



***International  
Water Resources  
Association***

# ACTIVITY REPORT 2024





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

|                                                                       |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT</b>                                  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>2. KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024</b>                                      | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>3. IWRA MEMBERSHIP</b>                                             | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>4. THEMATIC TASK FORCES</b>                                        | <b>11</b> |
| <b>5. GEOGRAPHIC CHAPTERS</b>                                         | <b>13</b> |
| <b>6. MAJOR EVENTS</b>                                                | <b>16</b> |
| World Water Congress                                                  | 16        |
| Island Water Congress                                                 | 23        |
| Online Conferences                                                    | 27        |
| <b>7. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS, AND EXTERNAL EVENTS</b> | <b>28</b> |
| <b>8. PUBLICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS</b>                         | <b>41</b> |
| <b>9. CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING</b>                              | <b>45</b> |
| IWRA Webinars                                                         | 45        |
| IWRA Master Classes                                                   | 45        |
| <b>10. IWRA AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS</b>                               | <b>46</b> |
| <b>11. EXTERNAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS</b>                           | <b>47</b> |
| <b>12. DIGITAL MEDIA &amp; SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT</b>                      | <b>48</b> |
| <b>13. GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP</b>                                  | <b>49</b> |
| Executive Board                                                       | 49        |
| Executive Office                                                      | 53        |
| <b>14. IWRA'S 2024 DIARY</b>                                          | <b>54</b> |

---

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The end of 2024 marks the end of my first term as President of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) (2022-2024). I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey we've had together over the past three years, but especially over the course of 2024. This year presented both challenges and exciting opportunities as we navigated a rapidly changing world, achieving significant milestones. We are truly a multidisciplinary, diversified, and active IWRA Community!

In 2024, our membership grew to over 5,000 members, spanning from more than 145 countries! This is nearly double our membership from the past three years. This expansion of IWRA's Community speaks for itself and reflects on the tireless efforts our team and community have put into promoting inclusivity, strengthening outreach, and demonstrating the value of our Association to water experts, professionals, academics, and organisations— among others across the globe. Following our successful XVIII World Water Congress held in September 2023, in Beijing, China, we embarked on organising our

first ever Islands Water Congress in the Faroe Islands. This inaugural event was co-hosted by Jarðfeingi (the Faroese Geological Survey) and focused on "Freshwater and Islands: Administration, Innovation and Collaboration". It was a tremendous success! There were more than 195 registered participants from 40 countries and islands communities, which played a distinctive role in achieving substantial commitments, including a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Sustainable Freshwater Management on Islands; a legal expert group that will continue to support and advise the Faroe Islands in their process of revising their water law legislation and regulation; two special issues of the Water International and Island Studies Journals that bring together a select number of papers from the Congress; a new IWRA Islands & Water Task Force; and, the IWRA Islands Water Congress Policy Report, scheduled to be released in 2025. This policy report focuses on building regulation and policy recommendations aimed at the Faroe Islands, as well as discusses good practices coming from other is-



lands and the good work they are doing there.

Another significant milestone in 2024 was the collaboration we achieved through key partnerships with important organisations, mainly UNESCO, the World Bank, the OECD, the World Water Council, UN Water, FAO, K-water, etc. Through these collaborations, we've tackled big initiatives, including making a central commitment to the Water Action Agenda, to making research and knowledge more accessible and leaving no-one behind. In 2023, we participated actively in the UN Water Conference where we also made these goals known to our global and regional communities.

**"I plan for IWRA to further its focus on cutting-edge research, distinct knowledge products, innovative policy tools, and practical case studies."**

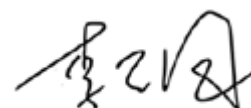
In addition, we partnered-up to organise webinars on dedicated topics such as integrated water resources management, celebrations to the UN Water theme on "Leveraging Water for Peace", water resources under climate change, innovative financing mechanisms for water infrastructure, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), among many others. With thousands of participants attending these virtual gatherings, it is clear that IWRA has successfully been able to expand our educational reach and impact like never before. This engagement with partners underscores our commitment to being present and to shaping global water policies, as well as promoting actionable responses for future water challenges.

These activities and projects would not have been possible without IWRA's expansion to seven Chapters and eight Task Forces. These groups serve as vital hubs for information exchange and professional collaboration, and they support the publication of 24 issues of Water International, 21 Policy Briefs, and 10 books based on special issues of our journal in 2024. The numbers speak for themselves, and we owe a gratitude to all these groups.

Finally, to our members, partners, and supporters: thank you for being a vital part of IWRA's journey. Your contributions - whether through research, advocacy, or simply engaging in dialogue - have been the cornerstone of our success. It has been an honour to serve as President, and I look forward to staying engaged with this incredible IWRA Community during my second term, from 2025 to 2027, and to working with the Executive Board that you elected.

I plan for IWRA to further its focus on cutting-edge research, distinct knowledge products, innovative policy tools, and practical case studies. These are invaluable resources for addressing water security, governance, and climate resilience challenges, and they must continue to be made widely accessible. Only together, can we continue to make a meaningful, positive impact on global water resources management! I look forward to seeing what we accomplish next.

**Yuanyuan Li,**  
**IWRA President**



# KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

## 2024: A YEAR OF NEW BEGINNINGS

2024 was a landmark year for IWRA, marked by significant milestones and strategic growth. We began the year with a strong presence at

key international water events and celebrated major achievements, including the launch of our first-ever Islands Water Congress in the Faroe Islands. Our membership base grew to a record-breaking 5,000 individual members, and we

received the prestigious Association of the Year Award. As the year ended, we proudly announced the newly elected Board for 2025-2027 and set the stage for the XIX World Water Congress in Marrakech, Morocco, in December 2025.



IWRA attends 86th Board of Governance Meeting - World Water Forum



IWRA Participates in Baku Water Week



IWRA extends partnership with UNESCO i-WSSM under new MoU



IWRA wins Association of the Year Award



IWRA Surpasses 5,000 individual members for the first time in history

**FEBRUARY** ■ **MARCH** ■ **MAY** ■ **JUNE** ■ **JULY**  
**SEPTEMBER** ■ **OCTOBER** ■ **NOVEMBER** ■ **DECEMBER**

IWRA's 1st Islands Water Congress takes place in the Faroes Islands



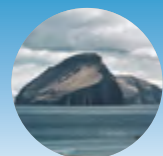
Save the date: XIX World Water Congress announced: December 1-5, 2025, Marrakech, Morocco



IWRA announces newly elected Board for the 2025 - 2027 period



IWRA hosts first webinar with AWS - a new IWRA Partner



# 2024 OVERVIEW OF IWRA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS & STANDING

5087

ACTIVE MEMBERS

300+

REGISTRANTS FOR IWRA'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HELD ONLINE

8+3 PROJECT PARTNERS

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

8

THEMATIC TASK FORCES

7

GEOGRAPHIC CHAPTERS

7

SPECIAL ISSUE BOOKS

8

ISSUES OF IWRA'S FLAGSHIP JOURNAL, WATER INTERNATIONAL, INCLUDING 3 SPECIAL ISSUES

5

WEBINARS

1

NEW "BLUE SERIES" POLICY BRIEF

# IWRA MEMBERSHIP

## STEADY GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP

In 2024, IWRA actively promoted its membership packages within our membership network, at international events, and through targeted campaigns on social media. As a result of these strategic endeavours, our membership experienced significant growth, increasing from 4,594 members at the end of 2023, to 5087 by the end of 2024. In addition, we received one new Silver partnership member.

Presently, our Association boasts a total of 140 Gold Members, 302 Silver Members, and 4,152 Bronze Members. In the future, our efforts will continue to focus on upgrading membership platforms and targeting outside organisations to join our community.

## IWRA'S MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

### BRONZE MEMBERSHIP FREE

Bronze Membership offers a complimentary and unrestricted membership to those individuals wanting to stay updated on IWRA's activities.

#### Bronze Members can:

- Receive newsletters and updates through our IWRA mailing list
- Join and participate in Task Forces and area Chapters
- Access some "members only" content through our Membership platform

### SILVER MEMBERSHIP 65 USD/YEAR

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

#### Silver Members receive the benefits of Bronze Membership, plus:

- Gain access to Water International
- Gain voting privileges in IWRA elections
- Sit on a Task Force or Chapter Bureau
- Run for election to the Executive Board
- Lead or propose Webinars or Policy Briefs outside of Task Forces
- Promote activities and publications through the IWRA network
- Access exclusive content for paying members only



## **GOLD MEMBERSHIP**

### **165 USD/YEAR**

Gold membership is tailored at members seeking a "Premier" experience and who are planning to attend or participate in IWRA events. This membership offers registration discounts and grants access to many exclusive IWRA events.

Gold Members receive the benefits of Bronze and Silver Memberships, plus:

- Receive discounts to all IWRA Congresses and Conferences
- Receive invitations to the President's reception at Congress
- Receive invitations to attend in-person board meetings or workshops

## **SILVER PARTNERSHIP**

### **550 USD/YEAR**

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

Silver Partner Organisations can:

- Receive 2 Gold or 5 Silver Individual sub-members (receiving all relevant benefits)

- Promote joint activities and institutional activities to IWRA membership
- List job opportunities on the membership space
- Be listed as an IWRA Partner Organisation on the IWRA website
- Receive 20% discount off any additional individual membership, for up to 150 members
- Become the recognised sponsor of 2 Silver annual memberships for low-income individuals

#### **IWRA Silver Partnerships in 2024**



## **GOLD PARTNERSHIP**

### **1500 USD/YEAR**

Gold partnerships offer memberships to larger organisations that want to expand their number of representatives, promote their activities across the IWRA network, and increase their active engagement with IWRA members, particularly at events like the Congress.

Gold Partner Organisations can:

- Include 6 Gold or 15 Silver Individual sub-members (receiving all relevant benefits)
- Promote joint activities and institutional activities to IWRA membership

- List job opportunities on the membership space
- Receive a preferential rate on a World Water Congress stand or space on a IWRA stand
- Benefit from high visibility advertising on the IWRA website and through our newsletters
- Be listed as an IWRA Partner Organisation on the IWRA website
- Receive 20% discount off any additional individual membership, for up to 150 members
- Become the recognised sponsor of 6 Silver annual memberships for people on low incomes

#### **IWRA Gold Partnerships in 2024**



## MEMBERSHIP GRANTS

During the first quarter of the year, IWRA launched the second call for applications for the membership grant scheme. A membership grant follows an application process and offers a free 12-month silver membership to water enthusiasts anywhere in the world who are unable to afford an IWRA Silver membership subscription. These benefits include voting rights, eligibility to run for the Executive Board, and the opportunity to lead a Task Force/Working Group. The total number of IWRA membership grants offered each year is determined by the total number of Gold and Silver institutional members. The grant is facilitated through an application process, and the Membership Committee reviews all applications and allocates grants. IWRA plans to launch a second call for applications in 2024.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our Gold Partner Organisations: IWRA China Chapter, French Water Partnership, the Energy and Water Agency of Malta, Pacific Institute, and the Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA), who each sponsored six participants this year. Additionally, we appreciate the sponsorship from our Silver Partner Organisations: International Network of Basin Organisations and the Office français de la biodiversité, who each supported two participants.

To learn more about the recipients of the 2024 IWRA membership grants, click here: [www.iwra.org/mg-recipients-2024/](http://www.iwra.org/mg-recipients-2024/)

## IWRA MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

### Honorary and Fellow members

Annually, IWRA nominates individuals for the Honorary and Fellow membership awards. An 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.

A 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 2024, IWRA opened its call for Honorary and Fellow Member nominations. The following winners were announced and will be recognised at the XIX World Water Congress in 2025.

### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP WINNERS:



**Jane Doolan**, Board Member, Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Board Director, Southern Rural Water Corporation, Adjunct Professor, University of Canberra, Founding Member, Water Policy Group.



**Soontak Lee**, Former President, Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's International Hydrological Program, Chairman, IWRA Korean Chapter, Former Board Director, IWRA.

### FELLOW MEMBERSHIP WINNERS:



**Malcolm Gander**, Consultant in Earth Sciences, Civilian Employee, U.S. Department of Defense.



**Ximing Cai**, Ben Chie Yen Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

# THEMATIC TASK FORCES

As in previous years, 2024 proved to be a productive year for the IWRA Task Forces. These Task Forces are led by IWRA members and enable different Working Groups to focus on important subthemes related to water (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. They also enable our growth and development of specific activities, including communications, partnerships, and recruitments.

