

Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2017



Sustainable Solutions for Emerging Economies

Call for Submissions

13 - 16 NOVEMBER, 2017
BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
www.waterdevelopmentcongress.org



Sustainable Solutions for Emerging Economies

Water is one of the most critical issues facing the world today, with developing and emerging economies facing some of the biggest water challenges and representing some of the biggest opportunities to get our water future right. Solving global water challenges is now recognised as one of the top priorities for humankind. The recently adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with their 169 measurable targets, have potential to be a game changer for water, wastewater and sanitation.

At the global level, water has never been so visible. That it is listed as one of the 17 top priorities for humanity is a significant moment. It presents an opportunity for a breakthrough. Not just to accelerate the unfinished task of universal access to safe water and sanitation; but to transform the water sector to become sustainable, resilient and a driver of the circular economy. The effective contribution of water professionals to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6, and all water-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is critical.

Water and Development Congress & Exhibition

The International Water Association (IWA) and its key partner, Argentina's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Public Works and Housing - Secretary of Water Resources, through AySA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), are proud to announce that the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2017 (WDCE) takes place in Buenos Aires, Argentina (13 - 16 November).

The IWA Water Development Congress and Exhibition is a forum for showcasing new science, technology and practical solutions that work in low- and middle-income countries at scale across the entire water cycle. With an over-arching theme of Sustainable Solutions for Emerging Economies, the 2017 Water and Development Congress & Exhibition will have a strong focus on Water and Wastewater Treatment Operations, Efficient Utilities and Water Wise Cities.



The 5th IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition will provide an opportunity to build on successful previous editions, to enhance the knowledge and expertise exchange amongst the anticipated 2,000+ international and national delegates. Attendees come from a variety of backgrounds including practitioners, utility managers, government officials, NGO representatives, technology providers, consultants, media and other key stakeholders.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Buenos Aires is the capital city of Argentina, located on the west bank of River Plate. In the 20th century, migrations and immigrants helped to turn Buenos Aires into a cosmopolitan city. Since its founding, water is an essential part of the memory of Buenos Aires: its river, defined the place of its foundation; its port, assured exchange and economic growth; the lack of this vital element in the late 19th Century led to terrible epidemics; the great works of sanitation that developed later, marked the modernization of the city (and in 1869 the first in America to have a water filtration plant).

If Argentina was to be defined in a word, that word could be "diversity". The country's vastness entails a very complex climate, varying from a subtropical north to a cold polar south, which poses substantial water challenges. As with most countries, a large share of the population lives in large cities, where access to safe water and sanitation is generally good. Yet, in mega cities like Buenos Aires, there are still communities in need of improved water solutions. The country's rural areas, where economically critical agricultural production is a driver for export earnings, rely heavily on large rivers and aquifers that are under tremendous pressure. Currently, the per capita usage of water in Argentina is around 500l/day. Topics such as regulation and institutional frameworking, inter-sectoral relations, water management capacity at central and provincial levels, and an increasing flood risk in urban and rural areas, are amongst the key discussions on which the Water and Development Congress & Exhibition will focus.



Thematic Scope

Sustainable Solutions for Emerging Economies

Attaining Sustainable Development Goal 6, to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and achieving its specific targets is the new paradigm for the provision of water and sanitation services. Targets 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3, covering access to safe drinking water and sanitation and effective wastewater management, will require a massive effort by water and sanitation practitioners, especially in low- and middle-income countries. They cannot be considered in isolation, however, from the other three targets on water efficiency in response to scarcity, integrated water resources management, and maintaining the integrity of aquatic ecosystems in support of products and services.

We are now beyond a simple model of expanded investment in infrastructure. There are multiple challenges often linked in complex ways. For example, progress in the sector is significantly hampered by an overall shortage of appropriately skilled people in the workforce. Developing and emerging economies have made efforts to manage these challenges: training people, establishing competency frameworks, organisational restructuring and implementation of institutional reform. Yet, the gap between training offered and skills/knowledge needed remains; existing incentives to attract and retain professional and technical staff are insufficient; and gender imbalances persist in the workforce. The Water and Development Congress & Exhibition provides an opportunity to share, mutually re-enforce and accelerate work in progress.



Objectives

IWA's Water and Development Congress aims to catalyse transformational change and support transitions to new ways of managing water resources and delivering water services. The Congress is explicitly solutions-focused, based on the already well-documented diagnosis of constraints, challenges and problems in the sector. Its performance indicators include the level of effective networking, knowledge exchange and the generation of new ideas shared by the participants. Success is expressed as numbers of participants who can leave the conference with new ideas and be inspired to take these back, share them and apply them to their work.

