

## IWRA Investing in Young Water Professionals – *Towards Youth Empowerment*

**Host :** IWRA \*, IWRA

### **Presenters**

Ignacio Deregibus(IWRA, Spain)

Asma Bachikh(IWRA – Board Member, Morocco)

Tom Soo(IWRA – Board Member, Chair of the Membership Committee, Australia)

### **Description**

#### **Body**

##### 1) Short Description

This special session organized by IWRA will aim to attract new members and work with the existing members to review the engagement of young professionals in the organization and explore new and innovative opportunities to collaborate with representatives of leading youth networks in the sector in future activities and initiatives. This session will therefore try to raise awareness about the major challenges faced by the YP and develop a joint IWRA young professionals strategy that will be implemented after the World Water Congress.

##### 2) Objectives

The specific objectives of the special session are as follows:

- To review and take stock of the current situation of young professionals within IWRA
- To consult, brainstorm and jointly develop a YP strategy to be circulated and implemented following the World Water Congress
- To identify key young leaders within the association
- To connect with representatives of leading youth networks and promote successful experiences and propose key messages for the way forward
- To launch an IWRA Young Professionals Working Group

##### 3) Justifications

Students and young professionals are widely represented in IWRA's network of members, yet this segment of the membership is not associated with any dedicated activities at IWRA -there is at this stage no task force, working group or chapter for them in particular in IWRA's activities. However, young professionals require special attention from IWRA, to further strengthen their involvement, presence and activities with the association.

##### 4) Projected outcomes

The session organizers will identify key active YP members from IWRA membership and from Young professional networks that will be attending the World Water Congress, in order to jointly organize consultation with the audience, in order to find innovative ways for IWRA to engage with a younger audience: what do YP expect from their IWRA membership and experience? What activities should be developed within the association, and what priorities should be put at the top?

In addition, representatives of leading water youth networks will be invited to share their best practices and provide advice on how to move forward with an IWRA YP strategy in addition to identifying possible joint initiatives to kickstart the collaboration on.

This session will also be the opportunity to do an official launch of an IWRA working group dedicated to Young Professionals and invite the audience to join the Working Group.

#### 5) Alignment with Congress

With this special session, IWRA is committed to provide more visibility to young professionals, and consider their needs as IWRA members. Beyond that, IWRA also wants to acknowledge Young Professional's expertise, often overseen in the sector, and provide them and agora to share their knowledge by launching a dedicated working group.