

XIX WORLD WATER CONGRESS

International Water Resources Association (IWRA)

Marrakech, Morocco | 1-5 December 2025

WATER IN A CHANGING WORLD: INNOVATION AND ADAPTATION



Final Announcement

Kingdom of Morocco



Ministry of
Equipment and Water



International
Water Resources
Association

www.worldwatercongress.com



XIX World Water Congress

Water in a Changing World: Innovation and Adaptation

Marrakech, Morocco, 1-5 December 2025

Hosted by the Ministry of Equipment and Water, Kingdom of Morocco, and the International Water Resources Association

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Introduction

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco, the XIX World Water Congress takes place in Marrakech from 1 to 5 December 2025. This global event is co-organised by the Ministry of Equipment and Water of Morocco and the International Water Resources Association (IWRA).

The venue for the XIX World Water Congress is the Pickalbatros Hotel du Golf, situated in the renowned palm oasis of Marrakech, La Palmeraie.

Guided by the theme “*Water in a Changing World: Innovation and Adaptation*”, the Congress brings together experts, researchers, policymakers, practitioners, civil society leaders, and private sector representatives to share knowledge, present groundbreaking research, and shape the next generation of water solutions.

Across five days of dialogue and collaboration, participants work together to address the growing complexities of global water governance, security, and sustainability in the context of unprecedented global challenges.

High-Level Speakers

At the heart of the XIX World Water Congress lies a remarkable gathering of global leaders, policymakers, researchers.



NIZAR BARAKA
Minister of Equipment and Water



YUANYUAN LI
President of the International Water Resources Association



SALAHEDDINE DAHBI
Acting General Director for Hydraulics



RABI MOHTAR
Vice-President of IWRA, Professor, Texas A&M University



RETNO L. P. MARSUDI
The UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Water



LOIC FAUCHON
President of the World Water Council



BILGE KOCAMENI
Board Director, International Water Resources Association, Scientific Director, Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)



GABRIEL ECKSTEIN
Past-president, International Water Resources Association, Professor, Texas A&M University



QUISHI SHI
Former Director of the International Centre for Economic and Technical Cooperation and Exchange, Ministry of Water Resources



RASHID MBAZIIRA
Executive Secretary, AMCOW



ABOU AMANI
Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) UNESCO-IHP



STRATOS PISTIKOPOULOS
Director, Texas A&M Energy Institute Dow Chemical Chair University Distinguished Professor Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering



ISMAHANE REMONNAY
VP of Foresights & Alliance at VEOLIA



ERIC TARDIEU
Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)



KARI VIGERSTOL
Global Director of Water Security Science & Innovation The Nature Conservancy



FRÉDÉRIC BRETAR
Head of Space for Climate Observatory French National Center Space Studies



ABDELAHFID DEBBARH
Advisor to the President, Rabat International University



AKISSA BAHRI
Member of the IWMI Board of Governors of the IRC Supervisory Board and of the UNU-INWEH Advisory Committee



AMINE MOHAMED
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Founder of the WATEC Group



MOHAMED DIATTA
Coordinator Team 2026 UN-Water Conference - Ministry of Water and Sanitation of Senegal



HENK OVINK
Executive Director and Founding Commissioner Global Commission on the Economics of Water



BERND MANFRED GAWLIK
Portfolio Co-Leader for Climate and Water Resilience European Commission's Joint Research Centre



STEPHANIE JANSSEN
Specialist researcher social inclusion and nature-based solutions at Deltares



SONJA KOEPFEL
Head of the UNECE Water team, Secretary of the Water Convention



HICHAM CHAD
Chief Business Development & Structured Finance Officer at TAQA Morocco.



SIMI KAMAL
Chairperson of Hisaar Foundation, Pakistan, and co-founder of the Panjwani-Hisaar Water Institute at NED University in Karachi



TANJA MIŠKOVÁ
Ambassador-at-Large for Water Diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia

Programme Overview & Congress Highlights

Bringing together science, policy, and practice, the XIX World Water Congress features a diverse programme of thematic tracks, expert sessions, cultural visits, and networking events.

