

# **Stockholm World Water Week 2019 Asia Focus Sessions**

## **Summary of all Asia Focus sessions**

The Stockholm World Water Week (SWWW) 2019 was organized at the Tele2 Arena in Stockholm, Sweden from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2019, under the theme “Water for Society: Including All”. 4000 participants, 1196 organization of 127 countries joined the SWWW 2019.

APWF co-organized the four Asia Focus sessions with its partner organizations on water cycle management, rural water & sanitation, governance, and finance in the Stockholm World Water Week 2019. In addition, a showcase event was co-organized with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and OECD to present an outline of the upcoming ADB’s flagship publication: Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2020.

During the sessions, the opportunities and challenges in planning national policies and implementing their measures were discussed in view of difficulties in addressing water issues due to diverse geographical and hydrological features of the Asia-Pacific region. Also the ways to procure necessary resources were discussed in order to improve access to safe water and sanitation for the disproportionately large numbers of vulnerable people living in rural areas of Asia, on the inclination of increasing innovative financings in the region.

All sessions highlighted the important role of political leaderships that shape sustainable policies, promote reforms of institutional architecture, facilitate practical actions on the ground, review and select the best available and appropriate technologies, and monitor the effects and impacts of them.

The outputs will be reflected in the thematic design and declaration documents for the 4th APWS in Kumamoto City of Japan, October 19-20, 2020.

## **Summary of each session**

### **Water cycle management towards water security in Asia and Pacific (27 Aug 2019)**

This session shared the opportunities for planning and implementing policy measures to address water challenges in the region’s diverse geographical and hydrological contexts and scales. The focus was placed on demonstrating water solutions based on evidence and knowledge drawn from science as well as local knowledge towards the fulfillment of the targets under SDG6.

In an interactive panel discussion, speakers presented case studies and discussed the practical steps needed to scale up initiatives to maximize impact while remaining inclusive.

Speakers stressed the importance of taking the following action:

- **Establish common ground and shared conceptual framework** among politicians and decision-makers who share transboundary rivers – and identify how to educate politicians to engage through meaningful activities.
- **Upscale appropriate technologies by working at multiple levels** – from local communities to politicians.
- **Encourage governments to consider policy reform to support infrastructure investment.** This enables the delivery of long term, sustainable solutions and basin planning based on robust science, in turn forming the pathway that creates water security. One key to success is how to understand, examine, and share the risk of the relevant sectors of the river basin by applying the best available science.
- **Facilitate collaboration, discussion, and dialogue** among municipalities, citizens, the private sector and research agencies, and develop a platform for implementation by these multi-stakeholders. Develop the platform as the business model and scale up it by understanding and reflecting the situation on the ground.
- **Explore how to establish robust partnerships** with multi-stakeholders to scale up, and consult how to co-design and co-implement associated activities.
- **Prioritize improvement of livelihoods and hygiene for slum-dwellers and the urban poor** inhabiting downstream areas by capturing sewage and treat it before it enters rivers and canals – which in turn will require comprehensive urban planning.
- **Engage and involve industry** in water stewardship.

In conclusion, this session highlighted the importance of political leadership in shaping sustainable policies, selecting the best available appropriate technologies and implementing practice on the ground, and monitoring the impacts. It also emphasised the necessity to strengthen coordination and cooperation among multi-stakeholders in water and associated sectors and to develop the complementary measures to enable transitions. Participants stressed the need to understand and engage those on the losing side of given water-related decisions, the poor and the vulnerable when addressing transboundary water issues. **At its core, sustainable water cycle management is about how to address and engender changes in human behavior, and about understanding customs and culture – rather than seeking technological solutions alone.**

**Summary of each presentation**

**Mr. Yoshito Suga, Deputy Director, Water Resources Planning Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism, Japan,** delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the importance of addressing the water cycle and the management at the river basin scale. He shared the Japanese Government's enforcement of the Basic Act on Water Cycle in 2014, and its implementation of the Basic Plan on Water Cycle adopted in 2015. He noted that a Water Cycle Policy Headquarters has been set up in the Cabinet, with the Prime Minister serving as Director-General, and all the Cabinet Ministers as members to implement the plan across the whole government. He also shared that the Japanese Government is working on a revision of the Basic Plan in accordance with the review of the first phase. It aims to finalize this work by the middle of next year. In his final remarks, he highlighted how social, cultural, geographical, climatic and other features differ in every basin, and the best way to manage water cycle is different depending on the location. But - at the same time - there are many watersheds where some features are similar to each other. In this respect, sharing ideas and best practices with other places and learning from each other must be a very effective way of upgrading the management of each river basin.

