

2016 WORLD WATER WEEK

Water for Sustainable Growth

Overarching conclusions

Key collaborating partners



Stockholm – The water hub

Dear friends of water! We have just concluded the 26th edition of World Water Week in Stockholm.

Every year, the Week brings new insights, and new ideas to us at SIWI. We hope the same is true for all of you, attending World Water Week in person, or following events through live-streams or in digital media channels. We had some 3,200 participants at the venue, from over 130 countries.

We welcome many professionals from the wider development community at World Water Week. It is a welcome and necessary presence. We need to bring the discussion about water into the mainstream development and sustainability discourse. The one thing all participants at World Water Week have in common is an understanding that water underpins all progress in society. It is a prerequisite for sustainable growth and the achievement of most SDGs. In order to end hunger, ensure good health, build sustainable cities and fight climate change, we need reliable access to the most fundamental resource of all.

This year, we proposed and launched the Week as an annual opportunity to take stock of implementation of the SDGs, from a water perspective. We also linked a follow-up of the Climate agreement from Paris to the implementation of Agenda 2030. It was exceptionally well received, as World Water Week is already a key global arena for water and development issues, and we will continue with this annual stock-taking in Stockholm.

In these pages, we share our conclusions from the Week. Three teams of rapporteurs have together attended all events

during the Week, not a small feat, and starting on page 8, you can read their key take-home messages from the environmental, economic and social perspectives. The chair of the World Water Week Scientific Programme Committee summarizes the eight seminars, which form the scientific core of the Week. We also offer a glimpse of the Prize ceremonies, as well as a browse through the activity in social media, including the popular new app used by over a thousand participants.

Next year, we take on “Water and waste – Reduce and reuse”. It is a topic and a challenge that is becoming increasingly urgent to tackle, as global water demand surges while supply remains more or less constant. Regardless of how cleverly we solve supply challenges, the problem will not go away unless we take a serious look at the demand-side. How can industries, businesses, and citizens change the way they use freshwater? And how do we best reuse of water and waste? Big, important and interesting questions. Book 27 August to 1 September 2017 in your calendars for next year’s World Water Week.

But for now, I hope you find these Overarching Conclusions interesting.



Torgny Holmgren, Executive Director
Stockholm International Water Institute

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Cover photo: iStock.

Inside cover photo: Thomas Henrikson

Production editor: Victoria Engstrand-Neacsu, SIWI.

Design: Elin Ingblom, SIWI.



The Overarching Conclusions is published by the Stockholm International Water Institute and printed by Molind, Stockholm, Sweden. The printing process has been certified according to the Nordic Swan label for environmental quality.

Prizes and awards



2016 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate



Professor Joan B. Rose from the USA was named the 2016 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate for her tireless contributions to global public health: in assessing risks to human health in water and creating guidelines and tools for decision-

makers and communities to improve global health.

In its citation, the Stockholm Water Prize Nominating Committee said that “The nexus of water-related microbiology, water quality and public health is rife with uncertainty – in both theory and practice. The world is blessed with few individuals who can tackle the increasing and changing challenges to clean water and health,

starting from state-of-the-art science through dedicated and original research, then moving to professional dissemination, effective lobbying of the legislative arena, influencing practitioners, and raising the general awareness. Joan Rose is the leading example of this extremely rare blend of talents.”



Photo: Jonas Borg

Founders of the Stockholm Water Prize are: Bacardi, Borealis, Europeiska ERV, HP, Kemira, Poul Due Jensen Foundation, Ragn-Sells, Scandinavian Airlines (SAS), Safran, Water Environment Federation, Xylem and Ålandsbanken.

Photo: Thomas Henrikson

Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Three students from Thailand, Sureeporn Triphetprapa, Thidarat Phianchat and Kanjana Komkla, received the 2016 Stockholm Junior Water Prize for their innovative water retention device that mimics the water retention of the Bromeliad plant. H.R.H. Prince Carl Philip of Sweden presented the prize at an award ceremony during World Water Week in Stockholm.

As the three received the prize, Kanjana Komkla said “I’m really happy but I think every team is the best! And thank you everyone.”

A Diploma of Excellence was awarded to the students Gabriel David Alejandro Trujillo, Eunice Yaneli Masegosa Gaona and Carlos Castellanos Dominguez from Mexico. Their project – a pilot plant – combines an artificial wetland, electrofoculation process and a purification system to promote the use of reclaim water for small agricultural activities and school uses, such as bathroom discharges and cleansing.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize gathers the world’s brightest young minds for an outstanding competition in the capital of Sweden. National teams from 29 countries took part in this year’s international final.

Read more at www.siwi.org/prizes/stockholmjuniorwaterprize



Photos: Jonas Borg

Best Poster Award

Philip Kruse, Technical University Dortmund, was awarded the 2016 Best Poster Award for his poster named *Managing extremes: Sustainable planning for water resources in San Diego*.

The motivation read: Relevance: highly relevant to the SDG agenda and the climate agreements, address criteria for the planning prioritization of extreme weather events, identification of factors for preventative action

Multi-faceted nature: addresses both technical and institutional questions

Research and policy/practice nexus: respond to the immediate needs of planners, implementation of the recommendations emerging from the research findings.

Solution orientation: three pillars make up the recommendations emerging from the research

- Balance – the interaction between floods and droughts and how solutions related to one can contribute to solutions related to the other.
- Sustainability – emphasizes the importance of measures to be future-oriented, leading to better planning and moving away from short-term thinking.
- Planning – evidence-based recommendations how the planning process of San Diego’s water resources management can be improved.

