
IWA
the international
water association
WATER AND
DEVELOPMENT
CONGRESS
& EXHIBITION
8-12 DECEMBER 2025 BANGKOK, THAILAND
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the international water association

BANGKOK
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2025

HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

IWA's Water and Development Congress & Exhibition in December 2025 in Thailand set a new benchmark as a practical water and sanitation platform by and for stakeholders from low- and middle-income countries. Bangkok was first and foremost an event for practitioners. At the heart of this was extensive participation by utilities from around the world and especially from Asia.



Held on 8-12 December 2025 at the first floor of the fantastic facilities of the **Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre**, the event gathered over **2700 participants** - influential water and development professionals, organisations, exhibition visitors, and companies, primarily from low- and middle-income countries. The Congress underlined IWA's growing presence and support for the sector in Asia.

As IWA President **Hamanth Kasan** noted: "IWA's mission is to unite the global water community to drive meaningful progress, and the 2025 Water and Development Congress & Exhibition is central to that effort as we face the combined challenges of the sanitation and climate crises, this Congress offers the space to advance practical, science-based solutions."

The week's theme was '**Water, sanitation, and innovation – pathways to progress and a resilient future**'. This was evident across the extensive programme, from keynotes and technical sessions through to the 50+ workshops and the special programme features. Water security and resilience were high on the agenda, especially at the **High-Level Summit on Water Security and Resilience**, which convened an influential audience focused on policy. Other highlights included the fourth edition of IWA's Climate Smart Utilities recognition programme.

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CONGRESS IN NUMBERS

2707

Total Participants from 90 countries

100

Exhibitors

HIGH SATISFACTION RATES

92%

Very satisfied with the Speakers

93%

Very satisfied with the Technical Sessions

SUCCESSFUL SESSIONS

52

Technical Sessions

52

Workshops

7

Forums and Summit

During the Opening Ceremony, Congress President **Thammarat Koottatep**, Professor at the Asian Institute of Technology stated: "I am honoured to welcome the international water community to Thailand for the 2025 Water and Development Congress & Exhibition,": "Thai hospitality reflects our warmth and openness, and hosting this event allows us to connect global expertise with regional experience. As a water professional, I am excited to engage with colleagues worldwide and showcase Asia's innovation and commitment to advancing water solutions."



Prof. Thammarat Koottatep, (Congress President) Professor and Co-Director, Global Water & Sanitation Center, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand at the opening ceremony.



Prof. Pai Chi Li, Professor and President, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand at the opening ceremony.

Professor Pai Chi Li, President of AIT, also helped set the tone for the week. 'The challenges are real. Throughout Asia and the Global South, climate change has already been felt,' he said, adding: 'Researchers, practitioners, policy makers – your insights will continue to shape the framework and also policies of the future.'

Retno Marsudi, UN Special Envoy on Water, also provided a message of support for the Congress. 'Water is the foundation to sustainable development and sustainable development is a key factor in ensuring sustainable water and sanitation management. This Congress has a very unique role among international initiatives to advocate for the strong nexus between water and sustainable development. It provides us with an excellent opportunity to exchange and support each other's innovations and to scale up and better address the world water challenge,' she said in her message for the Opening Ceremony.

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A platform for participation and progress

The success of the event was founded on support from local, regional and global partners, especially our co-organiser, the Asian Institute of Technology and principal strategic partner, Asian Development Bank (ADB). It was also the occasion for the ADB to launch the latest edition of its influential Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) report. Fatima Yasmin, ADB's Vice President for Sectors and Themes, and Norio Saito, the bank's Senior Director of Water and Urban Development, launched the report and shared key points.

The report highlights that wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and forests that sustain long-term water security are deteriorating fast. With extreme weather events, such as storm surges, rising sea levels, and saltwater intrusion threatening a region which already accounts for 41% of the world's floods.

The AWDO estimates that $4 trillion through 2040 – or $250 billion a year – is needed to meet the region's water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs alone.



Fatima Yasmin, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Vice President for Sectors and Themes, launching the latest edition of its influential Asian Water Development Outlook report and sharing keynotes.



