



XVIII
World Water Congress

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

XVIII WORLD WATER
CONGRESS

Beijing, China | September 11-15, 2023

HOSTED BY

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China (MWR)

ORGANISED BY

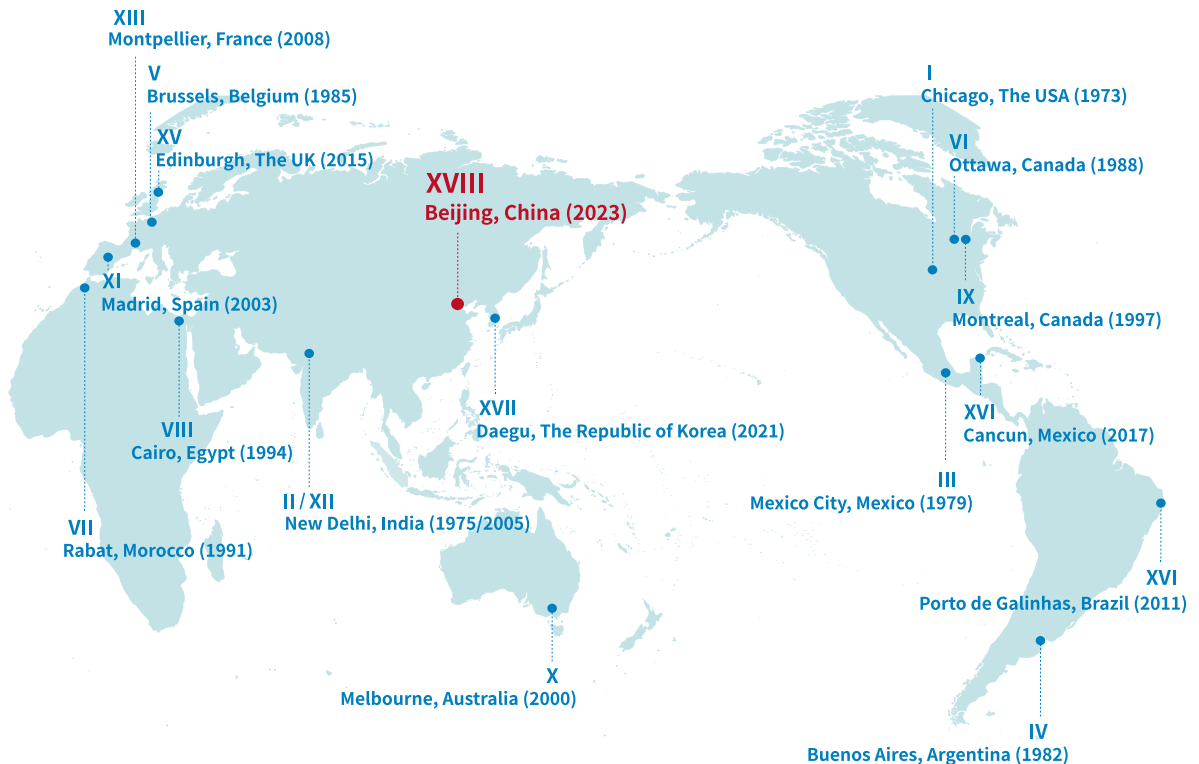
General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design, MWR

China National Committee of IWRA

WORLD WATER CONGRESS

The triennial World Water Congress is one of the world's largest congresses linking water policy makers, researchers and practitioners. Since 1973, this influential event has been successfully held 17 times, and the XVIII World Water Congress will take place in Beijing in September 2023.

During the week of 11-15 September 2023, heads of international organizations, high level government officials, experts, scholars, entrepreneurs and economists from all over the world will share their knowledge, experience and practice regarding a wide range of topics related to water.



THEME

Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature

Water is for all, including humans and nature. As a precious natural resource, water plays a vital role in meeting human needs, preserving the environment and developing our countries. Thus, water management should consider, coordinate and balance the various needs, and fundamentally achieve harmony, which embodies a dynamic, coordinated, appropriate and equitable relationship, between humans and nature.

With the theme of “Water for All: Harmony between Humans and Nature”, the XVIII WWC aims to promote coordination and balance between the water needs of humans and nature. The Congress will facilitate knowledge and experience sharing, focusing on investigating the relationship between water, humans and nature, identifying and reconciling all water-related factors in a coordinated manner, and making and implementing water management strategies and policies using systematic approaches.

SUB-THEMES

Sub-theme 1

Water-Human-Economy-Ecology Nexus
under a Changing Environment

Sub-theme 2

Promoting Water Efficiency,
Productivity and Services

Sub-theme 3

Building Resilience for Disaster
Prevention and Mitigation

Sub-theme 4

Supporting Aquatic Ecosystem
Health and Functions

Sub-theme 5

Establishing Sustainable Water
Infrastructures

Sub-theme 6

Innovation for Water
Governance and Management

GOVERNANCE BODY

1. Congress Organizing Committee (COC)

- **Honorary Chair:**

Li Guoying

Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China

- **Chair:**

Wei Shanzhong

Vice Minister of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China

- **International Members:**

Gabriel Eckstein

- Past president of IWRA

- Professor of Law at Texas A&M University, USA

Loïc Fauchon

President of World Water Council

Sasha Koo-Oshima

Deputy Director of Land and Water Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Oriana Romano

Head of Unit, Water Governance and Circular Economy in Cities, Urban Policies, and Sustainable Development Division, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

András Szöllősi-Nagy

Professor of the National University of Public Service, Budapest, Hungary

Fan Zhang

Lead Economist and Global Lead for Water Economics and Climate Change, World Bank

- **Domestic Members:**

Director Generals of relevant departments of MWR and heads of key national water agencies

2. National Organizing Committee (NOC)

- **Chair:**

Yang Derui

Director General of Water Resources Management Department, MWR, China

- **Vice Chairs and Members:**

Officials of relevant departments of MWR and key national water agencies, heads of co-organizers and sponsors.

