



International
Water Resources
Association

Terms of Reference Hosting & Organising an **IWRA World Water Congress**

**THE WORLD'S LARGEST CONGRESS
LINKING WATER RESEARCHERS AND POLICY
PRACTITIONERS**

PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to outline the process for selecting the host and organiser of the IWRA World Water Congress, and to define the roles, responsibilities, and requirements for its successful planning and delivery.





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MORE THAN FIVE DECADES OF IWRA CONGRESS EXPERTISE

For more than five decades, the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) has convened the global water community through a diverse portfolio of high-level international congresses and specialised events.

IWRA Congresses provide a platform where science, policy, and practice intersect to inform decision-making and support collective action across local, national, and global scales. By bringing together stakeholders from across different sectors and disciplines, these events advance dialogue, promote knowledge exchange, and foster collaboration.

While varying in scope and format, all IWRA events are grounded in a shared commitment to scientific excellence, policy relevance, and inclusive participation. In doing so, they contribute to more sustainable water resources management worldwide.



Opening Ceremony at the XVII World Water Congress

WORLD WATER CONGRESS

At the heart of the IWRA's events portfolio is the World Water Congress, IWRA's flagship and most established event. Held every two to three years in different regions of the world, it brings together between 1,500 and 3,000 participants, including policymakers, researchers, practitioners, private sector representatives, and civil society organisations, to address emerging water challenges and priorities.

The World Water Congress is widely recognised for shaping global water discourse and highlighting key priorities on the international water agenda. For instance, concrete outcomes of Congress are visible across sectors, geographies and levels. This includes the establishment of the World Water Council following the Congress in Cairo (1994), the strengthening of national water collaboration in France through the Montpellier Congress (2008) that led to the creation of the National French Water Cluster, increased international visibility for Scotland's

Hydro Nation programme (2015), and launch of the World Water Envoys Programme (2021).

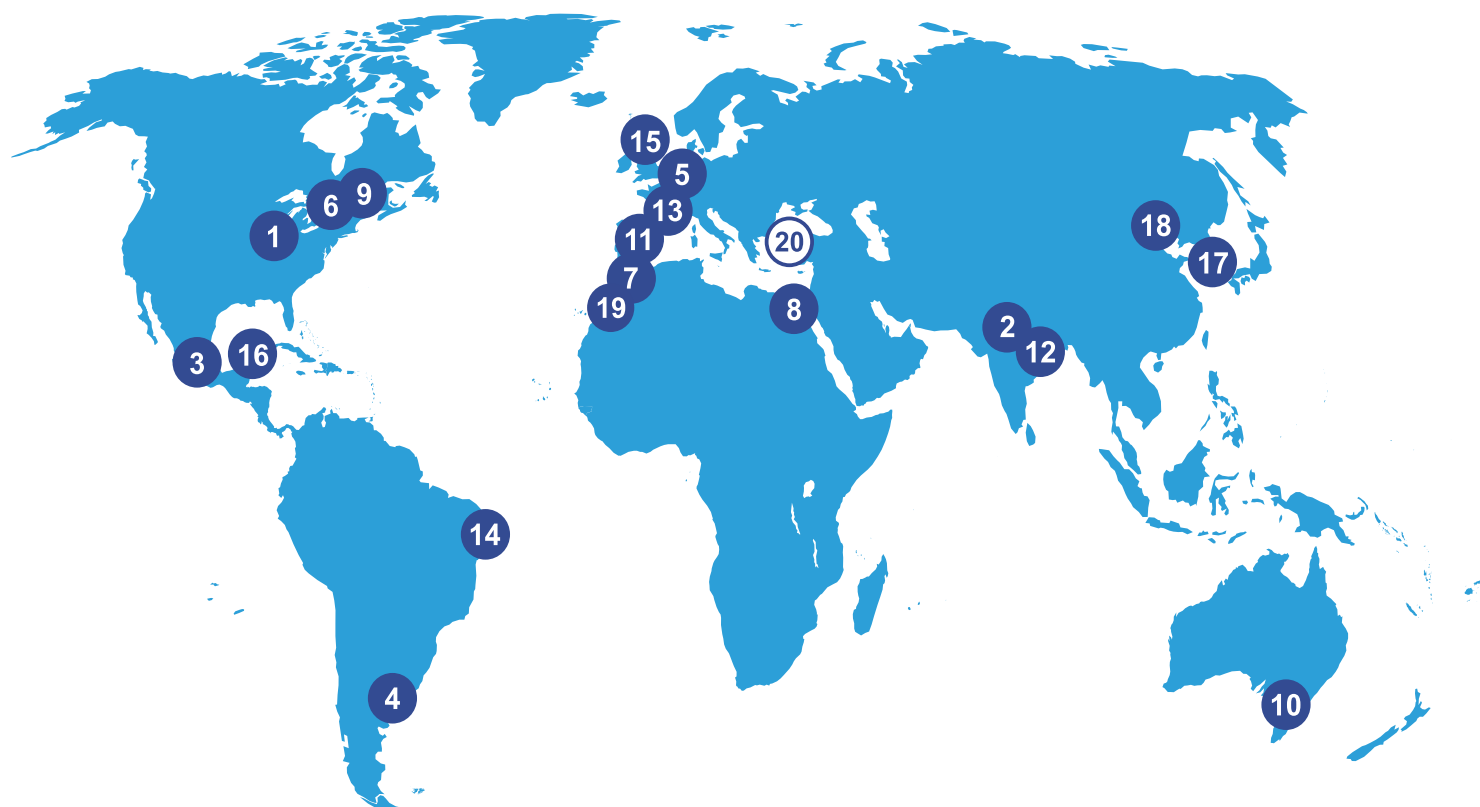
The most recent edition, the XIX World Water Congress, was held in Morocco from 1–5 December 2025. A key outcome was the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration reaffirming international commitment to accelerating progress towards SDG 6 and strengthening integrated water resources management. The Congress also reinforced the importance of addressing water, climate, energy, food and health systems through systemic and integrated approaches. The next XX World Water Congress edition will take place in Istanbul, Türkiye from 4–8 October 2027.

