

XX ISTANBUL 2027
WORLD WATER CONGRESS

Istanbul, Türkiye
4-8 October 2027

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Future of Water

SMART, RESILIENT, CIRCULAR, INCLUSIVE

International Water Resources Association
IWRA

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TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE
SUEN
TÜRKİYE SU ENSTİTÜSÜ



XX World Water Congress

4-8 OCTOBER 2027
ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

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The Future Of Water Starts With Connection

The XX World Water Congress, the flagship global event of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), will bring the international water community together in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 4–8 October 2027.

Under the theme “Future of Water: Smart, Resilient, Circular, Inclusive.”, the Congress will explore how science, policy, innovation and practice can come together to respond to increasingly interconnected water challenges.

Researchers, policymakers, practitioners, international organisations, industry, civil society and the next generation of water professionals will meet across disciplines, sectors and regions — exchanging knowledge, challenging conventional thinking and building new partnerships.

Taking place in Istanbul, where continents, cultures and waters meet, the XX World Water Congress will provide a global platform for knowledge, dialogue, collaboration and action.

FIVE DAYS,
ONE GLOBAL WATER COMMUNITY
A SHARED FUTURE





WELCOME MESSAGES

İBRAHİM YUMAKLI

The Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

Esteemed Members of the Global Water Community,

Throughout history, water has guided civilizations, sustained prosperity and shaped the relationship between people and their environment. Today, in a world being transformed by climate change, technological advancement and shifting economic and social realities, water has acquired an even greater strategic importance. The way we manage water today will determine not only our water resilience, but also our food, energy, health and economic resilience tomorrow.

It is with this understanding that Türkiye is honoured to host the IWRA XX World Water Congress in Istanbul in October 2027, under the theme "Future of Water: Smart, Resilient, Circular, Inclusive".

For Türkiye, this theme reflects a transformation already underway. We are strengthening our dams, reservoirs and irrigation infrastructure to enhance water storage, reinforce resilience to droughts and floods, support food security and contribute to renewable energy generation, while complementing these investments with smart systems, digital technologies and nature-based solutions. Through our nation-wide initiative on water efficiency, we are fostering a culture of efficiency across society. We are expanding water circularity, promoting water-centred agricultural planning and modern irrigation, and advancing the integration of water and clean energy.

Türkiye's pioneering work in wastewater and environmental surveillance, extending from pandemic monitoring to antimicrobial resistance and contaminants of emerging concern, reflects our broader One Water, One Health approach. By considering wastewater, surface water and groundwater together, this approach recognizes the close connections between human and animal health, food safety and healthy ecosystems, supporting more integrated and resilient water management.

Our experience has reinforced the importance of addressing water not only as a resource to be managed, but as a strategic foundation for sustainable development, resilience, cooperation and shared prosperity.

This approach also shapes Türkiye's efforts to advance regional and global water cooperation. Through our active participation in global and regional water platforms, we support water diplomacy based on dialogue, knowledge, mutual benefit and shared responsibility. Türkiye aims for the knowledge, partnerships and outcomes emerging from Istanbul to contribute to the United Nations Water Conferences and other major international water processes, helping to turn global dialogue into stronger cooperation and concrete action. In a world where water challenges increasingly transcend borders, cooperation is not simply an option; it is a necessity. Where water connects us, cooperation must follow.

Istanbul gives this message particular significance. A city shaped by water and enriched by centuries of water heritage, Istanbul has always stood at the crossroads of continents and civilizations. Today, it offers the world something equally valuable: a place where history can meet innovation, and shared challenges can inspire shared purpose.

As the host country, we are proud to welcome the global water community to Türkiye. May the XX World Water Congress strengthen the partnerships, commitments and collective determination required for a water-secure, resilient and prosperous future.

I warmly welcome you to Istanbul and wish a successful and inspiring Congress.



WELCOME MESSAGES

PROF. YUANYUAN LI

IWRA's President

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA), I am delighted to invite you to the XX World Water Congress in Istanbul, Türkiye, in 2027.

The 20th edition marks an important milestone, as IWRA celebrates 55 years of advancing sustainable water resources management worldwide. Since 1971, IWRA has brought together experts across disciplines, sectors and regions to promote science-based solutions to the world's water challenges. At the heart of our mission is a commitment to bridging science, policy and practice, ensuring that knowledge informs decisions and drives meaningful action.

