



**FIRST
ANNOUNCEMENT**

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**ISTANBUL
INTERNATIONAL
WATER FORUM**

Organising Institutions



SUEN
TURKISH WATER INSTITUTE

International Contributors



27-29 May 2014

**3rd ISTANBUL
INTERNATIONAL WATER
FORUM**



National Contributors



Istanbul, Turkey

Water Security and Water Law: confronting risks and challenges, seizing opportunities

Overview

The 3rd Istanbul International Water Forum will be organised between 27-29 May 2014 in Istanbul by the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs of Turkey. The Forum will primarily focus on the subjects of **water security** and **international water law**.

Within the context of rising water scarcity, water security is increasingly becoming an objective of governmental and non-governmental efforts and policies worldwide. Growing and increasingly water-hungry populations, globalised trade and markets, unsustainable water use and climate change are all taxing available fresh water supplies and challenging our capacity to secure access to sufficient water of appropriate quality for people, economic development, and the environment.

Water security is essential for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, for socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water pollution and water-related disasters, and for

preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability¹.

Water security is central to the complex and cross-sectoral nature of human and economic development. Whereas agriculture currently uses 70% of the world's water; how will water contribute to ensuring **food security** when 70% more food is predicted to be needed by 2050? Given that energy needs water and water supply and sanitation needs energy, what role will **water and energy** play to ensure that populations can meet their future needs? For industry based economies or economies wishing to industrialise, industrial water accounts for up to 40% of total withdrawals in some high-income countries; how can these populations maintain water security? Closely linked to all these sectors is the important issue of water for human well-being and the **human right to water and sanitation**. As we move to the **United**

¹UN Water, 2013, Water Security & the Global Water Agenda, A UN-Water Analytical Brief, United Nations University



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Nations Sustainable Development Goals from the Millennium Development Goals, how will the goals of access and sanitation evolve? Equally important, **ecosystems** are the pathways, filters, and storage systems of the global water cycle and the fact that all freshwater ultimately depends on well-functioning ecosystems makes them undeniable components of and contributor to water security.

Attaining sound water security hinges upon appropriate policy and management, balancing water supply and demand, both of which change over time, addressing both water quality and quantity in a smarter and more holistic way, and avoiding mismanagement and unsustainable over-abstraction. **Demand management** is essential for water security. It aims at influencing attitudes and consumption patterns towards more efficient and cost effective water use. It is often practiced

through a combination of economic, technical and administrative measures, with educational and social interventions also playing a role. In parallel with demand management, the sustainable use of existing and future **water supply infrastructure**, where reservoirs and dams play an important role, is essential for water security².

Addressing these diverse and complex issues requires interdisciplinary cooperation across sectors, communities, and geographic and political borders. Additionally water security itself must urgently be addressed through effective tools and mechanisms. It is within this context, that the 3rd Istanbul International Water Forum sets forth the following set of sub-themes as a thematic framework to deal with the need for global responses to the issues of water security; and identifying pathways to doing so.

Water Security

Water security as a global issue

- Access to water and sanitation
- Right to water
- Water and food
- Water and energy
- Climate change and related disasters
- How improving water quality can benefit water security
- Infrastructure
- Targets, performance and water systems

Mechanisms to confront risks and challenges and to seize opportunities

- Water governance
- Istanbul Water Consensus
- Basin-wide water scenarios for water security
- Balancing multiple uses (including supply and demand)
- Legal aspects of water management (ground water and law)
- Integrated approaches to water management
- The UN Sustainable Development Goal process - Looking beyond the MDGs

² Adapted from the Global Water Security Declaration of 2013 of the Chengdu Forum of International Water Organisations



On the brink of defining our post-2015 pathway towards sustainability, we need to recognise the crosscutting role of water and the essential nature of water cooperation. Especially in regions where the competition over access to water is growing and increasing risks of conflicts, strengthening water cooperation becomes even more important. Water management and fair distribution of water resources is a growing critical issue. **International water law** comes to the rescue to prevent or peacefully resolve conflicts. However, its general principles for equitable allocations and criteria for significant harm are vague and need elaboration.

International Water Law

- Transboundary Water Law
- International Conventions on Water Resources
- Right to water
- EU Water Framework Directive
- National, regional, local case studies

As the upper riparian state of the Euphrates-Tigris River Basin, Turkey is a hub for water diplomacy and conflict resolution. This year, the 3rd Istanbul International Water Forum will also discuss how to strengthen **transboundary water cooperation** and improve **conflict resolution** capacities. Renowned water law experts such as Carl Bruch (USA), Lillian Del Castillo-Laborde (Argentina), Gabriel Eckstein

(USA) and Raya Marina Stephan (France) will attend the Forum as keynote speakers.

As a triennial event held one year prior to each World Water Forum, the 3rd Istanbul International Water Forum will aim to provide important inputs to the 7th World Water Forum, which will be held in Korea in 2015.