**Dr. Hans Dencker Thulstrup, Senior Programme Specialist, Water and Environmental Sciences, UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific,** presented and discussed Water Cycle Management in the context of SDG6 targets and indicators, particularly relating to reporting towards indicator 6.5.2 on transboundary water resources. He highlighted the importance of strengthening the flow of information and data between member states to improve the region's water knowledge base, as it will be a foundation for sustainable Water Cycle Management. As an example, he took note of UNESCO's work on convening national management communities in the Indus River Basin through a basin-level approach to deal with flood management. In order to scale up, he highlighted the importance of collecting more practical and accessible success stories about transboundary cooperation at operational level, better utilization of regional exchange mechanisms for data sharing making use of UNESCO IHP Regional Steering Committee's Catalogue of Hydrological Analysis; and establishing stronger linkages between scientists and managers / decision-makers at all levels. Finally, he mentioned the outcomes of this session will be reported to the 27<sup>th</sup> IHP Regional Steering Committee meeting in Myanmar in late October, 2019.

**Mr. Nobuhiko Miwa, Department of Lake Biwa and the Environment, Shiga Prefectural Government, Japan,** introduced the Prefectural Government's measures to improve water pollution implemented by the municipality and citizens, as well as the efforts to restore and conserve Lake Biwa. Shiga Prefecture manages its water resources according to the principles of a single water cycle. The water quality of Lake Biwa has been greatly improved through citizens' movements and

the Shiga government's measures to establish sewerage facilities and on-site treatment systems. Mr. Miwa emphasized that Lake Biwa and the catchment are like a cosmos - and the condition of the lake a mirror of local residents' economy and social activities. Conservation measures of Biwa Lake were implemented through collaboration, discussion, and dialogue among the municipality, citizen, the private sector, and research agencies. Shiga Prefecture calls it the Lake Biwa Model, hoping that it will be applicable as a model for examining and understanding stakeholders' situation in other locations – and thereby make a contribution to sound water cycle in Asia and the World.

**Mr. Yoshiharu Imajima, Deputy Director, International Affairs Office, Japan Sewage Works Agency & Sewage Works Expert, Japan Sanitation Consortium**, emphasized wastewater management is an essential aspect through which to promote sound water cycle management, however, took note that it is currently the bottleneck in a number of countries in Asia. To illustrate how to overcome these challenges, he introduced the case of Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), which improved the urban environment through wastewater management and the development of a drainage system for flood mitigation with support from JICA. After the project's completion, no inundation in the project area was reported. The project also contributed to revitalize the river banks and improve people's living conditions by solving slum problems and rejuvenating the urban environment. As a key lesson learned, he emphasized the importance of conducting appropriate operations and maintenance, including a dedicated budget with associated training. Mr. Imajima finally introduced examples of how improved wastewater management can be scaled up rapidly through the Asia Wastewater Management Partnership (AWAP).

**Dr. Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, Country Representative - Southeast Asia and Myanmar, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)**, discussed the ways to mobilize science, systems thinking and evidence-based approaches to implementing water solutions for sustainable development by introducing the 3 examples: (1) **Water accounting**, which made use of digital innovation; (2) **Index-based flood initiative piloting** in India to support small-holder farmers in the face of water-related risks and disasters; and (3) **improvement of small-holder resilience through revitalizing irrigation** in Myanmar. She took note that addressing key water challenges involves working across scales and requires system-wide innovation that interlinks technological, institutional and policy change. As a lesson learned from these examples, she highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary teams looking at both the technical as well as social dimensions as well as extensive field-based presence. She concluded by noting that strategic partnerships at multiple scales - through which to co-design and co-implement demand-driven research for development - helps achieve impact at scale.