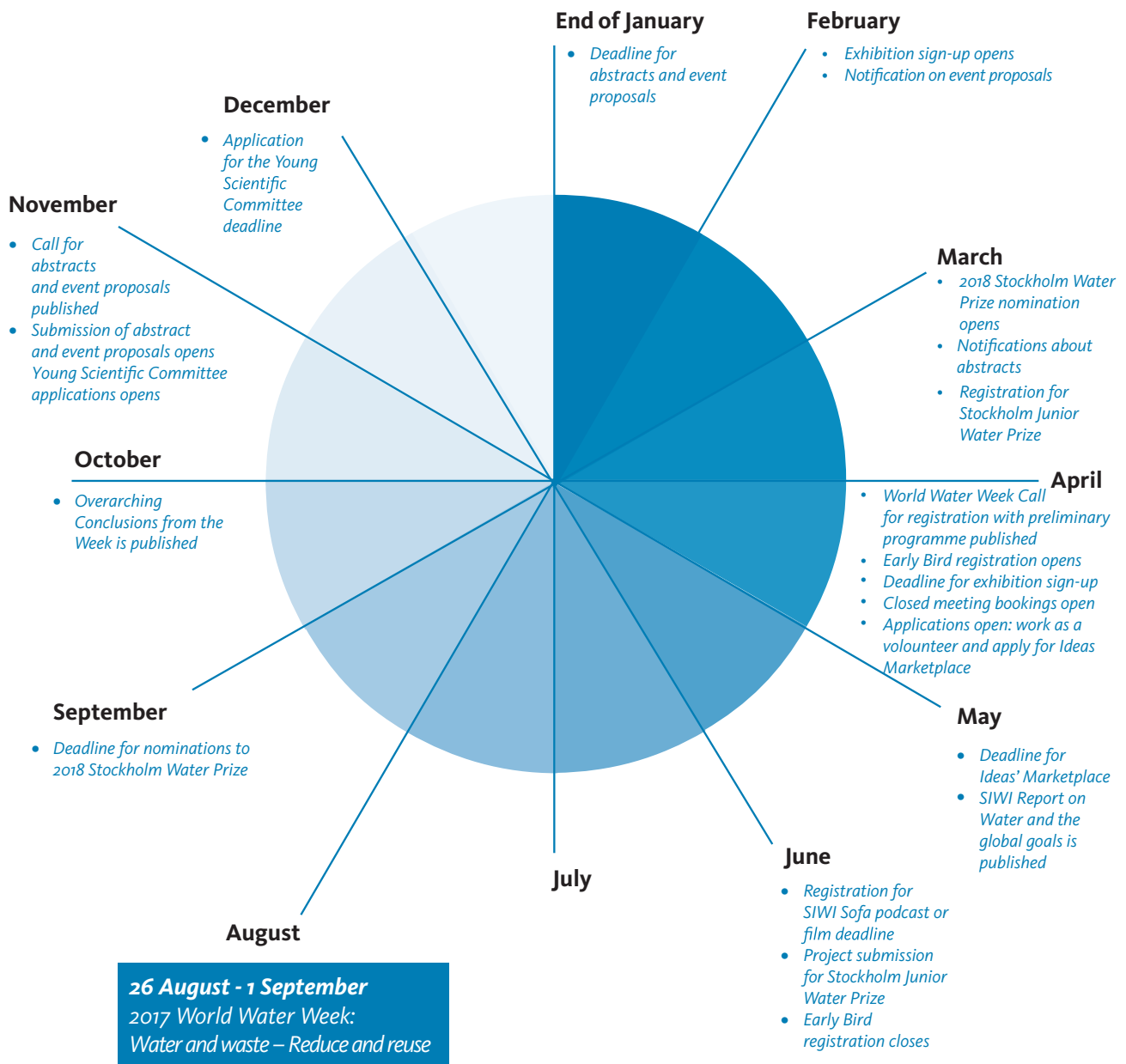
The World Water Week poster exhibition showcases a number of selected abstracts from each workshop. In the exhibition, conference visitors can learn more about the projects behind the posters. The most informative, innovative and well-designed poster is awarded with the Best Poster Award.



Photos: Mikael Ullén

World Water Week

annual process



Overarching conclusions

From words to action

There were three words that echoed through 2016 World Water Week. They were implementation, action and partnerships.

The 2016 World Water Week kicked off nearly a year after the UN General Assembly agreed on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that will guide global development work until 2030. The Week, themed “Water for Sustainable Growth”, sought to contribute, directly and indirectly, to the SDG 8: *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.*

The Week addressed sustainable growth for all by focusing on inclusiveness in terms of the societal and human dimensions in all regions of the world. Growth as a result of population increase, rapid urbanization and economic development is putting considerable pressure on the availability and quality of our water resources. Water of adequate quality is not abundant everywhere, and at any time, and our water resources therefore set limits to growth unless we manage them wisely. Sustainable growth depends on water security attained through sustainable water resources management.

Although the primary focus was on sustainable growth, the Week served to underline water’s centrality to the entire sustainable development agenda. In addition to being a prerequisite for the realization of most of the SDGs, water can also be the enabler for coherence in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The Week also showed water’s power as a connector; water connects not only sectors, but also nations, communities and actors.

This connecting power, the blue thread that binds us together, manifests itself at World Water Week. Stockholm and World Water Week has become the main arena for discussions about water, climate, and development. SIWI has therefore decided to provide the Week as an annual opportunity for taking stock of progress in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement, from a water perspective. The immediate step after Stockholm is the UN climate meeting in Marrakesh, where an official water day will be organized and important negotiations on the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement will be held.

With strong support from other actors in the greater water and development communities, the 2016 World Water Week featured a high-level event to kick-start this effort, with UN Deputy Secretary General Jan Eliasson stating that “Investing in water and sanitation will translate into improved public health and food security, into poverty

reduction and economic growth, into livable cities and energy for all, as well as into environmental protection and climate action.”

The High Level Panel on Water, consisting of 11 heads of state and one special adviser, was launched at World Economic Forum in Davos earlier in 2016, and works for the achievement of SDG 6 on water and sanitation and other water related goals and targets. The designated representatives of the panel members met during World Water Week to receive input from the wider water community, thus reinforcing the Week’s role as an arena for crucial water discussions.

The High Level Panel on Water, to which SIWI is a supporting expert organization, also helps give water the political prominence it needs and deserves. But while the Panel helps drive ownership of water issues to the highest governmental level, we must also engage less traditional actors.

Because although we often speak of global water challenges, the solutions will almost always be local. It is the mayors, the city councils the local citizens “and civil society” and businesses that will bring abstract agreements to life, and effect change. In order to achieve the SDGs, city and local leaderships are crucial. It is also important that civil society, businesses and social entrepreneurs are engaged, to learn from each other to create smart, viable and sustainable partnerships. Water is too important to keep inside the water community

– water is a central part of the entire society and solutions must be owned by all groups in order to be sustainable. In this context, it is important to always ensure women’s participation in decision-making as well as in implementation. Good leadership is irrelevant of gender and this fact must be reflected at all levels in society and in all regions of the world.

The Week also saw a Call for a Water Revolution in sub-Saharan Africa. Professor Malin Falkenmark called Africa’s climate its “Achille’s Heel”, and said that rainwater harvesting and other green water management methods are necessary to alleviate hunger in sub-Saharan Africa and meeting the SDGs. Together with other water and climate experts, she called for a Green Water Initiative in Africa. SIWI will continue to provide World Water Week as an arena for informed and inspiring discussions about water, climate and development. We value input from professionals from inside and outside the traditional water community, and hope to see more new and innovative constellations of partners working for a water-wise world.