The World Water Congress, IWRA's flagship event since 1973, embodies this mission. For more than five decades, it has convened the international water community to exchange knowledge, foster collaboration, and advance progress on water. We are proud that the Congress continues to be a place where science and policy meet.

We are honoured to mark this milestone in Istanbul, Türkiye. Bridging Europe and Asia, Istanbul stands at the crossroads of continents, cultures and ideas, providing a fitting setting for an event built on international dialogue and cooperation.

Under the theme "Future of Water: Smart. Resilient. Circular. Inclusive.", the XX World Water Congress will explore the transformations needed to secure our shared water future: harnessing science, data and innovation for smarter water management; strengthening resilience to climate change and uncertainty; advancing circular approaches to manage finite resources sustainably; and promoting inclusive governance that reflects diverse voices, knowledge and needs.

Taking place only ten months after the 2026 United Nations Water Conference, the Congress offers a timely opportunity to build on its momentum and turn global commitments into progress through science, policy, and practice.

I extend our sincere appreciation to Türkiye, our host organisations and partners, and the International Scientific Committee for their commitment and dedication to making this Congress possible. I also thank our IWRA members and colleagues across the international water community, whose knowledge and engagement shape this Congress.

The XX World Water Congress is an invitation to come together and shape what comes next. I hope you will join us in Istanbul in 2027 and contribute your perspectives to the important conversations that will take place. It will be a privilege to welcome the global water community as we open a new chapter in IWRA's journey and help define the future of water.





WELCOME MESSAGES

ALICE AURELI

The Co-Chair of the International Scientific Committee

Dear Colleagues,

As Co-Chair of the International Scientific Committee, it is my great pleasure to invite you to the XX World Water Congress in Istanbul, Türkiye, in 2027, under the theme "Future of Water: Smart, Resilient, Circular, Inclusive".

The context in which we understand and manage water is changing rapidly. Growing pressures on water resources are becoming increasingly complex and interconnected, as climate change, population growth, urbanisation, environmental degradation intensify demands on finite resources. At the same time, advances in science, technology and innovation are creating new possibilities for how we respond to these pressures.

The XX World Water Congress wil l bring together researchers, policymakers, practitioners and experts from across sectors and regions, creating a space where research and experience can inform and connect with policy and practice.

The Congress theme is explored through six interconnected sub-themes: Smart and Innovative Tools for Water; Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem-Health (WEFE-H) Nexus; Circular Water Economy and Innovative Financing; Bridging Science and Policy for Enhanced Water Resilience; One Water, One Health; and Reimagining Water for the Future. Together, they provide a framework for examining the future of water through a truly interconnected lens.

Across five days in Istanbul, these discussions will come to life through a dynamic and varied programme. The scientific sessions and side-events provide an opportunity for dialogue and exchange, while field trips link these discussions with water management in practice. Throughout the Congress, there will also be ample space for conversations and connections to develop. The Congress is designed not only to share knowledge, but also to create the conditions for new ideas and collaborations to emerge.

We warmly encourage you to bring your work and perspective to Istanbul and contribute to the discussions at the XX World Water Congress. We look forward to five inspiring days of discovery, debate and connection, as together we explore and help shape the future of water.





WELCOME MESSAGES

BİLGE ALPASLAN KOCAMEMİ

The Co-Chair of the International Scientific Committee

Dear Participants, Colleagues and Partners,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the XX World Water Congress and to invite you to be part of this important gathering in Istanbul in October 2027.

Water is entering a new era. Climate change, urbanization, health threats, food and energy security, technological transformation and growing inequalities are changing not only how we manage water, but how we must think about it. This is why we have chosen “Future of Water: Smart, Resilient, Circular, Inclusive” as the central theme of the XX World Water Congress.

Our ambition is to go beyond discussing today’s water-related challenges. We want to ask: What have we learned from the past? What must we change today? And what kind of water future do we want to create?

Answering these questions requires breaking traditional silos. The Congress will bring together not only the water community, but also actors from the many sectors that depend on and shape the future of water - including agriculture, food, energy, health, industry, environment, finance, technology and cities.