3. International Scientific Committee (ISC)

- **Honorary Chairs:**

Patrick Lavarde

- Co-chair of the International Steering Committee of 9th World Water Forum
- Past President of IWRA

Zhang Jianyun

- Professor of Nanjing Hydraulic Research Institute, China
- Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering

- **Co-chairs:**

Renée Martin-Nagle

- Treasurer of IWRA
- President of A Ripple Effect
- Special Counsel of Eckert Seamans
- Visiting Scholar of Environmental Law Institute

Shi Qiuchi

- Bureau Member of World Water Council (2019-2022)
- Chair of Water Security Task Force of World Water Council (2019-2022)
- Former Director of International Centre for Economic and Technical Cooperation and Exchange, MWR, China

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6-9
Morning	Opening Ceremony	Plenary Sessions			Closing Ceremony	Technical Field Trips
	Plenary Sessions	Regular Sessions (Thematic Sessions) /Special Sessions/Side Events				
Noon	Break					
Afternoon	Regular Sessions (Thematic Sessions) /Special Sessions/Side Events					
Evening	Welcome Reception					
All Day	Exhibitions and Posters					

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Plenary Sessions

Experts from all over the world will be invited to participate in plenary sessions to discuss:

- Accelerating the achievement of the SDGs
- Building resilience in a changing environment
- Using an interdisciplinary approach to improve capacity building

Academic Presentations and Discussions

The programme will include high level keynote speeches and presentations, posters and discussions on the latest scientific & technological achievements and policy initiatives.

Exhibitions

A venue of about 5,000 square meters will be provided for international organizations, academic institutions and manufacturers to showcase their achievements and products.

IWRA Awards Ceremony

The Crystal Drop Award, Ven Te Chow Memorial Award, Water Drop Award, Distinguished Honorary Members Awards and Water International Best Paper Award will be presented during the Awards Ceremony.

Welcome Reception

All participants will be invited to a Welcome Reception, which will showcase Chinese culture and water resources management.



HOST CITY:

BEIJING

Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China and one of the most populous cities in the world. The metropolis, located in north China, covers an area of 16410.54 square kilometers and hosts 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Beijing is the political center, cultural center, international communication center and scientific and technological innovation center of the country, and the world's first dual Olympic city.

For thousands of years, water has been indispensable in Beijing's development and thriving. Up till now, the city has built 85 reservoirs, and is the destination of the ancient Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal and the middle route of the modern South-to-North Water Diversion Project.



TECHNICAL FIELD TRIPS

All participants and accompanying guests are welcome to choose among the technical field trips within and outside Beijing arranged after the World Water Congress.

• TRIPS WITHIN BEIJING

The Summer Palace

The Summer Palace is a vast ensemble of lakes, gardens and palaces in Beijing. In December 1998, UNESCO included the Summer Palace on its World Heritage List. It declared the Summer Palace “a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design”.



The Mutianyu Great Wall

The Great Wall was continuously built from the 3rd century BC to the 17th century AD on the northern border of the country as the great military defense project of successive Chinese Empires, with a total length of more than 20,000 kilometers. The Mutianyu Great Wall connects Juyongguan on the west and Gubeikou on the east, and was built in the early Ming Dynasty.



The Miyun Reservoir

The Miyun Reservoir was constructed in late 1950s. It is located in the north of Beijing and remains the largest in Northern China. The reservoir has a storage capacity of 4.375 billion cubic meters.



The South-to-North Water Diversion Project

The South-to-North Water Diversion Project in China is the largest of its kind ever undertaken. The project includes 3 routes, which connect the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, the Huai River and the Hai River. The Tuancheng Lake in Beijing is the destination of the middle route.



• TRIPS OUTSIDE BEIJING

The Dujiangyan Irrigation System

The Dujiangyan Irrigation System is located in the west of Dujiangyan City, Sichuan Province, and was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2000. With a history of more than 2260 years, it is the oldest existing large-scale water project in the world. Since its establishment, the System has played an important role in flood control and irrigation to Chengdu Plain.



The Three Gorges Project

The Three Gorges Project, located in Yichang City, Hubei Province, is the largest hydraulic project in the world, with a total storage capacity of 39.3 billion cubic meters. As a comprehensive water project, it serves flood defense, power generation, navigation and water replenishment.

The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal

The Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, which was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2000, is a waterway system stretching on the eastern plain of China for 1794 km and connects five major rivers. It was built in 468 BC and went through renovations and enlargements three times in history.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

We look forward to your participation, support and endeavor to make the congress a platform for cooperation.

1. Organization and promotion:

We welcome your suggestions to bridge vital global water agenda and priorities with the Congress theme and topics. Your participation in the organization process and showcase of the latest water-related technologies and policies is appreciated.

2. Plenary sessions:

Discussing important topics including the implementation of the SDGs, COP, biodiversity and the latest science and policy issues on the international water agenda.

3. Regular sessions (Thematic sessions):

Discussing hot topics and solutions in the water sector as a moderator or panelist.

4. Special sessions:

Sharing technical achievements and valuable experience in the field of water resources and the latest achievements on the global water agenda.

5. Side events:

Organizing activities of your own interests on major water-related topics to promote extensive cooperation.

6. Exhibitions:

Displaying the latest water-related products, services and research results.

7. Support for the participants:

Offering financial and technical support to the organization of special sessions and side events. Subsidizing the travel expenses of international participation including high-level academic experts, policy makers and representatives from developing countries.



CONTACTS

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