Plenary Sessions

Opening Ceremony: The inauguration of the Congress sets the stage for the week ahead, including introducing core themes, outlining shared objectives, and energising participants for five days of insight, exchange, and connection.

Special Plenary Session: High Level Speakers and leading global experts convene to examine pathways for bridging science, policy, and practice, and, in doing so, for translating knowledge into meaningful action.

Closing Ceremony: The Congress concludes with a forward-looking ceremony that reflects on its key achievements, celebrates collective progress, and outlines priorities for continued engagement.

Ministerial Roundtable

The Ministerial Roundtable stands out as a flagship moment of the XIX World Water Congress and its most strategic, high-impact platform. It convenes ministers, senior government officials, and global decision makers to address the most pressing shared challenges in water resources management. Together, they work to drive political leadership, align priorities, and advance concrete solutions for resilient water governance.

High Level Panels

Across four High Level Panels, leading experts explore key water resources topics aligned with the Congress' thematic areas:

Resilience (High Level Panel 1): This panel addresses water resilience in the face of shocks and long-term stress, including climate change, droughts, floods. It highlights how water systems can adapt, withstand, and absorb change.

Innovation (High Level Panel 2): With a focus on innovation in the water sector, this panel assesses how emerging technologies - including smart water management and digital tools - and nature-based solutions can help adapt to a changing world.

Governance (High Level Panel 3): The discussion centres on pressing governance issues: planning, financing, and managing water under uncertainty; strengthening institutions and policies; and building more adaptive, inclusive decision-making.

Global Opportunities (High Level Panel 4): This panel explores global-scale opportunities for co-operation, investment, and partnerships. It emphasises how cross-sectoral and international collaboration can be used to tackle water challenges more effectively.

Parallel Sessions

A total of 140 Parallel Sessions, all aligned with the Congress's thematic tracks, provide a platform for experts to present and engage in discussions:

- **Regular Sessions** gather international experts to discuss pressing issues and showcase solutions
- **Special Sessions** bring together global partners, private sector companies, and international organisations to delve into cross-cutting, interdisciplinary topics and discussions.

Side-Events

Beyond the core programme, side events offer organisations and individuals space to explore specialised topics, share insights, and engage in deeper dialogue.

Early-Career Lightning Talk & Global Networking

Designed specifically for early-career and young professionals, this dynamic event showcases accepted poster abstracts in a dynamic, interactive format featuring live expert judging, feedback, and audience voting. The second part of the event is dedicated to networking opportunities for all Congress participants.

Celebrating Excellence: Award Ceremony and Member Honours

The Award Ceremony showcases three prestigious IWRA distinctions: the Ven Te Chow Memorial Award and Lecture, the Crystal Drop Award, and the Water Drop Award. Each recognises outstanding contributions to water resources management. It also presents two Best Paper Award and Honourable Mention of *Water International*, acknowledging exceptional research for its originality, innovation, technical quality, and overall impact.

In addition, during IWRA's General Assembly, the IWRA celebrates outstanding members: Honorary Membership, IWRA's highest distinction, is awarded for significant contributions to the field of water resources, and Fellow Membership highlights the lasting importance of exceptional members in IWRA's history.

IWRA's General Assembly

The IWRA General Assembly is a key moment for the IWRA community, providing a forum to exchange ideas and receive updates from the Executive Board, Chapters & Task Forces, and the Executive Office. It is open to IWRA members attending the Congress, with an online participation option also available.

Cultural and Networking Events: Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner

Networking is at the heart of the XIX World Water Congress. The Welcome Reception brings together Congress participants to foster an atmosphere of connection and collaboration from Day One. Similarly, the Gala Dinner, held on the final evening before the Congress concludes, offers an elegant networking experience for all attendees.

