Utilities are key in providing efficient and effective water and sanitation services. With most developing countries increasingly challenged by population growth, worn-out or inadequate infrastructure, and the impacts of a warming climate, water utility leaders need to cultivate high-impact synergies to address the challenges facing the water utilities of today.

This Utility Leader Forum (ULF), jointly organised by the International Water Association (IWA) and the Uganda National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), will be held in Kigali Rwanda during the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition. The event is by invitation only and will target utility Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Managing Directors and Board Members and will provide a unique opportunity for utility leaders to network, share ideas, and learn from one another in a collaborative and supportive environment. Through keynote addresses, roundtable discussions, and interactive sessions, participants will gain insights into the latest trends and innovations in utility operations, as well as best practices to address challenges facing water utilities today.

Format
The event will consist of a mix of formats, including:
- Keynote Addresses: Motivating speeches to set the tone for the sessions
- Panel Discussions: In-depth discussions with utility leaders on key themes
- Networking Sessions: Opportunities for participants to connect with other utility leaders

Sessions
The ULF will be a one day event comprising of three sessions on relevant utility issues:

Session I: Water Utilities and the Digital World
To address the ongoing and growing water and wastewater challenges in a dynamic and highly complex environment, utilities need a paradigm shift beyond the traditional systems. Digitisation and technologies are being utilised across the world, including the water and wastewater sector, to increase business agility and keep up with the relentless speed of new service delivery expectations and innovations.

Session II: Accelerating Adoption and Scaling of Citywide Inclusive Sanitation – What is Working?
This session will explore innovative approaches and practical solutions for addressing the pressing challenges of urban sanitation. In this session, utility leaders will reflect on experiences and lessons on city-wise inclusive sanitation, discussing insights on wastewater management, faecal sludge management, equitable access to sanitation, and community engagement.

Session III: Strategies for Becoming Climate Smart and Securing Financial Support for Utilities
In the face of escalating climate change impacts, utilities around the world must become resilient and adopt innovative strategies to ensure the sustainability of water and wastewater services. This session will provide a platform to explore proven approaches for becoming climate-smart utilities and accessing crucial financial support to embark on the green transition.

2023 Organising Committee
Dr. Rose Kaggwa, National Water and Sewerage Corporation
Daniela Bemfica, IWA Secretariat
Charles Joseph, IWA Secretariat
Brenda Ampomah-Ankrah, IWA Secretariat
William Cappuyns, IWA Secretariat

Sign up: forms.office.com/e/sJZ5AycxrV

iwa-network.org/events/utility-leaders-forum-2023
10:30-10:40 - Opening and Welcome Messages
Prof. Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy, IWA Executive Director, UK
Dr. Eng. Silver Mugisha, Managing Director of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Uganda

10:40-12:00 - SESSION I
Water Utilities and the Digital World

Keynotes
Dr. Eng. Silver Mugisha, Managing Director of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Uganda
Dr. Sandile Mbatha, Senior Manager of Data, Research and Policy & Advocacy, eThekweni Municipality, South Africa

Presentation: Marco Antonio Aguero, Senior WSS Specialist (World Bank - iBNET), Utilities Benchmark: A Snapshot
Panel Discussion facilitated by Deepa Karthykeyan, Partner and Co-founder, Athena Infonomics, USA
Blaise Moussa, Managing Director, CAMWATER, Cameroon
Jabulile Mashwama, Managing Director, Eswatini Water Services Corporation, Eswatini
Walter C. Emnace, Head - Process Excellence, Maynilad Water Services, Philippines
Patrick Nzamba, CEO of KASHWASA, Tanzania

13:30–15:00 - SESSION II
Accelerating Adoption and Scaling of Citywide Inclusive Sanitation - What is Working?

Keynotes
Florian Thevenon, Senior Expert in Water and Sustainable Development at UN-Habitat, Switzerland
Jilly Chiyombwe, Managing Director of Lusaka Water Supply & Sanitation, Zambia

Panel Discussion facilitated by Dr. Barbara Kazimbaya-Senkwe, Deputy Chief of Party, WASH Finance 2, Kenya
Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary, Dept of Housing & Urban Development, Gov. of Odisha, India
Gisele Umuhumuza, Managing Director of WASAC Utility, Rwanda
Daniel Ayen Okello, Director of Public Health, Kampala Capital City Authority
Israfil Hossain Akanda, Executive Engineer, Dhaka WASA, Bangladesh
Yoko Hattori, Director of Water Resources, JICA, Japan

15:45–17:15 - SESSION III
Strategies for Becoming Climate Smart and Securing Financial Support for Utilities

Keynotes
Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin, Water Sector Lead-Green Climate Fund, Asia
Osward M Chanda, Director of the Water Development and Sanitation Department, African Development Bank, Côte d'Ivoire

Panel Discussion facilitated by Prof. Hamanth Kasan, Director of Utilities Partnerships ROCKBlue at & IWA President Elect, South Africa
Nakale Angela, Senior Process Engineer, Namibia Water Corporation Pty Ltd, Namibia
David Maslo, Executive Director at African Risk Capacity, South Africa
Ignatius Jean, Executive Director at the Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association, Saint Lucia

19:00-21:00 - SOCIAL EVENT
Join us for a joint networking event for utility leaders and regulators
VENUE: The Hut Restaurant and Boutique Hotel