**Dr. Neil Lazarow, Research Group Leader, Basin Management Outcomes, CSIRO**, discussed the ways to improve integrated management of water, energy, and food with the case studies from Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. He raised the issue of how dynamics beyond trade-offs influence decision-making in this nexus. CSIRO is addressing this by clarifying options and risks in planning, understanding of institutional frameworks and social values at different scales, and mainstreaming the nexus into water sector policies, strategies and plans. He highlighted the importance of identifying early entry points, such as through agriculture and disasters, as well as through co-design and implementation using existing mechanisms. He also emphasized the importance of finding, developing and encouraging champions to improve integrated management of water, energy, and food.

**Dr. Thanapon Piman, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute Asia** discussed nature-based solutions for water cycle management in the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries. He raised the issue of how to address extreme floods and drought through Nature-based solutions while enhancing coordination and collaboration. He presented the lessons learned from the “RECONNECT” framework to address climate-resilient water management at the community level in the Chao Phraya River Basin, Thailand. “RECONNECT” is a holistic ecosystem-based framework to enhance knowledge of nature-based solutions in the context of hydro-meteorological risk focused on floods, storm surges, landslides, and drought. He highlighted how the framework assists through integrated, cross-sectoral approaches that include biodiversity, social benefits, and stakeholder-led engagement. He concluded by outlining key constraints to the scaling-up of nature-based solutions, noting that it is a relatively new concept in the region and is still in the process of being framed into national policies and city/land use planning. He also took note of the current lack of operation clarity, technologies, and knowledge.

**Hon Karlene Maywald, Chair of the International Centre of Excellence in Water Resources Management (ICE WaRM), former South Australian Minister for Water Security, and former Chair Australian National Water Commission** discussed Transboundary Water Management – Principles, Policies, and Politics. The highly political nature of water makes it extremely difficult to agree and implement the long term plans necessary to deliver sustainable water reform. She explained the lessons learned from the Australian experience about its water reform process and the keys to success for other countries to consider when grappling with the complexities of improving water management. She also shared details of Australian work in Nepal and how this supported developing the capacity to define issues at the basin scale referencing both Australia’s successes and mistakes. Finally, she highlighted her message that basin-scale planning is a critical tool but it requires upfront political consensus on underpinning principles – and an agreement on conflict

resolution mechanisms. It is just as much about changing human behaviour/culture as it is about technological solutions. She finally emphasized the importance of developing complementary measures to support transition for those impacted negatively when addressing transboundary water issues.

**Presentation document:**

<https://programme.worldwaterweek.org/event/8355-water-cycle-management-towards-water-security-in-asia-and-pacific>

**Inclusive Asia-Pacific Rural water and sanitation: Pathways to the SDGS (27 Aug 2019)**

This session shared the challenges of raising the necessary resource and providing support to the disproportionately large numbers of vulnerable people living in rural areas in Asia, and discussed the solutions to be applied to overcome these difficulties. The speakers highlighted the importance of the trust-building, partnerships, digital technologies and the roles of local leadership in collection of data, assessing and understanding the situation and conditions, monitoring, and developing societal platforms to share knowledge and experiences together with the capacity building as the pathways of scaling up best practices. In the panel discussion, the speakers and audience discussed the circumstances which help or hinder the application of the innovative approaches to achieve the objective of including all in line with the case studies of the presenters.

In conclusion, the speakers and audience confirmed the importance of understanding the context and vulnerability of each rural community by assessing the local situation and developing appropriate responses to target the last mile through community involvement and empowerment with necessary technical and financial support so that no one is left behind.

● **Initiatives, tools or networks that support the learning objectives or that have fostered the goals of this session**

The WASH e-survey tool that has been implemented in Indonesia will help the government of Indonesia in planning and budgeting much more effectively as they now have by name by address household data (not sampling). It would be great if the use of this tool can be replicated in other neighboring countries. GWP SEA is ready to replicate this in other countries through our Country Water Partnerships. In 2020, GWP SEA will do the training. Other organizations are welcome to join.

**Summary of each presentation**

**Ms. Sae Ishihara, Japan Water Forum**, introduced its opportunities and challenges to support grass-roots activities through Japan Water Forum Fund. It provides the funds up to US\$1,000 to the selected grass-roots organizations in developing countries. Supported projects since 2005 are 170 in

the World and 79 projects were funded in Asia. Project design and implementation are based on the available local resources to tackle the local problems so that the fund contributes to support actual needs of the grassroots communities and bring the beneficiaries directly to the local stakeholders. JWF staff does not go to the actual site and save the travel costs which are diverted to address the local needs. However, the challenge is to conduct the monitoring after the project completion, as it relies on the reporting from the local implementing bodies.

