM to produce the Global Water Security Issues (GWSI) series, a capacity development initiative of i-WSSM. The GWSI documents case studies related to emerging and future global water security issues in the context of identified themes. Mary Trudeau manages this project for IWRA, with the support of a Working Group of the IWRA Water Security Bureau and others who peer review drafts of chapters.

The specific objectives of the GWSI Series include:

- To share research on similar topics in order to strengthen cooperation among researchers, policy advisors, and decision-makers engaged in the international water sector.

- 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.

The first GWSI publication IWRA managed in 2020 was the second in the GWSI series, themed, "Water Reuse within a Circular Economy Context". The Series 3 report was published in 2021, and was themed, "The Role of Sound Groundwater Resources Management and Governance to Achieve Water Security". Both books are available through UNESCO's online library.

In 2022, IWRA hosted two webinars, each featuring three of the Series 3 GWSI chapter authors. They were themed: Management and techniques for reliable groundwater access (June), and Governance insights for groundwater management challenges (September). In keeping with the UN Water campaign on "Groundwater: Making the invisible visible", Groundwater was a topic of focus in 2022. The GWSI Series 3 publication was profiled at the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Dakar, and some chapter authors contributed their expertise to a Stockholm International Water Week online segment on Participatory and inclusive groundwater governance: Accelerating achievement of SDGs.

The theme for the Series 4 report is "Water Security and Cities – Integrated Urban Water Management". A Special Session was held during Korea International Water Week in November featuring presentations by three of the chapter authors and participants' discussion. Additional online webinars are planned and will be available once the publication is made public. The publication of the report is anticipated in early 2023 following UNESCO's review of the chapters.

The selection of chapter proposals and the development of first drafts for Series 5 took place in 2022. The theme of this series is "Making Water Decisions for Climate Change Adaptation". Publication is anticipated in the latter half of 2023. The initiation of Series 6 is planned for 2023 with the selection of a theme and call for proposals planned for the first quarter of the year.



## UN-WATER

As an official Partner of UN-Water, IWRA participated in both the 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> UN-Water meetings, which were held virtually in March and October 2021, respectively. Represented by Ignacio Deregibus, IWRA's Deputy Executive Director, the Association joined discussions on the General Assembly High-Level Meeting regarding the Implementation of Water-related Goals and Targets for the 2030 Agenda, the UN 2023 Water Conference, as well as the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. It also contributed to the Summary Progress Update 2021 – SDG 6, exchanges on World Water Day 2023 on Partnerships, and the UN World Water Development Reports 2022 and 2023. Plans were also put in place between UN-Water members and partners for World Water Day 2022, to create a Task Force and the concept note for the 2022 Groundwater Summit. UN-Water held an "Open Space" networking event in March to create time and space for participants to engage creatively around issues of concern to them. IWRA also had the chance to present updates and information on the XVII World Water Congress that took place from 29 November to 3 December 2021 in both meetings and invited all members and partners to join us in Daegu, Korea.

Aligned with the celebrations of World Water Day (22 March) and World Toilet Day (19 November), IWRA held two dedicated webinars on Valuing Water. World Toilet Day is an official UN day since 2013, and IWRA has been committed to collaborate with other UN-Water partners and members for almost a decade to raise awareness and focus action on the global sanitation crisis and advocate for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. These successful events brought together the technical aspects of valuing water with more broad and holistic perspectives. Nearly 500 registered attendees participated in these webinars.

From 6-8 December 2022, IWRA participated in the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater in Paris, France, and was well represented by IWRA President, Yuanyuan Li; Past President, Gabriel Eckstein; IWRA Vice-Presidents, Henning Bjornlund and Lesha Witmer;



Secretary General, Eric Tardieu; Treasurer, Renée Martin-Nagle; IWRA Board members, Guy Fradin, Ganesh Pangare, Dahlia Sabri and Tom Soo; as well as Water International's Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Raya Marina Stephan, and IWRA Groundwater Task Force Bureau member, Anita Milman.

IWRA Executive Office was also present in Paris, including its Executive Director, Callum Clench; Deputy Executive Director, Ignacio Deregibus; Digital Media Officer, Awantika Pal; Administrative Officer, Elizabeth John; and IWRA Project Officers, Mary Trudeau, and Sung-Phil Jang.