The 2016 Seminars

Torkil Jønch Clausen on behalf of the Scientific Programme Committee

The eight SIWI Seminars addressed key aspects of 2016 World Water Week's theme "Water for Sustainable Growth" as described in the Thematic Scope, www.worldwaterweek.org/programme/#thematic-scope. They were co-convened by 24 international organizations, and featured some 30 keynote presentations along with 60 presentations and 36 posters selected from the 430 abstracts submitted.

Roundtable discussions, high-level panels, games and more ensured active participation – in full rooms – of participants throughout the Week. This contribution provides brief key messages from the seminars.

Short summaries of each of the seminars are available here: programme.worldwaterweek.org/events/all/all/seminar/all/www2016

GROWTH – Water as a driver for sustainable growth | As economies and populations grow, so will the assets, economic activities and populations facing water-related risks such as service disruptions, drought, flood and contamination, while the pressure on water resources increase simultaneously. However, improved water management has the potential to reduce loss and damage and build resilience to water-related natural disasters, as well as underpinning economic growth through improved allocation, productivity and trade. Growth provides critical resources, incentives and demands to achieve water security, mitigate water-related risks and utilize water resources sustainably.

THREATS – Water Security in a changing world – coping with threats | Water security is a challenge across the world: developing countries are affected, as well as developed countries. However, they face different kinds of challenges. Water security is generally more difficult to achieve in fragile contexts, but it can also be more costly to fail in these contexts. Enhancing resilience necessitates a shift from a solely "reactive" mode of support to also include a "proactive" component, and bridging short-term with medium to long-term responses are necessary to secure "development holds" that withstand development reversal.

JOBS – Water and job opportunities – a critical nexus for growth | The interrelated character of the SDGs implies that policy measures to achieve universal access to water and sanitation also promote sustainable growth and decent work. Organizations and financiers need to invest and innovate to leapfrog capacity development in order to prevent a human resource crisis in the water sector. International and national collaboration and cooperation is necessary to assess, plan and develop the sector's workforce, and best practice needs to be shared to help organizations encourage, attract and retain staff. A multi-stakeholder value chain approach including buyers, financial institutions, and government agencies/regulators, is an effective way to drive water sustainability and de-risk millions of livelihoods and jobs along the chain. Water and sanitation access can be greatly promoted by engaging women and youth in the water community, as well as through experiential learning and voluntary associations.

ECOSYSTEMS – Ecosystem degradation and livelihoods – from vicious to virtuous cycle | Mountain and coastal ecosystems are frequently overlooked in water management,

but offer a range of important ecosystem services in management of river water. This calls for new forms of holistic and integrated management approaches that consider the whole continuum from source to sea, as e.g. from Himalayas to the Ocean ("H₂O"). There is a variety of solutions – by public, private, civil society and entrepreneurial actors – to tackle ecosystem degradation. However some key questions remain: how do we mainstream and bundle them to achieve success at scale? - how do we make the business case for ecosystem services to be protected? – and can we preserve the health and integrity of ecosystems without fully rethinking the way we understand growth? The growth of information and technology offers a real opportunity to 'scale up', including the generation of large global data sets by civil society to be used by researchers and policy makers. The public sector needs to ensure the incentives and revenue mechanisms are in place to support those changes.

CITIES – Water and sustainable cities – how to induce change? | Demand-driven solutions are now the new normal – our approaches and solutions must respond to a plethora of stakeholders. Key to this is the digital media. Voices are now being communicated through the digital/social media and we need to encourage this and learn how to better capture and respond to create the change that is desperately needed in the urban settings. If we are to take resource recovery seriously, we need to have a greater understanding of the potential utilization of end products and how they fit into a viable business. Business model thinking can greatly facilitate this process and the water community must begin to adopt and implement business model tools and instruments. The imperative for change is often driven by fear of greed; when water systems experience shock, there is often a small window of opportunity to enact change and we must aggressively embrace these opportunities if we are to transition to a more sustainable future.

STEWARDSHIP – Water to full business growth | Companies build and execute water stewardship strategies to mitigate complex physical, regulatory and reputational water risks across their value chains to support business growth. Corporate water risk mitigation strategies will not succeed without a strong framework of water governance to address root causes of water challenges, and through collective action with diverse stakeholders. There are a number of tools being used to drive better water outcomes, and in many cases driv-

ing growth; however, improving these tools can help enhance and build on corporate water stewardship to drive business growth. We need to better incorporate reputational risk and brand value into our water strategies along with innovation in new business opportunities, products, services and funding models.

FINANCE – Financing water infrastructure for sustainable growth | Finance is about pricing risks and managing risks. Different types of financiers can address different risks; hence there is a benefit in combining different sources of finance, such as debt, equity, concessional finance, etc. There is a debate on whether water is an ‘infrastructure sector’: approaching water as an infrastructure sector helps to standardize project design and risk assessment; on the other hand, approaching water as a cycle broadens the range of financing options. The first priority of investors, including impact investors, is to obtain market-rate returns. The challenge is to deliver impact at market-rate returns. Sensible pricing is a requisite to deliver market-rate returns. The difference between the clean energy sector and the water sector is the revenue stream.

GOVERNANCE – Good water governance for inclusive growth and poverty reduction | Social network analysis contributes to improved water governance and to ensure capacity development if designed as a comprehensive assessment tool to identify political spaces for change and recognize power relationships of all stakeholders involved.

An important challenge is to overcome the difficulty to monitor and assess performance; this requires an agreed set of specific indicators for good water governance that are different from the more general SDG indicators, and we need to collect the right type of data and be better at channeling such information to end-users. Good water governance requires the ability to mainstream integrity and transparency so as to respond to the need for structural change to reduce corruption. Policy reform to eradicate corruption requires careful consideration of society’s cultural setting. International donors and policy makers help strengthen ‘agents of change’ by working together with accountable agencies and institutions that act both as partner and third party observer towards strengthening institutional accountability.



Photo: Mikael Ullén

Economic development – Implementation for growth

Lead rapporteurs
Chaminda Rajapakse, 2030 Water Resources Group, India

Mira Haddad, International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, Jordan

Junior Rapporteurs

Hannah Reid, Water Authority Cayman, Cayman Islands
Thérèse Rudebeck, PhD Candidate in Geography (Corporate Water Stewardship) University of Cambridge, UK
Maartje Kuilman, PhD Candidate in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, Belgium
Orn-Uma Polpanich, Research Associate, SEI, Thailand
Clara Gallagher, MSc Student Environmental Economics (SAOAS), UK
Andrea Karin Beck, PhD student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Germany

If significant progress is to be made towards achieving the SDGs – including access to safe water and sanitation – investment needs to be accelerated in efficient and equitable water supply, irrigation, and integrated water resources management. As cities grow and populations increase, and urban areas, agriculture, industry, and the environment compete for finite water resources, investment that results in increased productivity, efficiency, and equity should be prioritized:



Photo: iStock



However, in most parts of the world, financing water investment is a major challenge”

a focus that would ultimately contribute to sustainable water security for all.

