



INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION'S
1ST ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS
FAROE ISLANDS - SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2024

HOSTED AND ORGANISED BY



Newsletter

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Welcome
to IWRA'S 1ST ISLANDS WATER
CONGRESS, hosted by the Faroese
Geological Survey (Jarðfeingi)



WELCOME



It is with great pleasure for me to welcome you to the Faroe Islands for the first-ever IWRA Islands Water Congress. This landmark event, the first of its kind, is dedicated to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities of water

governance in island communities. Our aim is to foster collaboration, share insights, and develop science-based policies that will benefit island communities worldwide. The Faroe Islands, with its stunning landscapes and pristine waters, provides the perfect setting for our discussions. We are honoured to host this first congress and look forward to building a vibrant community that will continue to grow with each biennial event on different islands around the globe. Welcome to the Faroe Islands and to a future of shared knowledge and progress.

Niels Christian Nolsø

CEO JARÐFEINGI (The Faroese Geological Survey)



IWRA is very excited to launch this new series of face-to-face Congresses focussing on water governance in an island context. We aim to bring together our community of experts to support the development of more effective science-based policy

for islands around the world, creating a legacy whereby each congress builds on the lessons of the previous one. Having a naturally wet climate does not guarantee a secure water supply in these times of climate change and growing competing demands on the resource. We therefore welcome you to this inaugural IWRA Islands Water Congress

Yuanyuan Li

IWRA President



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

As the Islands Water Congress progresses, we aim to generate actionable strategies and recommendations that will be shared with global decision-makers. We expect the congress to foster new partnerships and collaborative projects that will extend beyond the event, driving progress in island water management and resilience. The discussions and knowledge shared here will contribute to a comprehensive understanding of how islands can adapt to and thrive amidst challenges.

Our vision extends beyond this week. This congress is not just a one-time event; it marks the beginning of a lasting legacy. Every two years, we will gather on a different island, continuing this vital conversation and expanding our collective efforts to safeguard water resources in island communities worldwide. By building on the outcomes of each congress, we will create a continuous cycle of innovation, collaboration, and action to ensure that the Islands Water Congress remains a cornerstone in the global pursuit of sustainable water management.

WE LOOK FORWARD
TO A PRODUCTIVE
AND INSPIRING WEEK
AHEAD!



WHAT TO EXPECT THIS WEEK

*Connecting Islands
for global water solutions*

AT A GLANCE

53 REGULAR PRESENTATIONS

6 SPECIAL SESSIONS

A HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ROUNDTABLE

6 KEYNOTE SESSIONS

OVER 30 ISLAND NATIONS REPRESENTED





INTERNATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION'S
1ST ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS
FAROE ISLANDS - SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2024

WELCOME TO THE ISLANDS WATER CONGRESS 2024!

We are excited to welcome you to the Islands Water Congress 2024. This week we will explore innovative solutions to the unique water challenges faced by islands across the globe. This year's theme, "*Freshwater and Islands*," will set the stage for a series of impactful discussions, presentations, and networking opportunities aimed at fostering collaboration.

CONGRESS THEME AND OBJECTIVES

IWRA's 1st Islands Water Congress brings you experts from various disciplines, including water professionals, policymakers, researchers, and the private sector, to collaborate on innovative solutions that address administration, climate change, nature, and nexus, groundwater management, monitoring, data, & innovation. The congress aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, build partnerships, and inspire actionable outcomes that will contribute to global water solutions.

SCAN TO VIEW
THE DETAILED
PROGRAMME



or click here



Highlights this week

DAY 1 (WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4)

The Congress kicks off with an inspiring **Opening Ceremony** featuring addresses from key figures, including **Høgni Hoydal**, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Faroe Islands, and **Yuanyuan Li**, President of IWRA.

The day continues with:

KEYNOTE SESSION: *"Islands and Freshwater in a Changing Climate."*

This session will explore how climate change is affecting the weather in the Faroe Islands and islands worldwide, particularly in the Caribbean. Discussions will focus on improving the climate resilience of freshwater resources, setting the stage for the rest of the congress.