IWRA representatives provided valuable support and input to sessions and debates under the theme, "Groundwater: Making the invisible visible". All sessions were grouped under three categories, including Pre-Summit side-events, Opening and SDG 6 accelerators sessions, Thematic groundwater sessions and closing sessions.

IWRA messages and contributions came across in the following exchanges and presentations:

- Big Earth Data in Support of Groundwater Sustainable Management (Session organised by the International Research Centre of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals; Capital Normal University) - Yuanyuan Li, IWRA President, invited speaker.
- Adaptation and flexibility in the Context of Groundwater Governance and the SDGs - the case of food security (Session organised by IWRA, UNDP/UNDP-



SIWI Water Governance Facility, IW:LEARN and the MoFA, Slovenia) - Henning Bjornlund, IWRA Vice-President, Anita Milman, IWRA Groundwater Task Force Bureau member, and Raya Marina Stephan, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Water International & Co-chair of IWRA Climate Change Task Force.

- Governance: Groundwater and Acceleration Instrument for SDG6 (Session coordinated by UNDP-SIWI, IWRA, UNESCO, GEF IW-LEARN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia) - Yuanyuan Li, IWRA President, and Eric Tardieu, IWRA Secretary General, as panellists, and Raya Marina Stephan, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Water International & Co-chair of IWRA Climate Change Task Force, as presenter. Yuanyuan Li established how IWRA can contribute to Groundwater Governance by strengthening scientific research, disseminating knowledge through our multidisciplinary network, and by hosting and leading webinars, conferences, and task forces. These can be useful for addressing multiple groundwater aspects and for producing policy studies and briefs for policy practitioners.



## WORLD WATER COUNCIL

IWRA was successfully re-elected at the end of 2022 to the World Water Council Board of Governors, with IWRA President Yuanyuan Li appointed as Governor, and IWRA Executive Director Callum Clench appointed as Alternate Governor. In parallel, IWRA Secretary General Eric Tardieu was appointed as Vice President of the World Water Council thanks to his successful election through the International River Basis Organisation.

2022 was also the year that the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (WWF) took place from 21 March to 26 March in Diamniadio-Dakar, Senegal, under the main theme, "Water Security & Sanitation for Peace and Development". Throughout this week, IWRA was highly active in multiple sessions and activities, and played an important role that ultimately resulted in this event's main legacy: the Dakar Declaration - a world new "Blue Deal".

The Association was well represented among over 7500 distinguished participants from all regions of the world as well as by its three Vice-Presidents, Henning Bjornlund, Rabi Mohtar, and Lesha Witmer. Also present was IWRA's Secretary General, Eric Tardieu, Board Director, Trevor Magwaza, former Presidents, Patrick Lavarde (9<sup>th</sup> WWF co-President) and Ben Braga (CEO of SABESP), and members of the Executive Office staff, including its Executive Director, Callum Clench, Deputy Executive Director, Ignacio Deregibus, and Events Officer, Nevena Bakalar. All IWRA representatives provided valuable support and input to the extended list of sessions and debates that took part in the CICAD and EXPO venues.

Altogether, IWRA messages and contributions came across more than 20 exchanges and presentations in:

- Keynote Roundtables: "Means & Tools" and "Rural Development"
- High-Level Panels: "Water Security & Ecological Security" and "Climate Change Solutions"





More information on this significant water event can be found at: [www.iwra.org/iwra-at-9th-worldwaterforum](http://www.iwra.org/iwra-at-9th-worldwaterforum) and [www.worldwaterforum.org/en](http://www.worldwaterforum.org/en)



### SMART CITY EXPO WORLD CONGRESS

IWRA was pleased to be a Collaborating Organisation Partner for the Smart City Expo World Congress that took place from 15–17 November 2022, in Barcelona. IWRA Project Officers, Monica Garcia Quesada and Sung-Phil Jang represented IWRA in a side-event at the Congress, “The ‘Smart Water Cities: Key performance indicators and lessons from case studies.’ During the event, Monica presented findings from the Smart Water Cities project by IWRA, K-water, and AWC, as well as from UNESCO’s “Seal of Excellence” and the Busan Eco Delta Smart City Project, highlighting the different water challenges that these cities currently face. She also presented measures that cities can implement and the impact they can have.