Young Water Professionals: IWRA Water Envoys and Rapporteurs

IWRA has several initiatives to engage the next generation of water professionals at the XIX World Water Congress. The award-winning World Water Envoy programme features four young Envoys who will work with experts throughout the week, present their findings during the Closing Ceremony, and amplify youth voices in international water dialogues.

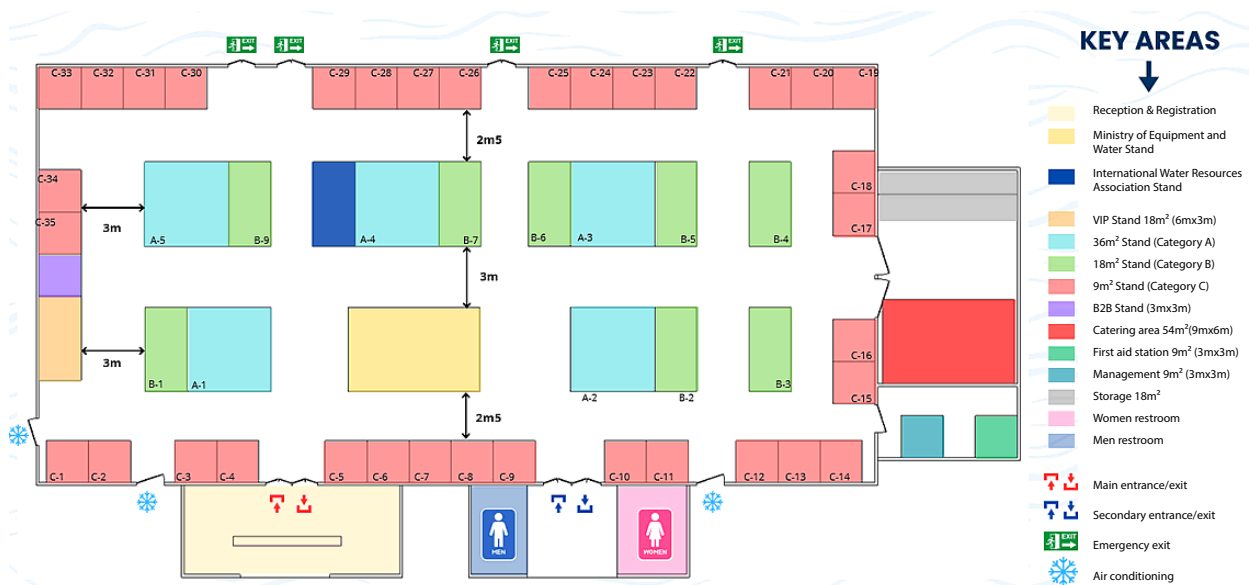
A selected group of international young professionals serve as Rapporteurs, who document the Congress's content, draw out critical lessons, and contribute to shaping its long-term legacy.

Poster Presentations

The Poster Presentations offer an accessible and engaging platform for researchers, practitioners, and innovators to share fresh insights and practical solutions. With more than 300 posters showcasing cutting-edge work on climate-smart water management, circular economy approaches, and the SDGs, the dedicated sessions enable direct exchange between presenters and participants and foster dialogue, networking, and collaboration across disciplines and regions.

Exhibition

Featuring 33 exhibitors across 2,000 m² at Espace Oreon, the XIX World Water Congress exhibition showcases innovative water solutions from around the world.