REGULAR SESSIONS:

- **Island Water Administration:** Governance issues and administrative practices in a Nordic European View, and later in the context of the Mediterranean and Atlantic Region.
- **Climate Change, Nature, and Nexus:** The intersection of climate change and water management, exploring adaptation strategies.
- **Island Groundwater Administration:** Challenges and innovations in groundwater management for islands.

SPECIAL SESSIONS:

- **Technologies to Ensure Quality of Water Supply in Islands.** This session will showcase cutting-edge innovations like AI-driven multispectral imaging and infrared sensors for analysing water quality.
- **Freshwater and Islands: A SIDS perspective.** Organised by IHE-Delft, this session will tackle a broad range of issues specific to SIDS, emphasising the intersection of environmental, social, economic, and political factors that contribute to the complexity of water management in these regions.

SPECIAL EVENT and networking opportunity: The day concludes with a Welcome Reception at Múllers Pakkhús, offering a chance for delegates to network and enjoy local Faroese culture.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Ronald Roopnarine

Senior Lecturer at the University of the West Indies, and Network Manager of Caribbean WaterNet.



Andrias Klein Gregoriussen

Meteorologist at the Faroese Meteorological Office, Weather Presenter on the Faroese national television and radio.



DAY 2 (THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5)

The second day delves deeper into the congress theme with:

KEYNOTE SESSION: *"Island, Freshwater, and Culture: Narratives from the Pacific."* This session explores how freshwater is embedded in the lives of communities in Hawai'i and the South Pacific, including a discussion on "Fiji Water" and its implications for freshwater management in Fiji.

REGULAR SESSIONS:

- **Island Water Administration:** Focusing on governance and water management practices in the Caribbean, Asia/Pacific and African Regions.
- **Climate Change, Nature, Nexus:** Exploring the integration of natural systems with water management, food, and energy nexus.
- **Monitoring and Data:** Techniques and innovations in monitoring and data collection for water resources.
- **Hard Innovation:** Focusing on water innovations on islands.
- **Islands, Water and Regulation:** Focusing on freshwater and international law, and water regulation.

SPECIAL SESSION:

Faroe Island Water Administration: Organised by the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority and Jarðfeingi, this session will explore water supply systems in the Faroe Islands. (Note: Session will be presented in Faroese.)

SPECIAL EVENT and networking opportunity: The day ends with the Congress Banquet at the National Museum, a special event for full congress registrants.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Kamanamaikalani Beamer
Professor, University of Hawai'i,
Mānoa.



Milika Sobey
Senior Technical Adviser-Coastal
Ecosystems for GIZ Pacific

DAY 3 (FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6)

The final day of the congress features:

SPECIAL SESSIONS:

- **The Islands Water Congress Policy Report:** Organised by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), this session will discuss the main output of the congress, synthesising the key findings, policy recommendations, and actionable strategies from the event, aimed at guiding global decision-makers in island water management practices.
- **The Battle for Water - Exploitation of Water for Green Hydrogen Production:** Organised by the Nordic Energy Research, this session will discuss the role of water in green hydrogen production.

KEYNOTE SESSIONS:

- **"How to Effectively Share Freshwater Good Practices":** Exploring how sustainability success stories, particularly from the renewable energy field, can be applied to freshwater management across diverse island contexts.
- **"Island Perspectives from Urban Areas: The Case of Torshavn, Faroe Islands and Ottawa, Canada":** Examining whether the freshwater management issues discussed during the congress are unique to islands or shared with urban areas globally.

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ROUNDTABLE: The speakers will explore the history and management of freshwater resources in the Faroe Islands, Prince Edward Island (Canada), and Malta. This session will highlight common challenges and opportunities related to freshwater management, with a focus on the water-energy nexus and the role of regulation. Lastly, it will also look at the role of regulation in freshwater management.