Overall, these achievements reflect the enduring role of the World Water Congress in bringing together the global water community to advance collaboration, innovation, and action across the water sector and beyond.



Ministerial Roundtable during XIX World Water Congress

OUR CONGRESSES OVER TIME



World Water Congress

1	Chicago, U.S.A 24-28 September 1973	2	New Delhi, India 12-16 December 1975	3	Mexico City, Mexico 23 April 1979
4	Buenos Aires, Argentina 5-9 September 1982	5	Brussels, Belgium 9-15 June 1985	6	Ottawa, Canada 29 May-3 June 1988
7	Rabat, Morocco 13-18 May 1991	8	El Cairo, Egypt 13-18 May 1994	9	Montreal, Canada 1-6 September 1997
10	Melbourne, Australia 12-16 March 2000	11	Madrid, Spain 5-9 October 2003	12	New Delhi, India 22-25 November 2005
13	Montpellier, France 1-4 September 2008	14	Porto-De-Galinhas, Brazil 25-29 September 2011	15	Edinburgh, UK 25-29 May 2015
16	Cancun, Mexico 29 May-3 June 2017	17	Daegu, Republic of Korea 29 Nov-3 Dec 2021	18	Beijing, China 11-15 September 2023
19	Marrakech, Morocco 1-5 December 2025	20	Istanbul, Türkiye 4 - 8 October 2027		

World Water Congress at a glance

1,000 – 3,000

ATTENDEES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

500–700

SPEAKERS

150 – 200

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

200

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

20–30

PLENARY
SESSIONS
Opening & Closing
Ceremonies;
4 High-Level Panels

10+

IWRA
AWARDS

250–300

REGULAR SESSIONS SPEAKERS

200–300

SPECIAL SESSIONS SPEAKERS

80+

EXHIBITORS
2,000 – 3,000 m² exhibition space

BENEFITS OF CO-HOSTING & COORGANISING THE IWRA WORLD WATER CONGRESS

LEADERSHIP

Positions the host as a global leader and agenda-setter in freshwater management, providing an opportunity to help shape international discussions and demonstrate commitment to addressing global water challenges.

COLLABORATION

Creates a unique platform to convene global, regional, and local actors, fostering partnerships, joint initiatives, and long-term cooperation across sectors.

REPUTATION

Strengthens long-term credibility by showcasing the host's expertise, innovation, and leadership to water policy, research, and practice.

REVENUE

Generates economic and tourism benefits through the participation of a high number of international, regional and local delegates, sponsors, exhibitors, and partners.

PROFILE

Enhances the international profile of the host city and country, highlighting institutional capacity, research excellence, policy leadership, and the ability to contribute meaningfully to the international water agenda.

RECOGNITION

Benefits from IWRA's global reputation and network, increasing international visibility through engagement with leading organisations, partners, and media outlets.

EXPERTISE

Provides direct access to international experts, senior policymakers, and representatives of major organisations, strengthening local and national capacity through direct exchange and knowledge-sharing.

NETWORKING

Facilitates high-level networking opportunities with global water professionals, institutions, and decision-makers, and therefore enables lasting collaborations and partnerships beyond the Congress.



