

Special Session: Water Security and Climate Adaptation

- **Objectives:** Issue 5 of the Global Water Security Issues (GWSI) Series has the theme *Making Water Decisions for Climate Change Adaptation*. Climate uncertainty is occurring concurrently with multiple other stressors, such as sea level rise, population levels, migration, water availability, and other critical elements of water security. In this special session, practices for improved water security in context of climate adaptation will be explored, featuring authors of case studies documented in the GWSI Series 5 and a young professional's perspective.
- **Organizers:** UNESCO, i-WSSM, IWRA
- **Congress sub-theme:** Innovation for Water Governance and Management
- **Outcomes:** The presentations and the panel discussion will highlight opportunities and approaches to governance for climate adaptation. It will also raise awareness of the capacity development initiative represented by the GWSI. The session will also provide opportunities for networking among practitioners in the field of climate adaptation.
- **Programme (90')**

Time	Title	Speaker/Participants
10 min	Introduction (10') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcoming Remarks - Overview of GWSI 	Bongwoo Shin (<i>UNESCO i-WSSM</i>) Seo Hyung Choi (<i>UNESCO i-WSSM</i>)
60 min	Presentations (60') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation 1 (15') Water resources governance practices for climate change adaptation in China: a case study of the West Liao River Basin (TBC) - Presentation 2 (15') Climate-resilient water management practices in arid and semi-arid zones of Africa: Cases in transboundary water basins (TBC) - Presentation 3 (15') Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation for Water Security: Case Studies from India - Presentation 4 (15') Saltwater intrusion and groundwater shortages in the Soc Trang province (Vietnam) with mitigation measures and adaptation approaches by government and local communities 	Lily Yu (General Institute of Hydropower and Water Resources Planning and Design, Ministry of Water Resources, China) Joël Tossou, Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Tunisia Ananya Goyal, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure Fellow, India Nguyen Son Tra, IWRA Water Envoy, Vietnam

15 min	Panel Discussion (25') Moderator: Mary Trudeau (IWRA) TBC	All Presenters Seo Hyung Choi (UNESCO i-WSSM)
5 min	Summary and Closing (5')	Callum Clench (IWRA)

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This special session fits in with the IWRA World Water Congress theme of Water-Human-Economy-Ecology Nexus under a changing environment because climate change is affecting the water cycle, including water availability, seasonal patterns of precipitation, with potential impacts on human settlements, the economy, aquatic habitat and ecology. Climate adaptation calls for innovative governance approaches and methods for gathering and analyzing information needed for water decision-makers. In this special session, practices to improve water security in the context of climate adaptation challenges will be explored, featuring authors of case studies documented in the GWSI Series 5 and a young professional's perspective. The GWSI chapter authors have experience from geographically diverse regions, and their presentations will highlight some successes, lessons learned, technologies, information needs, and governance approaches to understanding climate adaptation challenges.

The 90-minute session will open with welcoming remarks by i-WSSM and an overview of the GWSI series. Next, four 15-minute presentations will be given by chapter authors and an IWRA Water Envoy. The presentations will be followed by a 15-minute panel discussion with all presenters, i-WSSM representatives and IWRA representatives engaged in responding to questions and comments from the audience. Audience engagement is an important feature of the special session and will provide opportunities for networking among practitioners working in on various aspects of climate change adaptation for water security. The session will close with a summary of key points by IWRA's Executive Director.