Too often, congresses bring together people who already speak the same professional language. In Istanbul, we want to change this. We want scientists to meet policymakers, engineers to engage with economists, health experts with water professionals, researchers with industry, and innovators with practitioners. Our goal is to create new synergies across disciplines, sectors and geographies.

We invite leading scientists, researchers and experienced professionals to share their knowledge and lessons learned. At the same time, we welcome young professionals, PhD students and postdoctoral researchers as active voices in tomorrow’s water agenda. The future needs both the imagination of youth and the wisdom of experience.

This spirit of exchange will be reflected throughout the Congress programme. Alongside parallel scientific sessions, special sessions, side events, youth activities and an Expo will create opportunities for private-sector engagement, dialogue, networking and new partnerships.

Türkiye, with its rich water heritage and evolving approaches to water management, provides a distinctive setting for these conversations. The Congress will also offer an important opportunity to bring science and policy closer together, connecting knowledge with the decisions that will define our water future.

Within this setting, Istanbul and the historic Golden Horn offer a particularly symbolic home for the Congress - a place where continents, cultures, histories and waters come together.

We invite you to join us in Istanbul not only to exchange knowledge, but to connect with people you may not otherwise meet, engage with perspectives that challenge and broaden your own, and contribute your experience and ideas. Together, we can inspire new partnerships, shape new thinking and reimagine the future of water.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul in October 2027.



THE CONGRESS THEME

Future of Water: Smart, Resilient, Circular, Inclusive

The future of water will be shaped by our ability to respond to complex and interconnected challenges - from climate change and water scarcity to health, food and energy security, technological transformation, financing and growing demands on natural resources.

The XX World Water Congress explores this future through four interconnected perspectives:

01

SMART

Harnessing science, data, digital technologies and innovation for better water decisions.

02

RESILIENT

Strengthening the ability of water systems, communities and institutions to anticipate, adapt and respond to change.

03

CIRCULAR

Rethinking water as a resource within circular systems that recover value, reduce waste and use finite resources more efficiently.

04

INCLUSIVE

Building water governance and solutions that recognise diverse voices, knowledge, needs and communities.

SUB-THEMES

Six Pathways To Explore The Future Of Water

01 Smart and Innovative Tools for Water

Remote sensing | IoT | Big Data | Digital twins | AI | Cybersecurity | Digital water transition

02 The Water–Energy–Food–Ecosystem–Health (WEFE-H) Nexus

Climate-smart agriculture | Urban water | Renewable energy | Cross-sectoral governance | Infrastructure

03 Circular Water Economy and Innovative Financing

Resource recovery | Circular systems | Innovative finance | Public-private partnerships

04 Bridging Science and Policy for Enhanced Water Resilience

Climate risks | Resilient water supply | Adaptation | Governance | Traditional knowledge | Evidence-based policy

05 One Water, One Health

Ecosystem health | Biodiversity | WASH | Water quality | Emerging contaminants | AI for aquatic health

06 Reimagining Water for the Future

Next-generation water sources | Future cities | Strategic foresight | Water literacy | Financing | Cooperation | Equitable futures

EXPLORE THE FULL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

YOUR VOICE, OUR WATER FUTURE

Call For Contributions

Be part of the global conversation shaping the future of water. Share your research, exchange ideas and connect science, policy and practice.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS OPENS

29 October 2026

FOUR WAYS TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WATER

Oral Presentation

A standard scientific presentation of original research findings, methods, or analyses relevant to the congress themes. Authors present their work orally in a scheduled scientific session, usually followed by questions and discussion with the audience. This format is intended for completed or sufficiently advanced research with clear findings and conclusions.

Special Session

A thematically focused session designed to address a specific topic, emerging issue, methodological area, or priority relevant to the congress. Special sessions may bring together multiple speakers or contributors and can include invited presentations, panel discussions, debates, or other coordinated formats. They are intended to provide a broader, in-depth, or interdisciplinary discussion beyond individual research presentations.

Poster Presentation

A visual presentation of original research findings, methods, or analyses in a poster format. Posters are displayed during a designated session, providing participants with an opportunity to review the research and engage directly with the presenter. This format is particularly suitable for completed or ongoing research that can be effectively communicated through concise visual and graphical presentation.