Retno Marsudi, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Water, speaking during a High-Level Panel at the XIX World Water Congress

LEGACY PROGRAMME

IWRA events extend beyond the Congress itself, through ongoing community engagement and sustainability programmes at the local, regional, and international levels in each edition to contribute for positive impacts on the ground while helping to achieve the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

For instance, by co-organising an edition of the World Water Congress the destination can become an important part of and support to IWRA's World Water Envoys Programme initiative, promote Local Community Programmes, launch Global Water Declarations, set up a new IWRA Geographic Chapter or thematic Task Force, or propose new initiatives for a sustainable future for all!

In 2022, IWRA was recognised with the IC-CA-BestCities Incredible Impacts Award & Grant for its Legacy Programme: "World Water Envoys". We will continue to endeavour to maintain a spotlight on and serve early career or young professionals' representatives from local



2025 World Water Envoys

communities to find responses and solutions to their water challenges in all regions of the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, and the Americas.



IWRA President Yuanyuan Li and UNESCO-IHP's Division Water Sciences Director Abou Amani signing a Letter of Intent between the two organisations at the XIX World Water Congress

WHO ATTENDS AND WHY

PRACTITIONERS

(Water Managers, Utilities, and Technicians)

- Exchange practical experience, challenges, and solutions across the water sector.
- Learn from case studies, innovations, and applied research in water management.
- Gain insight into emerging trends, technologies, and operational approaches.

PRIVATE SECTOR

(Industry and Company Representatives)

- Understand market trends, policy directions, and emerging technologies.
- Explore business opportunities, partnerships, and collaboration with public and private actors.
- Engage with decision-makers and position expertise through panels and technical sessions.

POLICYMAKERS

(Political Leaders and Technical Officials)

- Learn from policy approaches and governance models implemented in other regions.
- Exchange experiences with islands facing similar water challenges.
- Strengthen evidence-based decision-making and public engagement on water issues.

ACADEMICS/RESEARCHERS

(especially from Science, Policy, and Law)

- Showcase and access the latest research and analytical insights.
- Build research partnerships and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Contribute knowledge and insights that deepen understanding of freshwater management across countries.



Session at the XVIII World Water Congress

ABOUT IWRA

IWRA is an international, non-governmental, member-based organisation established in 1971. It is widely recognised as a leading interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral forum at the interface of water science and policy, advancing understanding and practice in water resources management worldwide.

IWRA's new vision is "A water-secure world where science and policy are integrated for the benefit of people and the environment." As a non-partisan and evidence-based organisation, IWRA provides a global platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration, helping connect scientific knowledge with policy and practice and supporting better-informed water-related decision-making.

At the heart of IWRA is its global community of members and partners. The Association convenes this diverse, cross-disciplinary commu-

nity to advance water knowledge, strengthen the water science-policy interface, build professional and institutional capacity, and promote evidence-based policies and practices. By connecting disciplines, sectors and geographies, IWRA seeks to turn knowledge into action and contribute to sustainable and equitable water outcomes for people, economies and the natural environment.

IWRA works to:

- grow and engage a diverse global membership and partner network;
- convene and facilitate dialogue on water science and policy;
- foster, synthesise and disseminate cutting-edge and actionable knowledge; build professional and institutional capacity;

- promote positive, evidence-based policies and practices; and
- strengthen opportunities for its members and partners to contribute to and influence the water sector.

IWRA delivers this mission through its flagship World Water Congress and thematic congresses; Water International and other knowledge products, including policy briefs and technical or policy reports; networking and information services; training and capacity-building activities; member-led initiatives and working groups; and strategic partnerships with organisations across the global water community.

Through these activities, IWRA aims to strengthen its role as a globally recognised thought leader and platform for communicating and discussing water science and policy, while elevating water as an issue of global concern.

IWRA's goals:

- Provide platforms for dialogue on water resources at international, regional, and national levels;
- Strengthen the quality and accessibility of knowledge used in water-related decision-making;
- Promote cutting-edge research to inform policy and practice;
- Facilitate the exchange of information and expertise across countries, sectors, and professions; and,
- Collaborate with leading international organisations.



IWRA President Yuanyuan Li attends the 50th anniversary of IHP and 60 years of the Water Sciences Division.

IWRA achieves these goals by:

- Organising flagship events such as World Water Congress, Islands Water Congress, and Regional Water Congress;
- Delivering online conferences, webinars, masterclasses, and other virtual events in partnership with key water organisations;
- Publishing *Water International* (IWRA's peer-reviewed journal), special books, and policy briefs on key water topics;
- Developing and implementing thematic projects with partners, such as the Alliance for Water Stewardship, Asia Water Council, K-water, FAO, OECD, UNESCO, World Bank, World Water Council, and many more;
- Disseminating knowledge through digital channels, including IWRA's website, newsletters, and social media; and
- Coordinating member-led activities through Committees, thematic Task Forces, Working Groups, and Geographic Chapters.
- Much more.

