



XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS
International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
Marrakech, Morocco | 1-5 December 2025

Special Session:
**“Capacity building:
Vocational training to improve water management”**

Thursday 4 December, 16:15 - 17:45

**Organizers, as secretariat of the
“Bali Coalition to strengthen training in the water sector”:**



CONTEXT

Despite the progress made in achieving the successive Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) remains very imperfectly implemented, more than half of the world's population still do not have safely managed sanitation services and around 2 billion people still do not have access to safely-managed drinking water¹.

Substantial funding is allocated to improve the situation, including the 8.5 billion dollars in Official Development Assistance allocated to the water and sanitation sector for 2022 alone. These funds primarily target the infrastructure necessary for water and sanitation services and water resource management.

But this funding still too often neglects capacity building through vocational training. This is a particularly glaring problem for the viability of these hydraulic infrastructures, when we know that 70% of States consider that they do not have sufficient human resources to implement their plans for access to water and sanitation. More broadly, and beyond just water and sanitation services, it is a problem that contributes to the unsustainable management of water resources by all of its uses (domestic but also agricultural and industrial).

In a period of strong budgetary constraints, it is therefore vital to meet the growing demand for qualified personnel in order to optimize the investments made for water management (of rivers, lakes and aquifers, but also of municipal water and sanitation services) and optimize its uses.

This special session aims to present the roles that training systems and donors can play for capacity building in the water sector and for all of its uses.

¹ GLAAS 2019 report, WHO: "National support systems for drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: report on the global situation in 2019" (survey completed by 115 countries and territories).

PROGRAMME

Opening (5 min)

- **Dr. Eric Tardieu**, Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

Presentation of the draft results of the survey of the Bali Coalition to strengthen training of professionals of the water sector (15 min)

- **Mr. Edouard Boinet**, Head of project "International Coopération", International Office for Water (OiEau)

Panel on capacity building and training for water management (50 min)

1. **Mr. Akca Lütfi**, President, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)
2. **Mr. Abderrafii Mardi**, Coordinator of the Water and Sanitation Institute (IEA), National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE), Kingdom of Morocco
3. **Dr. Ariana Rossen**, Senior research scientist at the National Water Institute of Argentina, Tenured professor at Verto Education
4. **Mr. Idrissa Dia**, Director "Economic & Social Infrastructure", Islamic Development Bank
5. **Mr. Hans van der Kwast**, Associate Professor of Open Science and Digital Innovation, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Questions & answers with the participants (15 min)

Conclusion (5 min)

- **Mr. Abou Amani**, Director of the Division of Water Sciences & Secretary of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Program of UNESCO (UNESCO-IHP)