Side Event

An event organized in conjunction with the congress and held alongside the main scientific programme. Side events complement the congress themes but are generally distinct from the regular abstract-based presentation programme. They may include workshops, roundtables, stakeholder meetings, policy dialogues, networking activities, demonstrations, or other interactive formats designed to engage specific audiences or address a focused topic.

EXPERIENCE THE CONGRESS

Five Days Of Knowledge, Dialogue, Discovery And Connection

PLENARY & HIGH-LEVEL SESSIONS

See the big picture,
Hear global leaders and experts explore the major questions, challenges and opportunities shaping the future of water.

REGULAR SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

Discover the latest research,
Engage with original research, new evidence and practical solutions from across the international water community.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Go deeper,
Explore emerging issues and priority themes through focused discussions bringing together diverse disciplines, sectors and perspectives.

POSTER SESSIONS

Meet the research behind the ideas,
Discover research and emerging work through direct and informal conversations with authors and presenters.

SIDE EVENTS

Join the conversation differently,
Take part in workshops, roundtables, stakeholder meetings, policy dialogues, networking activities and other interactive formats.

EXPO

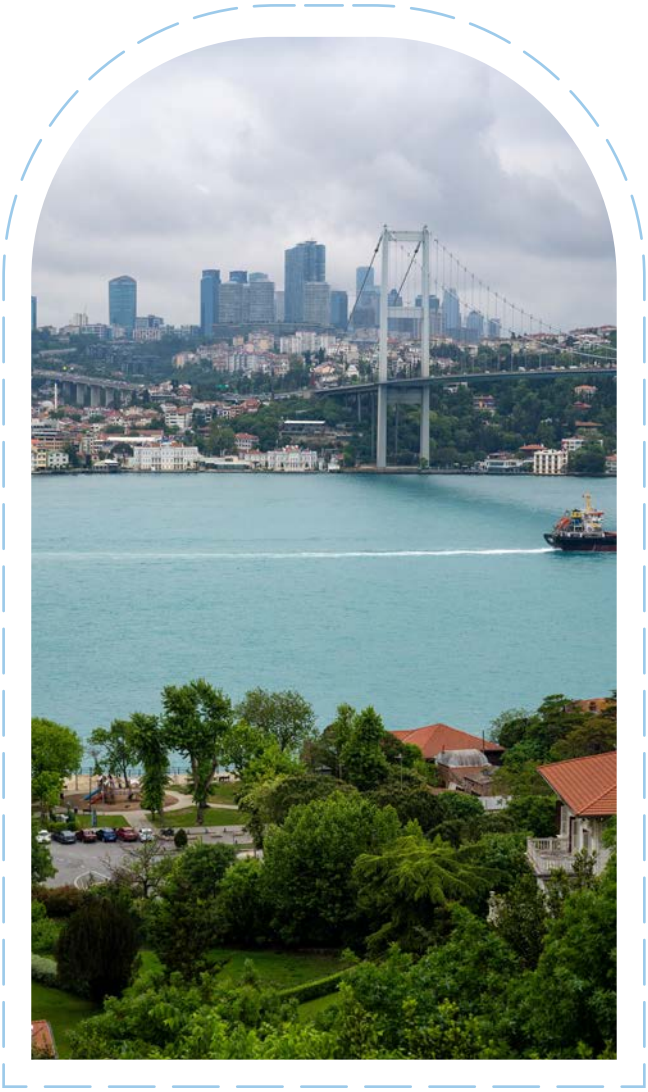
See solutions in action,
Meet organisations, innovators and technology providers and explore emerging tools, approaches and solutions for water.

SOCIAL & NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

Connect beyond the sessions,
Build relationships across countries, sectors and disciplines through receptions, networking activities and informal encounters.

TECHNICAL TOURS

Experience water in practice,
Connect Congress discussions with real-world water management, infrastructure and practice.