The Smart City Expo World Congress - is a leading international event for the smart city sector, a key meeting point for experts and leaders of the world’s most innovative cities, companies, research centres.



- Special Segments: Political, Basins, Women Dialogues, and Multi-stakeholders’ Process
- Technical Sessions: four sessions coordinated under Action Group 1B, such as “Improve Water Quality and Sanitation”, plus sessions on “Empower Rural Communities”, “Smart Water Management (SWM)”, “Carbon-Neutral SWM”, “Rural Transformation”, “Water Governance”, and “Transboundary Groundwater Resources”

Side-events: presentation of the “Source-to-Sea” Water International Special Issue at the UNESCO pavilion, “World Water Day 2022” celebrations live from the 9th Forum, led by IWRA’s ECYP Task Force, and IWRA’s “Connecting People to Water” event at the World Water Council (WWC) booth.

Additionally, IWRA’s World Water Envoys, who were previously selected to present and showcase water issues in their respective regions at the XVII World Water Congress in Daegu, Republic of Korea, were given the exciting opportunity to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, which took place in Dakar, Senegal.

Lastly, the adoption of the Dakar Declaration acknowledges IWRA’s efforts and builds upon the need for dialogue and coordination across various disciplines and sectors to address global water challenges. It encompasses commitments on water and sanitation derived from IWRA’s 2021 Daegu Declaration, which was adopted during the XVII World Water Congress held in Daegu, Republic of Korea.

# MEDIA COVERAGE



(International Congress and Convention Association) and Best Cities Global Alliance. The award was presented at the ICCA 61<sup>st</sup> Congress in Krakow, from 6th to 9th November 2022. IWRA's Deputy Director, Ignacio Deregibus, had the privilege of accepting this esteemed award on behalf of the organisation. The recognition highlights IWRA's significant efforts in the World Water Envoys Programme. IWRA is committed to supporting and amplifying their voices, ensuring equal opportunities, and championing their crucial role in the sustainable and effective management of water resources. This prestigious award underscores IWRA's dedication to fulfilling its mission and shaping a promising future for our global water resources.

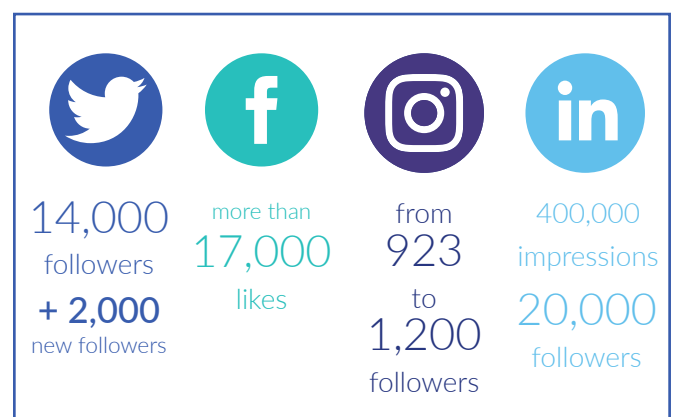
On top of this, IWRA was promoted and featured in various online magazines and portals, including:

- **IWRA received the Incredible Impact Awards, Incredible Impacts**
- **International Water Resources Association Webinars, World Water Day 2022**
- **Call for Abstracts – UNESCO-IWRA Online Conference, Water JPI**
- **IWRA World Water Congress (Sep 2023), Beijing China, SDG Knowledge Hub**

**S**ocial media channels play a huge role in promoting IWRA's activities, sharing knowledge, and raising brand awareness. With the addition of two new members, IWRA's platforms experienced increases in followers and engagement, which ultimately contributed to the increase in event participation and an increase in new IWRA members. The main platforms used included Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram.

On Twitter, IWRA reached more than 14,000 followers, gaining almost 2000 new followers during the year. On Facebook, IWRA received more than 17,000 likes. In addition, IWRA's Instagram grew its followers from 923 to 1200. IWRA saw an increase in followers on LinkedIn from 10,000 at the end of 2021, to 20,000 by the end of 2022. The association also received over 400,000 post impressions.

Additionally, IWRA was selected as one of the winners of the prestigious Incredible Impacts Award 2022. This esteemed accolade is a joint initiative led by the ICCA





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