

**Connect to the  
IWA Network**



**IWA  
Communities**

# Connect to the IWA Network

The International Water Association (IWA) is the world's largest international professional association focused on water, covering all stages of the water cycle from research through to practice. The contributions of IWA members and partners to the sector provide innovative solutions to the serious water challenges facing the world today, as well as nurturing the next generation of water leaders through its young professionals programme.

IWA communities and their work are at the heart of the Association, reflecting the breadth and depth of the water sector globally. As an IWA member, you gain direct access to a diverse, global network of professionals working across a range of specialised topic areas; through networking, collaboration, and the exchange of knowledge, you will obtain the key support and tools to become an active agent of change towards a world of sustainable water management.

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## IWA Water Policy and Regulation

### Enabling change

Regulatory authorities can have a positive and catalytic impact on delivering water services. IWA is home to the International Water Regulators Forum (IWRf), which welcomes regulatory authorities and officials with regulatory and supervisory functions in the water, sanitation, and wastewater management services, supporting their increasingly important role in achieving global sustainable development.



To date, the IWRf has successfully gathered in Lisbon (2014) – inspiring the Lisbon Charter, London (2015), Brisbane (2016), Buenos Aires (2017), Tokyo (2018), virtually (2021), and Copenhagen (2022) – reaching to over 120 regulatory institutions from more than 90 jurisdictions in all continents, becoming a one of a kind global network of regulators that IWA is proud to host.

Utilities have the critical and ultimate responsibility to provide the infrastructure, systems, and governance to effectively manage water for the public. With growing populations, ageing infrastructure, and a changing climate, challenges over the past decade have increased significantly. Many utilities across the world have become very creative and innovative to implement novel and game-changing solutions to these challenges. Their invaluable insights and knowledge are seldom shared on a global platform, and utilities rarely come together to discuss how to go forward towards solutions. To that end, the Utility Leaders Forum (ULF) hosted by IWA brings together water utility leaders with the most impactful case studies to share experiences and knowledge.

For more information on water policy and regulation, visit <https://www.iwa-network.org/page/water-policy-and-regulation>

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## IWA Specialist Groups

### Sharing best practices and know-how

Connect with your peers worldwide in IWA's 51 Specialist Groups. Specialist Groups represent the core vehicle for issue-based interaction on scientific, technical, and management challenges, enabling members to interact and work together, facilitating collaboration and generating outputs, including specialised conferences and publications. The groups provide a unique platform for international networking and information sharing, and are a key opportunity for you to extend your professional contacts across the world.

One of the main benefits of being a member is the opportunity to join any of these groups from anywhere in the world.

For more information on Specialist Groups, visit [www.iwa-network.org/iwa-specialist-groups](http://www.iwa-network.org/iwa-specialist-groups)

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## IWA Young Water Professionals

### In charge of the future water sector

At the forefront of the design, development and implementation of change processes, IWA's activities for Young Water Professionals (YWP) aim to empower the next generation of water leaders to face current and future challenges in the water sector and beyond.

IWA invests in emerging water talent through its YWP community, a dedicated group within the IWA Network where its members can start growing their careers by means of the many activities organised by, and for, young IWA members (aged 35 years and below).

These activities help to create:

- Higher visibility and promotion of young members
- Networking and learning opportunities (online and offline)
- Development of skills and competencies
- Global recognition within IWA and the water sector

For more information on IWA YWP, visit [www.iwa-network.org/young-water-professionals](http://www.iwa-network.org/young-water-professionals)

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## IWA Task Groups & Clusters

### Accelerating science, innovation and practice

Task groups are formed in order to perform a defined task over a specific period of time. This includes the production of IWA Scientific and Technical Reports, Manuals of Best Practice and Position Papers.

For more information on IWA Task Groups, visit [www.iwa-network.org/task-groups](http://www.iwa-network.org/task-groups)

IWA Clusters are formed to facilitate systematic "conversations" across IWA Specialist Groups, addressing cross-cutting issues that are of relevance to individual Specialist Groups, but which extend across one or more Specialist Groups. Clusters also reach out to external partners that are beyond the traditional water sector, for example, organisations such as the International Society of Microbial Ecology (ISME). These communities facilitate research and dialogue, boost intellectual and logistical synergies, and produce a bigger impact from the work of the Specialist Groups.

Currently, there are four IWA clusters: the BioCluster, the Resource Recovery Cluster, the Wastewater-based Epidemiological Surveillance Cluster, and the Nature-based Solutions for Climate-Resilient Water and Sanitation Management Cluster.

For more information on IWA Clusters, visit [www.iwa-network.org/clusters](http://www.iwa-network.org/clusters)







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## IWA Fellows and Distinguished Fellows

A unique community of  
ambassadors worldwide

IWA members honoured with the IWA Fellow title form a community of elite global professionals with international recognition, known for their guidance and leadership in the water sector. Around 10% of these Fellows have received the designation of Distinguished Fellows for their significant long-term contributions to advancing water science and management, and supporting IWA's mission and objectives. This select community contributes to a water-wise world by:

- Adhering to the highest ethical standards of professional work
- Facilitating the links between IWA and local water and management activities
- Supporting IWA's mission and leadership in the implementation of its strategic plan
- Assisting IWA in the development of appropriate future policies

For more information on IWA's Fellows and Distinguished Fellows, visit [www.iwa-network.org/iwa-fellows](http://www.iwa-network.org/iwa-fellows)

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## IWA Governing Members

Connect with your local IWA  
members

The Governing Members of IWA represent the core mechanism for national or regionally based interaction of members across the range of issues pertinent to that country or region. They aim to foster and expand the IWA Network by promoting and supporting the Association's objectives and activities in their own countries and regions.

Governing Members represent the interests of each member country or region by participating in the IWA's Governing Assembly. They are usually active in their own right and work on behalf of the members to:

- Represent the national water sector
- Address regional issues
- Support the organisation of events in the regions

For more information on Governing Members and the latest activities of the Governing Member in your country, visit [www.iwa-network.org/governing-members](http://www.iwa-network.org/governing-members)



For more information on IWA memberships, visit [www.iwa-network.org](http://www.iwa-network.org), or  
Contact the IWA Membership Team at [members@iwahq.org](mailto:members@iwahq.org)

**inspiring change**

[www.iwa-network.org](http://www.iwa-network.org)  
[www.iwaconnectplus.org](http://www.iwaconnectplus.org)

**IWA**  
the international  
water association