



High-Level Celebration of the

50th Anniversary

of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme and 60 years of UNESCO Water Sciences

.....

June 10 - 13, 2025

Find out more



Celebrating UNESCO's water science legacy and shaping its future

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme celebrates fifty years of advancing water sciences and management through international cooperation and six decades of commitment to addressing global water challenges.

Since its inception, UNESCO has contributed to advancing water research and management, addressing global water challenges through international cooperation and scientific excellence. The IHP, as UNESCO's flagship water science programme, has played a pivotal role in fostering scientific knowledge, technical innovation, and education in water resources management. This anniversary represents not just a celebration of past achievements but also highlights UNESCO's ongoing commitment to ensuring water security for future generations in an era of unprecedented environmental change and growing water demands.

Through five decades of collaborative research, capacity development, and policy support, IHP has brought together scientists, policymakers, and communities worldwide to address pressing water-related challenges. This commemoration of significant IHP milestones reflects on the journey while looking ahead to tackle emerging water challenges in an increasingly complex world.

Unesco's water Journey

For half a century, UNESCO's scientific programmes have played an instrumental role in establishing sustainable water management as one of humanity's most critical challenges for planetary survival. At the forefront of these efforts stands the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, which evolved from pioneering research on arid zones in the 1950s through the Major Project on Arid Lands (1956) and the International Hydrological Decade (1965). Today, IHP serves as the UN's only intergovernmental cooperation programme dedicated to water research, management, education, and capacity development. Through scientific expertise and practical solutions, it supports UNESCO Member States address their water challenges while promoting sustainable development. The programme's operational framework encompasses 29 water-related Centres, 93 UNESCO water-related Chairs, and 170 National Committees and 17 Flagship Initiatives, facilitating effective knowledge exchange between scientific research and practical implementation.

High-Level Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme and 60 years of UNESCO Water Sciences

11 June 2025 | 09h45 – 20h00
Room I, UNESCO HQ

Agenda

Time	Programme
08h30 – 09h30	Registration & Welcome Coffee “Foyer de Conference”
09h45 – 09h50	Artistic performance – TRIO “AIDA Concerts” (1 st Segment)
09h50 – 10h05	<p>High level opening statements</p> <p><i>Master of Ceremony: Ms Anne-Laure Bonnet, TV Host & Journalist</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO • H.E. Mr Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tajikistan
10h05 – 10h10	Video on 50 years of IHP
10h08-10h13	Artistic performance – TRIO “AIDA Concerts” (2 nd Segment)
10h13 – 10h20 Partners’ statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms Retno Marsudi, United Nations Special Envoy on Water (<i>Video Message</i>) • Ms. Tatiana Molcean, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of UNECE • Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (<i>Video Message</i>)

10h20 – 11h20

Ministerial Statements: “Water Science for Life, Prosperity and Peace”

Moderator: Ms Lidia Brito, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

- **H.E. Mr Laurent Tchagba**, Minister of Water and Forests, Côte d’Ivoire
- **H.E. Ms Nina Obuljen Korzinek**, Minister of Culture and Media, Croatia
- **H.E. Mr Hani Sewilam**, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt
- **H.E. Mr Eric Murithi Mugaa**, Cabinet Secretary for Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Kenya
- **H.E. Mr Joseph Saddi**, Minister of Energy and Water, Lebanon
- **H.E. Mr Mohamed Abdel Vetah**, High Commissioner, Organisation pour la mise en valeur du fleuve Sénégal (OMVS),
- **Mr. Boubacar Mboundor Ngom**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation, Senegal
- **Mr. Raed Jaddoa**, Deputy Minister for Administrative Affairs, Iraq
- **H.E. Mr Norbert Totschnig**, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria (Video Message)
- **Ms. Meike Van Ginnenken**, Water Envoy, Kingdom of the Netherlands

11h20 – 12h30

Partners’ statements

- **Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi**, Director General, IAEA (Video Message)

High Level Panel: “The Future of Water”

Moderator: Ms Blanca Cisneros, Ambassador of Mexico in France and Monaco

Panelists:

- **Mr. Helmut Habersack**, Chairperson, Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)
- **Mr Rashid Mbaziira**, Executive Secretary, African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW)
- **Mr Salvatore Grimaldi**, President, International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)
- **Ms Teodóra Szócs**, President, International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)
- **Mr Yuanyuan Li**, President, International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
- **Mr Philippe Gourbesville**, President, International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR)
- **Ms Alice Tilley**, President, Groundwater Youth Network (GWYN)
- **Mr Federico Properzi**, Chief Technical Advisor, UN Water
- **Mr Antonio Donato Nobre**, Scientific Director, Biotic Pump Greening Group