A1	ONEE	C8	BONETTO COVER BALL
A2	OCP	C9	SANAD TECH
A3+ B5	GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF STATE HYDRAULIC WORKS (DSI)-TURKEY	C10	NGE CONTRACTING
A4	IRZER	C11	BMCI
A5	ATNER	C12	LPEE
B1	SRM-MARRAKECH SAFI	C13+C14	EUROHINCA
B2	NOVEC	C15	MACSTEEL
B3	EMBASSY OF AUSTRIA IN MOROCCO	C16	FOSTER PROCESSING
B4	RIG -INTERNATIONAL	C17	TEM COMPAGNY
B6	SCHIELE MAROC	C18	AIC METALLURGIE
B7	ABH	C19	RADIO PLUS
B8	IWRA	C21+C22	MEDI 1 TV
B9	NOOR BUISNESS ADVISORY	C23	AGRIEDGE
STAND (VIP INITIALEMENT)	SAHAM BANK	C24-C25	HASSANIA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC WORKS
C1+C2	MOJAZINE	C28+C29+C27+C26	GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR METEOROLOGY-MOROCCO
C3+C4	WATEC	C30	STAND POUR LA PRESSE
C5	CID	C31	ESPACE B2B
C6	GIZ	C32+C33	ESPACE VIP
C7	EAX MINÉRALES OULMESS	C34+C35	BIOUI TRAVAUX (SBTX)
			GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR HYDRAULIC-MOROCCO

Field trips

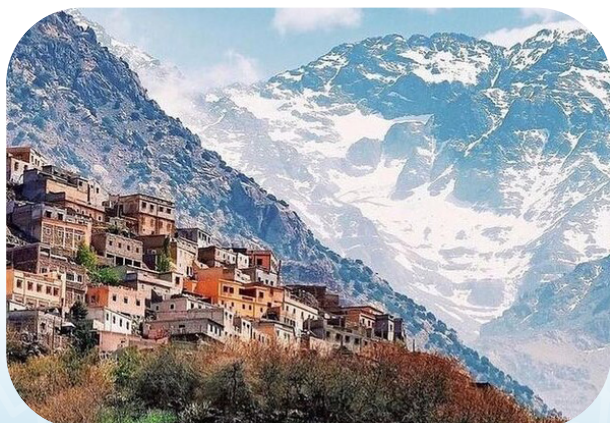
Technical and cultural field trips offer insights into Morocco's rich cultural heritage and its innovative water management practices.

To the Ourika Valley and hydrogeological site of the region

Ourika Valley is a geographically significant landscape characterised by its narrow, steep-sided terrain that influences local water flow and sediment deposition patterns. The region's hydrogeology is marked by a complex interplay of fractured bedrock and alluvial deposits, making it an important site for groundwater recharge and sustainable water resource management.

Day trip to Imlil

Imlil is a traditional Berber village in Morocco's High Atlas Mountains that serves as a popular starting point for trekkers heading to Mount Toubkal, North Africa's highest peak. Known for its stunning scenery and rich culture, the village offers visitors a chance to experience the local way of life, enjoy traditional cuisine, and access various hiking and trekking trails in the surrounding mountains.



Discovering Marrakech

Participants can explore the rich cultural heritage of Marrakech through a guided visit of the historic old town, including Bahia Palace, the Souks, Ben Youssef Medersa, Palace Dar Essalam, and the iconic Majorelle Garden.

The Marrakech water-treatment station and the Khettara Bentahar

The Marrakech Water Treatment Plant, inaugurated in 2011, is a modern facility designed to treat up to 120,000 m³ of wastewater per day for safe water reuse for irrigation and urban green spaces. It stands as a model of sustainable water management, integrating advanced treatment processes with energy recovery and environmental protection.

Khettara "Bentahar" is an ingenious traditional irrigation system that transports water from underground sources to arid lands through a network of gently sloping tunnels. Renowned for its sustainability and engineering brilliance, it has supported agriculture and communities for centuries in regions where surface water is scarce.



Congress App

To get the most out of the XIX World Water Congress, we invite you to download the official event app on your mobile device. Simply scan the QR code or download it to access the app at the store link for your phone. The app gives you instant access to the programme, speaker profiles, venue maps, to network, and access to the Congress newsletter and real-time updates.

Stay informed during the congress!
Download here:



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