APPLICATION & TERMS OF REFERENCE

STEP 1: EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2026

Expressions of Interest (Eoi) should be addressed to the IWRA Executive Director, Ignacio Deregibus, by email to i.deregibus@iwra.org, with office@iwra.org and congress@iwra.org in copy.

Eoi should be a maximum of 2 pages, stating:

- The lead bidding organisation;
- Supporting organisations;
- Proposed location(s) of the World Water Congress;
- Preferred dates for hosting the World Water Congress;
- The motivation for hosting the World Water Congress;
- The preferred main theme of the World Water Congress;

- Entity responsible for paying the hosting fee;
- The institutional resources available to support the hosting of the World Water Congress;
- The proposed venue and maximum capacity of this facility;
- Agreement with the terms of reference of this document.

All Eoi will be reviewed by the IWRA Congress & Events Committee, with approved candidates requested to submit a full written application to host the IWRA World Water Congress by an agreed deadline.

STEP 2 - FULL WRITTEN APPLICATIONS | FEBRUARY - MARCH 2027

Applications to co-host and co-organise a World Water Congress with IWRA should be submitted in digital format to office@iwra.org with a copy to congress@iwra.org.

IWRA's Executive Office will support the bidders through this process to ensure that the submitted documents are as complete as possible.

Full applications should include the following:

1. An official proposal letter from the head of the bidding organisation.

2. Letters of support from the co-coordinators and the principal funders of the Congress.

3. A detailed proposal explaining:

- a. Experience of the bidding organisation in the water sector, including examples of relevant past events or initiatives;
- b. Key partners within and outside the country, and links to other international water events;
- c. References to efforts by the bidding organisation and/or cohosts to achieve the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda;
- d. Suitability of the proposed location;
- e. Proposed mechanisms to manage the delivery of the World Water Congress including logistics, promotion, registration, budgeting, and accounting, in accordance with these Terms of Reference;
- f. Any official languages of the World Water Congress in addition to English, which is the official language of the event, and whether simultaneous translation will be

made available for other languages;

- g. The proposed timetable and key milestones of the World Water Congress, including website and app development, communications, promotional activities, abstracts submission, registration, etc.;
- h. Proposed dates – the Congress shall last for 5 consecutive days, starting on a date of the hosts' own choosing in the relevant year, and with consideration to the expected timing of other significant water conferences, such as IWRA Islands Water Congresses, Stockholm Water Week, etc., as well as any significant holidays and other global events;
- i. Proposal for both sustainability and legacy programmes to minimise environmental impacts of the Congress in the destination and address anticipated needs of the city and the citizens.

4. Congress content

- a. A proposed overarching theme for the World Water Congress, with justification. The final theme will be agreed with IWRA if the application is successful. Also provide details on any subthemes;
- b. A description on the types of content proposed for the World Water Congress, such as academic paper presentations in regular sessions and poster sessions; project presentations in special sessions led by participating organisations; high-level plenary panels; academic or practitioner workshops organised by the host; and other relevant formats;
- c. IWRA commits to supporting content development by using its extensive network of experts and inviting various high-level

experts and personalities as speakers. IWRA will provide members to the International Scientific Committee, which is responsible for developing Congress content relative to the scale of the proposed event. Please provide a description of how the bidding organisation will also develop substantive content, and outline any additional support that is expected from IWRA;

- d. Details on the proposed overarching theme and any subthemes, including examples of high level panel discussions, special sessions, keynote speakers, opening /closing ceremonies, etc;
- e. Where applicable, details of the mechanisms for submitting, collecting, and reviewing abstracts for individual presentations and/or proposals for special sessions by organisations, as well as the process for selecting contributors to the World Water Congress.

5. Social programme, technical visits and other activities

- a. Basic details on the proposed Congress social programme, including any dinners, receptions, meals, and cultural activities, as well as clarification on how the costs for

these activities will be covered;

- b. Basic details of accompanying guest programmes, where applicable;
- c. Basic details on technical visits, where applicable.

6. Financial considerations

The host organisation shall assume sole and full responsibility for the financial management of the World Water Congress, including its budgeting, financing, procurement, contracting, collection of revenues, payment of expenses and settlement of all financial obligations arising from its planning, organisation and delivery. The host organisation shall bear all financial risks associated with the Congress. IWRA shall not be responsible for covering any such deficits, losses, costs or liabilities, except where expressly agreed in advance in a separate written agreement duly authorised and signed by IWRA.

All revenue from the event, including registration fees, sponsorship, exhibition fees and any extra tickets, will remain with the host/bidding organisation.