The above issues will be discussed in thematic sessions, which will feature keynote addresses followed by moderated panel discussions. Next to the thematic sessions, there will also be side events and a **Ministerial Meeting**, at the end of which a Chair's Summary will be adopted. As in the 2nd Istanbul International Water Forum, the Ministerial Meeting will gather ministers, senior officials and representatives of international institutions from the Forum's focus regions.

The Forum will welcome water professionals, academicians, scientists, governmental institutions, international organisations, civil society organisations and the private business sector.

Participants will be able to share new and different views, approaches and experiences, network with other players within the water sector, establish collaborations with researchers, experts, government officials, business partners and gain knowledge about new technologies.

Registration to the 3rd Istanbul International Water Forum will be **free of charge**.

Istanbul, a city of **water** and history

Istanbul is Turkey's largest city, bridging the continents and cultures of Europe and Asia. It has been a focal point of world history for more than two millennia, serving as the capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires.

The world-renowned Bosphorus is the world's narrowest strait used for international navigation, connecting the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara. Two suspension bridges cross the Bosphorus, and a third one is on the way. The Bosphorus is particularly famous for the historic waterfront houses (yalı). Ottoman palaces such as the Topkapı Palace, Dolmabahçe Palace, Yıldız Palace, Çırağan Palace, together with other landmark monuments and buildings such as the Hagia Sophia, Sultan Ahmed Mosque, Maiden's Tower, Galata Tower, Rumelian Castle, Anatolian Castle and numerous others adorn the shores and hills of the strait.

The city is now a modern metropolis offering a unique blend of cultures. The museums, churches, palaces, mosques, bazaars and the sights of natural beauty seem inexhaustible. In addition to its unique historical and cultural background and innumerable attractions, modern hotels, exclusive restaurants, nightclubs, bazaars and shops make Istanbul a great site for meetings, conferences and conventions.



Forum Venue: **Haliç Congress Centre**



The Haliç Congress Centre, located at the heart of Istanbul's Golden Horn, commands a unique view of Istanbul. The venue welcomed the 5th World Water Forum in 2009.

The 157,000 m² facility can easily meet the requirements of large and special events. It is accessible by air, sea and land since a heliport, a 1 km long pier facility and car park are available. Nearby accommodation, with numerous hotels in Taksim (city centre), Eminönü, Aksaray and around the airport makes it convenient for participants to arrive on site.

More information at:

<http://www.haliccc.com/>



Invited Speakers (In alphabetical order)

H.E. Veysel Erođlu, Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey
Lütfi Akça, Undersecretary of Forestry and Water Affairs, Turkey
Aziza Akhmouch, Head of the Water Governance Programme, OECD
Emmanuel M. Akpabio, Lecturer, University of Uyo, Nigeria
Dođan Altınbilek, President of IWRA, Turkey
Henning Bjornlund, Adjunct Professor, University of South Australia, Australia
Carl Bruch, Senior Attorney, Environmental Law Institute, USA
Ximing Cai, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA
Ngai Weng Chan, Professor of Physical Geography, University Sains Malaysia, Malaysia
Torkil Jønych Clausen, Water Policy Adviser to the DHI Water and Environment, Denmark
Lillian Del Castillo-Laborde, Professor of International Law, University of Buenos Aires Law School, Argentina
Gabriel Eckstein, Professor of Law, Texas Wesleyan University, USA
Naim Haie, Senior Associate Professor of Water Resources and Environment, University of Minho, Portugal
Kun-Yeun Han, Professor at Kyongpook National University, Korea
V.K. Kanjlia, Secretary of the Central Board for Irrigation and Power, India
Aslıhan Kerç, Project Development and Implementation Coordinator, SUEN, Turkey
Cumali Kınacı, Director General of DG for Water Management, Turkey
Patrick Lavarde, Senior Advisor Director at the French Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Development, France
Yuanyuan Li, Vice President and Professor of the General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design at the Ministry of Water Resources, China
James E. Nickum, Editor-in-Chief, Water International, Japan
Akif Özkaldı, Director General of State Hydraulic Works (DSİ), Turkey
İzzet Öztürk, Professor of Environmental Engineering, Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
Mark Redwood, Programme Leader of the Climate Change and Water Initiative at IDRC, Canada
Giuseppe Rossi, Professor of Hydrology and Water Resources, University of Catania, Italy
Ahmet Mete Saatçi, President of SUEN, Turkey
Ahmet Samsunlu, Former Minister of Development and Housing, Turkey
Hasan Zuhuri Sarıkaya, Former Undersecretary of Environment and Forestry, Turkey
Paula Silva, Hydraulic Engineer, Mexico
Tom Soo, Executive Director, IWRA
Raya Marina Stephan, Lawyer, France
Zekai Şen, President of the Turkish Water Foundation, Turkey
Kaoru Takara, Professor at Kyoto University, Japan
İlter Turan, Professor of Political Sciences, Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey
Jun Xia, Professor, Research Centre for Water Security, China
Yaşar Yakış, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Turkey

Other prominent speakers will be confirmed in the coming months.

* As at the date of publication of this announcement, some speakers are still to be confirmed.

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