In Latin America and the Caribbean alone an estimated USD 28 billion of investment is needed specifically for water supply and sanitation; USD 49 billion for sanitation, and a further USD 30 billion for wastewater. Overall, whereas the MDGs require investment of USD 30-35 billion annually; that amount needs to be trebled to \$115 billion to meet the SDGs.

However, in most parts of the world, financing water investment is a major challenge. New financing models, innovative financial instruments and blended finance involving both the public and private sectors are needed.

Promoting investments | Although capital is abundant, investors are reluctant to invest in the water sector as they perceive it to carry unacceptably high risk and their understanding of the sector tends to be limited. While other sectors such as renewable energy are now well-structured and attract significant investment, the water sector continues to lag behind. How can water projects be propelled towards an AAA credit rating?

Pricing is key | Firstly, water is currently undervalued and inadequately priced in most countries. The current mechanisms for water pricing, accounting, and allocation are insufficient to address complicated political, social, and environmental realities on the ground. An international initiative to price water accurately should be considered. A mechanism that ensures equity and access to water for basic social needs requires, one that incorporates targeted redistribution for the poor, rather than providing under-priced water to all users.

Pricing helps establish water markets and water trading which can be instrumental to manage water scarcity and drought. In Australia, for example, innovative market-based instruments in the Murray-Darling Basin are reported to have increased drought resilience and spurred innovation in water-efficient technologies. Identifying the correct price for water creates the foundations to attract investment to the water sector, and spurs technical and market innovation.

Partnerships for viability | Secondly, the financial viability of asset owners, (utilities, irrigation departments, local government), needs to be improved. In urban and peri-urbanization water supply contexts, the focus should not only be on the world's mega cities but also on medium sized urban bodies, which generally have less capacity and fewer resources.

In many developing countries, farmers have limited access to financial services because they are considered a credit risk. Furthermore, given that even the most basic of technologies can be prohibitively expensive for outright purchase for some

income groups, this further reduces their ability to develop and pull themselves out of poverty.

However, financial viability can be improved through multiple avenues, including enhancing the capacities of individuals, developing deliberate and fine-tuned institutional frameworks, and by developing social capital through multi-stakeholder partnerships. This can forge consensus, reduce political risk, improve accountability, and promote ownership. Water projects must be bankable and attractive to investors. Projects must consider all risk-related issues, (political risk, inflation etc.), and improve market returns.

Institutions | In terms of investment, institutions are as important as infrastructure – if not more so. In some contexts, investing in an institution can result in more efficiency gains than investing in infrastructure. Currently, in most countries, the institutional framework is fragmented across the water cycle. Not only does this result in suboptimal management of water, but also discourages investment.

The water sector needs to work closely with the finance sector, forging links with countries' finance ministries, and cross-ministerial coalitions to deal with water issues, (ministries of finance, environment, health, education,... etc.). It is evident that strong institutions result in well-functioning markets, and in turn attract higher levels of investment. Governments need to focus on policy and consider broader policy issues that include water financing and the use of a full range of policy tools to mitigate risk for the business sector.

Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) are increasingly common in the water sector. However, the 'partnership' aspect of PPPs should be emphasized where private sector actors actively team-up with government and communities on project development to establish effective lines of communication. PPPs can be established on a variety of different scales. Whereas large companies are best equipped to invest in large water projects, contributing expertise and reducing risk to beneficiaries, Small Water Enterprises (SWEs) – small, decentralized locally owned water companies – can be instrumental in providing affordable water services for many of the 1.8 billion people who do not currently have access to clean water.

Similarly, Performance Based Contracts are increasingly being used by utilities because they provide the security of knowing the aim of a contract will be achieved, while simultaneously encouraging private contractors to innovate. This model has proved particularly successful in addressing issues of non-revenue water reduction in the Bahamas and Brazil.

Climate changes and water risk | Climate change is increasingly impacting water risk. While climate variability introduces further risk to water investments, climate change also boosts demand for investment ranging from early warning

systems and capacities for information transfer/sharing for higher capacity and better-designed infrastructure.

Likewise, the global response to climate change offers new opportunities to increase investment in water. Resources designated for climate change mitigation could be used to build bankable water projects, using blended financial tools to reduce risk to acceptable levels for private investors, and to lower overall financing costs.

The global climate finance architecture also needs to prioritize water, and acknowledge its role as the driving link between climate change and its impacts. Furthermore, climate funds should be made available to actors in the water sector, who are best placed to allocate financial resources effectively.

Environmental development – Planetary boundaries

Lead rapporteurs

Stanley Liphadzi, Group Executive: Research & Development, South African Water Research Commission, South Africa

Charles Reeve, Team Leader, Climate Resilient Infrastructure Delivery Facility, UK

Junior Rapporteurs

Maresh Jampani, PhD Researcher UNU-FLORES, India

Daniel Isaac Waya Ddiba, Master's student in Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Infrastructure, KTH, Uganda

Isla Duporge, UNODC, UK

Emma I. Lyngedal, Freelance Researcher, Sweden

Pavel Gladkov, Intern, at Hifab International, Russia

Sofia Förster, Student, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Implementation of IWRM and the need for stricter regulation

Implementation of integrated water resource management (IWRM) is overdue. Steps must be taken at the catchment level so that impacts across the whole watershed are considered in decision-making processes. Over abstraction of ground water, and subsequent disposal of wastewater into fresh water ecosystems, threatens the sustainability of water resources. IWRM at basin scale can be effective in addressing these challenges if appropriate strategies and implementation plans are developed. The importance of environmental flows is understood, but standards and methodologies have yet to be developed in many countries to fully apply this understanding.

Stronger regulatory frameworks are needed to ensure that water use limits and water quality standards are implemented. Governments have responsibility to enforce stricter regulation and standards to make corporations and investors pay the “real” price for the water that they use.

The ‘polluter pays’ principle, and lifecycle assessments, need to be adopted. Companies need to be incentivized to meet standards, and face penalties if they fail to do so. The concept of ‘virtual water’ – the hidden flow of water embedded in commodities that are traded from one location to another – should be normalized and included in the pricing of goods and services. For example, mining companies tend to use large amounts of water, and generate polluted water. Such businesses should therefore be charged at levels that better reflect the cost of water used in production and the pollution caused. Water rights need to be aligned with land rights for ecosystem service protection, and to benefit all water users.