Tentative Programme

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Registration	High-level panel	High-level panel	High-level panel	High-level panel
	Opening ceremony and High-level panel	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions
	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
Lunch					
Afternoon	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Closing ceremony
	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Technical tours
	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	
	EXPO	EXPO	EXPO	EXPO	
Evening	Welcome reception	Gala Dinner			

Plenary & High-Level Sessions • Regular & Special Sessions • Posters • Side Events • EXPO • Networking • Social Activities • Technical Tours

Important Dates

CALLS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS	
Call for Proposals Opens	**29 OCTOBER 2026**
Call for Proposals Closes	**31 DECEMBER 2026**
Acceptance Notifications	1–15 MARCH 2027
Side Events Deadline	14 MAY 2027
Registration	
Early-Bird Registration Opens	15 FEBRUARY 2027
Early-Bird Registration Deadline	30 MAY 2027
Speaker Registration Deadline	30 JUNE 2027

Ready To Take Part?
Submit Your Contribution

Plan Your Participation

Registration Fees

		Early-Bird (15.02.2027-30.05.2027) Euro €	Regular (01.06.2027-30.09.2027) Euro €	On-Site (01.10.2027-08.10.2027) Euro €
Developing Countries	IWRA Gold Member	**€450**	**€500**	**€580**
	Standard	**€500**	**€565**	**€650**
	Students*	**€50**	**€55**	**€65**
Developed Countries	IWRA Gold Member	**€600**	**€660**	**€775**
	Standard	**€700**	**€770**	**€900**
	Students*	**€100**	**€110**	**€130**
One-day Pass		**€200**	**€226**	**€260**

WHAT'S INCLUDED

STANDARD & IWRA GOLD MEMBER

- Congress scientific programme
- Plenary and high-level sessions
- Regular and special sessions
- Poster sessions
- Side events
- EXPO access
- Congress materials
- Coffee breaks / lunches*
- Social programme elements*

STUDENT REGISTRATION

- Congress scientific programme
- Sessions and poster programme
- Side events
- EXPO access
- Congress materials
- Coffee breaks / lunches*

ONE-DAY PASS

- Congress access on the selected day
- Sessions scheduled on that day
- EXPO access
- Applicable catering*

*Final inclusions to be confirmed. Please refer to the Congress website for the latest information.
** Gala dinner and technical tours are not included in the registration fees.

CONNECT & COLLABORATE

Be Part Of The Global Water Conversation

SPONSOR, EXHIBIT, CONNECT,

The XX World Water Congress offers organisations and companies an opportunity to engage with an international community of water professionals, policymakers, researchers, institutions and decision-makers.

SPONSORSHIP

Position your organisation within the global conversation on the future of water and connect with an international audience across science, policy and practice.

EXPO

An approximately 2,200 m^2 EXPO area will provide companies and institutions with a dedicated platform to showcase innovations, technologies, solutions and projects to an international audience.

EXPLORE SPONSORSHIP & EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITIES

International Water Resources Association

The International Water Resources Association (IWRA) is an international, non-governmental, member-based organisation established in 1971. It is widely recognised as a leading global forum at the interface of water science and policy, advancing understanding and practice in water resources management worldwide.

IWRA's mission is to build and strengthen partnerships that address water resource challenges and priorities at the local, national, and international level. It does so by bringing together the global water community from across geographies, sectors and disciplines to improve water outcomes for all.

The Association promotes water education and research grounded in sound scientific, social, and ethical principles. IWRA seeks to continuously improve water-related decision-making by supporting a more integrated understanding of the physical, ecological, chemical, cultural, social, and economic dimensions of water.

Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is the principal public authority responsible for developing and implementing national policies in agriculture, forestry and water management in Türkiye. In the field of water, the Ministry works to ensure the sustainable, efficient and integrated management of water resources through basin-based planning, protection and allocation. Its mandate brings together water, agriculture, forestry, food systems and natural ecosystems, providing an integrated institutional framework for addressing the interconnections between water security, food security, ecosystem sustainability and climate resilience.

Its activities include the preparation and implementation of river basin management plans, sectoral water allocation plans, drinking water basin protection plans, and flood and drought management plans. The Ministry also carries out and coordinates activities related to water quality, water efficiency, climate change adaptation, water reuse, hydrological assessment, and the monitoring and protection of water resources. Through its relevant institutions, the Ministry also undertakes the planning, development and management of water infrastructure for irrigation, drinking water supply, flood protection and hydropower generation, while promoting the efficient and sustainable use of water in agriculture.