14h00 – 15h15	<p>Partners' statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ko Barrett, Deputy Secretary General of the WMO (Video Message) <p>Water Family Panel: IHP 50-year Strategic Vision</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr Abou Amani, Secretary of IHP and Director of Water Sciences Division, UNESCO</i></p> <p><i>Keynote: Mr Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, UNESCO Chair in Water Conflict Management (Hungary)</i></p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Fadi Comair, Former IHP Council Chairperson, Lebanon • Mr Zhongbo Yu, Former IHP Council Chairperson, China • Mr Omogbemi O Yaya, Director, Regional Centre for Integrated River Basin Management (RC-IRBM), Nigeria • Mr Eddy Moors, Rector, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Netherlands • Ms Maria Donoso, UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Security, USA • Ms Ann van Griensven, UNESCO Chair on Open Water Science and Education, Belgium • Mr Taikan Oki, IHP National Committee Chairperson, Japan • Ms Nicole Rivera, Ecohydrology Youth Network (EHYN)
15h15 – 15h45	Coffee Break (Hosted by Brazilian Federal District Water, Energy and Sanitation Regulatory Agency) & Exhibitions Inauguration (Hall Ségur)
15h45 – 16h00	<p>Partners' statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alvaro Lario, UN-Water Chair & President of IFAD (Video Message) <p>Coffee Table Book Launch</p>
16h00 – 16h45	Recognition of long-standing contributors to IHP
16h45 – 17h00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <p>Ms Lidia Brito, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO</p> <p>Mr Helmut Habersack, Chairperson Intergovernmental Hydrological programme (IHP)</p>
17h00 – 18h00	<p>H.E. Mr Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tajikistan</p> <p>Musical Performance Tajikistan, Shashmaqom Concert, traditional music and dance</p>
18h00 – 20h00	<p>Reception – Hall Ségur (Hosted by Permanent Delegation of Tajikistan)</p>

Side events

12 June 2025 | 09h00 – 17h30

Room VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI and Cinema

Time	Room	Title (abridged)
09:00 – 10:30	Room VI	1st UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue I
09:00 – 10:30	Room VII	From National Innovation to Regional Cooperation: Egypt's Vision for Water-Centered Climate Action
09:00 – 10:30	Room VIII	The Joint Danube Survey 5
09:00 – 10:30	Room IX	Open Hydrology I
09:00 – 10:30	Room XI	Water and Desertification: Strengthening Water Security and Climate Resilience
10:30 – 11:00	The Mall / Foyer X	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	Room VI	1st UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue II
11:00 – 12:30	Room VII	Water Education and Capacity Development
11:00 – 12:30	Room VIII	Scaling Citizen Science in Africa
11:00 – 12:30	Room IX	Open Hydrology II
11:00 – 12:30	Room XI	From Scientific frontiers to Water Action
11:00 – 12:30	Cinema	Let's Talk about Water
14:00 – 15:30	Room VI	1st UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue III
14:00 – 15:30	Room VII	Frontiers in Hydrology and their Contributions to Water Security in a Changing World
14:00 – 15:30	Room VIII	Water and Peace Along the Danube
14:00 – 15:30	Room IX	Cryospheric Sciences
14:00 – 15:30	Room XI	Ecohydrology Symposium I
14:00 – 15:30	Cinema	The Voices of Water: Valuing ancient water cultures and hydro-technologies for a shared future
15:30 – 16:00	The Mall	Coffee Break (Hosted by Permanent Delegation of Hungary)
16:00 – 17:30	Room VI	1st UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue IV
16:00 – 17:30	Room VII	UNESCO-IHP ECOMED ACADEMY
16:00 – 17:30	Room VIII	Open Hydrology III
16:00 – 17:30	Room IX	Water Sciences and Cooperation: 50 Years and Beyond
16:00 – 17:30	Room XI	Ecohydrology Symposium II
17:30 – 20:00	Restaurant (7th Floor)	Reception (Hosted by Republic of Korea)

Side events

13 June 2025 | 09h00 – 17h30

Room VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI and Cinema

Time	Room	Title (abridged)
09:00 – 10:30	Room II	Applications of AI for water management I
09:00 – 10:30	Room VI	1st UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue I
09:00 – 10:30	Room VIII	River Culture - Water Values - Education
09:00 – 10:30	Room IX	Water, Climate Change, and Cities
09:00 – 10:30	Room XI	25 years of Global Water Assessments at UNESCO
10:30 – 11:00	Pas Perdus	Coffee Break (Hosted by Permanent Delegation of Oman)
11:00 – 12:30	Room II	Applications of AI for water management II
11:00 – 12:30	Room VI	1st UNESCO Water Youth Dialogue VI
11:00 – 12:30	Room VIII	Examples of WEF NEXUS Approach
11:00 – 12:30	Room IX	HELP 2.0: Reviving the UNESCO-IHP Hydrology for the Environment Life and Policy
11:00 – 12:30	Room XI	50 Years of Groundwater at UNESCO
11:00 – 12:30	Pas Perdus	A Virtual Reality Time Travel through 60 yrs of UNESCO water research
14:00 – 15:30	Room II	Applications of AI for water management III
14:00 – 15:30	Room VIII	50 yrs of UNESCO Water Activities in Latin American and Caribbean
14:00 – 15:30	Room XI	Transboundary Aquifers: Advancing Water Cooperation (SDG 6.5.2), Governance and Legal Frameworks
15:30 – 16:00	Pas Perdus	Coffee Break
16:00 – 17:30	Room II	Closing Session
17:30 – 18:00	Room II	Musical Performance - Colombia



unesco

Programme hydrologique
intergouvernemental



Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

Unesco / Division of Water Sciences (SC/HYD)

7, Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP – France

ihp@unesco.org

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/water-security/hydrology>

Water Sponsors



Ministry of Environment
Republic of Korea

Republic of Korea



Gold Sponsors



Permanent Delegation of Tajikistan



AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES



Republic of Austria

With special thanks to



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY



Delegación Permanente de Colombia
ante la UNESCO en París



The Sultanate of Oman