Economic growth and water security are intertwined

Economic growth and water security are closely linked. Water is needed for economic growth, but all too often this fails to manifest itself as sound ecosystem protection, resulting in the side-lining of environmental concerns.

Bringing up water and ecosystems in economic discussion is akin to “bringing a knife into a gun fight”. Some incentives meant to promote economic growth and development may be perverse. Economic growth and development should not be measured in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) because GDP does not incorporate ecosystem protection and often results in degradation.

We need a more balanced approach to assessing sustainable growth and development given the challenge of valuing ecosystem services and attaching a monetary value to these services. GDP does not incorporate environmental damage into its metric, and if the environment is left out as a key



Photo: iStock

metric or treated simply as an externality, this will inevitably lead to long-term economic decline.

There is a need to develop new accounting methodologies that give the environment the importance it deserves. Short-term perspectives and excessive profit ambitions hinder sustainable natural resource management and sustainable economic growth and development.

Wastewater as a viable resource | Wastewater should not be seen as waste, but should be looked upon as an opportunity or resource. Greater effort is needed to manage the resource, recover and reuse (RRR) wastewater to prevent contaminants re-entering the natural environment.

Wastewater is a valuable resource that when treated to an acceptable level or standard – fit for purpose – can be used for food production, drinking water, recreational use or energy production. The use of wastewater is an opportunity to strengthen the water-energy-food nexus as more water, energy, and crops can be produced using it.

Greater awareness and investment is needed to support RRR, or resource recovery and reuse initiatives, programmes, and technologies. Once viable business models are developed, they should be scaled to address environmental, social, and economic challenges.

Currently, the costs of treating wastewater can be high but there are some available solutions which are innovative and encouraging. While wastewater is a resource, when not treated sufficiently, it can harbour emerging contaminants and bugs such as antimicrobial pathogens that can threaten human health and welfare.

This year's Stockholm Water Prize Laureate Dr Joan B Rose raised the issue of emerging pollutants in wastewater, and specifically harmful pathogens and pharmaceutical residues. This was one of the key themes during the Week. Anti-microbial resistance (AMR) is occurring as a result of the increasing consumption of antibiotics in some parts of the world. Although AMR is viewed as a local problem, it is in fact a global challenge because globalization does not limit containment of anti-microbial resistance to a specific country.

Regulations for the use or banning of antimicrobials should be carefully tailored so that poorer countries prone to deadly livestock diseases or pathogens retain access to anti-

microbials to enhance food security. Ideally the appropriate use of antimicrobial products should be promoted, complimented by better livestock nutrition and health management.

The water-energy-food nexus | The water-energy-food nexus is a process and a method for dealing with the interlinkages between water, food, and energy. The impact of nexus thinking has created multi-sectoral dialogue to identify and assess trade-offs and synergies between the agriculture, energy, and water sectors; an understanding that allows for the optimal use of scarce water resources.

Food waste is a major issue which also wastes water used in food production. Sustainable food systems need to be created that rely on less water to feed growing populations. This needs to happen in tandem with investment in clean energy systems that foster water conservation rather than using large amount of water.

Transboundary cooperation relies on intersectoral synergies | When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled (Swahili proverb). Political stability is needed for collaborative management of trans-boundary water resources. Transboundary co-operation relies on intersectoral synergies to reduce tensions, and assist countries in optimising water resource use.

Planning and vulnerability assessments need to take place at the catchment or aquifer scale, which are often transnational. More transboundary agreements are needed to achieve this, but these can be difficult and take time to reach due to the multiple stakeholders and agencies involved. Water can be a source of conflict, but handled correctly, it can also provide the foundation for peace and security.

 *The 'polluter pays' principle, and lifecycle assessments, need to be adopted"*

Social development – Shared growth

Lead rapporteurs

Carmen Fernández Fernández, Independent Consultant, Water Management & Governance, Germany

Gunilla Björklund, Director, GeWa Consulting, Sweden

Junior Rapporteurs

Arthur Forte, Intern, GWP, France

Hannah von Reding, Student, Sweden

Angelica Lidén, UNODC, Sweden

Abdo Aslan, Environmental Engineering Student, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

Hanna Helander, Master's student in Socio-technical Systems Engineering, Uppsala University, Sweden

Joe Shuttleworth, PhD student, Cardiff Water Research Institute, UK

Good governance is imperative in addressing water for sustainable development

The shared growth perspective of water requires good governance in a number of spheres, many of which were dealt with during World Water Week. These included integrity, co-operation and collaboration over water versus conflict, gender equality, poverty reduction, and social accountability. Other key aspects in terms of social development that were discussed concerned water and sanitation as human rights, including issues raised by water access for refugees and migrants, and faith-related perspectives. The various “taboos” linked to sanitation that have a major impact on lifestyles, including that of women and girls, were highlighted at several sessions.

The need to use the same “water language” | There are often many challenges in bringing all stakeholders to the table, finding a common language, and co-ordinating efforts, while maintaining a balance of different interests. In a series of seminars about water management in the Middle East and North Africa – a region where competition over water is fierce – it was suggested that the water crisis in the region is not so much a resource problem, but an institutional one. This theme came up repeatedly in discussions on transboundary competition and co-operation.

Governance and integrity appear to be gaining more and more attention as a means of achieving sustainability. However, collaboration between entities – governmental agencies have their own agendas set by their governments – remains a considerable challenge. When asking countries to act upon such challenges, they may get demands that cannot be realized together. This is an important reason why different degrees of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) have been developed and are applied in different countries.



Photo: iStock

The Agenda towards the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030 not only stresses income sharing, but also knowledge sharing to the same extent. Indeed, reliable scientific information is crucial to support decision-making. Moreover, scientific understanding, which can be obtained relatively quickly, can be used to foster political agreement. Most entities seem to have the same end goals in mind, including multinational corporations, so in theory progress should be possible with greater co-creation. However, in reality, power structures and financial budgets seem to get in the way. Building sustainable, balanced and effective multi-stakeholder platforms is paramount.

The lack of gender balance is still undermining the capacity of the water sector

Gender equality and the participation of women have widely proven to be a key success factor in development: from company performance to the sustainability of water and sanitation programmes. Many examples of this were highlighted during the Week, such as the greater

“Building sustainable, balanced and cooperative platforms is paramount”

tendency of women to repay microcredits tied to sanitation improvements. The water sector needs to innovate in this area: diversity is a basic requirement for innovation, and there is no diversity without meaningful participation. We should not underestimate the contribution that women make; rather, we should use it as the valuable resource it is.