Fatima Yasmin, ADB's Vice President for Sectors and Themes, and Norio Saito, the bank's Senior Director of Water and Urban Development, launching the latest report at the Opening Ceremony.

Jay Bhagwan, Water Research Commission (WRC), South Africa, set the tone as keynote speaker in the Opening Ceremony, sharing insights into the real-world opportunities to advance alternative sanitation options – water-efficient sanitation systems featuring both water and resource reuse. He presented the progress seen in particular in South Africa, looking ahead to a future where 'brown is the new gold'.

The event saw IWA provide a platform spanning the concerns of the sector and its focus on the Sustainable Development Goals – a vital agenda for low- and middle-income countries. That was evident in the partnerships and sponsorships, including the Water Research Commission, the World Bank Group, Comcore, Zhongyuan Environmental Protection Co., Angel Water Solutions, and Ming Hing Waterworks. Vital Thai institutions, including the Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), the Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA), the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority (MWA), Bangchak, and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), supported the event. It was evident too in the fantastic participation in the rich programme, with IWA providing an outstanding platform for discussion through the **International Water Regulators Forum**, **Inclusive Urban Sanitation Forum, Emerging Water Leaders Forum**, **Utility Leaders Forum**, **Land and Sea Forum and Water-Efficient Sanitation Solutions Forum**, among others, and the **Climate Smart Utilities** recognition programme.

Through shared learning, collaboration, and ambition, this Congress reaffirmed the global water community's commitment to delivering sustainable, inclusive, and resilient water and sanitation services.



Exhibition Opening Ribbon cutting ceremony (L-R): Pai-Chi Li (AIT), Rose Kaggwa (IWA Senior VP), Thammarat Koottatep (Congress President), Ligy Philip (PC Co-Chair), Kala Vairavamoorthy (IWA ED), Cherifa Abdelbaki (PC Co-Chair), Hamanth Kasan (IWA President), Fatima Yasmin (ADB), and Kai Zhao (VP Angel Group).



QSNCC external billboard advertising of the Congress.



Keynote speaker, Jay Bhagwan shared his insights into the real-world opportunities to advance alternative sanitation options.



Thai Khon and Chinese Opera dancers during their performance about Phra Ram, Hanuman and the Monkey Army.



Panel Discussion (L-R): Moderated by Evan Thomas (University of Colorado Boulder) with Linda Strande (Sandec-Eawag), Jennifer Molwantwa Dr (Water Research Commission), Ligy Philip (Indian Institute of Technology, Madras) and Mandy Mui (AKYAS Sanitation).



Programme Committee at the Closing Ceremony.

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Global thought leaders- the keynote programme

Resilience

Water: Driving Sarawak's resilient and sustainable future



The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak

"In Sarawak, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring widespread access to clean and reliable water for every community. We target to achieve full water supply coverage by 2030...and will significantly enhance the reliability and resilience of Sarawak's water supply system."

The Premier's keynote address laid out the forward-looking vision for Sarawak's water, energy, and sustainability agenda. He highlighted Sarawak's transformation of water supply management, advances in hydrogen and renewable energy, and emerging developments in wastewater management.

Regulation

WSS regulation at the heart of systems transformation



Yvonne Magawa, ESAWAS Regulators Association

"The regulator is a gyroscope for the sector. Government wants to meet citizens' aspirations. Service providers want financial sustainability. Consumers want quality service at a fair price. In the middle stands the regulator — no one's child — balancing these competing interests to ensure universal access, affordability, and sustainability."

Yvonne's keynote explored the role of regulators in water supply and sanitation systems. Yvonne firmly stated that "the regulator is the gyroscope of the water and sanitation sector, balancing government aspirations, service provider sustainability, and consumer needs. Where regulators exist, investment rises — because the sector is no longer a black hole.

Sanitation

The momentum moment: Safely managed sanitation at scale



Roshan Raj Shrestha, formerly Gates Foundation

"We realised very quickly that without working closely with government, scale is simply not possible. Demonstrations are important, but institutionalisation through policy, regulation, and public investment is what creates national transformation."

