



the international  
water association



# YWP Regional Call – How YWP Country Chapters Are Bridging Academia and Industry in the Americas and Caribbean region

27/04/2026

**inspiring change**

# MODERATORS



**Dr. Rita-Noelle Moussa**  
**IWA YWP Steering Committee**  
France



**Jacqueline Sampah-Adjei**  
**IWA YWP Steering Committee**  
Ghana



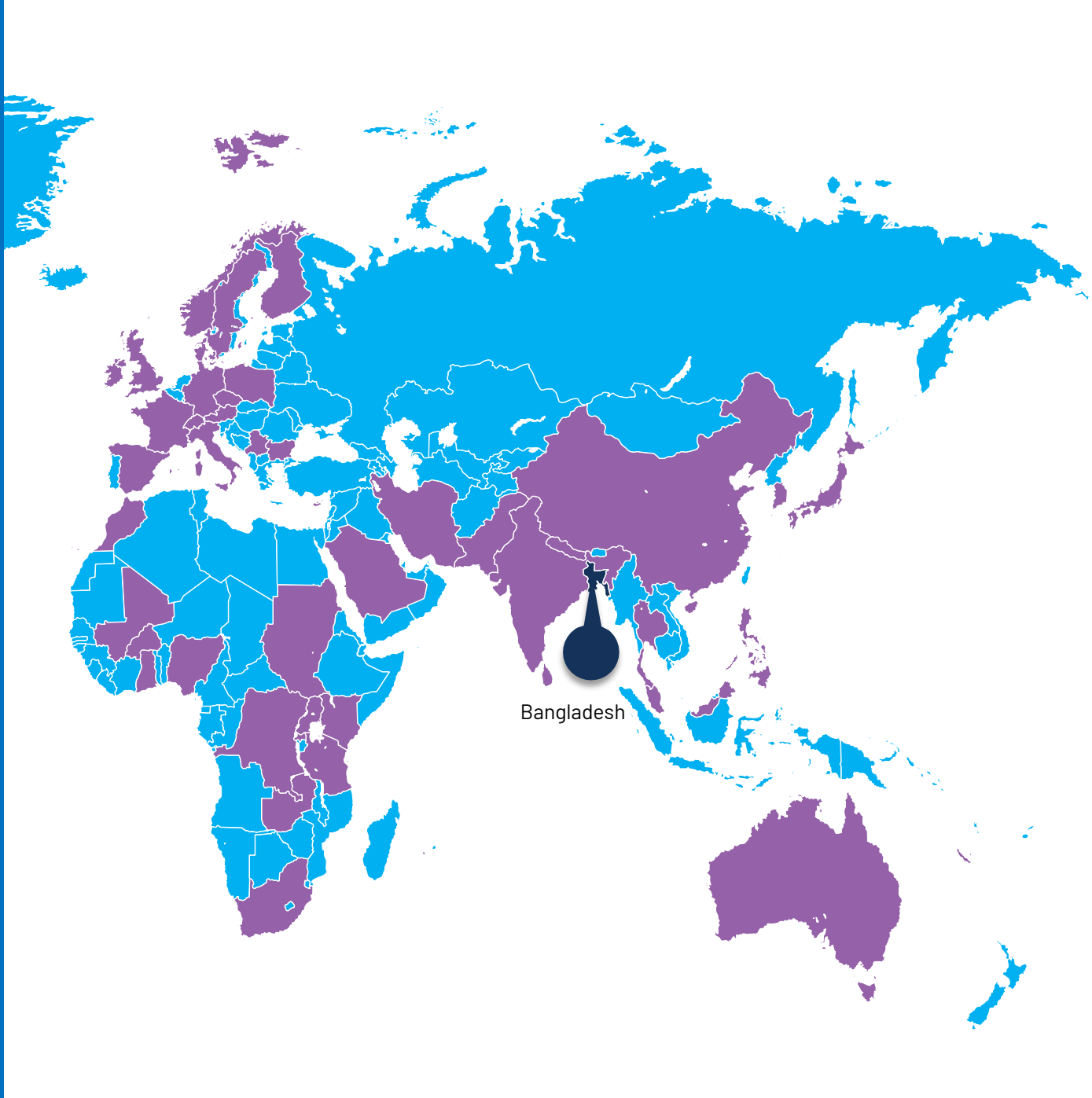
## EVENT INFORMATION


- This event will be **recorded and made available “on-demand”** on the IWA Connect Plus, with presentation slides, and other relevant information.
- The **speakers** are responsible for **securing copyright permissions** for any work that they will present of which they are not the legal copyright holder.
- The opinions, hypothesis, conclusions or recommendations contained in the presentations and other materials are the **sole responsibility of the speaker(s)** and do not necessarily reflect IWA opinion.