The proposed budget must account for the following financial requirements:

- a. Demonstrated financial stability of the bidding organisation and capacity to finance the proposed budget directly and/or through identified sponsors;
- b. Payment of the World Water Congress hosting fee of €650.000 (Euros) to IWRA, payable in agreed instalments in advance;
- c. Travel, accommodation, and incidental expenses related to a site visit of the Congress venue for 3 IWRA repre-



Field trip to the Great Wall of China during the XVIII World Water Congress

sentatives, at least 12 months prior to the Congress;

- d. Travel, accommodation, and Congress registration costs to the venue for a minimum of 20 individuals to be nominated by IWRA (which may include designated IWRA staff, current or former IWRA officeholders, IWRA Fellows, and invited keynote or plenary speakers, subject to prior written agreement between IWRA and the host organisation(s));
- e. The registration fees of all Past IWRA Presidents, current IWRA Board Members and IWRA Staff will be waived by the organisers;
- f. The registration fees of up to 30 rapporteurs working on the Congress proceedings, daily social media and news updates for the Congress, will be waived by the organisers;
- g. The registration for any invited keynote speakers in plenary sessions, (Opening Ceremony; 4 High Level Panels; Closing Ceremony), will be waived by the organisers;
- h. Confirmation that the bidding organisation agrees to hold monthly coordination calls with the IWRA Executive Office, beginning from the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement;
- i. Agreement that the entire financing of the organisation of the Congress is the responsibility of the bidder; IWRA shall not be exposed to any financial losses incurred through the organisation or hosting of the Congress.

7. Acceptance of the Terms of Reference of this document.

8. Contact details of the bidding organisation, including main contact person and core delivery team of the World Water Congress.

STEP 3: DECISION BY THE IWRA EXECUTIVE BOARD | JUNE 2027

Following a review of all full applications by the IWRA Congress and Events Committee, a recommendation report will be submitted to the IWRA Executive Board for final decision.

STEP 4: SIGNING THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT | AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2027

Once a bid is accepted by the IWRA Board, a Memorandum of Agreement will be negotiated and signed between IWRA and the selected host. The Memorandum of Agreement must be signed in advance of any public announcement of the World Water Congress.

STEP 5: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNER | OCTOBER 2027

Representatives from the host will be invited to attend the upcoming XX IWRA World Water Congress, 4–8 October 2027 in Istanbul, Türkiye to formally announce their successful candidature and start promotion of their World Water Congress.

DETAILED TERMS OF REFERENCE

In addition to the considerations described under STEP 2 - FULL WRITTEN APPLICATIONS the interested parties bidding to host a World Water Congress must demonstrate their capacity to deliver the following requirements for consideration:

MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The host organisation will establish a National Organising Committee (NOC) consisting of various local stakeholders, and supported by a local Congress Secretariat responsible for the local arrangement. The NOC is chaired and/or cochaired by individuals nominated by the Host organisation.

Together, the NOC and Congress Secretariat, will be responsible for:

- » Overall logistics, management, and coordination of the World Water Congress, including:
 - contracting a venue of an appropriate size and standard
 - negotiating hotel and/or other suitable accommodation rates for attendees
 - organising all catering included with registration
 - arranging transportation and logistics for technical visits, field trips, and social events (e.g., Gala Dinner, Awards Ceremonies, VIP Events, etc.)

» Frequent liaison with IWRA Executive Office:

- Regular process updates and procedural checks
- Monthly coordination calls
- Advance review and approval of key promotional items
- Ad-hoc communication as required

» Financial management, budgeting and keeping of accounts, which may include:

- Budget planning and expenditure monitoring
- Opening and managing bank accounts
- Compliance with any local tax or regulatory requirements
- Keeping books of accounts
- Cash-flow management, invoicing, and payment of accounts
- Monitoring expenditures within the approved budget
- Checking bank statements and monitoring nonpayments
- Control of financial contributions fund and sponsorship funds
- Receiving registration fees and other income
- Advice on insurance needs (Public Liability and Abandonment) and on transfer of funds (country to country);
- Investment of surplus funds for revenue
- Production of final accounts

WEBSITES

» The host organisation is responsible for creating content for and maintaining a dedicated World Water Congress website (<https://worldwatercongress.com>), which will serve as the primary platform for Congress communication and participant interaction. At a minimum, the website must include:

- Promotional information about the World Water Congress
- Registration information and access to the registration system
- The World Water Congress Programme
- Practical information regarding accommodation, transport, access, etc.
- Clear identification of the event as an IWRA event

» IWRA World Water Congress website must also link to a collaborative online platform developed or chosen by the host for the submission, management, and review of abstracts, special sessions, posters and side-events proposals. This platform must be integrated with the registration system to support the Congress' preparatory processes. All materials submitted through the platform must be shared with the IWRA in an organised format.