Social accountability is essential to ensure reliable water services as access to clean water and sanitation, not least for those on lower incomes and other vulnerable groups of society. It was emphasized during sessions addressing how to realize the Sustainable Development Goals through sanctions, rewards, and learning from experiences that community empowerment and mobilizations may provide opportunities to populations seeking to defend their rights and interests regarding water. The success of relying on social accountability between consumers, facilitators, and authorities is heavily dependent on the transparency of transactions within and between these groups.

The human rights to water and sanitation is essential also to the poorest and most vulnerable groups | The human rights to water and sanitation is among those rights recognized by the UN General Assembly in 2010. Discussions about the human rights to water and sanitation often leads to the issue of whether water should be regarded as an economic good. The latter was agreed at the preparatory meeting in Dublin 1992 to the Rio Conference (UNCED) [Dublin Principle 4: “Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good”]. The discussion of the value of water, therefore, partly refers to these principles, and was further developed and discussed during the Week.

As noted in the closing plenary session, water has wider implications than those resulting from its economic value, in particular in relations to the poorest groups in society. As the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights explains: “The price of sanitation and water services must be affordable for all without compromising the ability to pay for other essential necessities guaranteed by human rights such as food, housing and health care.”

The issue of water access to refugees and to immigrants was also discussed. A government that has agreed to the human rights to water and sanitation has a legal responsibility to ensure legal immigrants and refugees have access to water

on the same conditions as nationals. Moreover, refugees are high risk-takers, whose particular context needs to be understood, and obligations on the human rights to water and sanitation go beyond the refugee host states. All states should help in the assistance to refugees, with particular attention to ensure provision of adequate water whether they stay in camps or in urban and rural areas. Note that the terms “refugee” and “migrant” are often interchanged, when in reality they refer to different groups of people.

As noted during last year’s World Water Week, equitable distribution of water not only refers to quantity, but also quality and accessibility for marginal groups – including migrants and refugees.

Water’s spiritual value | Water is essential for life. But beyond basic survival, water has a spiritual value. Many cultures, communities, and religions acknowledge this. Furthermore, it is possible to learn a great deal about water from indigenous people.

Water inspires poetry, painting and music. The conflicts water causes are real, but we were happy to see that the potential of water as a unifying force is also coming to the fore. Religious leaders often have an authority that is an effective tool for influencing people. Once again, the interplay between water and faith was highlighted during the Week.

Many different perspectives linked to water governance and integrity as well as water management were discussed during the 2016 World Water Week. It was agreed that building sustainable, balanced and cooperative platforms is paramount to reach the water aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals, but several challenges still need to be overcome.

For more information and summaries from each of the events and seminars, please visit our online programme at programme.worldwaterweek.org

Outreach

Press coverage

The press has always been an important group represented at World Water Week. This year, nearly 70 reporters were present on site and many more followed the Week from a distance. This resulted in over 2,750 articles, blogs, radio and TV features being produced in countries such as the USA, China, Sweden, Germany, South Africa, Argentina, Japan, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Thailand and India.

Media's contribution to World Water Week cannot be underestimated. By reporting on events and discussions, journalists ensure that conversations reach outside the water and development sector.



Photo: iStock

20th jubilee of Stockholm Junior Water Prize

2016 was the 20th jubilee of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize. An international competition for students between the ages of 15 and 20, the competition invites students to develop an innovative practical project in the field of technology, natural or social science that helps to tackle a local or global water problem.

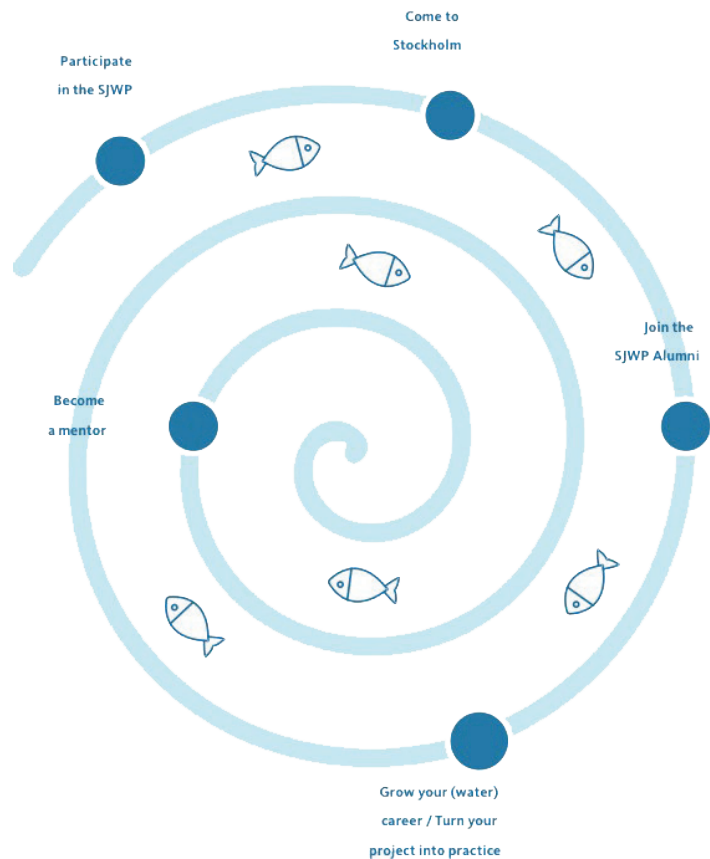
The international final is held during World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden each year. H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is the Patron of the Prize. In 2016, 52 young innovators from 29 different countries came to Stockholm for the international final.

To celebrate the jubilee, we devised a plan to further elevate these talented young people and their ideas – the Water Tank.

The Water Tank (www.watertank.se) is a community for the best of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition. It allows participants to connect and collaborate with each other, as well as mentors and partners, in order to advance their water projects and develop careers in a water-related field.

It showcases projects and success stories and provides educational resources and job opportunities from both SIWI and its partners.

We also welcomed back a number of the water heroes from last year's campaign to share their stories – on what



they wanted to be when they were first starting their careers; who their heroes were; and their advice to the water heroes of tomorrow.

You – the global water community – have a very important part to play. Contact ania.andersch@siwi.org to get involved.

#WWWeek in a digital age

World Water Week continues to draw attention worldwide and the issues being discussed at the conference reach far beyond the conference venue through the use of social media.

While some 3,100 people attended the Week, millions more were, this year, able to help amplify the voice of water through our shared global networks. Whether connecting and sharing through Twitter or Facebook, promoting recorded content via the SIWI media hub, or digital storytelling, World Water Week's digital voice has never been louder.