**Dr Avi Sarkar, Urban Basic Services Branch, UN-HABITAT**, introduced its ways to enhance the climate and disaster resilience of vulnerable rural communities in Lao PDR through provision of water supply and sanitation. It is supported by the vulnerability assessment, action planning and the construction of locally tailored small-scaled infrastructure under the Adaptation Fund. Previously, the communities had access to limited infrastructure, which was either not climate proofed or technologically and institutionally sustainable. The current interventions are taking a much broader outlook: (a) ensuring that infrastructures meet climatic challenges; (b) establishing robust institutional mechanisms to ensure adequate operations and maintenance, and (c) introducing innovative technological solutions for cost-effective access to water and sanitation facilities.

**Mr. Fany Wedahuditama, GWP Southeast Asia** presented the precision targeting in delivering safe water and sanitation services using WASH e-survey tool. The survey tool will help the local government obtained household data by name by address. This tool is easy to implement and proven to be able to reduce the cost for survey down to 60-80 cent per household, which in turn enable the local government to bear the survey cost and aim for census instead of sampling. In addition to that, the result of the survey can be accessed real-time through the web-based platform and it also automatically generates the analysis in form of charts and map. SABRT helps get fast and accurate data that can be used by the government to plan its program in providing water and sanitation services in the community areas. SABRT can be used without internet access. Database shows who cannot access to water and what are their conditions (including the picture). The challenge so far is to convince the auditor to use the database from the information without having printed the data that will increase the cost and waste a lot of paper. Another challenge is related to the strategy to scale up. Currently, the Ministry of Planning and GWP SEA are designing the guideline for local government on how to use the data from the survey for evidence-based planning and budgeting, etc.

**Mr. Ravi Narayanan, Governing Council Chair, APWF**, introduced the rural water security through springs rejuvenation: progress through Partnerships in India. Nearly 200 million Indians depending

upon spring water across the 'springscapes' of India and 50 million people live in Indian Himalayan Region alone could get benefited from this initiative. In order to tackle the risk and challenges, Arghyam conducted the spring management project which addressed 3000 springs rejuvenation in 900 villages across 10 states in India working with a network of 12 partners (including 4 state governments and 8 NGOs) to provide the training. The ambition is to scale up building a societal platform to share knowledge and experience using digital technology to reach 100 million people in 5 years. It aims to achieve the goals by building trust and clarifying the roles and accountabilities of each multi-stakeholder.

**Prof. Greg Leslie, UNSW Australia** presented the development of a community-owned groundwater treatment plant with the capacity building to mitigate risk factors for chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology (CKDu) in Galwaduwigama Village, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. The intervention supports building capacity across a range of skills to deliver clean water. It adopts an inclusive approach by consulting and planning with the local people, empowering community for the operation and collecting revenue. It also demonstrated the effectiveness of a mobile phone APP to monitor daily water production, power consumption, water sales and deliveries. The combination of a reliable revenue stream and support for capacity development in the community, are important elements of the sustainable solution. The project has been operation for 13 months post commissioning and has created two community-based jobs to operate water treatment plant. It assisted providing education program on water testing and treatment. The project has assisted enhancing community pride.

**Presentation documents:**

<https://programme.worldwaterweek.org/event/8364-inclusive-asia-pacific-rural-water-and-sanitati-on-pathways-to-the-sdgs>

**Asia Focus: Strengthening Governance to address Asia's water challenges (28 Aug 2019)**

This session discussed to improve governance in the water sector such as measures to improve integrity of water utilities by tackling corruption, reform of institutional architectures, governance to address disaster risk management through the provision of proven scientific knowledge and dialogue, and the experience of adapting the Asian Development Bank's proposed framework and methodologies of Asian Water Development Outlook 2020 to Thailand.

In the interactive panel discussion that followed the presentations, speakers and the audience reflected on the challenges faced to improve water governance and scale up good practices and ways to overcome them. These included innovative uses of data, reforming institutional



architectures, building capacities at scale and the development of partnerships in water utilities, river basin committees, and disaster risk management offices, and the multi-stakeholders in water and the other sectors.

