

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

JULY 2015



TOGETHER WE MAKE WATER A GLOBAL PRIORITY

7th World Water Forum 2015



WATER FOR OUR FUTURE

MOBILIZE ACTION

The 7th World Water Forum took place in Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea, from 12 to 17 April 2015. Over 40,000 entries were recorded for this major event with participants from 168 countries comprising 10 world leaders, 80 government ministers and more than 120 official national government delegations. During the week, the water community and decision-makers agreed that water must be a top priority for the political agenda in the next decade.

To guide all stakeholders into taking appropriate action, an ambitious set of objectives was officially formalized at the World Water Forum. The first-of-a-kind Daegu Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment (DGIC) includes a ready-to-use resource which covers among other subjects the fields of financing, food security, green growth and governance, and all other aspects of water security. The 16 roadmaps are meant to ensure transparency and accountability for actions. The World Water Council is working with the champions of the DGIC and the host countries of the World Water Forum to ensure implementation of these public commitments, while paving the way for the 8th World Water Forum to take place in Brasilia in 2018.

“This year’s [World] Water Forum isn’t just where we discuss and present solutions. It places an emphasis on the value of action”

Park Geun-hye,
President of the Republic
of Korea

Top photo: World leaders line up at the Opening Ceremony of the 7th World Water Forum, 12 April 2015, Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea. Photo: National Committee for the 7th World Water Forum

The 7th World Water Forum facilitated a number of political agreements which have marked a step forward in international water cooperation including an historic accord between the US and Mexico regarding the Colorado River. The Forum also saw a trilateral ministerial meeting between China, Japan and Korea where ministers pledged to strengthen the core role of water in sustainable development and attract more financial investment in the water sector.

The World Water Council hosted eight bilateral meetings with leading representatives from Angola, China, Denmark, Hungary, Monaco, Portugal, Russia, and South Africa. Follow-up meetings have been arranged with Monaco to discuss coordinating action on climate change and water in the run up to CoP21 in Paris, and opportunities to build relationships with the World Economic Forum.

More at:

eng.worldwaterforum7.org

“This Forum brings together governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia [...] unified by one overriding concern: to take action on the global water crisis”

Jan Eliasson,
UN Deputy Secretary
General



CHALLENGE THINKING

The World Water Council launched a series of publications during the 7th World Water Forum. Jointly written with leading organizations, the documents address topics such as Financing infrastructure, Food Security and Integrated Water Resources Management. The Water & Green Growth final report was launched during a special session and is the culmination of a four-year partnership with the Korean Government.

Reports are available at:

worldwatercouncil.org/library

The high-level panel “Infrastructure Financing for a Water-Secure World” gathered experts around the report ‘Water: Fit to Finance?’.

Photo: World Water Council



ENGAGE IN DEBATE



Scotland aims to be a world-leading Hydro Nation by integrating sustainability into its infrastructure
Photo: cc James West

XVTH IWRA WORLD WATER CONGRESS

On 25-29 May 2015, in Edinburgh, Scotland, World Water Council founding member, International Water Resources Association, held its XVth Congress under the theme of “Global Water, a resource for development: Opportunities, challenges and constraints”. Vice-President Dogan Altinbilek welcomed participants as President of IWRA. World Water Council President Benedito Braga and Honorary President Loic Fauchon as well as many Governors were actively engaged in the event. Two representatives from WWC member Texas A&M University were chosen as laureates for the Ven Te Chow Memorial Lecture and Crystal Drop award.

worldwatercongress.com

OECD WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

On 26 May 2015, the OECD Water Governance Initiative held its 5th Meeting in Edinburgh, hosted by the Scottish Government in conjunction with IWRA’s XVth World Water Congress. The meeting gathered a large number of WWC members from major stakeholder groups and organizations within and outside the water community. Participants discussed the results of the first two years of activity, reported on their contributions to the Global Water Agenda and shared experience on recent water governance reforms and initiatives. On this occasion, the WWC Vice-President and Executive Director jointly presented the outcomes of 7th World Water Forum and future goals.

oecd.org/env/watergovernanceprogramme

5TH WORLD HYDROPOWER CONGRESS

On 19–21 May 2015, WWC member, the International Hydropower Association hosted the world’s largest gathering for hydropower decision-makers and professionals in Beijing, China. The WWC co-convened a session on “Water–energy nexus: what role does hydropower play?” Richard Taylor, chief executive of IHA, delivered welcoming remarks during the session on behalf of President Braga.

hydropower.org



The Crystal Drop award ceremony at the XVth World Water Congress of the International Water Resources Association. Photo: IWRA

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

During the 7th World Water Forum week, the World Water Council distributed nine press releases which generated over 1,100 clippings in print press, TV and/or radios. Major outlets included KBS, Korea JoongAng Daily-International, New York Times, Financial Times, Le Monde, Sky News Arabia, Times of India, Globovision TV, Huffington Post and Circle of Blue. Over 60 media attended the World Water Council's press conference on the first day of the World Water Forum.

The World Water Council Pavilion at the 7th Forum Expo & Fair welcomed thousands of visitors and hosted members' events. Forum participants had the opportunity to meet and exchange during unique discussions and Q&A sessions. High level panels and special sessions were livestreamed and films and documentaries were broadcast in a dedicated theatre.

A new video where members introduce the Council was launched and the newly created LinkedIn page was presented. The #YOURWISH4WATER campaign collected over 1,000 wishes in only five days, some of which were signed by high level officials and celebrities. Overall, Council tweets were viewed more than 90,000 times generating a considerable amount of new followers.

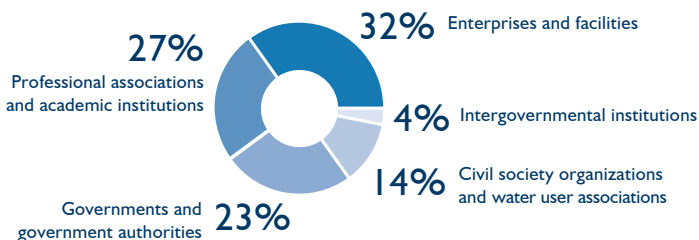
www.worldwatercouncil.org/media



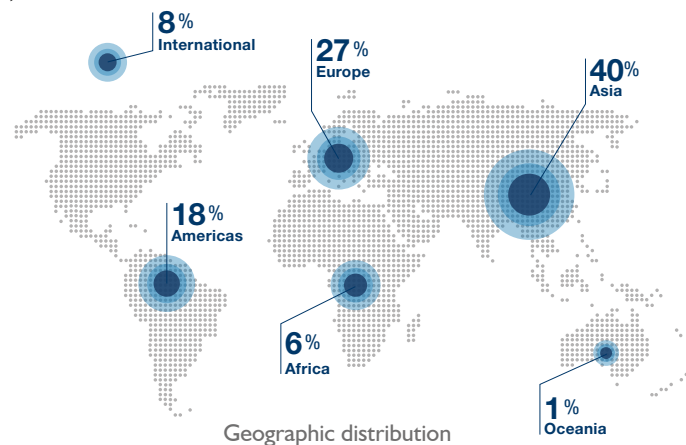
A visitor to the World Water Council Pavilion; The press conference on the day of the opening; The WWC's new video was launched during the 7th World Water Forum. Photos: World Water Council

MEMBERSHIP

Since April 2015, the World Water Council has welcomed nine new members representing the diversity of the water community across all colleges and coming from Turkey, Belgium, The Netherlands, Brazil and Peru.



College distribution



Geographic distribution