# EVENT INFORMATION

- Post questions using the chat function and feel free to introduce yourselves briefly to one another! Also, it is okay to share your social media.
- Mute / camera in the bottom left corner
- No need to share screen as slides have been added to this presentation





 2026 New Chapters

 Older YWP Chapters

# BACKGROUND OF THE EVENT



- This edition will focus on the Americas and Caribbean region, highlighting how IWA YWP country chapters are driving innovation, strengthening regional cooperation, and contributing to the development of the water sector.
- The session will explore initiatives that bridge the gap between academic research and industry practice, ensuring that knowledge is translated into practical, community-based solutions.
- The call will also showcase the role of Young Water Professionals as emerging leaders who are fostering cross-regional collaboration and supporting workforce development, in alignment with the IWA Strategic Plan 2025–2030.

## AGENDA

- Welcome, introduction, and housekeeping  
*Dr. Isabela Espindola & Jacqueline Sampah-Adjei*
- Models for Cross-Chapter Collaboration  
*Lin Sun*
- Strategies for Bridge Academia and Industry  
*Jimena Silva*
- Purposeful Communication for the Water Sector  
*Gustavo Delgado*
- Q&A  
*Dr. Rita-Noelle Moussa*
- Final remarks and conclusions  
*Claudia Prehn*

# Models for Cross-Chapter Collaboration

Lin Sun (Canada)



# The Collaboration Gap

- Who We Are: IWA YWP Canada



**Welcoming 2025–2027 IWA YWP Canada Executive Committee!!**

 Hadi Mokarizadeh Chair	 Lin Sun Co-Chair	 Emily Quecke Co-Chair	 Sabrina Rashid Sheonty Secretary	 Pranav Sampara Treasurer	
 Nimitha Choran Communication Director	 Afrida Nurain Communication Director	 Kiera Greenaway Programming Director	 Daria Popugaeva Partnership Director	 Irem Şimşek Membership Director	 Nada Hosni Publishing Director
 Soureyatou Hamidou Regional Director (Eastern)	 Shruti Tanga Regional Director (Eastern)	 Juan Fernando Diaz Salazar Regional Director (Western)	 Wei Deng Regional Director (Pacific)	 Maha Dassouki Dit Tahan Regional Director (Central)	 Junzhang Chen Regional Director (Atlantic)

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# The Collaboration Gap

- Let's Start — Where Are You Joining From?



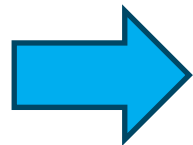
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(No login needed)

# The Collaboration Gap

We've already identified:

- 🌐 Different languages
- 🕒 Large time zone gaps
- 💰 Financial constraints
- 💧 Uneven resources
- 🤝 Limited existing collaboration

 Strong local chapters, limited cross-talk

 Result: **Underutilized regional potential**



Fig. Visualization of the results of the connectivity evaluation for Latin American countries (Miao et al., 2025)

# Breaking Barriers

## Common barriers:

- Time zones
- Language differences
- Uneven resources
- ... ..

## Practical solutions:

- Rotate meeting times
- Bilingual/multilingual
- Shared materials/templates/specialists
- One-water

👉 Focus on **accessibility, not perfection**



# What We Need

## From Activities → Systems

👉 We need **structured collaboration models**

- Repeatable
- Low effort to start/maintain
- Scalable across regions/countries

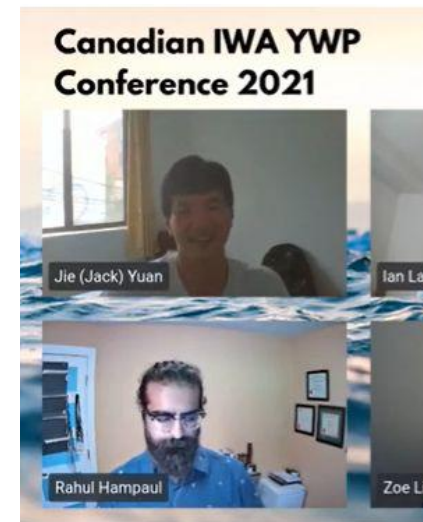


# Case Study (Canada + Beyond)

- From Local to Collaborative

Example elements from IWA YWP Canada:

- International conferences for IWA YWPs (2021, 2023, 2025)