In conclusion, this session highlighted

- Policy decisions and implementation need good and timely data.
- Capacity in technical and management skills are essential at all levels from local to national for effective governance.

### **Recommendations (e.g. policy/call-to-actions)**

- Corruption is draining the water and sanitation sector-acknowledge this offense and invest in anti-corruption mechanisms.
- Clean water needs clean governance-mainstream integrity in water and sanitation investments, programmes and strengthens institutional and organizational integrity.
- The World Bank has estimated that up to 40% of water sector funding is lost to corruption. Apart from exploring new investments in the sector, there is a need to put measures in place to tackle malpractices in the effective use of already available funds. This includes investing in anti-corruption measures and strengthening integrity of sectoral institutions. These measures will ensure that funds budgeted for water and sanitation are not lost due to mismanagement and fraud.
- Water-related disaster risk reduction should be prioritized as one of the highest agenda in Asia and the Pacific region which is most affected in terms of sustainable development of the society and economy.
- Any stakeholders need to be involved in creating partnerships and developing networks at all levels (community, country, region and worldwide) through sharing information and knowledge and enhancing the capability
- Double the investments and finance for water-related disaster risk reduction by 2025, and to place more emphasis on prevention rather than post-disaster management.
- Conduct comprehensive water resources management including upstream and downstream, across jurisdictional boundaries, as well as community engagement and public awareness, structural and non-structural measures, climate change and variability in flood/disaster risk.

### **Initiatives, tools or networks that support the learning objectives or that have fostered the goals of this session**

- [Annotated Water Integrity Scan \(AWIS\)](#), an assessment tool for understanding integrity risks
- [Integrity Management Toolbox](#) for strengthening water sector organizations integrity and for change management

- Science and technology provide innovative knowledge and useful expertise for water-related disaster risk reduction.
- Creating the platforms with the relevant organizations facilitates data and information sharing, capacity development, initiating pilot projects that all help policymaking and practical implementation.
- Asian Water Development Outlook 2016 and 2020 (forthcoming)
- [SDG HELP Desk](#), [SDG Gateway](#), Water Accounting Tool under the [System of Economic and Environmental Accounting](#)
- HELP (High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disaster) principles on investment
- Massive Open Online Course on Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security

### Summary of each presentation

**Dr. Aida Karazhanova, ESCAP** introduced the ESCAP's tools for Water Governance and Inclusive Development. By introducing the [SDG HELP Desk](#), [SDG Gateway](#), Water Accounting Tool under the [System of Economic and Environmental Accounting](#), The following 3 key messages were highlighted: (1) Good water governance requires an adequate legal regimes, competent institutions, water infrastructure & capacities to be in place; Integrated water policy development & implementation requires an inclusive framework that considers water for society, leaves no one behind. (2) To leverage private sector investment more emphasis on innovative thinking & planning for policy coherence should be made; and (3) Water accounting framework is a valuable area for capacity building: (a) informs on water assets and (b) values water services in all sectors.

**Mr. Binayak Das, WIN** introduced how WIN applies its two Integrity Tools to address the issues of corruption in water and sanitation introducing the experiences from Bangladesh. One is the Application of [Annotated Water Integrity Scan \(AWIS\)](#) for assessing & advocating for integrity in WASH services in Schools. It aims to understand how integrity issues influence water and sanitation services in schools in Bangladesh by collaborating with in-country partners and 60 schools across Bangladesh. The other is the [Integrity Management Toolbox](#) for water sector organizations, which is co-developed by WIN, SIWI, cewas, with the development supported by GIZ, for strengthening integrity in water utilities and WIN currently has ongoing projects with Chittagong and Khulna water and sewerage authorities. WIN's program aims to mobilise and collaborate with the government, CSOs, donors, media, and communities to address the issue of corruption prevalent in the water and sanitation sector. He highlighted the challenges of Scalability, Materiality and Connectivity are around the capacities of the organizations, and the need for right policies, government and donor support for mainstreaming.