In 2024, many Task Forces continued their work, while some, such as the Early Career & Young Professionals, Groundwater, Water & Climate Change, and Water Security Task Forces, focused on consolidating their activities.

The main highlights from our various Task Forces in 2024 are as follows:

## GROUNDWATER TASK FORCE

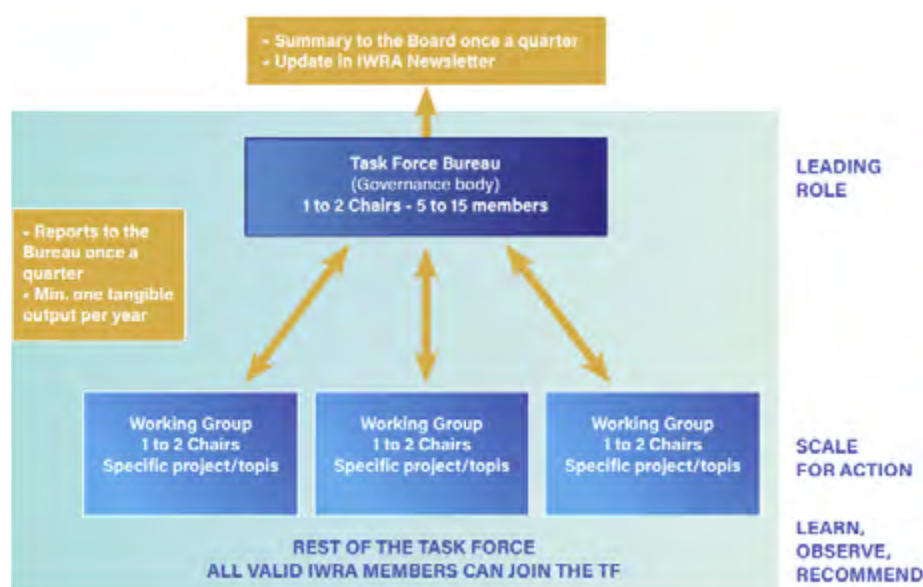
In 2024, the Groundwater Task Force focused its efforts on fostering collaboration and exploring

ways to leverage partnerships with other taskforces to enhance its impact. While recent initiatives such as webinars and meetings saw limited engagement from members, the Task Force remains committed to addressing the critical issues surrounding groundwater use and management. Groundwater is increasingly recognised as an essential resource for addressing global water challenges, and the Task Force is dedicated to finding more effective ways to engage members and stakeholders in future efforts.

## LAND4FLOOD TASK FORCE

The Land4Flood Task Force has maintained an active mailing list of 270 members, regularly sharing updates and distributing newsletters. Future plans include continuing to host the Land4Flood conferences and publishing a policy brief on flood risk mitigation measures. Organised by IWRA's Land4Flood Task Force, the Second LAND-4FLOOD conference will be held in Timișoara, Romania, from September 3-5, 2025. Click here to learn more: [www.researching.ro/l/land-4flood-2025-call-for-papers/](http://www.researching.ro/l/land-4flood-2025-call-for-papers/)

## THE STRUCTURE OF IWRA TASK FORCES REMAINS AS FOLLOWS:





## WATER & CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

The Water and Climate Change Task Force has made significant strides in enhancing global understanding and collaboration on the water-climate nexus. Under new leadership, the Task Force hosted successful webinars on water and climate change, drawing over 170 participants globally. Notable contributions include a podcast series on nature-based solutions, a special session at the World Water Congress on mountain adaptation, and expert discussions on PFAS contamination. The Task Force also contributed to a Special Issue for Water International on water and climate change. As part of their future plans, the Task Force aims to engage more stakeholders, organise additional webinars, and prepare for COP30 in Brazil, 2025.

## WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE

The Water Quality Task Force has been largely inactive, with the chairperson, Sisira S Withanachchi, stepping down and the Task Force seeking new leadership.

## SMART WATER MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

The Smart Water Management Task Force, led by Engineer Kareem Kola, successfully organised a webinar on smart water management, highlighting lessons from past IWRA webinars. The Task Force is focusing on engaging new members, including reaching out to Korean smart water industries to stimulate interest. There is optimism for a more active year in 2025, with plans for webinars and exploring new strategies to boost

participation. The Task Force's efforts to promote sustainable water management practices remain important for IWRA and the broader global water community.

## WATER SECURITY TASK FORCE

The Water Security Task Force has played a central role in enhancing IWRA's leadership in global water security discussions. The Task Force has contributed to the Global Water Security Issues (GWSI) Paper Series, addressing themes like water reuse, groundwater governance, and integrated urban water management. It has also initiated a podcast series to stimulate global conversations on water security, focusing on issues like climate change and biodiversity loss. Working groups within the Task Force have led successful webinars and workshops on urban water security.

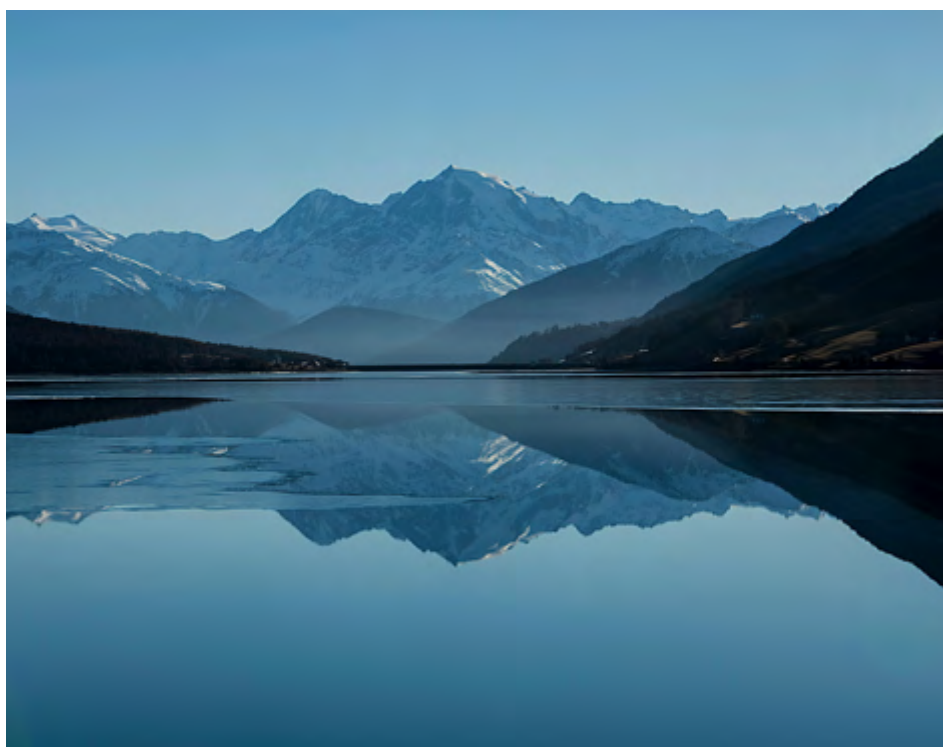
## EARLY CAREER AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (ECYP) TASK FORCE

The Early Career and Young Professionals Task Force has been actively engaged in fostering the development of emerging water leaders. Their activities have focused on providing networking opportunities, mentorship, and professional development for young water professionals worldwide.

## WATER & SDGS TASK FORCE

The Water & SDGs Task Force has continued its work to align water-related goals within the broader SDG agenda. Their efforts have focused on supporting SDG 6 and other related goals, ensuring that water management remains at the forefront of global sustainability efforts.

To learn more about these task forces, please visit: [www.iwra.org/task-forces/](http://www.iwra.org/task-forces/)



# GEOGRAPHIC CHAPTERS

IWRA oversaw seven national and regional chapters across China, Oceania, Japan, India, Mongolia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Egypt. To ensure consistency in how IWRA interacts with its different groups, Chapters are now managed 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 on at least one outcome per year.

In 2024, current IWRA Chapters continued to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience across their regions and countries. They also further implemented the Association's mission and key activities, building an extensive regional network of IWRA members and partners.

**CHINA:** In 2024, the China Chapter made significant progress in governance, academic engagement, and international collaboration. In January 2024, the Chapter held a General Assembly to elect a new Executive Board for the 2024-2027 term, with Li Yuanyuan serving as Chair and with 25 Vice-Chairs. Alongside this transition, the Chapter revised its bylaws to align with its strategic objectives. To address emerging water resource challenges, the Chapter also restructured into 10 specialised working committees, covering areas such as water resources management, policy, climate change adaptation, and groundwater conservation. These committees played an active role in shaping research and policy discussions. In addition, the Water Resources Monitoring and Intelligence Committee



co-hosted the 2024 Smart Irrigation and Digital Twin Irrigation Area Conference which attracted over 500 participants. In 2024, two joint meetings of the Chairs were held to refine the Chapter's strategic direction and to set key priorities for the next four years. The Chapter also actively facilitated the IWRA elections, ensuring robust member participation. Membership engagement was a key focus this year, with total membership reaching 401 members, including 12 Gold and 246 Silver members. Throughout the year, the chapter hosted several high-profile academic exchanges, including discussions on hydrological monitoring, legal frameworks for water governance, and conservation practices. Internationally, the China Chapter participated in major global water events, including the 10th World



Water Forum in Indonesia and the First IWRA Island Congress in the Faroe Islands. To improve communication and outreach, the chapter enhanced its digital infrastructure and launched a redesigned website and a WeChat official account to keep members informed. Additionally, it published five issues of “IWRA China Chapter Information,” providing updates on global and domestic water developments.

**JAPAN:** In 2024, 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.

**INDIA:** In 2024, IWRA continued to work closely with the India Chapter to finalise a new memorandum of understanding.

**OCEANIA:** The Oceania Chapter focused on climate resilience, environmental restoration, and water policy research. A major highlight of 2024 was Project Halophyte, an innovative initiative developing floating mangrove pontoons to restore coastal ecosystems in Fiji’s Viti Levu. This project, led by the University of New South Wales (UNSW), aims to enhance climate adaptation strategies for Pacific Island communities. In parallel, the Chapter contributed to climate policy discussions by supporting a report on global freshwater requirements for climate mitigation in collaboration with the International Universities Climate Alliance and the UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate

Change. This research examined the freshwater demands of key mitigation strategies, including biofuels, hydrogen production, and battery technologies, providing critical insights for policymakers. Another major initiative was the National Water Leaders Survey, which will be conducted in 2025 in partnership with the Water Policy Group. This survey will gather perspectives from water ministers, national agencies, and policymakers to inform global water policy discussions. Through these projects, the Oceania Chapter demonstrated its commitment to advancing water sustainability, climate resilience, and policy-driven research in the region.

**MONGOLIA:** The Mongolia Chapter continued to advance water research and capacity-building efforts through targeted initiatives. One of its most notable achievements was the successful organisation of the Water Leadership Programme, a six-month initiative designed to equip local water specialists with leadership skills and technical expertise. This programme strengthened the capacity of professionals working on water security, climate adaptation, and sustainable management. While no new publications were released in 2024, past contributions to integrated water resource management and climate change research remained influential in the field. The Chapter actively sought funding for a second edition of the Water Leadership Program, planned for 2025, which engages with the Mongolian Ministry of Environment and explores donor partnerships.



**LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN (LAC):** The LAC Chapter continued to strengthen its presence in Latin America and the Caribbean through leadership transitions, partnerships, and regional engagement. In 2024, the LAC Chapter participated in key scientific events, such as the ICCA Latin American and Caribbean Summit in the Dominican Republic, where it explored potential locations for a future IWRA Regional Water Congress. Preliminary discussions identified Panama and Colombia as primary options, with Chile, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic as secondary candidates. The Chapter also had a strong presence at the 10th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference in Uruguay, where it engaged with international water professionals and explored collaboration with Brazil's National Water Agency (ANA). In Buenos Aires, the chapter contributed to the 1st Buenos Aires Water Conference, hosting a panel discussion on the role of NGOs and foundations in water management. Looking ahead, the LAC Chapter is focused on organising the IWRA Regional Water Congress. Planning discussions are already underway with Paragon, a Panama-based event company. Additionally, the chapter is working with the Argentine Institute of Hydric Resources to or-

ganise a symposium on water policies. It will be aimed at sharing regional experiences in water governance. These activities reflect the chapter's strategic goal of fostering regional cooperation and amplifying Latin America's role in global water discussions.