In his keynote, Roshan underscored that city-scale demonstrations and strong government engagement are the most effective levers for national sanitation transformation.

Collaboration

South-South cooperation toward a better future – Establishment of the JRDC



Min Yang, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences

"Technology alone is not enough. It must be affordable, sustainable, and designed for the communities it serves."

This keynote outlined how the Chinese Academy of Sciences partnered with Sri Lanka to establish a joint water research centre, identify harmful ion mixtures in well water linked to CKDu, and develop a solar-powered treatment solution. The model is now being expanded to support safe, sustainable water systems in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Water Quality

Advancing the global water and health agenda



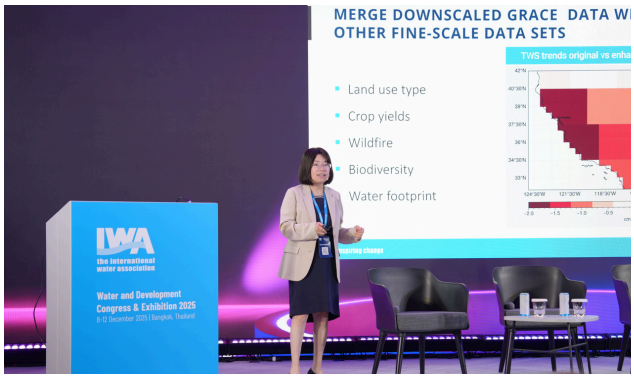
Kate Medlicott, World Health Organization

"The question is not what outbreak will come next — it's whether we will be ready. We cannot keep responding one crisis at a time. We need systems that help us anticipate, prevent, and act earlier."

This keynote emphasised that climate change, conflict, and chronic underinvestment are increasing water-related disease risks, with prevention efforts — particularly across the Water and Environmental Surveillance (WES) agenda — lagging behind. It stressed the urgent need for stronger financing, system strengthening, and cross-sector collaboration to address persistent gaps in water, sanitation, hygiene, and environmental health services amid climate and public health pressures.

Climate

Continental drying: Understanding the global water crisis and solutions for a resilient future



Fan Zhang, World Bank

"In the world's hottest and driest places, even a tiny decline in precipitation can sharply reduce agricultural productivity — pushing livelihoods, economies, and entire communities toward a tipping point."

During her keynote, Fan Zhang shared findings from the World Bank's new report on continental drying. With stark insights on accelerating drying trends and their economic, social, and ecological impacts, the session underscored the urgency of climate-resilient water management.

Governance

Science as an instance of governance in a post-disaster reconstruction plan



Joel Goldenfum, Scientific Committee on Adaptation and Climate Resilience, Rio Grande do Sul

"Engineering is just a small part of preparedness. Real resilience means bringing together social sciences, governance, communities — everyone has a role."

Joel shared insights from the experience of last year's flooding in Rio Grande do Sul and the science-driven governance response. A powerful reminder that disasters are not a matter of if, but when, and that preparedness is our strongest line of defence.

Programme Features

High-Level Summit on Water Security and Resilience

The invitation-only High-Level Summit on Water Security and Resilience included programme contributions from ministers and government representatives from countries such as Türkiye, Nepal, Bangladesh, South Africa, Thailand and Mexico, international actors such as IFIs, development agencies and NGOs, as well as national water sector organisations and academia. A key aim of the Summit was to articulate the **IWA Bangkok Communiqué on Water Security and Resilience**.

The Summit programme was built around three core sessions, all directed towards shaping the Bangkok Communiqué. The first, Setting the Global and Regional Context for Water Security in a Changing World, outlined the global and regional context for urban water security and resilience, highlighting key risks and opportunities. The second, Enabling Urban Water and Sanitation Delivery at Scale, provided a focused look at the policies, governance, financing, and capacity needed to expand sustainable urban water and sanitation services. The third, Steering Urban Flood Management Through Governance and Investment, explored the strengthening of flood resilience through better planning, regulation, investment, and coordination, highlighting regional approaches.