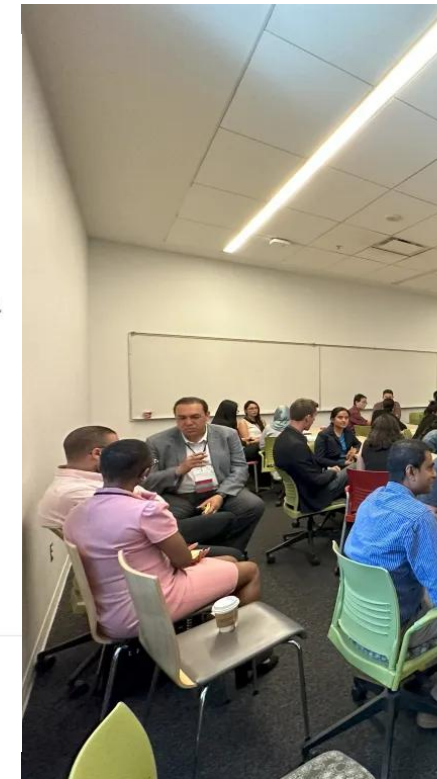
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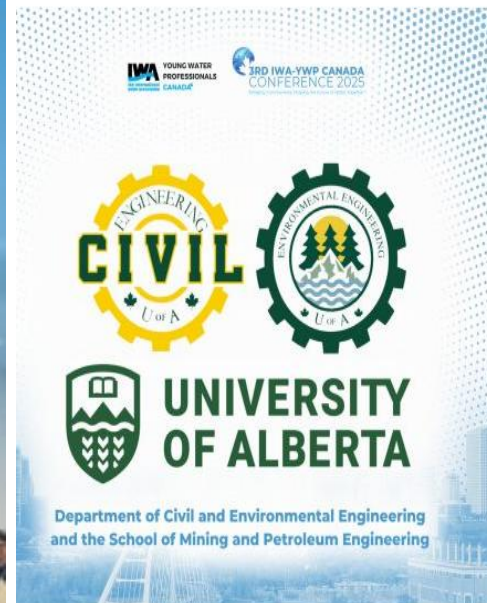
# Case Study (Canada + Beyond)



- **From Local to Collaborative**

Example elements from IWA YWP Canada:

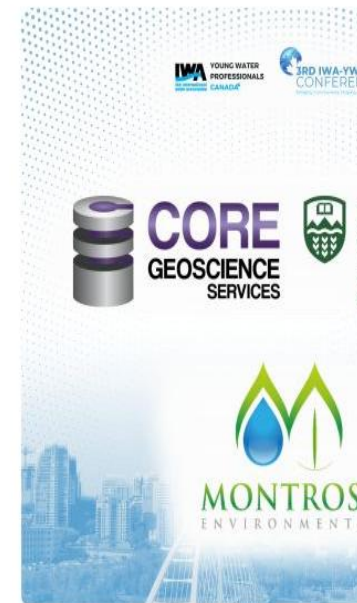
- International conferences for IWA YWPs (2021, 2023, 2025)



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 **SILVER SPONSORS**



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# Case Study (Canada + Beyond)

## From Local to Collaborative

Example elements from IWA YWP Canada:

- International conferences for IWA YWPs
- Other connections via IWA YWP



Fig. Social night with IWA YWP Japan chapter, 2025



Fig. International Hackathon, 2025

**YWP CANADA CHAPTER 2025 ACTIVITIES**

**About the chapter**  
IWA YWP Canada is an inclusive, forward-thinking community that connects and empowers the next generation of water leaders across Canada.

Founded in 2019 | 17 Executives | 40+ Volunteers | Strong Partnerships Support Network

**Key Activities of the Year:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> IWA-YWP Canada Conference and 2<sup>nd</sup> International Hackathon
- Co-Organizing Two Conferences with CAWO
- Networking Events & Technical Tours
- Two New Partnerships
- E-Learning Sessions & "Waterside Chat" Series
- Monthly Newsletters (in three languages)
- Monthly Blogs

**Impact & Outcomes**

- 130+ Conference Registrants
- 10+ Sponsors & Partners
- 10+ Events Hosted
- 5 Finalists from YWP Chapters in the International Hackathon
- 8 Blog Posts Published

**Looking ahead**

- Enhance Member Engagement
- Deliver High-Quality Regional Events
- Strengthen and Sustain Partnerships
- Expand Training and Mentorship Opportunities
- Increase Global Collaboration

Connect with us, collaborate, and build partnerships for impact.