» All material received on the website is to be copied to IWRA following the Congress in an organised format.

» Both the website and collaborative online platform must be operational at least 12 months prior to the Congress.

PRESS

- » The host organisation is responsible for all media-related activities, including:
 - Press accreditation and on-site arrangements during the World Water Congress
 - Press releases and briefings before, during, and after the Congress
 - Coordination of press coverage throughout the event

PROMOTION AND COMMUNICATIONS

All promotional and communication must be proposed by the host organisation and approved by the IWRA. These may include:

- » Save-the-Date announcements and Call for Papers, Special Sessions, Posters and Side-Events
 - » Pre-event newsletters
 - » Sponsorship and exhibition materials
 - » Posters and brochures
 - » Congress Programme
 - » Participant lists
- The related tasks include (but are not limited to):
- » Creation of a logo and visual identity (including colour scheme and layout)
 - » Design, production, and quality control of all print and digital materials
 - » Proofreading and translating of content into all official Congress languages
 - » Establishment and management of production timelines and print deadlines
 - » Coordination with printers and material suppliers before, during and after the Congress
 - » Development of a Congress mobile application
 - » Pictures and video recordings of key events during the Congress:
 - The World Water Congress Plenary sessions (Opening and Closing ceremonies, High-Level Panels, etc.)



IWRA Rapporteurs outside the venue during the XIX World Water Congress

- The World Water Envoy Programme
- Selected regular, poster and special sessions
- Exhibition hall activities
- The Congress Awards sessions
- Welcome reception, Gala dinner, and field trips
- Clear identification of the event as an IWRA Congress

THEMES AND INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- » The host will establish, in collaboration with IWRA, an International Scientific Committee (ISC) composed of local and international experts to manage content, with half the ISC members being identified by the NOC and half by IWRA.
- » Two (2) ISC Co-Chairs are required, one (1) ISC Co-Chair chosen by IWRA and one (1) ISC Co-Chair chosen by the host, as well as at least three (3) ISC Associate Chairs who will oversee Abstracts Selection and Regular Sessions, Special Sessions and Poster Sessions, and Plenary Programmes (including Opening, Closing Sessions and High-Level Panels).
- » The ISC will be responsible for the technical content of the Congress, including for proposing the final overarching theme and sub-themes for the IWRA World Water Congress and for managing the call for, review and selection of all abstracts and session proposals to set up the programme.
- » The theme proposed in the bid may be refined following the host selection, in consultation with the host, IWRA, and ISC.
- » Final approval of the overarching theme

and sub-themes will be jointly approved by IWRA and the host/NOC.

- » IWRA will organise the following activities that must be included into the programme:
 - Ven Te Chow Memorial Plenary Lecture
 - An IWRA Awards ceremony
 - The IWRA General Assembly
- » The organisation of side events is the responsibility of the Host organisation with the cooperation and assistance of the IWRA Executive Office.

CONGRESS SESSION FORMATS AND SIDE EVENTS

The World Water Congress programme shall include a range of session formats to facilitate scientific exchange, policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and networking.

General Sessions:

- » Thematic sessions featuring oral presentations selected through the Congress abstract submission and review process. These sessions provide a platform for researchers, practitioners and other water professionals to present their work and



High-Level Panel at the XIX World Water Congress

engage in discussion with participants.

Special Sessions:

- » Sessions dedicated to specific topics, emerging challenges or areas of particular interest to the water community. They may be proposed and organised by IWRA, the host organisation(s) or relevant partners, subject to approval through the Congress programme development process. Formats may include panel discussions, workshops and interactive exchanges.

Poster Sessions:

- » Sessions providing participants with an opportunity to present research findings, projects and practical experiences through poster displays. Dedicated viewing and discussion periods shall facilitate direct interaction between presenters and Congress participants.

Side Events:

- » Activities organised alongside the main Congress programme by IWRA, the host organisation(s) or approved partner organisations. These may include workshops, stakeholder meetings,

networking events and other activities relevant to the Congress objectives. Side Events shall be coordinated with the host organisation(s) and IWRA to ensure appropriate scheduling, venue allocation and logistical support.

TECHNICAL EXPOSITIONS AND SPONSORSHIP

Conditions for any technical exhibitions and sponsorship packages are proposed by the bidding organisation with final approval by IWRA. The proposal must include a fully equipped stand for IWRA at no cost.