**EGYPT:** In 2024, the IWRA Egypt Chapter, led by Dr. Dahlia Sabri, IWRA Executive Board Director, participated in various regional and international events. This chapter aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, collaboration, and networking opportunities among water professionals in Egypt.

**CHAPTERS IN DEVELOPMENT:** The Executive Office continues to work toward establishing new Chapters in Africa.

To learn more about each of these Chapters, please visit: [www.iwra.org/geographic-chapters/](http://www.iwra.org/geographic-chapters/)



# MAJOR EVENTS: WORLD WATER CONGRESSES

## XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS

In 2024, IWRA announced Marrakech, Morocco as the new host destination for the XIX (19th) edition of the World Water Congress. This event will run from December 1-5, 2025, and be co-hosted by the Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco, and the International Water Resources Association (IWRA). Themed, “Water in a Changing World: Innovation and Adaptation,” this prestigious global event will explore innovative solutions and adaptive strategies for strengthening water systems in an increasingly interdependent world.

The Congress will bring together experts, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, civil society leaders, and private sector representatives to exchange knowledge, showcase ground-breaking research, and develop actionable solutions, with a focus on fostering collaboration, building partnerships, and driving sustainable development in alignment with major international water and climate objectives. Attendees will benefit from dynamic discussions and expert insights



while also contributing to global efforts for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—in particular, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation.

IWRA extends its gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and to Hon. Mr. Nizar Baraka, in particular, the Minister of Equipment and Water, for inviting the Congress back to Morocco. In 1991, IWRA's VII World Water Congress was held in Rabat in

Morocco under the theme. “Water for Sustainable Development in the 21st Century.” IWRA is excited to return the Congress to this inspiring region once again and to address the world's pressing water issues.

To learn more about the Congress visit: [www.worldwatercongress.com](http://www.worldwatercongress.com)

## XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS THEMES

### 1. WATER GOVERNANCE, FINANCING, AND PLANNING DURING UNCERTAINTY

- 1.1. Rural Development
- 1.2. Financial Solutions for Water Projects
- 1.3. Resilience and Adaptation Strategies and Plans
- 1.4. Water Governance at All Levels
- 1.5. Partnership and Cooperation

### 2. WATER-ENERGY-FOOD-ECOSYSTEMS NEXUS (WEFE NEXUS)

- 2.1. Expanding Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- 2.2. Governance Frameworks for the WEFE
- 2.3. Renewable Energy-Water Nexus
- 2.4. Agriculture and Water
- 2.5. Aquatic Ecosystems and Biodiversity
- 2.6. Capacity Building

### 3. WATER SECURITY AND WATER-RELATED RISKS

- 3.1. Water Disaster Management
- 3.2. Adaptation to Droughts and Climate Risks
- 3.3. Desalination Development in Arid Regions
- 3.4. Opportunities and Feasibility of Unconventional Water Resources
- 3.5. Circular Economy Approaches

**7 sub-themes were identified as critical for achieving the objectives of Water In a Changing World: *Innovation and Adaptation.***

### 4. TOWARDS INNOVATION AND A SMART WATER FUTURE

- 4.1. Smart Water Management
- 4.2. Desalination, Wastewater Reuse, and Recycling Technologies and Methodologies
- 4.3. Traditional Knowledge
- 4.4. Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)
- 4.5. Innovative Water Concepts

### 5. GROUNDWATER CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 5.1. Groundwater Assessment
- 5.2. Groundwater Data
- 5.3. Participatory Groundwater Management
- 5.4. Integrated Surface Water and Groundwater Management
- 5.5. Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR)
- 5.6. Impacts of Climate Change on Groundwater Resilience

### 6. WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1. Rights to Water and Sanitation
- 6.2. Water & SDGs

## THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

### ISC CO-CHAIRS

#### RABI MOHTAR

Vice-President, International Water Resources Association; Professor, Texas A&M University

#### ABDELAZIZ ZEROUALI

Director of the Water Research and Planning, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco

### SPECIAL ADVISORS TO THE CO-CHAIRS

#### RENÉE MARTIN-NAGLE

Secretary-General, International Water Resources Association; President and CEO, A Ripple Effect

#### GABRIEL ECKSTEIN

Past-President, International Water Resources Association; Professor, Texas A&M University



## ADVISORY COUNCIL

|                           |                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PATRICK LAVARDE</b>    | Inspector General, General Inspectorate of the Environment and Sustainable Development (IGEDD)                                                        |
| <b>EL MEHDI BENZEKRI</b>  | International Expert, Former Secretary General, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco                                                   |
| <b>ABDELAHFID DEBBARH</b> | Advisor to the President, Rabat International University                                                                                              |
| <b>ABLEFETTAH SAHIBI</b>  | Secretary General, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco (MEE)                                                                          |
| <b>ABOU AMANI</b>         | Director, Water Science Division, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)                                           |
| <b>LIFENG LI</b>          | Director, Land and Water Division, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)                                                                            |
| <b>ERIC TARDIEU</b>       | Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO)                                                                                |
| <b>AZIZA AKHMOUCH</b>     | Head of Division - Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)                  |
| <b>ORIANA ROMANO</b>      | Head of Unit, Water Governance, Blue Economy and Circular Economy, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)                      |
| <b>ALAIN MEYSSONIER</b>   | President, Water Mediterranean Institute                                                                                                              |
| <b>RASHID MBAZIIRA</b>    | Executive Secretary, African Ministers's Council on Water (AMCOW)                                                                                     |
| <b>ANDREA ERICKSON</b>    | Global Water Security Lead, The Nature Conservancy                                                                                                    |
| <b>ARIANA ROSSEN</b>      | Senior Research Scientist, National Water Institute                                                                                                   |
| <b>ROCIO CAVAZOS</b>      | Latin America Regional Director, Water.org                                                                                                            |
| <b>QIUCHI SHI</b>         | Board Director, International Water Resources Association; Former Director, International Centre for Economic and Technical Cooperation and Exchange, |
| <b>FIRDAUS ALI</b>        | Board Director, International Water Resources Association Special Senior Advisor, Minister of Public Works and Housing of Republic of Indonesia       |

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

|                                |                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ABDULAZIZ ALI ALQAHTANI</b> | Director, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture                                                                                               |
| <b>YOONJIN KIM</b>             | Director of Asia-Pacific, World Water Council                                                                                                          |
| <b>MOHAMED C.B.C DIATTA</b>    | Coordinator, Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation                                                                                                     |
| <b>MOHAMMED DKHISSI</b>        | The Interim General Director, Ministry of Equipment and Water, General Directorate of Meteorology, Kingdom of Morocco                                  |
| <b>AKISSA BAHRI</b>            | Former Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries                                                                                |
| <b>GRACE OLUWASANYA</b>        | Senior Researcher, Institute for Water, Environment and Health, The United Nations University                                                          |
| <b>BILGE KOCAMENI</b>          | Board Director, International Water Resources Association; Scientific Director, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)                                         |
| <b>DINARA ZIGANSHINA</b>       | Director, Scientific Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia (SIC-ICWC)                                     |
| <b>HENK OVINK</b>              | Executive Director, Global Commission on the Economics of Water                                                                                        |
| <b>TANJA MIŠKOVA</b>           | Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs                                                                                                                |
| <b>LESHA WITMER</b>            | Advocacy Lead, Women for Water Partnership                                                                                                             |
| <b>AL MOTAZ ABADI</b>          | Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy, Union for the mediterranean                                                          |
| <b>HAMMOU LAAMRANI</b>         | Economic Affairs Officer, Food and Environment Policies section, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, UN House, Beirut, Lebanon |

## PROGRAMME COMMITTEE: SPECIAL, REGULAR AND POSTER SESSIONS

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BASSEL DAHER</b>              | Board Director, International Water Resources Association; Professor, Texas A&M University                                                           |
| <b>DRISS OUAZAR</b>              | Professor, Hassan II Academy of Science and Technology                                                                                               |
| <b>KARIM EL AYNAOUI</b>          | Executive President, Policy Centre for The New South (PCNS)                                                                                          |
| <b>MICHAEL JACOBSON</b>          | Professor, Penn State University                                                                                                                     |
| <b>REGINA BUONO</b>              | Senior Attorney in Climate Resilience, Adaptation, Water Law and Policy, Environmental Law Institute                                                 |
| <b>ROSÁRIO SANCHEZ</b>           | Senior Research Scientist, Texas Water Resources Institute                                                                                           |
| <b>MAHA AL-ZU'BI</b>             | Regional researcher, International Water Management Institute (IWMI); Co-lead, The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) |
| <b>DAHLIA SABRI</b>              | Board Director, International Water Resources Association; Water Resources Expert                                                                    |
| <b>PILAR CAROLINA VILLAR</b>     | Professor at the Sea Institute, Universidade Federal de São Paulo                                                                                    |
| <b>GABRIELA CUADRADO QUESADA</b> | Senior Lecturer in Water Rights and Justice, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education                                                                 |
| <b>NONHLANHLA KALEBAILA</b>      | Research Manager Water Quality, Water Research Commission                                                                                            |
| <b>GANESH PANGARE</b>            | Board Director, International Water Resources Association; Consultant, The World Bank                                                                |
| <b>LAURA MOVILLA PATEIRO</b>     | Lecturer in Public International Law, University of Vigo                                                                                             |
| <b>NWAMAKA ODILI</b>             | Lawyer, Federal Ministry of Justice                                                                                                                  |
| <b>MILIKA SOBEY</b>              | Technical Advisor for coastal ecosystems, GIZ Pacific                                                                                                |
| <b>MOKHTAR BZIOUI</b>            | Member, Mediterranean Water Institute (IME)                                                                                                          |
| <b>CHIKHAOUI MOHAMED</b>         | Professor, Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II (IAV)                                                                                        |



## PROGRAMME COMMITTEE: SPECIAL, REGULAR AND POSTER SESSIONS

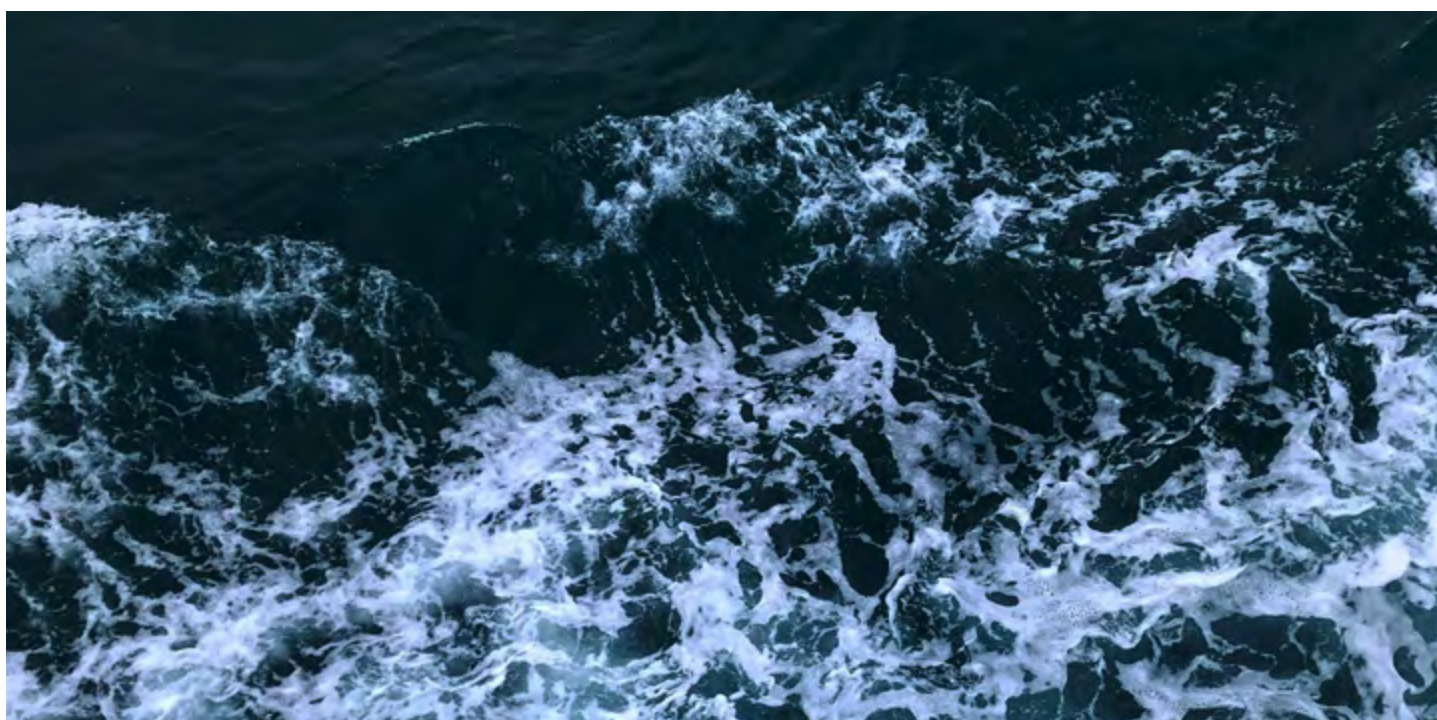
|                            |                                                                                          |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CHEHBOUNI GHANI</b>     | Professor, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P)                                     |
| <b>ABDELKADER EL ARABI</b> | Professor, Mohammadia School of Engineers (EMI)                                          |
| <b>SIHAM LARAICHI</b>      | Head of Hydroclimatic service, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco (MEE) |
| <b>MOHAMMED CHTIOUI</b>    | Director, Agence du bassin hydraulique de Tensift (ABHT)                                 |
| <b>JAOUAD BOUTAHAR</b>     | Director, Hassania School of Public Works (EHTP)                                         |
| <b>AHMED ZNIBER</b>        | Général Director, OCP Green Water                                                        |
| <b>ALI FARES</b>           | Professor, Texas A&M University                                                          |

## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

|                              |                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JAMES E. NICKUM</b>       | Editor-in-Chief, Water International                                                             |
| <b>MOULAY DRISS HASNAOUI</b> | In charge of Mission, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco (MEE)                  |
| <b>RAYA MARINA STEPHAN</b>   | Deputy Editor-in-chief, Water International                                                      |
| <b>FATIMA ZEHRA TABYAOU</b>  | Professor, Mohammed V University of Rabat- Faculty of sciences                                   |
| <b>DALILA LOUDIYI</b>        | Professor, Faculty of science and Technology of Mohammadia                                       |
| <b>ABDENNABI EL MANDOUR</b>  | Director-Professor, Museum "Mohammed VI" of the Water Civilization                               |
| <b>ABDERRAHMANE MAHBOUB</b>  | In charge of Mission, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco (MEE)                  |
| <b>ARIANA ROSSEN</b>         | Board Director, International Water Resources Association                                        |
| <b>RENÉE MARTIN-NAGLE</b>    | Secretary General, International Water Resources Association; President and CEO, A Ripple Effect |
| <b>SAMIRA EL HAOUATE</b>     | In charge of Mission, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco (MEE)                  |

## KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

|                     |                                                                                                            |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ALI RHOUMA</b>   | Project Officer, Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)                 |
| <b>SANAE ABDOH</b>  | In Charge of Communication, Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco (MEE)                      |
| <b>ASMA ELKASMI</b> | Directrice de la Coopération et la Communication, National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE) |



## FUTURE WORLD WATER CONGRESSES

In mid 2024, IWRA launched a call for expressions of interest in hosting the XX (20th) World Water Congress, scheduled for 2027. Initial applications, requiring a two-page letter, were due by December 2024. A preferred candidate will be selected after review, and following negotiations, the winner is set to be announced at the XIX World Water Congress in December 2025.

## WORLD WATER ENVOYS PROGRAMME

IWRA's World Water Envoys Programme, an award-winning initiative, is an integral part of IWRA's World Water Congress. It was established with the crucial mission of amplifying youth voices and experiences at international events. These passionate leaders contribute insights regarding water challenges faced by their communities and the innovative solutions in development. IWRA is excited to continue this impactful programme and to reinforce its commitment to youth engagement in water resource management. The third call for applications for this programme will be launched in early 2025.

To learn more about the World Water Envoys Programme, click here: [www.iwra.org/world-water-envoys-programme/](http://www.iwra.org/world-water-envoys-programme/)

# IWRA's 1ST ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS: "FRESHWATER AND ISLANDS: ADMINISTRATION, COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION"

# 196

REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS FROM MORE THAN 40 COUNTRIES

# 25

DISTINCT SESSIONS HELD OVER 3 DAYS, INCLUDING:

**1** HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ROUNDTABLE  
**15** REGULAR SESSIONS  
**5** SPECIAL SESSIONS  
**4** CREATIVE SHOWCASES

# 81

PRESENTATIONS RELATING TO:

**33** DIFFERENT ISLANDS  
**4** ISLAND GROUPINGS

# 12

SPONSORS





## ISLAND WATER CONGRESS

In partnership with the Faroese Geological Survey (Jarðfeingi), IWRA hosted its inaugural Islands Water Congress at the Nordic House in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, from September 4-6, 2024. This flagship event provided a platform for sharing critical insights into the distinct challenges and opportunities surrounding freshwater water management on islands. It brought together global experts, decision-makers, and island communities from across 40 countries and offered a comprehensive look into how islands can take the lead in addressing some of the world's most pressing water issues.

### RESOLUTIONS AND COMMITMENTS

Faroe Islands and Prince Edward Island signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Torshavn Dialogue on Sustainable Freshwater Management on Islands. The Parties of the MoU will contribute to ongoing international processes in the field of freshwater management relevant both directly and indirectly to islands. They will exchange good practices and identify concrete actions and possible investments in the field of sustainable freshwater. Both Parties are keen to attract other islands to the MoU starting with Malta, which has already started the internal procedures to join the MoU.

An IWRA Islands Water Task Force will be established to maintain engagement and collaboration among participants to the Congress Series. It will also coordinate input into IWRA's next World Water Congress from an island dimension.

A legal expert group composed of relevant members of the Congress ISC will continue to support and advise the Faroe Islands in their process of revising their water law legislation and regulation.

Two special issues of the Water International and Island Studies Journals are being planned, bringing together a selected number of papers from the Congress.

The Congress highlighted the importance of addressing the economic and financial aspects of water management, with a focus and commitment on involving the industry sector more actively in future discussions.



### MAIN CONGRESS OUTPUT

An IWRA Islands Water Congress Policy Report, which is scheduled to be released in 2025, will focus on regulation and will share policy recommendations aimed at the Faroe Islands, as well as good practices coming from other islands. Ultimately, this report along with the 1st Islands Water Congress, triggered discussions towards a potential new water law in the Faroe Islands which may be approved by the Parliament in 2025. Once the report is published, participants are encouraged to share the report with their governments, wider freshwater local stakeholders and local communities. Participants of the 1st IWRA Islands Water Congress are also encouraged to attend IWRA's upcoming XIX World Water Congress in 2025, and to bring their unique island perspective to sessions and discussions.

Three themes were addressed at the 1st Islands Water congress:  
*Freshwater and Islands: Administration, Collaboration, and Innovation*

| THEMES                                                          | SUB-THEMES                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Administration of Freshwater on Islands                      | A. The concept of freshwater administration on islands<br>B. The role of regulation in the administration of freshwater on islands                                              |
| 2. Collaboration in the Administration of Freshwater on Islands | A. The different actors who partake in the administration of freshwater on islands<br>B. The need for such actors to collaborate in the administration of freshwater on islands |
| 3. Innovation in the Administration of Freshwater on Islands    | A. Innovation that improves freshwater administration processes (hard and soft innovation)<br>B. Innovation that better captures the value of freshwater on islands             |

### THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (ISC)

|                               |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Francesco Sindico             | Co-Chair   | Professor at the University of Strathclyde Law School in Glasgow, co-Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law Climate Change Law Specialist Group and a Director of the Climate Change Litigation Initiative (C2LI) |
| Óluva Reginsdóttir Eidesgaard | Co-Chair   | Research geologist at the Faroese Geological Survey in Tórshavn, the Faroe Islands, and Project Lead of the Investigation of Groundwater Potential in the Faroe Islands.                                                           |
| Gabriel Eckstein              | ISC member | Past-President, International Water Resources Association; Professor, Texas A&M University                                                                                                                                         |
| Jana Ólavsdóttir              | ISC member | Bureau Member of World Water Council (2019-2022); Chair of Water Security Task Force of World Water Council (2019-2022); Former Director of International Centre for Economic and Technical Cooperation and Exchange, MWR, China   |
| Firouz Gaini                  | ISC member | Professor in anthropology at the University of the Faroe Islands, and Co-editor of Island Studies Journal and BARN (Nordic Childhood Journal)                                                                                      |

## THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (ISC)

|                                       |                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Jill Robbie</b>                    | <b>ISC member</b> | Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Glasgow                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Kate Brown</b>                     | <b>ISC member</b> | Lead, Global Island Partnership                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Laurie Brinklow</b>                | <b>ISC member</b> | Assistant Professor and Co-ordinator of the Master of Arts in Island Studies programme, and Chair of the Institute of Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, Canada.                                                    |
| <b>Ronald Roopnarine</b>              | <b>ISC member</b> | Lecturer in the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus (FFA, UWI), and Network Manager of Caribbean WaterNet, (Caribbean arm of CapNet UNDP)                                                                  |
| <b>Milika Nagasima Sobey</b>          | <b>ISC member</b> | Technical Adviser-Coastal Ecosystems for GIZ Pacific                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Steinunn Hauksdóttir</b>           | <b>ISC member</b> | Director of Mapping and Exploration at ÍSOR, Iceland Geosurvey                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Manuel Sapiano</b>                 | <b>ISC member</b> | Chief Executive Officer of the Energy and Water Agency (EWA) within Malta's Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise.                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Gunnhild Storbekkrønning Solli</b> | <b>ISC member</b> | Associate Professor of Law at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), and member of the Norwegian Regional Committees for Medical and Health Research Ethics and serves as the chair of the board of the Norwegian Environmental Law Association. |
| <b>Kim Steve Gerlach Bergkvist</b>    | <b>ISC member</b> | Chemical Department Manager at the Faroese Food- and Veterinary Agency                                                                                                                                                                                      |

To explore the key messages of this Congress further, please visit: [www.islandswatercongress.org/](http://www.islandswatercongress.org/)

Stay tuned for the final Congress Report which will feature detailed summaries of all sessions.



## FUTURE ISLANDS WATER CONGRESSES

Building on the success of the 1st Islands Water Congress in the Faroe Islands, the International Water Resources Association IWRA launched a call for expressions of interest in hosting the next Congress (2026) from island nations and regions around the world. Initial applications consisting of a two-page letter were required by the end of December 2024. A preferred candidate will be selected after review, and following negotiations, the winner is set to be announced in mid-2025.

## ONLINE CONFERENCES

Having been developed from the challenges of COVID-19, IWRA has hosted three successful editions of Online Conferences in collaboration with esteemed partners such as UNESCO-IHP, IHE Delft, FAO, and Texas A&M University. These events have tackled critical themes, including groundwater resilience, water-food-health dynamics, and emerging water pollutants.

These online conferences provide an important platform for knowledge exchange, allowing researchers, practitioners, and policymakers—especially those unable to attend in-person events—to share their work, insights, and solutions. Simultaneously, they enable the dissemination of valuable knowledge to a broader, international audience. Although IWRA did not host an online conference in 2024, we remain committed to expanding this successful initiative in the coming years.

To explore past events or to stay updated on future conference plans, please visit: [www.iwraonlineconference.org](http://www.iwraonlineconference.org)



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATIONS, AND EXTERNAL EVENTS

During 2024, IWRA continued its remarkable growth, expanding its reach and strengthening collaborations with prominent water-focused organisations worldwide. Partnerships with key players 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 fuelled this progress. These alliances fostered innovative initiatives and led to the development of projects, such as the Smart Water Cities project, which actively further IWRA's mission.