The communiqué was finalised based on the discussions of the day and feedback gathered shortly after the Summit. (See next page)

Utility Leaders Forum

The 2025 IWA Utility Leaders Forum (ULF) convened senior utility leaders, financiers, development partners and technical experts to advance practical pathways for scaling innovation in water and sanitation services. The theme was 'Driving Innovation, Shaping Inclusive and Sustainable Water Futures', and discussions focused on how utilities can move from pilots to system-wide impact, while responding to climate pressures, inclusion challenges and financial constraints.

Key themes discussed were:

- Technological Innovation for Climate Resilience
- Innovative Financing and Sustainable Investment
- Integrating Nature-Based Solutions into Utility Operation
- Development and Technology of Decentralised Systems
- Community Involvement and Solutions, especially in rural and underserved areas
- Digital Transformation and Smart Utilities



Panel Discussion (L-R): Rashid Mbaziira, Eng. A.M.P.C.T. Bandara, H.R.H. KGPAA Mangkoenagoro X, Duke of Mangkunegaran, Sean Phillips, Meera Mehta.



Panel Discussion (L-R): Patrick Moriarty, Pramila Bajracharya, H.E. Blanca Jiménez, Hon. IsaacSello Seitlholo, H.E. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi, Duangnapa Uttamangkapong.

Discussions also underscored that global cooperation is critical to accelerating innovation adoption, especially through utility-to-utility partnerships and engagement with development banks, donors and knowledge platforms.

The 2025 Utility Leaders Forum confirmed that utilities are ready to innovate, but scaling impact requires coordinated action across technology, finance, governance and people. By connecting utility leadership with global cooperation mechanisms, the ULF reinforced IWA's role as a neutral convener and enabler of practical, inclusive and climate-resilient water solutions.



Utility Leaders and high-level officials engaging with each other during the roundtable discussions at the ULF.

IWA Bangkok Communiqué on Water Security and Resilience

Bangkok, Thailand - 9 December 2025

Background

Water security is no longer a distant goal, but a defining challenge of our time – central to resilience, sustainable development, and human well-being. Over the past decade, many low- and middle-income countries have made significant progress in expanding access to basic water services. Yet deep and interconnected vulnerabilities persist worldwide, signalling a need for urgent and decisive action.

Across regions, public health, economic, and environmental impacts are intensifying, driven by systemic weaknesses and multiple root causes such as ageing systems, fragmented governance, and escalating flood and drought risks in an increasingly complex and uncertain global context. These pressures are compounding, while investment needs continue to far exceed available resources.

Against this global backdrop, leaders convened in Bangkok to identify shared priorities and practical pathways to strengthen resilience and embed it at the core of water-security strategies, through more integrated, inclusive and coordinated approaches – both for the region and as a reference for other parts of the world.

Purpose & Scope

This communiqué sets out shared principles and priority actions emerging from the High-Level Summit held alongside the International Water Association's 2025 Water and Development Congress. It consolidates leadership insights on urban water, sanitation, and flood resilience through a catchment-to-city lens that recognises water systems as interconnected, cross-sectoral, and increasingly risk-exposed. By setting out a framework for policy alignment and collective action, it provides a reference point for shared direction and ambition to strengthen water security and resilience in support of global priorities ahead of the 2026 IWA World Water Congress and the 2026 UN Water Conference.

