

IWA YWP Get-Together – Career Skills Bridge the gap between academia and industry

05/06/2026



MODERATORS



Dr. Francisca Braga
IWA YWP Steering Committee
Denmark



Hayat Raza
IWA YWP Steering Committee
Canada

YWP ELECTIONS

The poster has a dark blue top section with the IWA logo and 'IWA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS' text. Below this is a purple section with the word 'VOTE' in large white letters. A ballot box is shown with a blue ballot being inserted. The deadline 'Deadline: 12/06/2026' and the website 'www.iwa-network.org/young-water-professionals' are displayed on the ballot box.

IWA
the international
water association

IWA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS

STEERING COMMITTEE 2026-2028 ELECTIONS

VOTE

Deadline: 12/06/2026

More information:
www.iwa-network.org/young-water-professionals

HOUSEKEEPING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Francisca Sousa Braga, IWA YWP Steering Committee





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



BACKGROUND OF THE EVENT



- **What We Aim to Achieve:**
- Recognize key cultural, structural, and practical differences between academia and industry in the water sector.
- Reflect on common challenges and opportunities when working across academic and industrial settings
- Identify practical ways to engage, communicate and collaborate more effectively across sectors
- Gain insight from women's lived experiences to better navigate career paths and partnerships between academia and industry.

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.

AGENDA



- Welcome & Introduction

- Panel Discussion
 - I. *Understanding the gap*
 - II. *Collaboration and knowledge transfer*
 - III. *Gender perspective and inclusions*
 - IV. *Advices and road ahead*

- Interactive Q&A and Audience Discussion

- Close Remarks & Future IWA Events

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Inês Breda
Denmark



Yumeng Zhao
China



Beatrice Cantoni
Italy

Panel Discussion

Francisca Sousa Braga, IWA YWP Steering Committee



Panel Discussion – 1st round

Can each of you briefly share your background and how you've moved between (or worked across) academia and industry?

What originally attracted you to your current sector?

From your experience, what are the biggest differences between working in academia and industry?

Where do misunderstandings most often arise between the two worlds?

Do you think these gaps are structural, cultural, or personal — or a mix?

What makes a collaboration between academia and industry actually work?

How can research outcomes be made more relevant or accessible to industry without losing academic depth?

What role do universities and companies play in meeting each other halfway?

Panel Discussion – 2nd round

As women, have your experiences of moving between or working with both sectors been different from your male peers?

What barriers (visible or invisible) do women still face when bridging academia and industry?

Are there things institutions could do better to support women working across these spaces?

How can role models and networks help make these pathways more visible?

What advice would you give to PhD students or early-career researchers interested in industry?

What advice would you give to industry professionals wanting to engage with academia?

Looking ahead, what changes would you like to see in how industry and academia collaborate?

Q&A

Hayat Raza, IWA YWP Steering Committee



RECAP AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

Hayat Raza, IWA YWP Steering Committee



IWA YWP OPPORTUNITIES



IWA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS

IWA
the international water association

STEERING COMMITTEE 2026-2028 ELECTIONS

VOTE

Deadline: 12/06/2026

More information:
www.iwa-network.org/young-water-professionals

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster. The top section has a dark blue background with the text 'IWA YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS' in white. To the right is the IWA logo. Below this, the words 'STEERING COMMITTEE' and '2026-2028 ELECTIONS' are written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. The middle section has a purple background with the word 'VOTE' in very large, white, bold, sans-serif font. A blue ballot box is positioned in front of the 'VOTE' text, with a blue ballot being inserted into the slot. Two yellow starburst graphics are placed on either side of the ballot box. The bottom section has a light blue background with the text 'Deadline: 12/06/2026' and 'More information: www.iwa-network.org/young-water-professionals' in white.

IWA YWP OPPORTUNITIES



JOIN THE 2026-2028 IWA LeaP LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Requirements:

- 35 years old or younger
- Active IWA membership
- Demonstrated leadership
- Engaged in the sector
- Commitment to positive change

Apply today

Deadline 12/06/2026
[www.iwa-network.org/
iwa-groups/iwa-leap-leadership-programme](http://www.iwa-network.org/iwa-groups/iwa-leap-leadership-programme)

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Applications are open for both mentors and mentees. Join the first cohort of the IWA Mentorship Programme and help shape the future of the global water community. Connect across generations of water professionals and contribute to building the future of the sector.



APPLY NOW

Deadline 28 June 2026
<https://www.iwa-network.org/iwa-mentorship-programme>

UPCOMING IWA EVENTS



IWA the international water association
2nd YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
14-17 JUNE 2026 MILAN, ITALY

YWPEU 2026 Conference: Discover the Program!



27 - 30 OCT 2026 - MADRID

1ST IWA-YWP IBEROAMERICAN CONFERENCE 2026

The future of water begins with us

LLAMADA A PATROCINADORES



	LOGO	PUBLICIDAD	ENTRADAS	POSIBILIDAD PARTICIPACIÓN MESA REDONDA	PUBLICIDAD EN UN BREAK	PUBLICIDAD COMIDA
--	------	------------	----------	--	------------------------	-------------------



BRONCE
1.500 €



PLATA
2.500 €



ORO
4.000 €



PLATINO
≥ 7.500 €



UPCOMING IWA EVENTS



IWA
the international
water association

Digital Water Summit
ISTANBUL TÜRKIYE

24-26 Nov 2026

Join the Transformation Journey

www.digitalwatersummit.org



UPCOMING IWA EVENTS



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 PINGOCOS UNITED STATES	 NATALIE LAMB UNITED KINGDOM	
 HAWONYO KOFIOTO GHANA	 DAPHNE CALAZANS BRAZIL	 RUOBIN DAI CHINA	
 DENISA CADKOVA CZECH REPUBLIC	 HARSH DESAI INDIA	 MONICA NDAGIRE UGANDA	 VICKIE BELCHER UNITED STATES

IWA the international water association

Water Action – The Path to Resilience and Prosperity

World Water Congress & Exhibition

Super early bird registration ends 31 March

GLASGOW UK
4-8 OCTOBER 2026

www.worldwatercongress.org

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/>

inspiring change