#WaterDevelopmentCongress | www.waterdevelopmentcongress.org | iwa.canada.ywp@gmail.com

Fig. Forum poster, IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition, 2025

# Case Study (Canada + Beyond)

## ■ From Local to Collaborative

Example elements from IWA YWP Canada:

- International conferences for IWA YWPs
- World Water Day recognition video



One Phrase, Many Voices

Water is life, let's save it for future generations.  
Vand er liv. Lad os bevare det til fremtidige generationer.  
Wasser ist Leben. Lasst es uns für zukünftige Generationen bewahren.  
المَآءُ هِيَ الْحَيَاةُ، خَلِّينَا نَحَافِظَ عَلَيْهَا لِلْأَجْيَالِ الْجَايَةِ.  
L'eau, c'est la vie ; préservons-la pour les générations futures.  
পানির অপর নাম জীবন। আসুন ভবিষ্যত প্রজন্মের পানি সংরক্ষণ করি।  
Su hayattır, onu gelecek nesiller için koruyalım.  
Nsuo ye nkwa, momma yen bɔ ho ban ma nkyiremman  
آب زندگی است، بیایید آن را برای نسل‌های آینده حفظ کنیم.  
Amazzi bwe bulamu, tugakozese bulungi ku lw'emirembe egiriggya.  
Água é vida, vamos economizar para as gerações futuras.  
Ang tubig ay buhay, tayo na't sagipin ito sa bingit ng kamatayan, para sa hinaharap.  
물은 생명입니다 미래 세대를 위해 아껴 쓰시다

# Case Study (Canada + Beyond)

- **From Local to Collaborative**

Example elements from IWA YWP Canada:

- Hosted/Co-hosted events
- Cross-institution participation
- International engagement



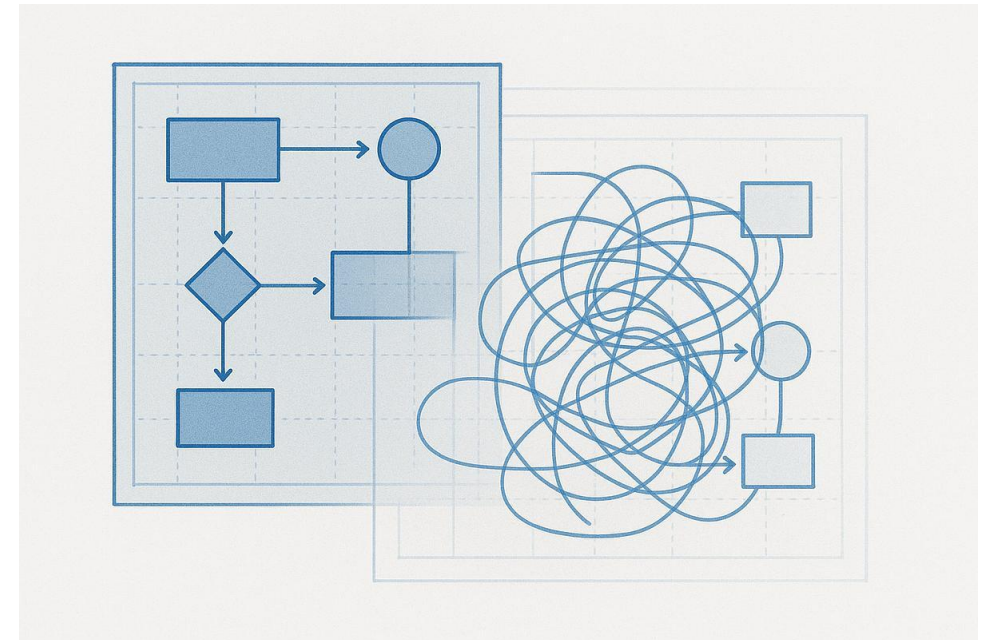
- **Key shift:**

👉 From **single-chapter events** → **shared platforms**

# What Actually Works

- **Design Principles**
  - **Start** small (2–3 chapters)
  - Define **clear purpose** (not just networking)
  - Use **existing events** as anchors
  - Assign **one point of contact per chapter**

👉 Structure reduces friction



## Takeaway

### From Isolation → Impact

- Collaboration doesn't need to be complex
- Structure > intention
- Small networks → scalable impact