Shared Principles

- Public value and universal access: We affirm that safe, affordable, and reliable water and sanitation services are fundamental human rights and a cornerstone of water security, and must remain central to national policy, public investment, and service delivery as a foundation for healthy, resilient societies and economies.
- Effective governance and performance: As part of a holistic and systems-based outlook, we recognise that strong political leadership and trustworthy institutions, grounded in clear mandates, accountable regulation, transparent performance and sustained capacity, are the foundation of resilient services and enduring confidence for both citizens and investors.
- Inclusion and equity: We commit to prioritising underserved and marginalised communities through inclusive planning, disaggregated data, and targeted investment, ensuring that no one is left behind, and to advancing participatory approaches that strengthen social resilience, including meaningful involvement of youth and other under-represented groups.
- Resilience by design: We commit to embedding climate, disaster, and systemic risks into water planning and investment from the outset, designing systems that are flexible, adaptive, and robust across a wide range of future scenarios, while safeguarding the integrity of ecosystems and natural water systems on which long-term water security depends.
- Innovation and transformation: We affirm that strong partnerships, innovative financing, and digital, data-driven approaches, together with decentralised and distributed technologies and the adoption of resource recovery and reuse, are essential to accelerating the transition to resilient, low-carbon, and circular water systems at scale.
- Transboundary water cooperation: We recognise that many rivers, lakes, and aquifers are shared across borders, and that most arid and water-stressed regions depend fundamentally on groundwater; we commit to strengthening cooperation, data sharing, and governance frameworks to support their sustainable, equitable, and peaceful management as a pillar of regional and global water security in an increasingly uncertain climate context.

IWA Bangkok Communiqué on Water Security and Resilience

Bangkok, Thailand - 9 December 2025

Call to Action

- Recognising water as a defining enabler of resilience, prosperity, and stability, participants call for urgent, coordinated action to strengthen water security and resilience across Asia and beyond:
- Place water at the centre of national development: Building on an understanding of water's systemic role in development, water cycle complexity, and the value of water, elevate water and sanitation as core public services by embedding universal access, quality, and affordability at the heart of national development strategies, budgets, and investment frameworks.
- Mobilise political leadership, institutional reform, and scale-up of financing: Strengthen political commitment, regulatory capacity, and institutional performance as core enablers of change, reinforcing effective governance to restore trust, improve service delivery, and unlock sustained public and private investment at scale.
- Leave no one behind: Pursue inclusive approaches and direct targeted finance, data, and delivery mechanisms to underserved and marginalised communities, ensuring equitable access to safe water, sanitation, and protection from climate- and disaster-related risks.
- Build resilience into every investment: Building on the imperative of service reliability and ecosystem integrity, systematically integrate climate, disaster, and systemic risks into all water-related planning, infrastructure, and financing decisions to ensure long-term adaptability, robustness, and resilience by design under conditions of increasing uncertainty.
- Accelerate innovation, circularity, and digital transformation: Deploy digital solutions, decentralised and distributed water and sanitation systems, and circular approaches to enable efficient and multiple water use, recover value from waste streams, and transform how water systems are managed within and across sectors.
- Strengthen transboundary cooperation: Advance shared governance, data exchange, innovative partnerships, and joint investment in transboundary rivers, lakes, and aquifers to secure water for peace, resilience, and regional stability.
- Foster regional cooperation and learning: Strengthen South-South exchanges among utilities, regulators, and cities to accelerate adaptation, capacity development, and practical learning.

International Water Regulators Forum

The International Water Regulators Forum (IWRF) celebrated its 10th anniversary with the latest edition bringing together regulators of the water sector from across the globe. Contributing under the overall Congress theme of 'Water, sanitation, and innovation – pathways to progress and a resilient future', the Forum facilitated discussion on regulatory innovation, regional cooperation, and inclusive governance, offering a unique opportunity to explore diverse regulatory models and define pathways toward resilient frameworks.



Policymakers and regulators at the International Water Regulators Forum.



Delegates engaging in discussions under the theme: Building Effective and Adaptive Water and Sanitation Regulatory Frameworks for a Resilient Future.

Water-Efficient Sanitation Solutions Forum

The Water-Efficient Sanitation Solutions Forum was attended by representatives from governments, international organisations, research institutions, development banks, civil society, and the private sector. It was convened under the theme 'Accelerating Climate-Resilient, Water-Efficient Sanitation for a Sustainable Future' with the aim advancing commitment to championing water-efficient sanitation as a pillar of climate resilience and sustainable urban development.

Key concerns of the Forum were that water and sanitation are at the heart of climate adaptation, public health, and human dignity, while global water scarcity, pollution, and sanitation inequality threaten resilience and progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Also, the window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future is rapidly closing, and that achieving equitable, efficient, and circular sanitation systems demands innovation, inclusive policy frameworks, sustainable financing, and human capital development.