Building on this momentum, IWRA has actively participated in numerous international

events throughout 2024. These gatherings highlight not only the achievements of IWRA members but also open doors to new opportunities for collaboration and impact. The following sections explore these partnerships and events in greater detail, illustrating how IWRA continues to shape the global water agenda.



## WATER STEWARDSHIP

In 2024, IWRA established a new strategic partnership with the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), a global non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting responsible water use through its internationally recognised AWS Standard. This collaboration aligns with IWRA's mission to enhance water security and sustainable water resources management by bridging knowledge and practice at global and local levels.

As part of this partnership, IWRA and AWS co-organised a webinar introducing the first draft of the AWS Standard Version 3.0. The event provided valuable insights into the ongoing revision process aimed at enhancing the Standard's practicality, utility, and impact. Additionally, the webinar guided participants on how to contribute to the 60-day public consultation period, which ran from 14 October to 20 December 2024. This partnership also opens avenues for joint research, capacity-building initiatives, and shared participation in key water governance discussions between both organisations. Moving forward, IWRA and AWS will continue to explore opportunities for collaboration, including knowledge exchange, event co-branding, and contributions to policy discussions on integrated water resources management.



## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR WATER LAW

In 2024, IWRA also established a new partnership with the International Association for Water Law (AIDA), a global network of legal experts dedicated to advancing knowledge and best practices in water governance and law. This collaboration strengthens IWRA's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary approaches to water resources management, particularly in the face of climate change.

As part of this partnership, IWRA and AIDA co-organised a webinar on Water Resources Under Climate Change. Moderated by Paul Kibel, Executive Council member of AIDA, the session provided an in-depth analysis of the legal and governance challenges affecting transboundary river basins. The webinar brought together 653 registrants from across the world, highlighting the global significance of this issue, with participants joining from Canada, Nepal, Tanzania, Italy, and beyond.

Looking ahead, IWRA and AIDA will continue to collaborate on knowledge-sharing initiatives, and capacity-building efforts to support informed decision-making in water law and governance at regional and international levels.



## ASIA WATER COUNCIL (AWC)

In 2024, IWRA formally renewed its partnership agreement through an MoU with the Asia Water Council (AWC) that was finalised during the 21st AWC Board of Council Meeting on September 23, 2024, in Beijing. This extension reaffirms our shared commitment to addressing global water challenges and deepens our collaboration on advancing sustainable water management solutions. This milestone also marks another step forward in our long-standing relationship with AWC, which has already led to impactful projects like the Smart Water Cities initiative. Through this renewed partnership, IWRA and AWC will continue to work closely on key initiatives, including joint participation in major international events, such as the World Water Congress, World Water Forum, and Asia International Water Week. Together, we aim to foster innovation, share expertise, and amplify the global dialogue on water issues.



We look forward to the opportunities ahead as we continue to build a future of resilient and sustainable water management. For more details on this partnership and our joint activities, we invite you to explore the upcoming sections of this report.





## HUMAN RIGHT 2 WATER

IWRA continued to partner with Human Right 2 Water (HR2W) in 2024. This collaboration exemplifies IWRA's commitment to advancing human rights in water management and supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Callum Clench, IWRA's former Executive Director, served as Secretary on HR2W's Board for another year. Building on impactful Masterclass series and webinars previously organised with HR2W and the South African Water Resources Commission around this area in 2023, as well as near future activities on this important topic, IWRA demonstrates its interest and dedication to addressing global water challenges, promoting human rights, and equipping stakeholders to drive meaningful change.



## K-WATER

Following IWRA's 2021-2023 Smart Water Cities Project, IWRA focused on furthering its position and strong collaboration with the Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water) and the Asian Water Council (AWC), internationally. At the heart of this collaboration is the Smart Water City Index, a robust tool comprising a wide range of indicators and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The index was designed to evaluate both the technical and governance aspects of urban water systems and aims to revolutionise urban water management by providing a comprehensive framework for analysing urban water services and resources.

In 2024, IWRA sought to expand opportunities for dissemination and engagement at regional and global events and with key governments and organisations. Regular coordination meetings were held throughout 2024 between the IWRA team and representatives from K-water and Semarang City to ensure the project's successful finalisation and brainstorm on next steps and prospects. The project's outcomes were showcased at major global events, reflecting its wide-reaching impact. Key presentations included technical and special sessions, as well as dedicated workshops at the Sustainable Cities in Action Forum from March 5-6 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) organised by Expo City Dubai; at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia (20-21 May 2024); at the 3rd Asia International Water Week in Beijing, People's Republic of China (26 September 2024) organised by the Asia Water Council; and at the Korea International Water Week in Daegu, Korea (13 November 2024) organised by the Korea Water Forum.

Titled, "Final Report on Key Performance Indicators and Pilot City Evaluations", the last Smart Water Cities Project report will be published in 2025 and will showcase results from Semarang City (Indonesia) and Busan Eco Delta City (Republic of Korea). The report will detail the adequacy and feasibility of the Smart Water City Index, identifying areas for improvement and creating actionable strategies to assist local authorities in optimising their urban water systems. The insights gained from the pilot city tests in these cities have driven significant enhancements to the Smart Water City Index. Updated guidelines and instructions will offer practical support for local authorities seeking to implement the Index and improve urban water

governance. By pushing the boundaries of innovation in urban water management, the Smart Water Cities Project continues to position K-water, AWC and IWRA as global leaders in fostering sustainable and resilient urban water systems.

The report will soon be available for download here: <https://www.iwra.org/swm-2/>



### OECD WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE (WGI)

Building on the celebration of the last 10 years of the OECD Water Governance Initiative (WGI), IWRA continued its active collaboration by contributing to the 19th Meeting (March 5-6, 2024) in Marrakech, Morocco. This meeting was instrumental in shaping WGI's input for the 10th World Water Forum, particularly through the development of the Forum Handbook, which focuses on implementing the OECD Principles on Water Governance. IWRA also provided inputs for the OECD WGI Satisfaction Survey, Programme of Work 2022-2024, which provides not only constructive feedback on past activities but also recommendations for strategic direction in the 2025-2027 Programme of Work. In addition to these events, IWRA also partnered with WGI to produce a new Policy Brief derived from the 2022 special issue of Water International. This Policy Brief, titled "Measuring the Impacts of Water Governance", offers actionable insights on evaluating the effectiveness of water governance systems, providing a valuable resource for policymakers and practitioners worldwide. Through these initiatives, IWRA continues to strengthen its collaboration with WGI, reinforcing its commitment to advancing innovative and effective water governance frameworks on a global scale.



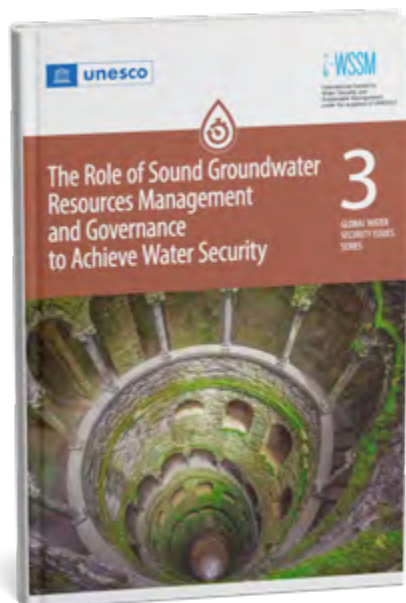
### STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE (SIWI)

Following IWRA's re-election to the Steering Committee of SIWI's Source to Sea (S2S) Platform in 2023, the Association continued to be present in 2024 via regular meetings represented by former Executive Director, Callum Clench, and Board Member, Ganesh Pangare. The ongoing collaboration between IWRA and S2S underscores the importance of addressing connections between upstream and downstream activities to ensure the sustainable management of land, water, coastal, and marine ecosystems. As a Steering Committee member, IWRA is committed to generating and sharing knowledge, supporting impactful activities, and encouraging actionable solutions. By highlighting the efforts of its members and fostering collaborative dialogue, IWRA aims to advance integrated solutions that benefit communities and ecosystems alike.



### UNESCO I-WSSM

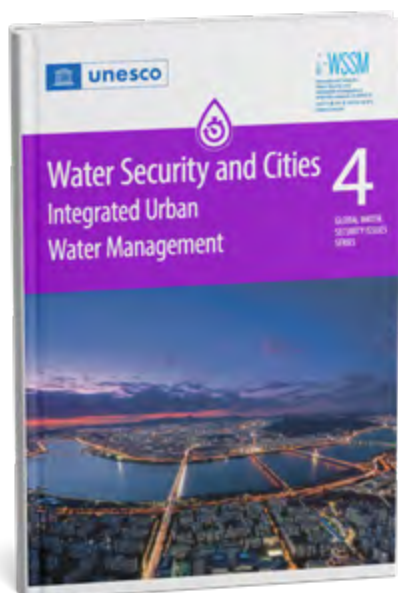
In 2024, IWRA formally renewed its partnership agreement with UNESCO i-WSSM to produce the Global Water Security Issues (GWSI) series, a capacity development initiative of i-WSSM. The GWSI documents annual case studies on emerging and future global water security issues in the context of specific themes or trends. Mary Trudeau has managed Issues number 2 to 6 in the GWSI series. Raya Stephan is managing Issue 7 and will also manage Issue 8.



### **The specific objectives of the GWSI Series include:**

- Sharing research and studies on similar topics to strengthen cooperation among researchers, policy advisors, and decision-makers engaged in the international water sector
- Identifying solutions for improving global water security-related issues and contributing towards achieving water security in the long term
- Encouraging and enhancing research on water security-related issues

The first GWSI publication that IWRA managed and published in 2020, themed “Water Reuse within a Circular Economy Context” was the second one in the GWSI series. The Issue 3 report was published in 2021 with the theme, “The Role of Sound Groundwater Resources Management and Governance to Achieve Water Security”. The Issue 4 report was published in 2024 with the theme, “Water Security and Cities – Integrated Urban Water Management”. These three books are available through UNESCO’s online library. Two additional issues, numbers 5 and 6, have been in production during 2024. A call for chapter proposals for Issue 7 is planned for January 2025.



With the release of Issue 4 this year, IWRA hosted a webinar in October 2024 to promote the publication. The webinar featured two experts presenting on two of the chapters, along with staff members from i-WSSM and UNESCO who provided information on the GWSI series and discussed the Issue 4.

Issue 5, themed, “Making Water Decisions for Climate Change Adaptation” has been delayed due to UNESCO’s review of draft chapters and other editorial requirements. Though, some chapters were profiled last year during the XVIII World Water Congress’ Special Sessions in Beijing. Final steps for this issue are underway and the release of the publication is anticipated for early 2025. Online webinars will be planned once the publication is released.

Issue 6 was initiated in 2023 with a call for chapter proposals. The theme is “Biodiversity Protection and Water Security”. An Editorial Board has reviewed these chapter proposals, as well as facilitated peer review comments and final draft chapters from authors. Of the eight chapters approved to proceed after the peer review process, six are completed and have been accepted by UNESCO. At least two additional chapters are required for the full publication. UNESCO and i-WSSM are committed to identifying additional authors. In addition, this, Issue 6 is also delayed due to a change in project staff at i-WSSM. Finally, the theme for Issue 7 has been selected and revealed as “Water and Gender: Towards women’s equal rights and opportunities”. Chapter proposals will be received in the first quarter of 2025.





## UN-WATER

IWRA continued its role as a member of UN-Water, actively supporting global efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on “Clean Water and Sanitation for All”. In celebration of World Water Day (March 22) and World Toilet Day (November 19), IWRA supported initiatives around the world focusing on “Leveraging Water for Peace”. Through its advocacy, IWRA continues to emphasise the importance of sustainable sanitation solutions in achieving SDG 6. IWRA remains deeply committed to raising awareness, mobilising action, and collaborating with fellow UN-Water partners to address these urgent challenges. Since its designation as an official UN observance in 2013, World Water Day and World Toilet Day have drawn critical attention both to the global water and sanitation crisis. By fostering such collaborations, advancing knowledge, and advocating for change, IWRA is helping to drive impactful solutions that address the interconnected challenges of water and sanitation worldwide.



## SOUTH AFRICA'S WATER RESEARCH COMMISSION

IWRA continued its partnership with the Water Research Commission throughout 2024. There are ongoing discussions for further collaborations.