The transition to a water-wise world implied by SDG6 will require updated policy and regulatory frameworks, linking across sectoral boundaries; innovative ways of deploying a range of means of implementation; accelerated development and diffusion of technologies; and targeted action to strengthen and expand the delivery of services. Participants will learn about solutions at four levels:

- LEVEL 1:**
enhancing water and sanitation services
- LEVEL 2:**
strengthening the role of water in city design
- LEVEL 3:**
fostering the connection between cities and basins
- LEVEL 4:**
promoting the engagement of people so they are enabled to take action

Sessions will cover six building blocks for implementation: vision and future thinking; governance; capacity; planning tools; technology; financing and contracting tools. Participants may plan their learning experience based on selecting topics that are most relevant to their needs.

The conference organisers are looking for:

- New, viable business models
- New, emerging and evolving best practices
- Experiences of successfully taking pilots to full scale
- Capacity development with sustained results
- Large scale investment models
- Low-cost, low-energy technologies
- Successful reform programmes

Key Deadlines

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 27 May 2017 | Final deadline for submissions |
| 28 July 2017 | Presenters notified of acceptance/rejection |
| 25 August 2017 | Deadline for presenters to supply full papers, register and payment to attend the congress |

Further details are available on the congress website

<http://www.waterdevelopmentcongress.org>.

If you have any question please contact us through wdce2017programme@iwahq.org.

Themes and suggested topics for sessions

Following is an exhaustive list of Congress themes and topics. If you feel, nevertheless, that you have a relevant contribution to make that is not covered by these themes and topics, or if you have any other programme suggestions and/or further questions, please get in touch with the organizers at: wdce2017programme@iwahq.org

Issues related to global climate change (mitigation, adaptation, resilience) run across all five themes. Similarly, the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (accessibility, quality, safety, affordability, availability and acceptability), make up a cross-cutting theme.

1. EFFICIENT UTILITIES AS DRIVERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (LEVEL 1)

- Strengthening corporate governance
- Bridging the “awareness gap” between short-term decision making and long-term water infrastructure investment
- Sharing experiences in utility implementation of solutions
- Inducing willingness to pay
- Implementing innovative tools for utility management
- Updating status and trends in the introduction of water safety planning and sanitation safety planning
- Instilling a “business planning culture” in public utility management
- Reducing energy consumption (and carbon footprints)
- Investing in the catchment to reduce costs in water supply treatment
- Recovering water for reuse
- Integrating human rights principles and criteria into utility business plans
- Reducing wastage through a systems approach considering the urban water cycle as a whole
- Sharing efficient and effective utility capacity building experiences
- Promoting efficient service delivery
- Investing in adequate wastewater treatment technology
- Defining levels of service and assessing performance
- Defining service levels to achieve human rights to water and sanitation
- Planning and implementing fit-for-purpose water and wastewater treatment solutions
- Delivering capacity building of water operators and professionals in different regions
- Providing an overview of the regional arsenic contamination / arsenic removal technologies
- Promoting virtual water management
- Sharing sea water desalination experiences
- Developing leadership - diversity, inclusiveness and vision
- Recovering resources from wastewater
- Developing adequate fecal sludge management
- Influencing water demand
- Novel financing mechanisms enabling effective and efficient systems
- Understanding rural water and sanitation challenges and providing sustainable solutions

2. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEMS FOR A “REPLENISHED” WATER AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT (LEVEL 1)

- Planning asset management and financing capex and opex, a key issue to ensure the performance of the service
- Sharing experiences of collaboration between utilities to improve capacities and competences
- Implementing sanitation safety planning for fecal sludge management
- Managing drinking water quality for safeguarding environmental and public health
- Managing sewage overflows
- Improving treated wastewater discharge and water quality of receiving water bodies
- Applying human rights criteria to O&M
- Developing material and design criteria aimed at reducing costs and construction period for network expansion
- Achieving 24x7 water supply
- Reducing water losses
- Stressing the role of women as leaders in rural water and sanitation organisations

3. INTEGRATING WATER IN CITY PLANNING AND DESIGN (LEVEL 2)

- Using blue, green and grey infrastructure to increase urban resilience
- Planning to take advantage of water synergies between different industries and services in the urban environment
- Considering modular and/or decentralized solutions to increase urban water efficiency
- Replenishing groundwater
- Planning to respond to rapid urban population growth
- Promoting environmental, social and health impact assessment of blue prints for urban water and sanitation development
- Rainwater harvesting and reuse