Given these concerns, the Forum was staged to advance water-efficient sanitation as being critical in climate action and fundamental to reducing water stress, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, protecting ecosystems, and promoting gender equity and economic inclusion.

Key needs to advance water-efficient sanitation span enabling actions across: leadership and collaboration; innovation and technology; policy and regulation; scaling up climate-resilient sanitation finance; equity, capacity, and knowledge exchange; and monitoring, results, and accountability.



Panellists discussing sanitation and water management during the Water-Efficient Sanitation Solutions Forum.

Inclusive Urban Sanitation Forum

The Inclusive Urban Sanitation Forum in Bangkok brought together global leaders and practitioners at a critical time, with over 1.6 billion urban residents still lacking safely managed sanitation. Discussions reaffirmed Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) as a practical, adaptable framework that has shifted the sector toward equitable, service-oriented systems, while highlighting the need for stronger evidence, climate integration, clearer messaging, and greater capacity to scale. Participants also explored innovative and scalable solutions– from climate-resilient systems and condominial sewerage to digital monitoring and local financing – emphasising the move from pilots to citywide impact. The Forum concluded with a forward look at the post-2030 sanitation agenda, stressing the importance of stronger advocacy, diversified financing, and professionalised capacity, underscoring that the event was not just reflective, but a platform for setting clear direction for the future of urban sanitation.



Global leaders and practitioners at the Inclusive Urban Sanitation Forum.

Emerging Water Leaders Forum

The 2025 Emerging Water Leaders Forum provided an invaluable platform for young professionals to share insights, forge connections, and showcase innovative solutions.

With the theme 'Future-Proofing Water – Empowering Emerging Leaders for Resilience and Impact', the Forum spotlighted the essential role of emerging leaders in driving long-term, structural transformation in water and sanitation. During the Forum, the Rwanda Chapter was recognised as the 2025 IWA YWP Chapter of the Year due to its outstanding contributions to IWAthrough impactful community projects, capacity-building efforts, scientific contributions, and strong leadership in the water sector.



IWA Young Water Professionals (YWP) Rwanda Chapter awarded as the 2025 YWP Chapter of the Year.



Young professionals from around the world at the Emerging Water Leaders Forum.

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From Land to Sea Forum

The From Land to Sea Forum was convened to foster integrated understanding of land-based sources of marine pollution and their implications for coastal and marine sustainability.
The forum comprised a series of technical presentations and moderated discussions informed by scientific research, environmental monitoring data, and policy analyses. Collectively, the seven presentations addressed the dynamics of nutrient and plastic pollution across freshwater, coastal, and marine systems, with particular emphasis on land-based sources and transport pathways.

The forum highlighted several implications for future policy and practice. First, integrated land– sea management should be mainstreamed across environmental governance frameworks, with stronger coordination among wastewater, waste management, agriculture, and coastal management sectors. Second, addressing nutrients and plastics together can yield significant co-benefits for ecosystem health and human well-being. Third, sustained investment in monitoring, innovation, and capacity building is essential to strengthen the science–policy interface and support evidence-based decision-making.

Looking forward, participants emphasised the importance of scaling affordable, community-based, and nature-based solutions; strengthening data harmonisation and long -term monitoring; and fostering collaboration among government agencies, academic institutions, local communities, and the private sector at national and regional levels.

Exhibition

The exhibition brought together 100 exhibitors from around the world.



Presentation at the IWA Stand.



Presentation at the IWA Stand.



Discussions in the IWA Exhibition.

IWA Programmes in Bangkok

Innovation & Sanitation: Next Generation Sanitation Systems (NGSS)

During the congress, NGSS held an special workshop open to all congress attendees. This session was intended to give project teams an opportunity to present their technologies and promote their work. This event garnered a lot of interest at the Congress and was viewed by a full conference room, as well as successfully promoting the NGSS project and the grantee's technologies, as a direct outcome of this event.