The week concludes with a **CLOSING CEREMONY**, where key takeaways and the way forward will be shared, along with the signing of an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **Faroe Islands, Malta, and Prince Edward Island**.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



James Ellsmoor
CEO of Island Innovation

Bjørn Holm

Manager of the municipal waterworks, The municipality of Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY SPEAKERS



Ingilín D. Strøm
Minister of Environment, Faroe Islands



Steven Myers
Minister of Environment, Energy, and Climate Action, Prince Edward Island

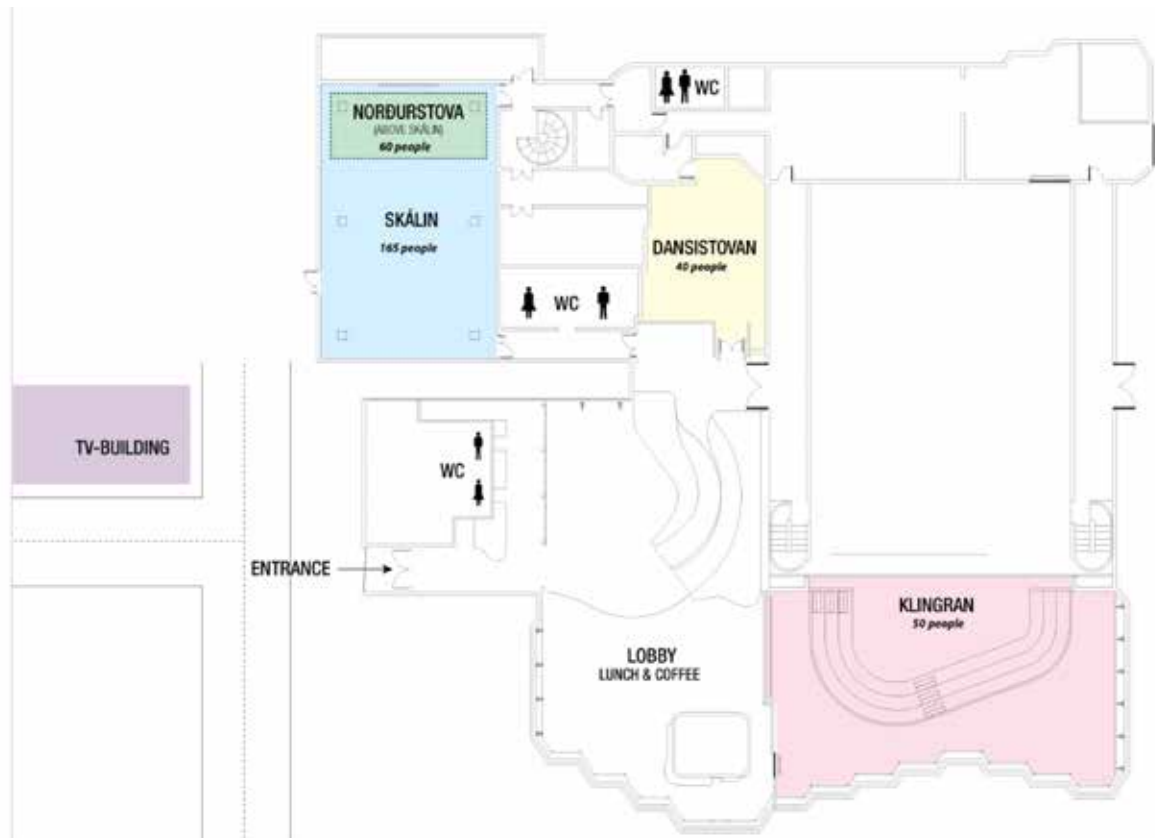


Manuel Sapiano
CEO of the Malta Energy and Water Agency





THE CONGRESS VENUE
THE NORDIC HOUSE
www.nlh.fo





STAY CONNECTED AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

For live updates, insights, and to connect with fellow participants, follow us on social media.

Don't forget to use the hashtag #IslandsWaterCongress2024 in your posts and tag @IWRA and @JARÐFEINGI.

Let's keep the discussion going and share your experiences, ideas, and takeaways globally!

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