## SDGS

In 2023, IWRA started working on its Water Action Agenda Commitment with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development. The aim of this project, titled, “Making water resources research and scientific knowledge more accessible to and usable by practitioners, policymakers and the public at large”, is to develop an approach and methodology for making research and scientific knowledge more accessible and usable by practitioners, policymakers, and the public.

### The expert group plans to investigate:

- Language used, avoiding jargon as much as possible.
- Methodologies for dissemination (online and offline; workshops; connecting to more local NGOs/CSO and umbrella organisations and making that information usable by different target groups and levels of education).
- Successful approaches for getting more relevant information “on-the-ground”, combining with other sources of knowledge and experience and creating a more interdisciplinary focus.
- Capacity development modules which can be developed and used by teachers and trainers.

## **PARTICIPATION AT STAKEHOLDER EVENTS**

### **SUSTAINABLE CITIES IN ACTION FORUM**

This project is expected to take 2 to 3 years to complete. Current partners include Project Water Education Today (WET), UNESCO, Science Division, Texas A&M University, IHE-Delft, and World Water Quality Alliance (WWQA), Social Engagement Platform.

IWRA participated in the Sustainable Cities in Action Forum from March 5-6 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), organised by Expo City Dubai. The workshop, titled “Sustainable Water Cities: Tools for Diagnosis and Capacity Building,” was led by Mónica García Quesada, former IWRA project Officer and a member of the IWRA Smart Water Management Task Force. The workshop provided a detailed overview of the Smart Water Cities project, focusing on both the methodology and the results. It also included a lengthy section where attendees participated in an animated discussion and exchanged ideas and insights on sustainability in urban development. The participants examined the potential applicability of the Smart Water Cities Index in different countries, including the UAE, India, Vietnam, Egypt, and Kenya. IWRA thanks the organisers at Expo City Dubai and the participants for making the event a success. We look forward to our continued collaboration and the implementation of sustainable solutions in our cities.

### **BAKU WATER WEEK**

IWRA, represented by former IWRA Executive Director Callum Clench, participated in the Baku Water Week. During the high-level panel discussion, “Effects of Climate Change on Global Water Security,” Callum Clench emphasised the critical need to engage policymakers effectively on these pressing issues. He outlined key strategies for action:

- Providing clear and concise information to policymakers, ensuring scientifically robust decisions.
- Collaborating with organisations and experts to build consensus and credibility.
- Utilising various communication channels to reach a wide audience, including social media and public events.
- Organising workshops and conferences to engage policymakers and stakeholders at all levels.
- Developing practical policy recommendations based on scientific evidence and stakeholder input.





The conference discussions were poised to inform the upcoming COP29 in Azerbaijan, emphasising the importance of addressing water security challenges in the face of climate change.

## 10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

IWRA made significant contributions to the 10th World Water Forum, themed, “Water for Shared Prosperity,” which took place from May 18-25, 2024, in Bali, Indonesia. IWRA was well-represented through its strong delegation of leadership, including Yuanyuan Li (President), Rabi Mohtar (Vice-President), Eric Tardieu (Secretary General), Callum Clench (then Executive Director), Ignacio Deregibus (then Deputy Executive-Director and current Executive Director), and Board Directors, Guy Fradin, Ganesh Pangare, and Dahlia Sabri.

### IWRA’s contributions included:

#### **High-Level Panel on Smart Water Management (SWM):**

IWRA played a pivotal role in shaping a high-level panel focused on the challenges and opportunities in implementing Smart Water Management (SWM) solutions. Experts shared insights on leveraging technology and data to optimise water use, improve efficiency, and address emerging challenges in global water systems.

#### **Session on Urban Water Management:**

IWRA led a session emphasising gender equality and innovative approaches to enhancing urban water services. Discussions explored practical solutions to ensuring equitable access to clean water and building resilient infrastructure in cities, reflecting the Forum’s focus on inclusive water governance.

#### **Water Quality Monitoring in the Context of Climate Change:**

IWRA addressed the growing need for robust water quality data and adaptive strategies for mitigating the impacts of climate change. Panellists shared best practices for improving water quality monitoring systems and highlighted the importance of these systems in achieving long-term water security.

#### **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for Small Islands:**

Finally, IWRA co-organised a session on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) tailored for small islands. The discussion promoted international





cooperation and shared sustainable practices to address water challenges unique to island ecosystems.

Beyond these formal sessions, IWRA also engaged in a range of activities, including bilateral meetings with key stakeholders to explore potential partnerships and collaborative initiatives. These meetings underscored IWRA's role in fostering cooperation across sectors and regions.

## GLOBAL WATER STEWARDSHIP FORUM

During the Alliance for Water Stewardship's (AWS) Global Water Stewardship Forum, held in Edinburgh, Scotland, on June 6-7, 2024, IWRA Treasurer Renée Martin-Nagle participated in the closing panel titled "Where Next for our Community?" In her remarks, she summarised two days of insightful sessions on water stewardship collaborations, noting that while there have been increasing convergences, synergies, and collaborations with respect to water initiatives and stakeholders, critical water basins would benefit from more focused and concerted actions to protect water resources and the people and ecosystems that depend on them.



## 3RD HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION "WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

From June 9-13, 2024, IWRA participated in the Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action (2018-2028), "Water for Sustainable Development" held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. IWRA was represented by Lesha Witmer, IWRA Vice-President, and Eric Tardieu, Secretary General.

The conference provided a platform for reviewing the progress and promoting the implementation of the Water Action Decade's goals. Lesha Witmer contributed significantly by participating in the International Advisory Committee meetings to finalise the conference declaration and delivering a plenary speech. During her address, Lesha emphasised IWRA's commitment to bridging the gap between science, policy, and practice through accessible knowledge dissemination. She stated, "As an academic community, we are committed under the water action agenda to strive for more accessibility of research so that it reaches policy makers and practitioners through timely, understandable language, avoiding jargon where possible and training teachers at different levels to transfer this knowledge."



### 3RD ASIA INTERNATIONAL WATER WEEK

IWRA made significant contributions through High-Level Panels, sessions, side-events, and activities at the recently concluded 3rd Asia International Water Week. Themed, “Enhancing Our Future Water Security,” this event took place from September 23-27, 2024, in Beijing, China. IWRA was represented by its President Yuanyuan Li, Secretary General Eric Tardieu, former Executive Director Callum Clench, and Deputy-Executive Director Ignacio Deregibus.

A highlight of the event was the Smart Water City: Certification Schemes and Implementation Platforms event, co-organised by IWRA, the Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water), and the Asia Water Council (AWC). This session focused on Smart Water City (SWC) Certification Schemes and Technical Implementation Platforms developed by the team through the Smart Water Cities Project. These tools evaluate cities’ water management systems by assessing both technical infrastructure and governance measures. This session provided insights into the global certification process, key performance indicators, and pilot results, which were aimed at helping city planners and policymakers manage sustainable and resilient urban water systems. Experts from OECD and ADB joined to offer feedback and discuss potential plans for global implementation.

In addition, IWRA President, Yuanyuan Li, also participated in a High-Level panel and gave an address. During his remarks, Yuanyuan emphasised that water security requires a comprehensive approach, balancing human-environment interactions. He highlighted the importance of scientific regulation and strong institutional frameworks at both macro and micro levels to ensure effective water management.





## 40TH UN-WATER MEETING

IWRA also played a pivotal role in the 40th UN-Water Meeting, held from November 4-5, 2024, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Represented by its Vice-President Lesha Witmer, Treasurer Renée Martin-Nagle, and Chair of the Awards Committee Lili Yu, IWRA actively engaged in critical discussions alongside over 50 international organisations dedicated to advancing water and sanitation objectives under the SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework. The meeting's agenda included essential updates and strategies for strengthening global water governance, including supporting governance initiatives under the Collaborative Implementation Plan (CIP), preparations for the 2026 UN-Water Conference, and strategies for improving global and regional cooperation.

A significant focus of the meeting was the review of UN 2023 Water Conference outcomes, which launched the Water Action Agenda. This global initiative encompasses 834 voluntary commitments aimed at accelerating progress toward sustainable water management. IWRA reaffirmed its dedication to this Water Action Agenda, emphasising the urgency of scaling up efforts ahead of the critical 2025 deadline.



## SMART CITY EXPO WORLD CONGRESS

For the third time, IWRA was a Collaborating Organisation Partner for the Smart City Expo World Congress in 2024. The event took place from November 5-7 in Barcelona.

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

5 - 7 NOVEMBER 2024

**SMARTCITY**  
EXPO WORLD CONGRESS







## KOREA INTERNATIONAL WATER WEEK (KIWW)

IWRA played a prominent role in another edition of the Korea International Water Week (KIWW), hosted by the Korea Water Forum from November 13-16, 2024, in Daegu, South Korea. This year's theme, "Building Smart Water Future by Sharing Experience and Technology", set the tone for meaningful discussions and knowledge exchange on regional and global pressing water issues. Then Acting Executive Director, Ignacio Deregibus, represented IWRA at KIWW and actively contributed to multiple sessions and events throughout the week.

During the Opening Ceremony, H.E. Minister Nizar Baraka, of the Kingdom of Morocco extended an invitation to all attendees to join IWRA's XIX World Water Congress, scheduled for 1-5 December 2025, in Marrakech.

### Key contributions included:

- **TIP Platform Session:** Ignacio highlighted "The Smart Water City: Solution Platforms as an Evaluation Criteria and Implementation Guidance". This showcased certification schemes and technical implementation platforms developed by K-water,

the Asia Water Council (AWC), and IWRA in the context of the Smart Water Cities project (2021 to 2023). Ignacio also presented findings from the Global Water Security: Issue 5, emphasising the importance of policy decisions and climate change adaptations.

- **International Business Strategy Panel:** As a panellist in K-water's session on "Global Application of Super-Gap & Emerging Technologies," Ignacio contributed to discussions on international business strategies for cutting-edge water technologies.
- **Keynote Address at IWIC 2024:** Ignacio also delivered a keynote at the 10th International Water Industry Conference (IWIC), titled, "Turning Challenges into Solutions: Advancing Water and Resource Recovery from Wastewater Streams for Sustainable Futures."

Through these engagements, IWRA reinforced its role as a thought leader in advancing smart water solutions, water security, and sustainable water management practices. The event not only strengthened IWRA's collaboration with key partners like K-water and the Asia Water Council but also set the stage for continued global impact in the years to come.

## COP29

After receiving the observer status from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2023, IWRA made its presence felt at COP29 another year. Represented by its Board Director, Dahlia Sabri, IWRA confirmed its engagement as a Core Partner of the Water for Climate Pavilion. As in years prior, the collective behind the Pavilion was designing a joint programme to insert and advocate water's crucial role in climate processes. With 75 formal Partners, the pavilion and the ambition of the international water community at COPs has increased, highlighting IWRA's commitment to promoting innovative and integrative approaches to water security and sustainable development for a greener and more resilient future.



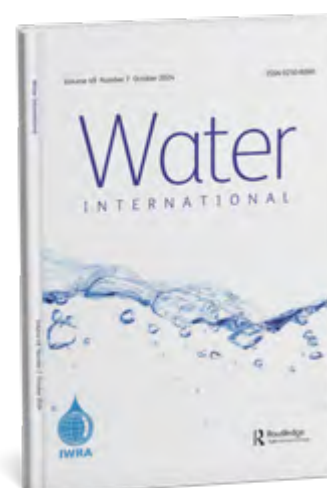
# PUBLICATIONS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

## WATER INTERNATIONAL

*Water International* has been IWRA's flagship publication since 1975 and benefits from a veteran senior management team, consisting of Editor-in-Chief, James E. Nickum,

(since 2007) and Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Raya Marina Stephan (since 2018). The publication is also supported by 5 Associate Editors and a strong Editorial Board.

The journal publishes eight issues a year.