The Ministry contributes to the protection and sustainable management of forests, wetlands, biodiversity and protected natural areas, recognizing their critical role in safeguarding water resources and maintaining healthy and resilient ecosystems. Research, innovation, data and science-based decision-making further support the sustainable management of water, soil and other natural resources.

Working in cooperation with public institutions, local authorities, academia and other stakeholders, the Ministry promotes science-based planning, efficient use of water resources and resilient water management to support Türkiye's sustainable development and safeguard water resources for future generations. It also contributes to national and international water policy development, scientific research, capacity building and knowledge exchange, and strengthens cooperation with international organizations and partner countries on regional and global water challenges.

TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE (SUEN)

Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), established in 2011 and based in Istanbul, operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye. SUEN contributes to the development of national and international water policies through scientific research, policy analysis, strategic assessments, capacity development, and international cooperation, promoting evidence-based decision-making, stronger water governance, and sustainable water management.

SUEN follows global developments in the water sector, facilitates stakeholder dialogue, and strengthens cooperation among national and international institutions. It organizes and contributes to national and international forums, including the Istanbul International Water Forum, conferences, expert meetings, and training programmes, while representing Türkiye at international water-related events.

Through water diplomacy initiatives and strategic partnerships, SUEN promotes dialogue and collaborative approaches to shared water challenges. Its research and project portfolio addresses key issues such as water governance, nature-based solutions, the WEFE Nexus, water circularity, wastewater and environmental surveillance, the One Water-One Health approach, and remote sensing applications in water resources management.

Through SUEN Academy, Türkiye's technical expertise, institutional experience, and good practices in water and sanitation are shared. Its capacity development programmes, technical exchanges, and knowledge-sharing activities have reached more than 2,700 participants from over 56 countries, supporting professional development and strengthening institutional capacities in the water sector.

STATE HYDRAULIC WORKS (DSI)

The General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) is Türkiye's primary executive institution for the development and management of water resources, operating under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Established in 1954, DSI is responsible for planning, designing and constructing major water infrastructure for irrigation, hydropower generation, flood protection, and domestic and industrial water supply.

DSI's institutional origins date back to the General Directorate of Public, established in 1914, which initiated systematic water resources development in Türkiye. A Water Directorate was established under this institution in 1925, followed by a Water General Directorate in response to the severe drought of 1929. The Water Works General Directorate, established in 1939, further advanced water resources planning, feasibility studies and hydrological monitoring, laying the foundations for DSI.

Through its infrastructure projects, DSI supports agricultural production, energy generation and access to drinking water, while reducing flood risks. To date, it has constructed over 1,000 dams and 700 hydroelectric power plants, and developed irrigation systems covering more than 7 million hectares of agricultural land. It also manages over 15,000 kilometers of flood protection infrastructure and implements large-scale inter-basin water transfer projects to meet urban drinking water needs.

DSI also provides technical expertise and supports international cooperation in water resources development and management, sharing Türkiye's experience in areas such as irrigation, dam safety, flood management, hydropower and water resources planning.

Honorary Chairs



Ebubekir GİZLİGİDER

Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Foretry of Türkiye



Prof. Ahmet Mete SAATCİ

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Abou AMANI

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International Scientific Committee

Communications Committee



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DISCOVER ISTANBUL

A City Shaped By Water

For centuries, water has shaped Istanbul's identity, growth and connection with the world.

Set between Europe and Asia and surrounded by the Bosphorus, the Golden Horn and the Sea of Marmara, Istanbul has developed through a remarkable relationship with water — from ancient aqueducts, cisterns and fountains to today's complex urban water systems.
In October 2027, this city shaped by water will welcome the global water community to discuss what comes next.