TECHNICAL VISITS/FIELD TRIPS

The host organisation is responsible for the planning and delivery of technical visits and fields trips, including:

- » Selecting sites
- » Invitations and ticketing
- » Liaison with organisers
- » Transport, guides, meals, and on-site logistics
- » Communications of site details to registered participants

FACILITIES

Depending on the final programme, indicative space requirements typically include:

- » A plenary room that can accommodate all attendees
- » A minimum of 6 rooms for parallel sessions with a capacity of 100 people in each
- » 3 rooms for side events
- » Dedicated coordination rooms for the



host organisation, IWRA Board members, IWRA staff, ISC members and other groups with management or organisational responsibilities

- » A VIP reception room
- » Breakout spaces for meetings and exchanges
- » A Welcome Cocktail and Gala Dinner space for invited and/or paying guests for one evening of the congress
- » Press facilities
- » Space for technical exhibitions (approx. 2,000-3,000 m²)
- » Space for poster presentations
- » 1 prayer room
- » High speed Wi-Fi Internet access throughout the entire venue

LANGUAGE/TRANSLATION

English is the official language of the World Water Congress and all related materials.

Additional official languages may be included, so long as adequate translation is provided for English language speakers.

Additional languages may also be used depending on Congress location, participants involved, and translation services available at no costs for IWRA.

ACCOMMODATION

The host organisation is responsible for:

- » Negotiating favourable accommodation rates across a range of price categories, including accommodation suitable for students and other lower income attendees (eg. student or backpackers' hotels)
- » Finalising agreements and/or contracts with hotels and other accommodation providers, such as colleges, etc.
- » Coordinating room allocations, deposits, cancellations, and liaison with accommodation providers

REGISTRATION MANAGEMENT

- » The host is responsible for establishing and managing the registration process in consultation with IWRA.
- » Registration fees and categories:
 - Registration fees shall be set in agreement with IWRA.
 - The Congress is open to anyone wishing to attend.
 - Discounts on registration must be offered to IWRA Gold Members. Other discounts are usually offered for “early bird” registrations, students, and participants from developing countries.
 - Registration must include on-site lunches.
- » Registration systems and operations:
 - Set-up and management of registration systems (digital or manual)
 - Organisation and supervision of badge production, Congress kits, and preordered tickets
- » Advance registration:
 - Receipt and monitoring of registration payments
 - Management of registration fee bank account
 - Issuing of confirmations and receipts
 - Handling cancellations, refunds, unpaid

fees, and overpayments

- » On-site registrations:
 - Set-up and operation of on-site registration desks
 - Cashier and ticketing arrangements
 - Distribution of badges, materials, and Congress kits
 - Maintenance and updating of participant lists

GALA DINNER AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME

The Host organisation is responsible for:

- » Overall responsibility for programme choices
 - welcome reception, concert, gala dinner, etc.
- » Financial responsibility for these events (either through ticketing or sponsorship)
- » Procedures for opening and closing ceremonies (in collaboration with IWRA)
- » Other official functions – VIP Welcome Reception, Government hospitality, executive or speaker's lunch, etc.
- » Accompanying guests programme
- » Pre- or post-congress cultural/technical visits
- » Related social events – hospitality by embassies and exhibitors

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION

The host organisation shall ensure that the Congress is inclusive and accessible to all participants, including persons with disabilities, diverse needs and diverse gender. This includes:

- » Selection of a venue that is fully accessible

(step-free access, elevators, accessible restrooms, seating arrangements)

- » Provision of accessible meeting rooms and circulation spaces
- » Consideration of accessibility in all Congress materials (clear fonts, readable formats, digital accessibility standards)
- » Availability of accessibility services where feasible, such as live captioning, sign language interpretation, or assistive listening devices
- » Promotion of gender balance and geographic diversity among speakers, moderators, and participants.

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The host organisation shall integrate sustainability principles into all aspects of the Congress planning and delivery, aligned with IWRA values. This includes:

- » Minimising environmental footprint through reduced use of single-use plastics and printed materials
- » Encouraging digital solutions (e.g. event apps, digital programmes, digital signage, e-posters)
- » Selection of environmentally responsible venues and suppliers where possible
- » Promotion of sustainable transport options for participants
- » Sustainable catering practices (e.g. local sourcing, reduced food waste, vegetarian options)
- » Waste reduction and recycling measures at the venue
- » Consideration of carbon footprint mitigation approaches (e.g. awareness, offsetting options where appropriate)

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The host organisation shall integrate social responsibility principles into the planning and delivery of the World Water Congress to maximise positive social impact for the host destination and local communities. This may include:

- » Supporting local businesses, suppliers and social enterprises wherever feasible.
- » Promoting fair trade and ethically sourced products for catering, gifts and Congress materials.
- » Creating opportunities for local community engagement through educational activities, outreach programmes and public events.
- » Encouraging volunteering opportunities for local students, young professionals and community members to build capacity and leave a lasting legacy.
- » Collaborating with local schools, universities, NGOs and community organisations to promote water education and awareness before, during and after the Congress.
- » Promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in recruitment, procurement, and participation throughout the Congress.
- » Supporting local employment and skills development through the engagement of local staff, suppliers and service providers.
- » Encouraging delegates to participate in optional community volunteering or environmental stewardship activities, where appropriate.
- » Promoting responsible procurement practices that prioritise environmentally and socially responsible suppliers.