### THE EDITORIAL TEAM

|                               |                     |                                                                        |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Editor-in-Chief</b>        | James E. Nickum     | IWRA, Japan                                                            |
| <b>Deputy Editor-in-Chief</b> | Raya Marina Stephan | IWRA, France                                                           |
| <b>Book Review Editor</b>     | Dahlia Sabri        | IWRA, Egypt                                                            |
| <b>Associate Editors</b>      | Alvar Closas        | IWRA, Colombia University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA         |
|                               | Surina Esterhuyse   | University of the Free State, South Africa                             |
|                               | Pedi Obani          | University of Bradford, UK                                             |
|                               | Yizi Shang          | China Institute of Water Resources & Hydropower Research (IWHR), China |
|                               | Chad Staddon        | University of the West of England, UK                                  |



## THE EDITORIAL BOARD

|                              |                                                                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Nani G. Bhowmik</b>       | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA                  |
| <b>Regina M. Buono</b>       | Environmental Law Institute, USA                                 |
| <b>Ximing Cai</b>            | University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA                    |
| <b>Guillermo Donoso</b>      | Pontificia Universidad Católica, Chile                           |
| <b>Ben Dziegielewski</b>     | Southern Illinois University, USA                                |
| <b>Nadim Farajallah</b>      | AUB, Lebanon                                                     |
| <b>Bruce Hooper</b>          | Bruce Hooper & Associates, Australia                             |
| <b>Shaofeng Jia</b>          | Chinese Academy of Sciences, China                               |
| <b>Aysegul Kibaroglu</b>     | MEF University, Turkey                                           |
| <b>Krasposy Kujinga</b>      | WaterNet, Zimbabwe                                               |
| <b>Charlotte MacAlister</b>  | Climate Smart Communities, Canada                                |
| <b>Anita Milman</b>          | University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA                        |
| <b>Laura Movilla Pateiro</b> | University of Vigo, Spain                                        |
| <b>Daanish Mustafa</b>       | King's College, UK                                               |
| <b>Katie O'Bryan</b>         | Monash University, Australia                                     |
| <b>Thani Octaviani</b>       | University of the West of England, UK                            |
| <b>Raja Sengupta</b>         | McGill University, Canada                                        |
| <b>Slobodan Simonovic</b>    | University of Western Ontario, Canada                            |
| <b>Lenka Slavikova</b>       | J.E.Purkyne University, Czech Republic                           |
| <b>Justin Stoler</b>         | University of Miami, USA                                         |
| <b>Kuniyoshi Takeuchi</b>    | University of Yamanashi, Japan                                   |
| <b>Cecilia Tortajada</b>     | University of Glasgow, UK                                        |
| <b>Olli Varis</b>            | Aalto University, Finland                                        |
| <b>Yuliya Vystavna</b>       | Czech Academy of Science, Czech Republic                         |
| <b>Mingna Wang</b>           | Tianjin University, China                                        |
| <b>Philippus Wester</b>      | PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, the Netherlands |
| <b>Kevin Wheeler</b>         | Oxford University, UK                                            |
| <b>Sarah Elizabeth Wolfe</b> | Royal Roads University, Canada                                   |

## WATER INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS

- Open issue submissions received: 209 (to November 30); accepted 20; acceptance rate 10.7%
- 2023 Impact Factor 1.6 (Q2), Citescore 4,4 (Q2)
- Most Cited 2022-2024: Viktor Vyshnevskiy et al., The destruction of the Kakhovka dam and its consequences (48:5)
- Most Read 2024: Mohamed Hassan Tawfik et al., Towards effective cooperation dynamics in transboundary river basins: a case study of the Nile and Orontes Rivers (49:3-4)

## THEMATIC SPECIAL ISSUES OF WATER INTERNATIONAL

- Exploring the use of data and models in transboundary water governance (48:8)
- Irrigation in urban catchments: Politics, practices and technologies (49:2)
- Water management in basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers: the challenges ahead after 30 years of innovation (49:3-4)

## IWRA'S MENTORED PUBLISHING SCHEME FOR EARLY-CAREER PROFESSIONALS

IWRA launched an innovative programme in 2020 aimed at supporting early-career scholars and water professionals. Articles that promote interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary works that are either coauthored with or supervised by senior water professionals are prepared for publication in Water International and are peer reviewed. Phase 2 of the programme, launched in 2023, is led by David Molden and Regina Buono.

## POLICY BRIEFS

IWRA publishes two series of policy briefs, a "blue series" and a "green series" of Water International Policy Briefs, based on special issues or in association with key partners in the framework of IWRA events and activities. James E. Nickum is the Coordinator of the Policy Briefs. He works with a team of Policy Briefs Editors, Jessica Reese Ferraioli and Kris Hartley.

In 2024, one "Blue Series" policy brief was produced: Water International Policy Brief N°22 - Measuring the Impacts of Water Governance. To read the Policy Brief, visit: [www.iwra.org/policybriefs/](http://www.iwra.org/policybriefs/)



## SPECIAL ISSUE BOOKS

Each year, the Routledge Special Issues on Water Policy and Governance book series publishes Water International special issues and thematically related articles. James E. Nickum and Cecilia Tortajada are the co-editors of this series. In 2024, the following paperback editions were published (they had been released in hardback previously):

***Strengthening Cooperation Over Transboundary Groundwater Resources***, ed. by Gabriel Eckstein and Alice Aureli

***Source-to-Sea Management***, ed. by Josh Weinberg, Fang Qinhua, Sarantuaa Zandaryaa, Greg Leslie, and James E. Nickum

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

***Groundwater: Recent Advances in Interdisciplinary Knowledge***, ed. by James E. Nickum, Raya Marina Stephan, and Philippus Wester

***Sustainable Groundwater Development for Improved Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa***, ed. by Paul Pavelic, Karen G. Villholth, and Shlip Verma

***Smart Water Management: Truly Intelligent or Just Another Pretty Name?***, ed. by Henning Bjornlund, Stephanie Kuisma, James E. Nickum, and Raya Marina Stephan

***Public Banks, Public Water: Exploring the Links in Europe***, ed. by Thomas Marois and David A. McDonald

To learn more about the Routledge Special Issues series, visit: [www.routledge.com/Routledge-Special-Issues-on-Water-Policy-and-Governance/book-series/WATER](http://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Special-Issues-on-Water-Policy-and-Governance/book-series/WATER)



## IWRA'S NEWSLETTER: IWRA UPDATE

The Association published its regular four editions of its quarterly newsletter, the IWRA Update, in 2024. The newsletter keeps IWRA members and partners informed about key achievements, upcoming events, and ways to get involved. These newsletters are published exclusively online and are accessible to IWRA members, partners, and the public. Distribution occurs via email (Mailchimp) and editions are promoted on social media channels, including X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Each issue features open calls, inviting members to contribute updates on the latest activities and research. In 2024, the communications team made additional efforts make the newsletter more engaging and to include more insights from diverse perspectives and voices.

IWRA Members, partners, and the wider public can access these newsletters by visiting: [www.iwra.org/newsletter/](http://www.iwra.org/newsletter/)



# CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

## IWRA WEBINARS

In 2024, IWRA held online webinars on five different water-related topics. Three of these webinars were organised in partnership with project partners, UNESCO IHP and i-WSSM. New IWRA organisational partners, AIDA and AWS, also hosted special UN Water (United Nations Water) campaigns.

**Webinar n°66:** Smart Flows: Real World Applications of Digital Transformation in Water Management

**Webinar n°67:** Reshaping the Nile: Opportunities and Implications of the GERD for Water Security and Peace

**Webinar n°68:** Water Resources Under Climate Change

**Webinar n°69:** Integrated Urban Water Management

**Webinar n°70:** AWS Standard V3.0: Global Public Consultation

All webinars are free, recorded, and are available on IWRA's website and YouTube channel. More than 1,000 registrants participated in these webinars, and looking ahead, IWRA hopes to further leverage its partnerships with other organisations and institutions to host informative webinars.

To access the recordings and presentations, please visit: [www.iwra.org/webinars/](http://www.iwra.org/webinars/)

## IWRA MASTER CLASSES

Due to the ongoing successes of two masterclass series, IWRA will continue to host master classes with the assistance of IWRA Task Forces and Chapters, as well as with our various water organisational partners. During 2024, IWRA's Executive Office continued to build partnerships with the third series in mind.

To learn more about our most recent Master Class series, please visit: [www.iwra.org/master-classes/](http://www.iwra.org/master-classes/)



# IWRA AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Since its creation, IWRA strives to recognise the contributions made towards water management by excellent water researchers, professionals, and organisations. To support this endeavour, special awards and recognitions are given, including the Crystal Drop Award, the The Ven Te Chow Memorial Award and Lecture, and the Water Drop Award.

The next call for nominations for these awards will be launched in early 2025, and winners will be presented at the XIX World Water Congress in Marrakech, Morocco.

## THE CRYSTAL DROP AWARD

The Crystal Drop Award is awarded once every two years to individuals or organisations in recognition of their laudable contributions to the improvement of the world's water situation.

## THE VEN TE CHOW MEMORIAL AWARD AND LECTURE

The Ven Te Chow Memorial Lecture Award was established to honour IWRA's first president, Professor Ven Te Chow. It is awarded to an outstanding speaker, who is invited to deliver a lecture at the IWRA World Water Congress.



## WATER DROP AWARD

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

## WATER INTERNATIONAL BEST PAPER AWARD

This award 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.

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

# EXTERNAL AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

## ACCREDITATIONS

As reported in 2023, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to grant special consultative status to IWRA. Consultative status for an organisation enables the Association to engage with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, the Human Rights Council and, under specific conditions, some meetings of the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, as well as

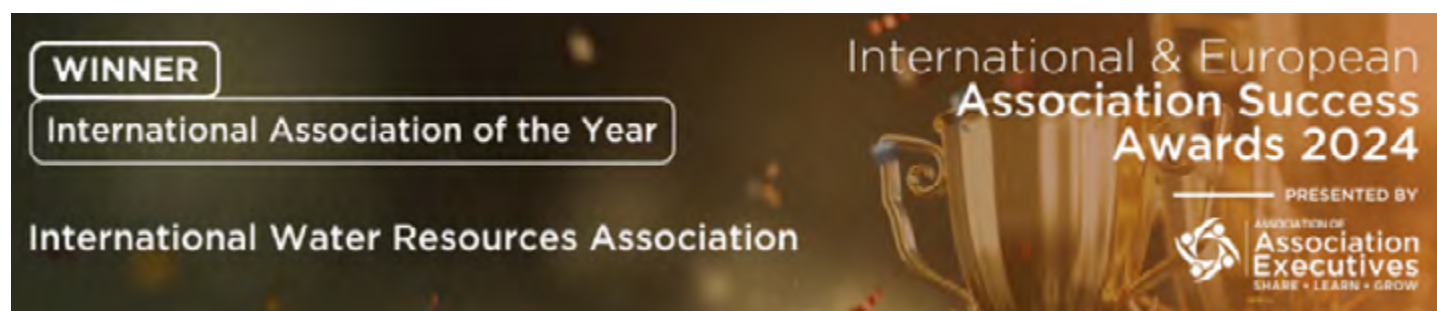
with the United Nations Secretariat. It also provides important privileges (e.g. register and participate in UN and UN-related meetings, events, conferences, or activities as an observer; submit written statements to the Council, make oral presentations with ECOSOC, send consultation proposals, and use UN facilities), and includes certain obligations (i.e. drafting reports or updating its contact information regularly). Achieving ECOSOC status was an important achievement for IWRA.

## AWARDS

In 2024, IWRA was awarded the International Association of the Year at the International & European Success Awards 2024 by the Association of Association Executives. The judges praised IWRA for “driving powerful positive change in water resource management and our role in fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders from

academia, government, civil society, and the private sector.”

To learn more about the Association Success Awards click here: [www.associationexecutives.org/resource/winners-of-the-international-european-success-awards-2024.html](http://www.associationexecutives.org/resource/winners-of-the-international-european-success-awards-2024.html)





# DIGITAL MEDIA & SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Social media continues to be a key tool for promoting IWRA's activities, sharing knowledge, and increasing brand awareness. Although engagement levels have declined due to less frequent posting and a smaller communications team, IWRA's social media presence has continued to grow across platforms, with notable increases in the number of followers.

The main engagement platforms utilised were LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram (META), X (formerly Twitter), IWRA website, and YouTube.