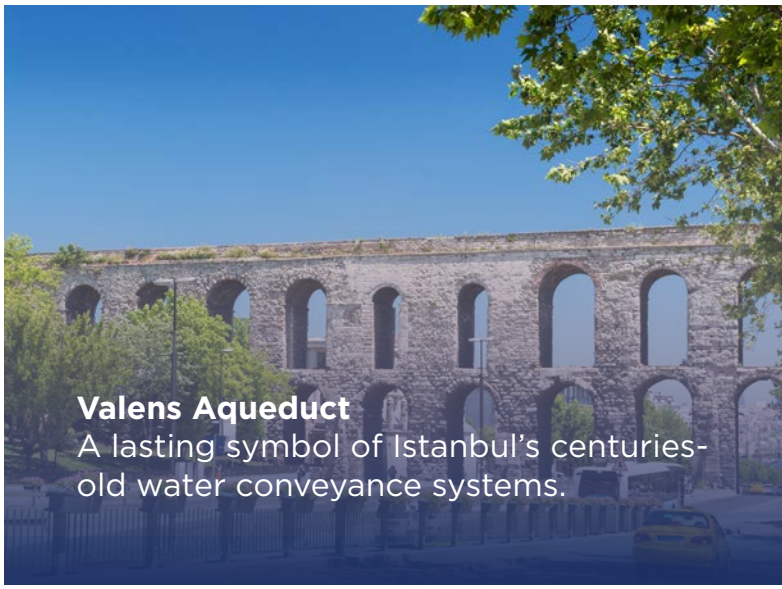
For Centuries, Water Has Shaped Istanbul

IN 2027, ISTANBUL WILL HELP SHAPE THE CONVERSATION ABOUT WATER'S FUTURE

WATER STORIES OF ISTANBUL



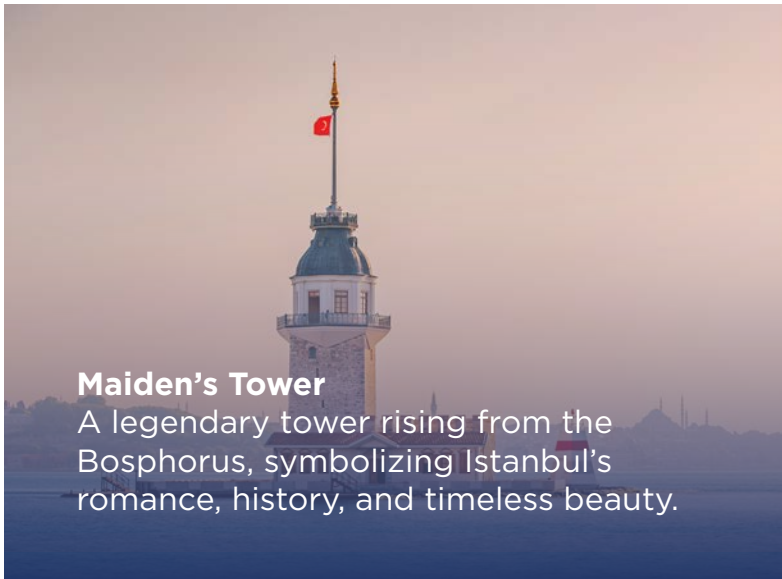
Basilica Cistern
Historic water storage beneath the heart of the city.



Valens Aqueduct
A lasting symbol of Istanbul's centuries-old water conveyance systems.



Galata Tower
Iconic medieval tower offering breathtaking panoramic views of Istanbul and the Bosphorus.



Maiden's Tower
A legendary tower rising from the Bosphorus, symbolizing Istanbul's romance, history, and timeless beauty.







CONGRESS VENUE

Where The Global Water Community Will Meet

Haliç Congress Center

Overlooking Istanbul's iconic Golden Horn, Haliç Congress Center combines striking architecture and an extraordinary waterfront location to provide an inspiring backdrop for the IWRA World Water Congress.

As Istanbul's only waterfront congress center, Haliç Congress Center brings together exceptional scale, versatile facilities and a setting deeply connected to the city's maritime heritage. Spanning **102,000 m²**, with **16,000 m² of outdoor space, 23 multi-purpose event venues** and a **367-metre** waterfront, it offers outstanding opportunities for international exchange and collaboration. Its light-filled galleries and open-air spaces overlooking the Golden Horn create a distinctive atmosphere for a congress dedicated to the future of water. Having hosted the **5th World Water Forum in 2009**, the center also has an established connection to the global water community, making it a fitting venue for the IWRA World Water Congress.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WATER

SHARE YOUR RESEARCH
CONVENE A CONVERSATION
BRING YOUR AGENDA
MAKE YOUR IDEA VISIBLE

XX WORLD WATER CONGRESS

ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

4–8 OCTOBER 2027

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