👉 **Stronger together, across chapters**

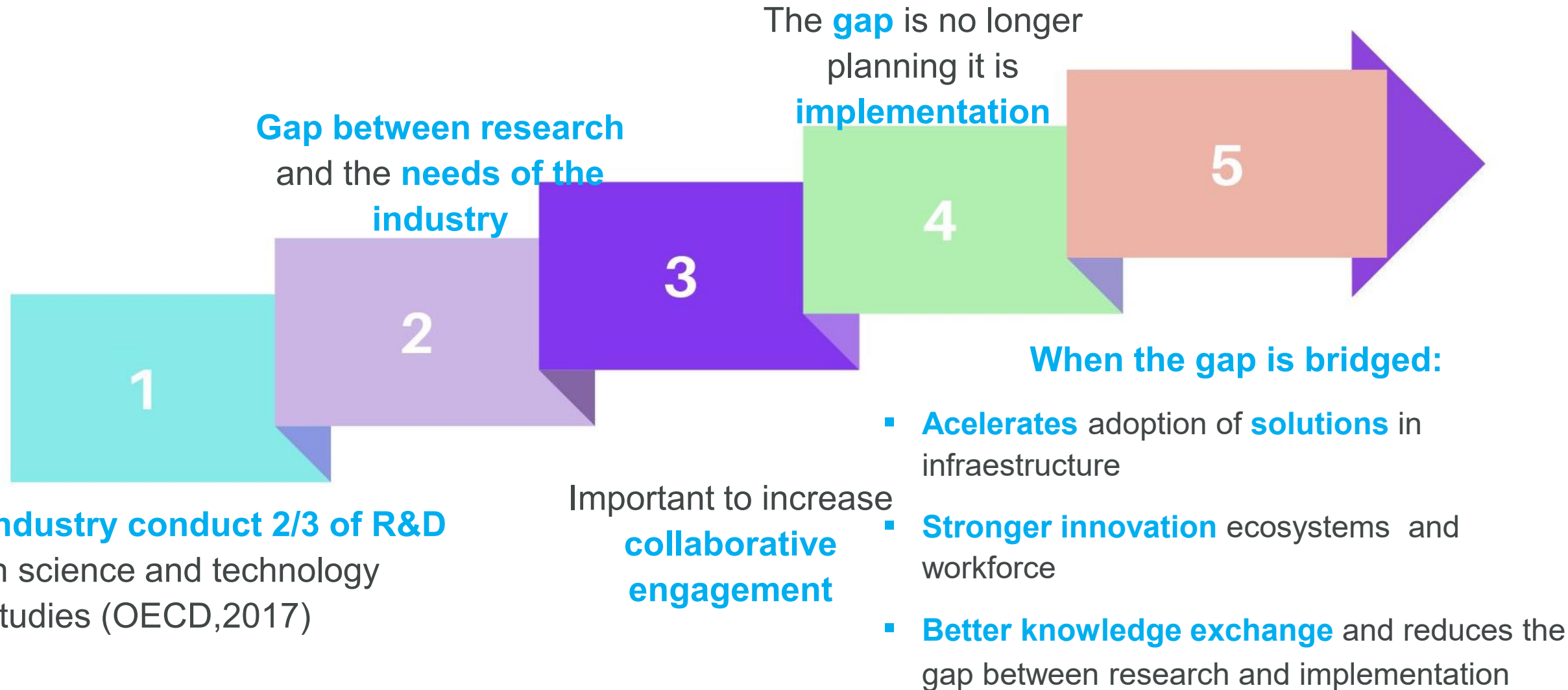


# Strategies for Bridge Academia and Industry

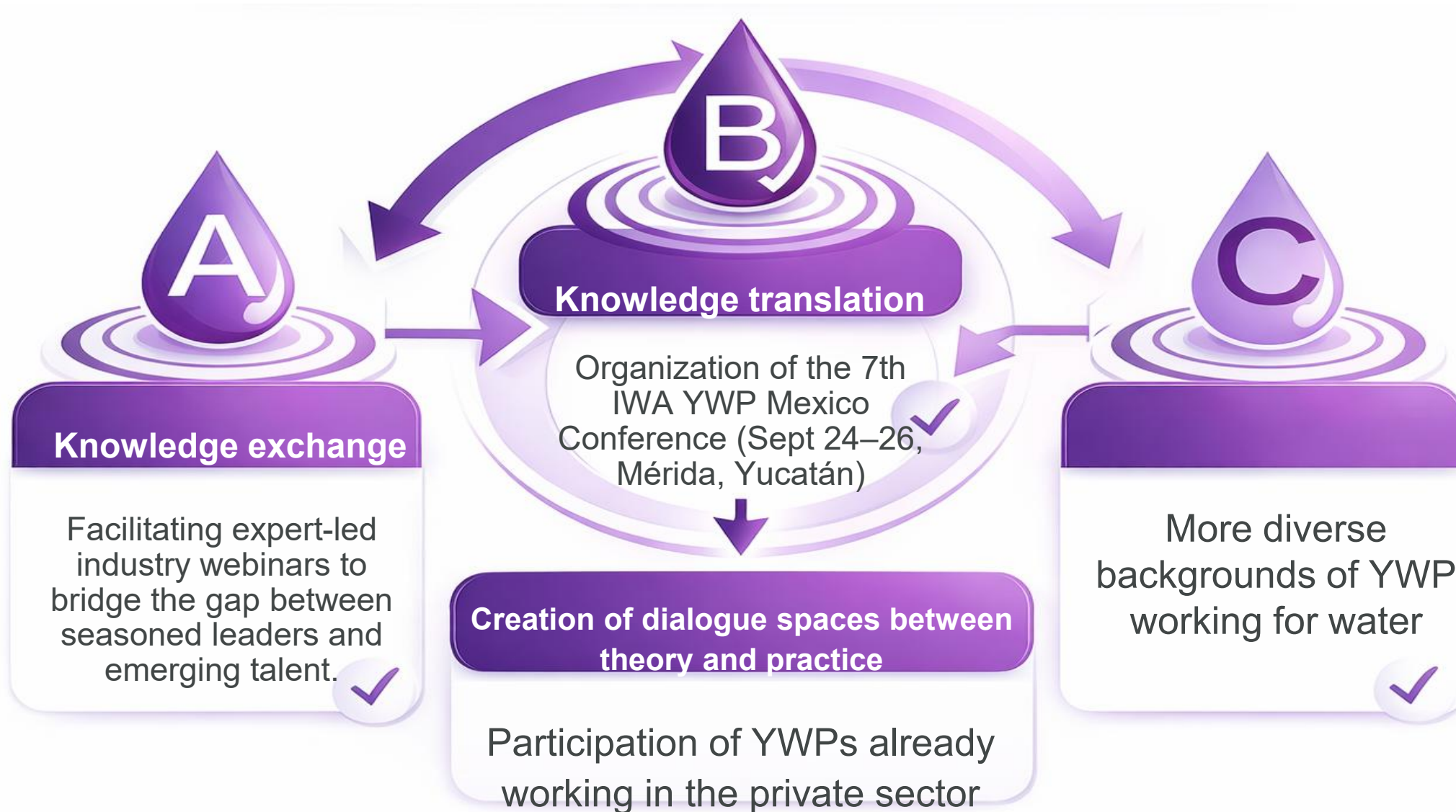
Jimena Silva (Mexico)



# Why this matter



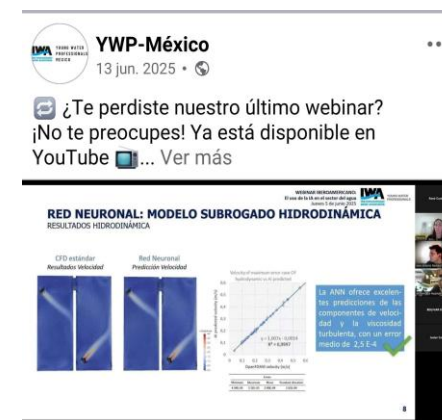
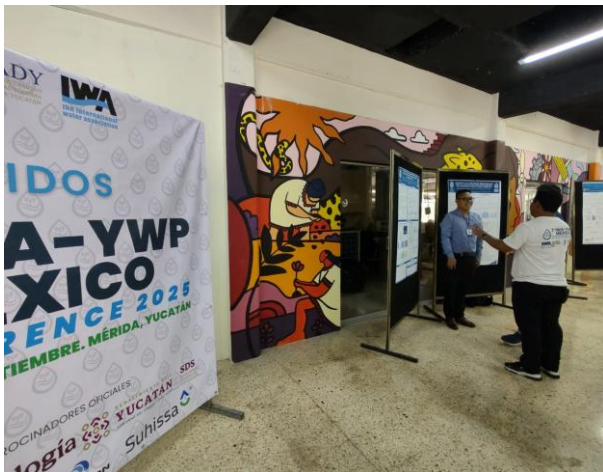
# YWP Mexico actions



# YWP Mexico actions



## Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting (VWBA): A Method For Implementing and Valuing Water Stewardship Activities



## CONGRESS

## WEBINARS

## PERSENCIAL WORKSHOPS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR AND YWP

## Key challenges and opportunities

- Shift from: Consultation → **co-implementation**
- Countries highlight the need for private sector and academy to:
  - Improve data collection, monitoring, and research standards
  - Evidence-based decision-making
- Climate action needs implementation → **industry**
- **Solutions need science** → **academia**

