International Water Resources Association
IWRA

WHERE Science & Policy MEET

IWRA is a non-profit, non-governmental, international member-based Association established in 1971.

We facilitate the sharing of water knowledge and expertise across borders and sectors, at the interface between science and policy. Our goal is to improve the sustainable use and management of the world's water resources.

What we do

MISSION

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

VISION

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

VALUES

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



Yuanyuan Li,
President of IWRA

EVENTS

IWRA organises and supports international water congresses and events that advance knowledge, policy, and management of water resources worldwide.

GEOGRAPHICAL CHAPTERS

IWRA actively promotes knowledge exchange at the global and regional levels. The importance of locally based knowledge and experience is emphasised through the exchange of this information at international networking events and through geographical chapters. These chapters further advance IWRA's mission on a smaller scale, focusing its activities and enabling regional networking among IWRA members. IWRA presently has 7 Geographical Chapters in China, Egypt, India, Japan, Mongolia, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Oceania.

Learn more and join them here: www.iwra.org/geographic-chapters

Since 1973, IWRA has held a ***World Water Congress*** every two years in various locations across the world. The objective of the World Water Congress is to provide a meeting place to share experiences, promote discussion, and present new knowledge, research results, and latest developments in the field of water sciences around the world. In December 2025, IWRA holds the XIX World Water Congress in Marrakech, Morocco. **More info: worldwatercongress.com**

Since 2020, our ***Online Conferences*** organised with the support of organisations such as UNESCO and FAO have become one of our major activities and a sign of our growth. Themes so far have been 'Addressing Groundwater Resilience under Climate Change' (2020) and 'Water, Food and Public Health in a Changing World' (2021). 'Water Quality and Contaminants of Emerging Concern' brought the theme for October's Conference in 2022.
More info: iwraonlineconference.org

Since 2024, IWRA has organised the ***Islands Water Congresses.*** With the 1st Islands Water Congress in the Faroe Islands, under the theme of "Freshwater and Islands: Administration, Collaboration and Innovation", IWRA marked a significant milestone in addressing the pressing freshwater challenges faced by island communities worldwide. The Islands Congress fostered discussions and collaborations on administration, collaboration, and innovation in freshwater management on islands. **More info: islandswatercongress.org**

AWARDS

IWRA celebrates excellence in global water management through four distinguished awards:

WATER DROP AWARD

Honours a student or early-career professional—generally under 35—who has delivered an innovative contribution to the water sector.

VEN TE CHOW MEMORIAL AWARD & LECTURE

Established in memory of IWRA's first president, this award invites the recipient to deliver a distinguished lecture at the World Water Congress.

CRYSTAL DROP AWARD

Presented at each World Water Congress to an individual or organisation whose work has made a significant impact on improving the world's water situation.

WATER INTERNATIONAL BEST PAPER AWARD

Granted annually to authors published in Water International, recognising excellence in originality, innovation, technical quality, and overall contribution to the field.

Discover more about IWRA awards: www.iwra.org/awards



PROJECT & WORKING GROUPS

IWRA projects delivered in collaboration with key partner organisations help to address critical water policy challenges and priorities in both developing and developed countries. Current and recent projects include: *Smart Water Cities, Water Security, and Key Water Resource Fields.* Our global network of experts and IWRA Task Forces guides these projects.

TASK FORCES

An excellent way for IWRA members to become engaged with the Association. At present, IWRA has *9 Task Force Groups*, made up of over 200 members from academia, the private sector, and international organisations: Early Career and Young Professionals, Groundwater, LAND4FLOOD, Smart Water Management, Water and Climate Change, Water Quality, Water Security, Water & SDGs, Water and Islands.

Our projects and working groups are open to IWRA members. If you are interested in collaborating with IWRA on a project, or you wish to be part of an IWRA Task Force, **please contact: office@iwra.org**

CAPACITY BUILDING AT THE CORE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Water management and resources, like other areas, require constant updates, knowledge enhancement, and sharing. With that in mind, IWRA offers Master Classes and webinars conducted by reputable experts from around the world, covering current global themes such as ecocide, water law, water cooperation, transboundary water issues, and groundwater, among others.

In 2023, a 5-module virtual masterclass event on Institutional Responsibility to support SDG 6 and the rights to water and sanitation was organised and offered in collaboration with Human Right 2 Water (HR2W) and South Africa's Water Research Commission (WRC). It convened hundreds of participants from more than 100 countries. Each Master Class typically comprises a 90-minute public lecture, followed by a 60-minute skill-building workshop for IWRA members.

IWRA offers Master Classes, training courses, puzzle games and webinars.

More info on the IWRA Learn experiences here:
www.iwra.org/master-classes
www.iwra.org/webinars

IWRA'S WORLD WATER CONGRESSES AND ISLANDS WATER CONGRESSES SINCE 1973

WORLD WATER CONGRESS

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



Beijing, China | 11-15 September 2023
Marrakech, Morocco | 1-5 December 2025
Istanbul, Türkiye | October 2027

ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS

Faroe Islands | 4-6 September 2024
Montego Bay, Jamaica | 9-11 December 2026

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

WATER INTERNATIONAL

Water International is the official interdisciplinary journal of IWRA, focused on linking scholarship with water management, policy, and governance.

BOOK SERIES

Water International contributes to the Routledge Special Issues as Books (SPIBs) Series. This series is based on thematic special issues of *Water International* and aims to disseminate new knowledge on water resources policy and governance to a broad and diverse audience.

WEBINARS

IWRA organises regular Webinars based on themes from special issues of Water International, as well as from projects and Task Forces. They facilitate in-depth reviews of water issues and debates among leading experts in the field.

POLICY BRIEFS

Policy Briefs are concise publications, with our "blue series" being based on thematic special issues of our journal *Water International*. They provide a synthesis of the critical facts and arguments, and allow interested readers to quickly gain an understanding of the most significant issues surrounding a specific topic. The IWRA Policy Briefs provide high-quality analysis and practical recommendations to aid policy-makers. A parallel "green series" of Policy Briefs is published in Association with key IWRA partners and focuses on critical water-related issues.

IWRA UPDATE - NEWSLETTER

The IWRA Update is the Association's quarterly newsletter. It provides the latest information on regional chapters' activities, upcoming and recent events, calls for papers, and global water news.

If you are interested in contributing to IWRA's publications or would like more information, please contact the IWRA Editorial Office: editor@iwra.org

5300+ MEMBERS
from over 160 countries

XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS
1-5 December 2025, Marrakech, Morocco

1ST ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS
4-6 September 2024, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

9 TASK FORCES
Early Career and Young Professionals, Groundwater, Land4Flood, Smart Water Management, Water and Climate Change, Water Quality, Water Security, Water & SDGs, Water and Islands

7 GEOGRAPHICAL CHAPTERS
China, Egypt, India,Japan, Latin America & the Caribbean, Mongolia, Oceania

PARTNERS
UN-Water, FAO, OECD, UNESCO, UNESCO i-WSSM, UNESCO IHE Delft, FWP, Energy Water Agency, WARMA, La société wallonais des eaux, INBO, OFB, AWS, AIDA

MASTER CLASSES AND TRAINING COURSES
for targeted audiences

MUCH MORE
IWRA update, *Water International*, Policy Briefs, webinar serices, podcasts, etc.

Today, with the support of its members and partners, IWRA plays a critical role in ensuring sustainable water management worldwide.

More info and sign-up for IWRA membership online www.iwra.org

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