A number of articles were posted and shared online – both by organizations and media, and some 35 events filmed and shared through the SIWI Media Hub.

People used the #WWWeek hashtag on Twitter more than 39,000 times during the Week. More than 84 million people potentially heard about the Week just through Twitter! Whether connecting and sharing through Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn; showcasing behind-the-scenes images, video messages or stories on Instagram or Snapchat; promoting livestreams or recorded content via the SIWI media hub; or digital story-telling, World Water Week's digital voice has never been so diverse, reaching people at various ages all over the world through different social media channels.

2016 World Water Week App

All registered participants have access to our brand new 2016 World Water Week app that is a one-stop for all – one place you could turn for logistics, the Programme, convenor information, and most importantly, to connect with other participants. Its personal organizer function and social interactive features were well appreciated, as well as the push notifications informing full rooms and other real-time alerts.

- Installed on devices 1,022
- 891 profiles created in the app
- 58,798 sessions
- 1,542 interactions

SIWI Sofa

The SIWI Sofa again featured this Week. A cross between a speakers' corner and interview studio, journalists conducted interviews and facilitated discussions between experts on a variety of water-related issues. Interviewees included high-level speakers, representatives from water and development organizations, the private sector, and SIWI.

Watch at www.siwi.org/mediahub



World Water Week Daily

Once again, the coveted Water Front Magazine's World Water Week Daily magazine hit the stands each morning offering news reports, interviews and the latest buzz from the Week. www.worldwaterweek.org/daily

Things you might not know about World Water Week

- World Water Week is a not-for-profit event, funded by SIWI, registration fees, event fees and partnerships (approx. 6 per cent).
- Registration to the Week is on average 30 per cent cheaper* than other top tier international water conferences**. SIWI believes in participation across sectors, regions and ages and therefore strives to keep registration costs down.
- World Water Week Assistants are young water and development professionals who volunteer to support to the Week.
- SIWI supports some 50 participants from Low Income Countries and forgotten stakeholders to attend the Week.
- The conference venue is a historical building and can not be altered.
- SIWI aims for gender balance in its sessions (opening, closing, seminars), and actively encourages convenors to do the same.
- SIWI aims to include the youth perspective in its sessions (opening, closing, seminars), and actively encourages convenors to do the same.
- World Water Week is organized by 11 full time staff and 5 extra staff during the summer. An additional 7 full-time staff provide communications support.

*by day,

**compared it to WEF TEC and IWA Congress

Highlights/Storify

World Water Week 2016 - press highlights

Thank you for attending World Water Week! Below are a selection of articles and TV interviews from the Week.

by Stockholm International Water Institute a month ago 71 Views

- Thai students win prize for drought-fighting device**
HRH Prince Carl Philip of Sweden, right, presents the Stockholm Junior Water Prize to, from left, Thidara Phinichai, Kanyana Komkila and Suresorn Trithetgrapa. (Photo from the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology) Three secondary school students from Suratthanyai School in Surat Thani province won the 2016 Stockholm Junior Water Prize with their water retention invention that mimics the Bromelid plant.
POST PUBLISHING PCL
- Cleaning the world's water: 'We are now more polluted than we have ever been'**
In May 2000, around half of Wallerton's 5,000 residents fell severely ill and seven people died when cow manure washed into a well. The extent of the water pollution in the small Canadian town was concealed from the public, people drank from their taps and the result was ruined lives.
JOHN VIDAL
- 6 Teens Solving World Water Challenges for a Cleaner Planet**
Water is needed for just about everything. The global population is

Highlights from the Week are available on SIWI Storify pages: storify.com/SIWI/press and storify.com/SIWI/film-highlights-from-world-water-week.

More photos and videos are available on the SIWI Mediahub: www.siwi.org/mediahub

SIWI Media Hub

2016 STOCKHOLM WATER PRIZE HIGHLIGHTS

WATCH NOW

Most Popular

Videos

World Water Week Journalist Grant

SIWI offers journalists from low or low middle income nations the opportunity to visit and report from World Water Week. Three journalists from as many countries were awarded this year's World Water Week Journalist Grant and travelled to Stockholm to report from the conference.

The World Water Week Journalist Grant, initiated and administrated by SIWI, aims to build capacity, enable knowledge-sharing, and foster networks among journalists focusing on water and development issues worldwide.

This year's grantees faced tough competition from nearly 100 qualified applicants. The 2016 grant winners all share a passion for reporting on water but through different perspectives.

Ayah Aman, a journalist from Egypt, reports on, for example, transboundary water issues; Justus Wanjala from Kenya, who has been covering environment, water and sustainable development issues for a decade; and Chhavi Sachdev, a freelance reporter from India who is drawn to stories about our planet and water and conservation.

The 2017 World Water Week Journalist Grant will open for applications in March 2017.



Read the stories from the three grant winners:
www.siwi.org/media/world-water-week-journalist-grant/2016-winners/



Photo: iStock

Convening organizations

Whilst World Water Week is organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the programme of the events are planned by the convening organizations of the conference. In order to build partnerships and bring a diversity of perspectives

to the World Water Week, SIWI promotes cooperation and encourages organizations to convene at the conference. The organizations convening events or workshops at 2016 World Water Week are:

A, B, C, D, E

- #ClimateisWater Initiative
- @aqua
- 2030 Water Resources Group (2030 WRG)
- Academy of Finland
- Action contre la faim (ACF)
- Action Platform on Source to Sea Management
- Adam Smith International (ASI)
- adelphi
- African Collaborative Centre for Earth System Sciences Kenya (ACCESS)
- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- African Ministers' Council On Water (AMCOW)
- African Union Commission (AUC)
- Aguaconsult
- Akvo Foundation
- Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)
- American Standard
- Anheuser-Busch InBev
- Antenna Technologies Foundation
- Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA)
- Arup
- Asia Pacific Center for Water Security
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Association of Regulators of Water and Sanitation of the Americas (ADERASA)
- Australia's National University (ANU)
- Australian Water Partnership
- Basque Centre for Climate Change
- BERAS International
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association (BORDA)
- CAF - Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
- Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)
- CARE International
- Caritas Switzerland
- Catholic Relief Service (CRS)
- Climate Bonds Initiative
- Center for Development and Cooperation at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ/NADEL)
- Center for Environmental Systems Research, University of Kassel (CESR)
- Center for International Forestry
- Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST)
- Centre for Science and the Environment, India (CSE)
- cewas
- CGIAR Research Program on Water, Land and Ecosystems Led by IWMI (WLE)
- China Water Risk
- Columbia University
- Committee on Global Food Security (CSF)
- Conservation International (CI)
- Cooperative Research Center for Water Sensitive Cities
- Deloitte Consulting LLP
- Department of Water Affairs, Botswana
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- DHI
- Directorate-General for International Cooperation, The Netherlands (DGIS)
- Emergency Nutrition Network
- Earth Security Group (ESG)
- Earthwatch
- Eawag
- EcoPeace Middle East
- End Water Poverty (EWP)
- European Commission (EC)
- European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, Germany (BGR)
- Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany (BMZ)
- Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany (BMUB)
- FEMSA Foundation
- Finnish Environment Institute
- Finnish Water Forum (FWF)
- Firmenich
- Focali - Forest, Climate, and Livelihood Research Network (Focali)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- ForestTrends
- Forum Syd
- French Water Partnership (FWP)
- Future Waters, Netherlands
- GAP Inc.
- General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design at Ministry of Water Resources, China (GIWP)
- Generation Nutrition
- Geological Survey of Finland
- German Development Institute (DIE)
- German Federal Foreign Office
- German Toilet Organization (GTO)
- German WASH Network
- German Water Partnership
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Global Environment Facility – International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF-IW:Learn)
- Global Partnership for Social Accountability
- Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA)
- Global WASH Cluster
- Global Wastewater Initiative
- Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance at UN-Habitat (GWOPA)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)