# Lessons learned



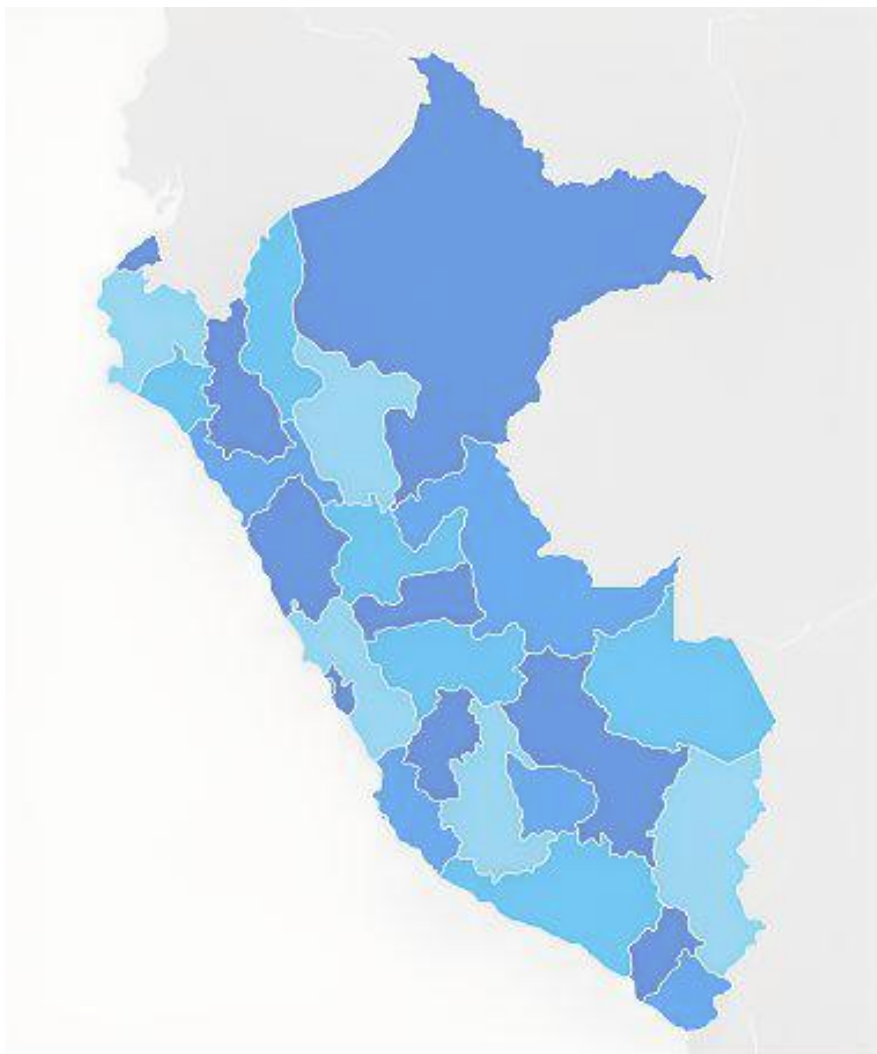
- **Solutions** are not only technical. They are **social and territorial**.
- **Water challenges** are not only technical problems they **are coordination problems**. And coordination happens at the intersection of academia, industry, and governance
- **Talent development** = bridge between academia and industry

# Purposeful Communication for the Water Sector

Gustavo Delgado (Peru)



## Why Purposeful Communication Matters in Peru



- **Fragmented geography**: coastal, andean and amazon regions.
- **Uneven access** to knowledge, infrastructure and expertise.
- **Gap** between **academic** research and **operational** needs.
- Communication is key to:
  - Transfer knowledge across regions
  - Connect academia with real-world challenges
  - Enable implementation, not just research

# YWP Peru as a Communication Platform



## Knowledge Transfer

Expert-led talks from industry specialists  
Sharing real operational experiences



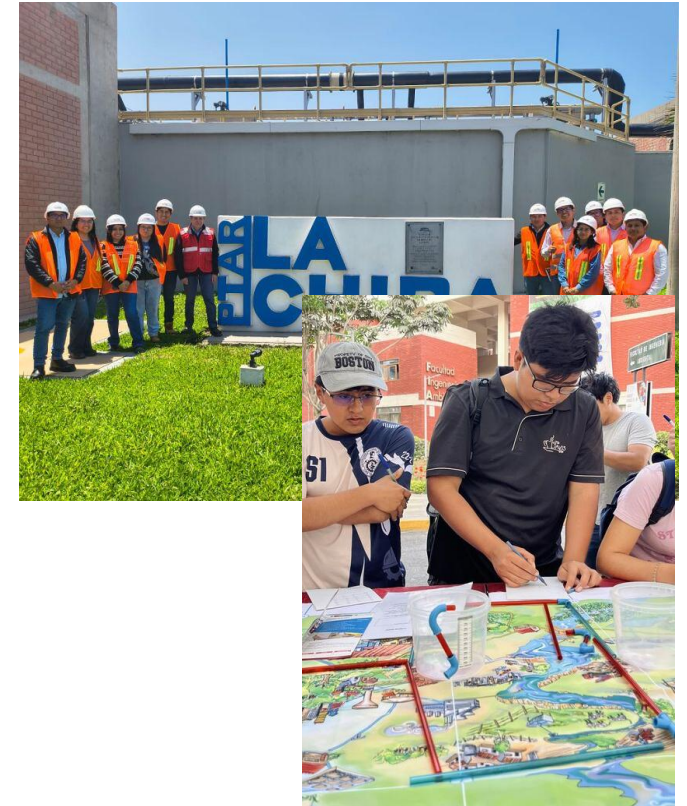
## Spaces for Interaction

In-person events with universities and public institutions  
Networking between students and professionals