» Where feasible, supporting initiatives that contribute to reducing the Congress's social and environmental footprint while creating lasting benefits for the host community.

SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

- » The host organisation shall ensure appropriate safety and security measures are in place, including security and safety and emergency procedures, medical support, and coordination with local authorities
- » Participant well-being should be considered throughout the Congress (reasonable scheduling, rest areas, clear information and signage)

CODE OF CONDUCT

The host organisation shall ensure that the Congress is conducted in a professional, respectful, and inclusive environment and is consistent with IWRA's Congress Code of Conduct (see IWRA website for full text). This includes:

- » Adoption and clear communication of the IWRA Code of Conduct to all participants, partners, and service providers
- » Establishment of a safe and respectful environment free from harassment, discrimination, or inappropriate behaviour

HISTORY OF THE WORLD WATER CONGRESSES & THEMES

I	IMPORTANCE & PROBLEMS OF WATER IN THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT IN MODERN TIMES	Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., 24-28 September 1973
II	WATER FOR HUMAN NEEDS	New Delhi, India, 12-6 December 1975
III	WATER FOR HUMAN SURVIVAL	Mexico City, Mexico, 23-27 April 1979
IV	WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION: MAN & HIS ENVIRONMENT	Buenos Aires, Argentina, 5-9 September 1982
V	WATER RESOURCES FOR RURAL AREAS & THEIR COMMUNITIES	Brussels, Belgium, 9-15 June 1985
VI	WATER FOR WORLD DEVELOPMENT	Ottawa, Canada, 29 May-3 June 1988
VII	WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY	Rabat, Morocco, 13-18 May 1991

VIII	SATISFYING FUTURE NATIONAL & GLOBAL WATER DEMANDS	Cairo, Egypt, 13-18 May 1994
IX	WATER RESOURCES OUTLOOK FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: CONFLICTS & OPPORTUNITIES	Montreal, Canada, 1-6 September 1997
X	SHARING AND CARING FOR WATER	Melbourne, Australia, 12-16 March 2000
XI	WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY	Madrid, Spain, 5-9 October 2003
XII	WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, TOWARDS INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS	New Delhi, India, 22-25 November 2005
XII	GLOBAL CHANGES & WATER RESOURCES: CONFRONTING THE EXPANDING & DIVERSIFYING PRESSURES	Montpellier, France, 1-4 September 2008
XIV	ADAPTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE	Porto-de-Galinhas, Brazil, 25-29 September 2011
XV	GLOBAL WATER, A RESOURCE FOR DEVELOPMENT: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES & CONSTRAINTS	Edinburgh, Scotland, 25-29 May 2015
XVI	BRIDGING SCIENCE & POLICY	Cancun, Mexico, 29 May - 3 June 2017
XVII	FOUNDATIONS FOR GLOBAL WATER SECURITY & RESILIENCE: KNOWLEDGE, TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY	Daegu, Republic of Korea, 29 November - 3 December 2021
XVIII	WATER FOR ALL: HARMONY BETWEEN HUMANS AND NATURE	Beijing, China, 11-15 September 2023
XIX	WATER IN A CHANGING WORLD: INNOVATION AND ADAPTATION	Marrakech, Morocco, 1-5 December 2025
XX	FUTURE OF WATER: SMART, RESILIENT, CIRCULAR, INCLUSIVE	Istanbul, Turkey, 4-8 October, 2027

REGISTRATION FEES AT RECENT CONGRESSES

XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS Marrakech, Morocco 2025	IWRA Gold Member 700 USD Non-member 800 USD
XVIII WORLD WATER CONGRESS Beijing, People's Republic of China 2023	IWRA Gold Member 800 USD Non-member 900 USD
XVII WORLD WATER CONGRESS Daegu, Republic of Korea 2021	IWRA Gold Member 700 USD Non-member 800 USD
XVI WORLD WATER CONGRESS Cancun, Mexico 2017	IWRA Member 325 USD Non-member 375 USD
XV WORLD WATER CONGRESS Edinburgh, Scotland 2015	IWRA Member 435 GBP Non-member 525 GBP
XIV WORLD WATER CONGRESS Porto-de-Galinhas, Brazil 2011	IWRA Member 1,150 BRL Non-member 1,380 BRL

** Student rates, day rates, discounts for early bird registration and developing countries could also be offered.*



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International
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