4. CONNECTING BASINS AND THE CITIES/TOWNS THAT DEPEND ON THEM - THE INTERFACE BETWEEN CUSTODIANS AND USERS (LEVEL 3)

- Leveraging nature-based solutions in watersheds and micro-watersheds
- Sharing water resources with other users across the basin: tools and methods
- Protecting downstream water quality: tools and methods
- Preparing for extreme events with urban and basing integrated solutions
- Increasing resilience through water and resource efficient urban and peri-urban agriculture
- Increasing resilience through water and resource efficient urban and peri-urban industries
- Protecting water quality and availability through improved urban and peri-urban agriculture and industrial practices
- Managing exchange of financial and water resources between urban users and basin stewards
- Connecting nature conservation and integrated water resources management
- Engaging cities, utilities, industry and local communities in basin management
- Increasing resilience through social capital
- Internalising water use costs in products, goods and commodities
- Managing the water-energy-food nexus
- Raising the gender profile in urban/rural (basin) interactions
- Putting into place flood warning systems
- Integrating urban water bodies to enhance liveability
- Ensuring water security to satisfy present and future needs
- Connecting wastewater planning with basin management
- Exploring water supply options in remote areas stormwater control preventing flooding and contamination

5. WATER POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION (LEVEL 4)

- Harmonizing institutions, policies and regulations: the need for holistic interventions
- Defining the role of regulation in meeting the SDGs
- Enabling reuse & recovery from the technical, institutional and financing/contracting angle
- Developing water security during extreme events
- Promoting water and sanitation systems and services in slum upgrading programmes
- Strengthening the capacity of entrepreneurs to offer water and sanitation services in rural and peri-urban areas
- Implementing pro-poor approaches
- Defining tariffs, balancing affordability and cost recovery
- Initiating and maintaining multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve improved services
- Fostering political & social engagement in water issues
- Presenting the Argentina National Water Plan: benchmark and international discussion & input
- Attracting talent and skills to water and sanitation jobs
- Engaging youth as part of succession planning
- Ensuring policy, legislation, regulation and funding mechanisms that foster urban water and sanitation for all
- Highlighting regional preparation and contribution towards 2018 World Water Forum
- Fostering good governance and public participation
- Moving on equality, non-discrimination and gender balance in water policies and regulations
- Making hard investment choices: improving treated wastewater quality to protect the environment or connecting people without sanitation service
- Ensuring financial sustainability to achieve universal access and service goals

Programme Advisory Committee

Robert Bos (*Chair*) *Independent Consultant, Water, Sanitation, Health and Environment Switzerland*

Daniel Nolasco (*Vice-Chair*) *NOLASCO y Asociados S. A. Argentina*

Eleanor Allen *Water for People USA*

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Ana Colombo *AySA Argentina*

Paul Fanner *Miya UK*

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Olivier Gosso *SODECI Société de Distribution d'Eau de la Côte d'Ivoire Ivory Coast*

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Téofilo Monteiro *Pan American Health Organization Peru*

Oscar Pintos *ADERASA Argentina*

Gustavo Saltiel *World Bank Peru*

Marcos von Sperling *Federal University of Minas Gerais Brazil*

Hamidreza Tashauoei *Ministry of Energy Iran*

Christian Taylor *AySA Argentina*

Uta Wehn *UNESCO – IHE The Netherlands*

How to submit

IWA is inviting proposals for sessions (scientific sessions, interactive workshops, training events, regional fora), and abstracts of scientific/technical/policy papers related to the themes and topics listed above. Please submit your proposals/abstracts by visiting the congress website at www.waterdevelopmentcongress.org.

Should you feel you have a contribution to make that addresses the questions posed above but not listed among the topics, should you have any other suggestions for the programme and/or any further questions, then please be in touch with the organizers via wdce2017programme@iwahq.org

What to submit and how

Your initial submission must be in the form of an outline paper: two A4 pages of text (approximately 1,000 words) plus up to two additional pages of tables/figures. This must persuasively summarise your proposed submission – session or paper. This must be uploaded to our online submission system before 27 May 2017.

Detailed guidance and templates will be at www.waterdevelopmentcongress.org. If you prefer to present this work as a poster, please note this when you submit your proposal. If your submission is accepted for a platform presentation, you will also have to submit a full paper of between six and eight A4 pages, which can be reviewed for publication.

The Congress is dual lingual so you can submit your outline paper in English or Spanish. You may submit as many outline papers as you want. However, no individual can present more than two platform papers/poster - any further papers must be presented by one of the co-authors.

How are submissions selected?

All submissions (sessions and papers) will be peer reviewed by the Programme Advisory Committee of international experts. Programme selections are based on the evaluation and comments of those experts. We expect 400–600 submissions, and presenter decisions will be announced in July 2017.