## Strategic Alliances

Colleges  
Industry collaboration



## Applied Learning

Technical visits to WWTP  
Aqualibrium challenge

# Impact and Growth



**+500**  
members



**56% | 44%**



**20 of 24**  
regions



**24**  
Different  
professions



**+2800**  
Followers



**+12**  
Professional  
trainings



**+3**  
Strategic  
alliances

# Challenges and Way Forward



## Our Challenges

- Complex and dispersed geography.
- Limited reach to remote regions.
- Inactive members within the network.

## What we are doing?

- Macro-regional leaders:
  - Decentralize communication
  - Extend reach to remote areas
- Engagement strategy:
  - Identify active members.
  - Explore incentive-based participation models

# Q&A

Rita-Noelle Moussa

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# SUMMARY AND KEY TAKEAWAY

Claudia Prehn



# IWA YWP OPORTUNITIES



**Nomination call closing soon!**



**IWA Awards and Recognition 2026**

Extended to 3 May 2026!

<https://www.iwa-network.org/awards>



**JOIN THE 2026-2028 IWA YWP STEERING COMMITTEE**

**APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN**

Requirements:

- 35 years old or younger
- Active IWA membership
- Passionate about water
- Engaged in the sector
- Ready to make a difference

**Apply today**

Deadline 30/04/2026  
[www.iwa-network.org/young-water-professionals](http://www.iwa-network.org/young-water-professionals)

# UPCOMING IWA YWP EVENTS



**IWA**  
the international water association

2<sup>nd</sup> YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS EUROPEAN CONFERENCE  
14-17 JUNE 2026 MILAN, ITALY

## YWPEU 2026 Conference: Registrations open tomorrow!

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION: MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup>



October 2026  
MADRID

## 1<sup>ST</sup> IWA-YWP IBEROAMERICAN CONFERENCE 2026

The future of water begins with us

now open!  
CALL FOR  
**CONTENT**



**IWA** YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS  
the international water association SPAIN

DAQUAS  
Asociación Española del Agua Urbana

Canal de Isabel II 175

INDUSTRIALES  
ETSII | UPM



# UPCOMING IWA EVENTS



**IWA** the international water association

## 20th Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies

*Resilient Water in a Changing World*

1-5 JUNE 2026 | HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA

Registration is open!

**IWA** the international water association

## Digital Water Summit

ISTANBUL TÜRKIYE

24-26 Nov 2026

Join the Transformation Journey

[www.digitalwatersummit.org](http://www.digitalwatersummit.org)

# UPCOMING IWA EVENTS



**IWA**  
the international water association

*Water Action – The Path to Resilience and Prosperity*

# World Water Congress & Exhibition

Early bird registration is open!

**GLASGOW UK**  
**4-8 OCTOBER 2026**

[www.worldwatercongress.org](http://www.worldwatercongress.org)

**IWA**  
the international water association

## World Water Congress & Exhibition

4-8 OCTOBER 2026 | GLASGOW, UK  
Registration is open!

2026 Emerging Water Leaders Forum Programme Committee  
*Blueprint for Water Action: People, Skills and Leadership in Practice*

 CHELSEA HAYWARD AUSTRALIA CHAIR	 FEDERICK PIMONGCOS UNITED STATES	 NATALIE LAMB UNITED KINGDOM	
 HAWUNYO KOFIOTO GHANA	 DAPHNE CALAZANS BRAZIL	 RUOBIN DAI CHINA	
 DENISA CADKOVA CZECH REPUBLIC	 HARSH DESAI INDIA	 MONICA NDAGIRE UGANDA	 VICKIE BELCHER UNITED STATES

# UPCOMING IWA EVENTS



## JOIN OUR NETWORK OF WATER PROFESSIONALS!

IWA brings professionals from many disciplines together to accelerate the science, innovation and practice that can make a difference in addressing water challenges.

Use code **YWP26IWA** for a **20% discount off** for a new membership.

Join before 31 December 2026 at:

<https://iwa-network.org/join/>



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