Delegates at the NGSS Special Workshop.

Young Water Professionals

IWA & Grundfos Youth Action for SDG 6 Fellowship

The second cohort of the IWA & Grundfos Youth Action for SDG6 Fellowship organised a workshop titled "Interactive discussion on enabling community-led solutions for water challenges". The goal of the workshop was to explore how young stakeholders can empower communities with locally-led solutions for water-related resilience. C40 Cities and Grundfos joined and supported the workshop. C40 Cities presented their work on community-led solutions.

The workshop was attended by a good mix of young water professionals and experts in the water domain. The Fellows presented their research on five themes: Nature-based solutions (NbS), Civic participation and education, Youth-led solutions, Stakeholder interfaces, and Socio-economic impacts of water access issues. This was followed by two rounds of brainstorming sessions with the workshop attendees. The feedback received from the experts was incorporated into the final research reports.

IWA LeaP Leadership Programme

The first cohort of the IWA LeaP leadership programme played an active and visible role at the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2025 in Bangkok, contributing to key forums, presenting their group project, and demonstrating how the programme equips Young Water Professionals to lead and shape global water conversations.

Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Programme

The fourth edition (2025) of the IWA Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Programme received a total of 48 applications from 25 countries. 18 utilities were recognised as Climate Smart, showcasing strong climate mitigation, adaptation, and leadership actions. Among these, three utilities were identified as outstanding for their particularly ambitious and inspiring efforts.

Top 3 Outstanding Utilities (2025):

- Pengurusan Air Selangor Sdn Bhd (Malaysia)
- Laguna AAAWater Corporation (Philippines)
- Ghandhidham Municipal Corporation (GMC) (India)

These outstanding utilities were formally honoured at the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2025. The programme continues to promote global knowledge exchange and strengthen climate action across the water sector.



Top 3 outstanding utilities honoured at the closing ceremony.



Chotiwat (CJ) Jantarakasem, (IWA LeaP Leadership Programme 2024-2025 cohort).

Water and Development Awards

The event in Bangkok also served as a platform for recognition and celebration. IWA presented its 2025 Water and Development Awards. The awards recognise excellence, leadership and innovation in the water sector and aim to encourage progress in sustainable water management. The awards are judged by a diverse panel of experts and are awarded in recognition of outstanding contributions to research or practice that have led to demonstrable impact in low- and middle-income countries.



The Water and Development 2026 awardees.

Research - Evan Thomas



Evan Thomas was celebrated for his ground-breaking integration of research, technology, and enterprise to advance sustainable and accountable water security for millions. His innovative work—from linking water delivery to carbon finance, to deploying real-time water quality monitoring technologies—has expanded safe water access, improved transparency, and reshaped how global partnerships address public health and climate resilience.

Practice - Jay Bhagwan



Jayant Bhagwan was honoured for his visionary leadership in advancing non-sewered sanitation innovation through SASTEP. His work has delivered safe, dignified sanitation to tens of thousands of users, influenced national regulation through the adoption of ISO 30500, and nurtured a thriving innovation ecosystem that is positioning South Africa as a global leader in climate-resilient sanitation solutions.

Practice - Meera Mehta



Professor **Meera Mehta** was recognised for five decades of leadership in strengthening water and sanitation governance and finance across low- and middle-income countries. Her contributions—including India's Service Level Benchmarks and Performance Assessment System—have improved WASH services for over 115 million people and advanced evidence-based policymaking and institutional capacity across the sector.

Best Poster Awards

The closing ceremony featured the presentation of the Best Poster Awards to six outstanding contributors whose work spanned the Congress themes:

- **Mooyoung Han**, Seoul National University, South Korea
- **Pragyan Nayak**, Ernst & Young India LLP, India
- **Masaaki Kitajima**, The University of Tokyo, Japan
- **Sabrina Rashid Sheonty**, Tetra Private Limited, Bangladesh
- **Elorm Noel Kwamivi**, Ghana Water Ltd., Ghana
- **Maria Wirth**, Alchemia-Nova, Austria



The Best Poster awardees.

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