Will papers be published?

Congress delegates will receive a full set of electronic proceedings with the final programme, but a formal proceedings book will not be published. However, full papers accepted for the congress will also be reviewed for possible publication in the IWA Publishing Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development. A final decision on publication will be taken by the journal editors. If you do not wish your paper to be considered for publication in a journal, please make this clear when submitting your full paper. IWA Publishing is pleased to announce that for the first time, journal submissions in Spanish will be considered, as well as in English.

What do I need to pay?

Every presenter (platform, poster, workshop and panel) is required to register as a paying delegate and attend the congress. If you're presenting, you are eligible for discounted registration fees. Presenters are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses. Presenters who do not register before 25 August 2017 will be replaced. You do not need to be a member of IWA to present, but members receive larger discounts on registration fees and receive other membership benefits. To receive regular updates about the event and see the benefits online join our mailing list at the Congress website.

Event outline

The 2017 Water and Development Congress & Exhibition will show leadership in thinking and connect strategy with solutions. Showing practices in a technology enabling environment with opportunities for networking, establishment and reactivation of partnerships and learning. Hosting leading countries, companies and municipalities recognizing the interconnected nature between urban planning, ecological design, water-waste-energy management, resilience, health and the trade-offs and synergies between them. The programme will focus on current challenges.

This is one of the leading global water events, offering a trending calendar setting for related and successive other events like Singapore International Water Week, Amsterdam International Water Week Stockholm World Water Week, World Water Forum and the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition. The program is built around leadership debate and high level panels focussing on next era strategy and water management cases covering current and future issues for cities, utilities, river basins and industries to be discussed in a surrounding platform of International experts and stakeholders. Keynote speeches and Leaders Fora with leadership presentations and game changers from cities and policy setters, best practices implementations and lessons learned will be input for integrated solutions for cases and dialogue about the shared challenges.

1. Keynote speeches and **Leaders Fora** with leadership and game changer presentations

2. Sessions and workshops in which special themes and cases are presented and discussed

3. Posters showing the latest solution to the challenges of water and development

4. Global Water Exhibition: 100 exhibitors with 2000 visitors from 80 countries,

5. Technical Tours: Connecting you to leading practice and large-scale applications

6. Social programme

	Monday 13	Tuesday 14	Wednesday 15	Thursday 16	Friday 17
Morning		Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Technical Tours
Morning		Conference Sessions & Exhibition	Conference Sessions & Exhibition	Conference Sessions & Exhibition	Technical Tours
Afternoon		Conference Sessions & Exhibition	Conference Sessions & Exhibition	Conference Sessions & Exhibition	Technical Tours
Afternoon	Opening Ceremony	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	Closing Session	Technical Tours
Evening	Welcome Reception			Conference Dinner	

International Water Association

IWA's vision is a world in which water is wisely managed to satisfy the needs of human activities and ecosystems in an equitable and sustainable way. Its mission is to inspire change and service IWA members, the community of professionals concerned with water, external organisations and opinion leaders in being the international reference and global source of knowledge, experience and leadership for sustainable urban and basin-related water solutions. IWA has members in over 130 countries, and partners with global agencies and a range of regional and bi-lateral partners to deliver sector-leading expertise and knowledge to development orientated projects.

Agua y Saneamientos Argentinos S.A.

AySA is the company responsible for providing essential services of potable water and sewerage in Buenos Aires city and the metropolitan area, a strategic zone of Argentina and the nation's most densely populated area. Currently, the action area covers approximately 1,800 square kilometers, and about eleven million people - making it one of the largest providers of these services in the world. Its four water treatment plants produce more than 5 million m3 of potable water per day, which are delivered through a distribution network of almost 20,000 km. It also is responsible for collecting, transporting and treating sewage. The total length of this system is about 12,000 km with seven wastewater treatment plants.

IWA HEADQUARTERS

Alliance House • 12 Caxton Street
London SW1H 0QS • United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)20 7654 5500
Fax: +44 (0)20 7654 5555
E-mail: water@iwahq.org

Company registered in England No.3597005
Registered Charity (England) No.1076690

SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES

Harrison Odiasé
Tel: +44 (0)20 7654 5500
Email: harrison.odiasé@iwahq.org

PROGRAMME ENQUIRIES

João Grilo
Tel: +44 (0)20 7654 5500
Email: joao.grilo@iwahq.org

EXHIBITION ENQUIRIES

IWA Exhibition Management / Match+
Tel: + 31 70 382 0028
Email: info@iwa-exhibitions.com

PO Box 82327
2508 EH The Hague • The Netherlands