## 2024 KEY HIGHLIGHTS



**X (FORMERLY TWITTER)**  
FROM 17,200 TO  
**18,250 FOLLOWERS**  
IN 2024



**FACEBOOK**  
AUDIENCE OF  
**52,640 FOLLOWERS**



**LINKEDIN**  
FROM 26,990 TO  
**30,500 FOLLOWERS**



**INSTAGRAM**  
FROM 1,460 TO  
**1,940 FOLLOWERS**  
BY THE END OF 2024



**YOUTUBE**  
**+102 SUBSCRIBERS AND**  
**4,700 CONTENT VIEWS**



**IWRA WEBSITE**  
**243,400 VISITORS AND**  
**569,279 VIEWS**

# GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

In 2024, despite a challenging financial year, IWRA experienced another successful period, thanks to the commitment and dedication of its Executive board and the unwavering support it received from its Executive Office team. Looking

ahead to 2025, we remain committed to strengthening support from our members and partners as we navigate future challenges and build opportunities for alternative funding streams.



## A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE IWRA 2022-2024 BOARD MEMBERS!



**YUANYUAN LI**  
President



**GABRIEL ECKSTEIN**  
Past President



**HENNING BJORNULD**  
Vice- President



**RABI MOHTAR**  
Vice- President



**LESHA WITMER**  
Vice- President



**RENÉE MARTIN-NAGLE**  
Treasurer



**ERIC TARDIEU**  
Secretary-General



**JEAN FRIED**  
Chair, Scientific,  
Technical and  
Publications Committee



**BASSEL DAHER**  
Chair, Membership  
Committee



**LILI YU**  
Chair, Awards  
Committee



**ASMA BACHIKH**  
Director



**GUY FRADIN**  
Director



**GARY JONES**  
Director



**KARIN KRCHNAK**  
Director



**TREVOR MAGWAZAR**  
Director



**GANESH PANGARE**  
Director



**ARIANA ROSSEN**  
Director



**DAHLIA SABRI**  
Director



**TOM SOO**  
Director



**PILAR CAROLINA VILLAR**  
Director



**TOM WILLIAMS**  
Director

|                                                  |                       |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>President</b>                                 | Yuanyuan Li           | China             |
| <b>Past President</b>                            | Gabriel Eckstein      | USA               |
| <b>Vice-Presidents</b>                           | Henning Bjornlund     | Australia/Denmark |
|                                                  | Rabi Mohtar           | Lebanon/USA       |
|                                                  | Lesha Witmar          | Netherlands       |
| <b>Secretary General</b>                         | Eric Tardieu          | France            |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                                 | Renée Martin-Nagle    | USA               |
| <b>COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>                          |                       |                   |
| <b>Governance</b>                                | Yuanyuan Li           | China             |
| <b>Membership</b>                                | Bassel Daher          | Lebanon/USA       |
| <b>Budget &amp; Finance</b>                      | Renée Martin-Nagle    | USA               |
| <b>Congress &amp; Events</b>                     | Henning Bjornlund     | Australia/Denmark |
| <b>Scientific, Technical, &amp; Publications</b> | Jean Fried            | France/USA        |
| <b>Task Forces &amp; Chapters Oversight</b>      | Rabi Mohtar           | Lebanon           |
| <b>Awards</b>                                    | Lili Yu               | China             |
| <b>Partnerships &amp; Affiliations</b>           | Lesha Witmer          | Netherlands       |
| <b>Directors</b>                                 | Asma Bachikh          | Morocco           |
|                                                  | Guy Fradin            | France            |
|                                                  | Gary Jones            | Australia         |
|                                                  | Karin Krchnak         | Slovakia/USA      |
|                                                  | 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    |



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

In 2024, IWRA maintained eight active committees to support its strategic objectives and operational activities. These committees play a crucial role in guiding the Association's work across key areas, including governance, finance, membership, partnerships, and scientific publications.

The committees are composed of both Executive Board members and other experts from within the IWRA community. They receive support from the Executive Office as needed and work collaboratively to advance the Association's mission.

### THE COMPOSITION AND PURPOSE OF EACH COMMITTEE IN 2024 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

| COMMITTEE                                        | CHAIR              | MEMBERS                                                                                                                                      | PURPOSE                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Awards</b>                                    | Lili Yu            | Gabriel Eckstein, Rabi Mohtar, James Nickum, Ganesh Pangare, Dahlia Sabri                                                                    | Selects recipients of IWRA's key awards and honorary memberships.                                                                    |
| <b>Budget &amp; Finance</b>                      | Renée Martin-Nagle | Guy Fradin, Gary Jones, Tom Soo                                                                                                              | Oversees fiscal and budgetary operations, develops and monitors the budget, and identifies new revenue streams.                      |
| <b>Congress &amp; Events</b>                     | Henning Bjornlund  | Ganesh Pangare, Dahlia Sabri, Tom Soo, Raya Stephan, Fengyue Sun, Eric Tardieu, Tom Williams                                                 | Develops policies and strategies for IWRA's congresses and events, evaluates host proposals, and oversees event organisation.        |
| <b>Partnerships &amp; Affiliations</b>           | Lesha Witmer       | Asma Bachikh, Gabriel Eckstein, Guy Fradin, Karin Krchnak, Dahlia Sabri, Eric Tardieu, Trevor Magwaza, Ganesh Pangare, Tom Williams, Lili Yu | Explores partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and private sector institutions, advising on collaboration opportunities. |
| <b>Governance</b>                                | Yuanyuan Li        | Gabriel Eckstein, Henning Bjornlund, Renée Martin-Nagle, Rabi Mohtar, Eric Tardieu, Lesha Witmer                                             | Ensures adherence to IWRA bylaws, makes decisions between Executive Board meetings, and acts in emergencies.                         |
| <b>Membership</b>                                | Bassel Daher       | Victor Arroyo, Asma Bachikh, Guillermo Donoso, Gary Jones, Lili Yu                                                                           | Develops membership guidelines, promotes engagement, and enhances participation within the IWRA community.                           |
| <b>Scientific, Technical, &amp; Publications</b> | Henning Bjornlund  | Guillermo Donoso, Farda Imanov, Stephanie Kuisma, David Molden, Jim Nickum, Raya Stephan, Ximing Cai                                         | Advises on scientific activities and publications, including Water International, policy briefs, and webinars.                       |
| <b>Task Forces &amp; Chapters Oversight</b>      | Rabi Mohtar        | Raya Marina Stephan, Xiaojun Geng, Dahlia Sabri, Lindsey Blodgett                                                                            | Oversees IWRA's Chapters and Task Forces, ensuring alignment with IWRA's mission and fostering new initiatives.                      |

## MEETINGS & GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IWRA hosted its annual General Assembly online via Zoom on November 6, 2024. This event brings together members and non-members from around the globe, offering participants a chance to engage directly with IWRA's leadership and gain insights into the Association's activities and future.

### Key speakers included:

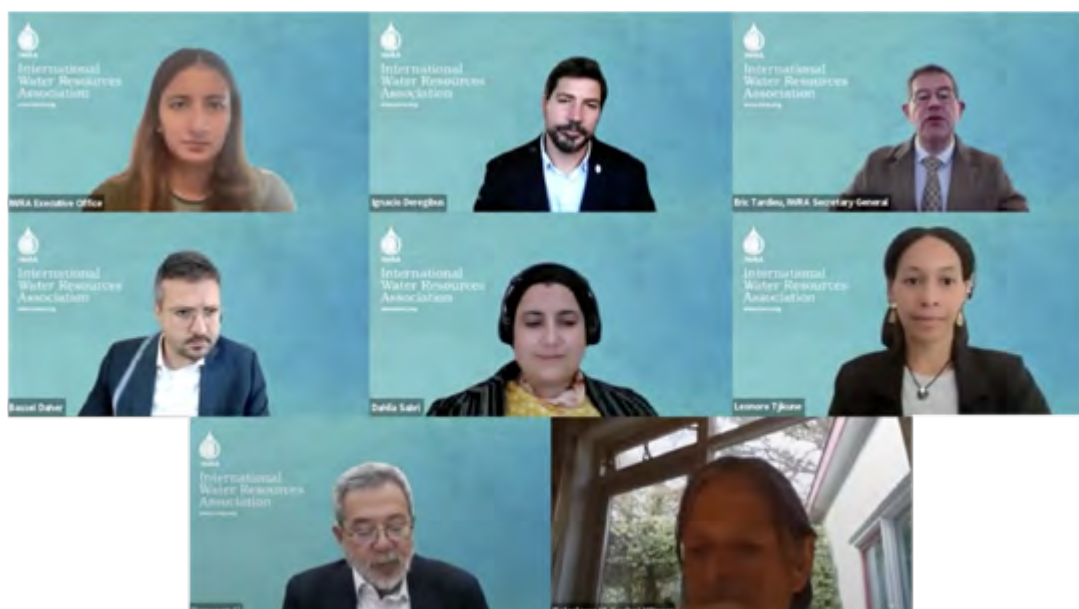
- Eric Tardieu, IWRA Secretary General, who chaired the session and shared opening and closing remarks.
- Yuanyuan Li, IWRA President, who provided an overview of the Association's recent achievements and upcoming initiatives.
- Renée Martin-Nagle, IWRA Treasurer, who presented the financial report, highlighting efforts to ensure stability in the upcoming financial period.
- Ignacio Deregibus, then-Acting Executive Director, who reviewed IWRA's activities and shared exciting plans for upcoming projects and events.
- Bassel Daher, Chair of the Membership Committee, who reported on the significant growth and engagement of IWRA's global membership and emphasised future efforts for attracting more institutional and paying members.
- Dahlia Sabri, Board Director and Committee Member of the Task Force and Chapter Oversight Committee Member, who provided updates on Geographic Chapters and Task Forces.

### Main highlights included:

- Updates on key projects, including the UNESCO Water Security Series and the Smart Water Cities Project.
- Announcements about the XIX World Water Congress, as well as a call for hosts for the 2nd Islands Water Congress and XX World Water Congress.
- Insights into IWRA's growing Geographic Chapters and Task Forces, including new guidelines and requirements for establishing new Chapters or Task Forces.
- Achieving membership milestones, surpassing 5,000 members globally.
- Updates on key partnerships with UN-Water, UNESCO, OECD, K-water, World Water Council, S2S Platform, Asia Water Council, and many others.
- Progressing in publications for Water International issues, Policy Briefs, and the 2nd Mentorship Programme for early-career scholars.

If you missed this event or wish to revisit the discussions, the recording and presentation is available here: [www.iwra.org/how-we-work/#general\\_assemblies](http://www.iwra.org/how-we-work/#general_assemblies)

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE



In 2024, the IWRA Executive Office remained active while facing the departure of long-serving Executive Director Callum Clench, who left the Association in October after more than eight years. IWRA also brought in new staff members to continue its operations and guarantee business continuity.



#### The composition of the Executive Office at the end of 2024 is listed below:

- **Acting Executive Director:** Ignacio Deregibus, who was previously the Deputy-Director, replacing Callum Clench.
- **Administration Officer:** Awantika Pal
- **Communications Director:** Leonore Tjikune
- **Events Officer:** Andrea Santos
- **Events Officer:** Lili Yu came on board to support the Executive office with its World Water Congress activities.
- **Special Project Officers:**
  - Mary Trudeau continued to work part-time on the UNESCO i-WSSM project.
  - Mónica García Quesada finalised her work on the Smart Water Cities Project.
- **Policy Brief Officers:** Kris Hartley and Regina M. Buono worked together part-time editing and drafting policy briefs.
- **Webinar Officers:** Lindsey Blodgett and Arturo Salazar continued to organise webinars on a part-time basis.
- **Graphic Designer:** Nathalie Lyon-Caen continued to assist in the graphic design of IWRA's reports and media products on a part-time basis.
- **Webmaster:** Sergio Vallejo continued to ensure the security of all IWRA websites and databases for congresses and conferences on a part-time basis.

As the IWRA Executive Office continues to operate under a remote working model, the team operates across the United States of America, Portugal, France, and Spain. The part-time members of the team are spread across Australia, Canada, France, Germany, and the USA. The geographic spread of the Executive Office team mirrors the geographically diverse Executive Board itself, emphasising also the international and diverse nature of the Association and its members.



# IWRA's 2024 DIARY











**IWRA**

**CONTACT**

IWRA Executive Office  
22 rue de Madrid  
75008 Paris France

Tel: +33-6-44-20-57-53  
Email: [office@iwra.org](mailto:office@iwra.org)

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