F, G, H, I, J

- FCG Finnish Consulting Group
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Germany
- Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

- Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
- Gothenburg University (GU)
- Government of Estonia
- Government of Mozambique
- Government of the Netherlands
- GPA
- Green Cross International
- Grundfos
- Guardian Global Development Professionals Network
- Guardian Sustainable Business
- Hammarby Sjöstadswerk
- HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
- High Level Panel on Water Secretariat
- HSBC
- ICA
- Illovo Sugar
- Improve International
- Infrastructure Consortium for Africa
- Innocent Juice
- Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)
- Institute of Water Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
- Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
- International Development Enterprises (IDE)
- International Federation of Private Water Operators (AquaFed)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International IDEA
- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Tourism Partnership (ITP)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- International Water Association (IWA)
- International Water Centre (IWC)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- IPIECA
- IRC

K, L, M, N, O

- Joint Authority for the Study and Development of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System
- Kemira
- Kenya Water and Sanitation Civil Society Network
- Kenya Water and Sanitation CSOs Network (EWASNET)
- KickStart
- King's College London (KCL)
- Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water)
- LEAD
- League of Arab States
- LimnoTech
- LIXIL Water Technology (LWT)
- London Centre of International Law Practice (LCILP)
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine/SHARE Research Consortium (LSHTM/SHARE)
- Luc Hoffman Institute – WWF
- Mammoth Trading
- Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation
- Marks & Spencers (M&S)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, France
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
- Ministry for Innovation and Enterprise, Sweden
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India
- Ministry of Environment, Uruguay
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands (BuZa)
- Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, The Netherlands (IenM)
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, France
- Ministry of Water and Sanitation, South Africa
- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, India
- Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC)
- National Water Commission, Mexico (CONAGUA)
- National Water Research Center, Egypt

- Nestlé
- NIRAS Finland
- Nordic Africa Institute (NAI)
- Norman E. Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture
- OCP Policy Center (OCP)
- One Drop
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Osprey Foundation
- Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Oxfam
- Oxford University

P, Q, R, S, T

- Partnerships in Practice
- Pepsi Co
- Plan International
- Procter & Gamble Company (P&G)
- Programme for Finland's Water Sector Support to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (FinWaterWEI II)
- Population Services International (PSI)
- Public Health Foundation India
- Rare
- REACH
- Redstone
- Regional Environmental Center (REC)
- Rezidor Hotel Group
- Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute at the University of Nebraska
- The Rockefeller Foundation
- Royal Swedish Academy of Science (KVA)
- Rural Water Supply Network (RWSN)
- SABMiller
- Safe Water Network
- Saltå Kvarn AB
- Sandec
- Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)
- Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN)
- seecon
- SIWI Swedish Water House (SWH)
- Skoll Global Threats Fund
- SLU Global
- SNV
- Solar Water Solutions
- Sosei World Co., Ltd
- South Pole Group/Coop
- Southern African Development Community

- Southern Region Water Administration (ARA-Sul)
 - SouthSouthNorth
 - Statkraft, Norway
 - Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
 - Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
 - Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
 - Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC)
 - Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA)
 - Sweden Textile Water Initiative (STWI)
 - Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)
 - Swedish Federation of Farmers (LRF)
 - Swedish Forestry Agency
 - Swedish International Agriculture Network Initiative
 - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
 - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
 - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
 - Swiss Water Partnership (SWP)
 - Södertälje Municipality
 - Texas A&M University (TAMU)
 - The Church of Sweden
 - The Coca-Cola Company
 - The Gold Standard Foundation (GSF)
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 - The Water Institute at University of North Carolina (UNC)
 - The World Bank Group
 - Thrive Networks/East Meets West
 - Toilet Board Coalition
- U,V,W,X,Y,Z**
- U.S. Water Partnership (USWP)
 - U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre
 - UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)
 - UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI (WGF)
 - UNEP - Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP-GPA)
 - UNEP Centre for Water and Environment (UNEP-DHI)
 - UNESCO Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE)
 - UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP)
 - Unilever
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
 - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
 - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
 - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
 - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - United Nations Global Compact CEO Water Mandate (UNGC CEO Water Mandate)
 - United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
 - United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
 - United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
 - United Nations University – Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES)
 - United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
 - United States Department of State
 - University of Dundee
 - University of Manchester
 - University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
 - University of Oklahoma
 - University of Strathclyde
 - University of Technology Sydney
 - University of Turku
 - UN-Water
 - Valuing Nature
 - WASTE
 - Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP)
 - Water Environment Federation (WEF)
 - Water Environment Research Foundation
 - Water For People
 - Water Global Practice of the World Bank Group
 - Water Integrity Network (WIN)
 - Water Insitute at University of Waterloo
 - Water Research Commission (WRC)
 - Water Research Institute, Ghana
 - Water Witness International
 - Water Youth Network (WYN)
 - Water, Engineering and Development Centre of Loughborough University (WEDC)
 - Water.org
 - WaterAid
 - WaterLex
 - We Effect
 - Welthungerhilfe
 - Veolia
 - Vesiotec
 - Viva con Agua
 - Volta Basin Authority
 - Women for Water Partnership (WfW)
 - World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
 - World Health Organization (WHO)
 - World Health Organization/ United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)
 - World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
 - World Resources Institute (WRI)
 - World Toilet Organisation
 - World Water Council (WWC)
 - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
 - World Wildlife Federation
 - World Vision (WV)
 - World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW)
 - ZEF
 - Xylem

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