

Listening to national water leaders: launch of the first Global Water Policy Report

Host : Water Policy Group *

Presenters

Tom Soo(Water Policy Group, France)

Description

Body

Host: Water Policy Group

Presenters:

Moderator: Tom Soo, IAHR Executive Director, Founding-Member Water Policy Group (confirmed, in person)

Opening Keynote(s):

H.E. Serigne Mbaye THIAM, Minister for Water and Sanitation, Senegal : (TBC)

Oyun Sanjaasuren, Director of External Affairs, Green Climate Fund (Confirmed)

Jae-Hyeon Park, CEO of K-Water (TBC)

WPG Panelists and speakers

Dhesigen Naidoo, Climate Commissioner, South Africa, Former CEO of the Water Research Commission (confirmed, virtual)

Mercedes Castro, CEO, Agualimpia, Peru

Jane Doolan, Environment Commissioner, Australia (confirmed, virtual)

Olcay Unver, Arizona State University, Former Vice-Chair of UN-Water (confirmed, virtual)

Ravi Narayanan, Chair, Asia Pacific Water Forum (confirmed, virtual)

Format:

Introduction:

Tom Soo (5 mins)

Keynotes:

from above list (total 30 mins)

General Presentation of Water Policy Report 2021:

Dhesigen Naidoo (10-15 mins)

Mercedes Castro, CEO, Agualimpia, Peru via a pre-recorded message (5 mins)

Water challenges and risks: Jane Doolan (5 mins)

SDG's and accelerator framework: Olcay Unver (5 mins)

Groundwater: Ravi Narayanan (5 mins)

Questions/Answers and dialogue (30 mins):

With audience and some pre-designed questions as well.

Description

Water Policy Group has invited water ministers, national water agency heads and others with national water leadership responsibilities to share their experience, perspectives and opinions on water policy issues. National water leaders of 88 countries, from all global regions have responded. In partnership with the University of New South Wales Global Water Institute, the 2021 Water Leaders Survey has collected information on the key social, political, financial and structural barriers inhibiting better progress on water—as identified by the officials and leaders charged with responsibility for water management.

The session is the official launch the Global Water Policy Report. Session participants shall be amongst the world's first experts to view the findings of the survey and gain insight into the perspectives of national water leaders on the: greatest water risks and challenges faced by countries; and the difficulties in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation for all and the pertinence of the Global Acceleration Framework. Ahead of the 2022 UN themed year on groundwater, the report shall also present leader's views on the importance of groundwater and the problems that inhibit governments from its improved management.

Body

The sustainable management of water is persistently difficult to achieve, yet is necessary for success in health, education, food security, economic growth, environmental quality and adaptation to climate change. Water policy makers around the world face challenging issues that are constantly evolving. This complex policy landscape requires decisions that must adapt to uncertain conditions and draw from the best available information. However, why have governments not given water higher priority and more attention? What is it about water that makes progress so challenging?

The session brings together national and international water policy leaders and experts. It explores the results and emerging trends drawn from the world's first ever Water Policy Report and Water Leaders Survey - on the perspectives and opinions of high-level leaders (Water Ministers/Vice- Ministers, Secretary/undersecretary-level officials holding the water portfolio, water agency/department heads) of national water policy on the real policy challenges faced by governments around the world.

The session also seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the real issues facing national water leaders as they strive to improve water outcomes at the national level. The Global Water Policy Report The session also aims to reveal insight into the perspectives of national leaders on the challenges of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (Sustainable Development Goal 6) and the United Nations SDG 6 Global Acceleration Framework.