**Dr. Avi Sarkar, UNHABITAT Urban Basic Services Branch** presented how the UN-HABITAT is enhancing capacities of water utilities in the Mekong Region by adopting decentralized initiatives. Its capacity-building program includes the adoption of ISO quality management systems and water integrity training, in addition to the support developing laws, database. It has adopted ISO:9001:2015 in national and subnational level capacity building in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, which addresses Quality Management System training and Quality Manuals developed by water utilities. Finally, Avi highlighted the importance of forging a partnership from vertical and horizontal is key for good governance and helping breaking silos.

**Mr. James Leten, SIWI**, introduced SIWI's capacity-building experience in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Indonesia, building integrity and accountability of water supply and sanitation utilities. Their experience is built on their water integrity strengthening workshops for the utilities, using the "water integrity management toolbox", which is the same tool applied by WIN. Doing so, SIWI assists the development of Water Integrity Action Plans for the utilities and, in some case mentor enforcement of the action plan if required. The components of capacity include the HR and management capacities, financing capacities and technical capacities. He also introduced the 5 main lessons learned from previous Integrity training in other regions. He highlighted the need for (1) long- term support and commitment to coaching of action plan enforcement (2) for embedding action plans in broader regional or national integrity Collective Actions (3) for platforms for the exchange of knowledge by peers; in order to maximise impacts of the capacity building program.

**Dr. Piyatida Ruangrassamee, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand**, introduced the Multilevel Water Governance: lessons learned from Thailand toward water policy coherence, improvement of water security, enhancement of water productivity and governance. She shared her key messages by introducing the ways of mainstreaming water security strategy into the National Water Strategy by implementing Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) framework implemented by the ADB at provincial level and river basin level to enhance water productivity & improve water security. The second message was her research team's efforts towards better water governance with the coherence of multilevel water governance.

Thailand has developed its 20-year National Strategy for the period of 2018 - 2037, and water resources management is the pillars of improving quality of life based on green growth. There is the Master Plan of water resources system management (second level). There is also Master Plan on water resources management by Office of the National Water Resources for 20 years (third level), which focuses on 6 water issues: 1) Water for domestic; 2) Water for production; 3) Flood management; 4) Water quality; 5) and Upstream conservation: forest; and 6) Water management. Her research team has adopted the AWDO 2016 framework as a tool for dialogue

and development. They have also adopted it and customized it to the database for the provincial level and river basin level for water security assessment. It functions as the platform to come together among the officers to monitor and evaluate planning projects and discuss priorities. In Thailand, the Office of the National Water Resources was established in 2017, and the National Water Resources Law was approved in 2018. After the Law, the River Basin Committee has the authority to develop the Basin Master Plan and Province can request to River Basin Committee for Basin/National Level Project. After the Law, the level of coherence and the clarification of the roles of the relevant organizations have been enhancing. Piyatida's research team is working together with the governments and the relevant stakeholders to improve Thailand's water governance by adopting the analytical tools of OECD's water governance indicators.

### **Water and Disaster Risk Management in Asia**

Dr. Yumiko Yasuda, Global Water Partnership Organization introduced the three perspectives in working with water and disaster risk management in Asia region. The first perspective was the community-based flood management in Thailand (supported by Thai Water Partnership), which complements government's initiative and efforts. The second perspective is derived from consultations of HELP (High-Level Experts and Leaders Panel on Water and Disaster) principles on investment and finance, and its regional consultation conducted jointly by GWP, HELP, Japanese Government and GRIPS. The principle emphasises the importance of doubling the investments and finance for water-related disaster risk reduction by 2025, and to place more emphasis on prevention rather than post-disaster management. Consultation of this principle in South Asia and Southeast Asia highlighted the importance of comprehensive water resources management including upstream and downstream, as well as community engagement and public awareness, structural and non-structural measures, climate change and variability in flood/disaster risk etc. As the third perspective, Dr. Yasuda emphasized the importance of management of transboundary river basins in Asia regions, which large number of the population depend their livelihoods on, and are prone to disaster risk due to its complexity in governance and management. GWP is currently developing [Massive Open Online Course on Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security](#), which can support in building the capacity for key stakeholders in the region.

**Dr. Tetsuya Ikeda, International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHARM)**, shared its ways to create partnerships at all levels for water-related disaster risk reduction by involving all with the example of community-level (e.g: support communities through the development of flood hazard maps, early warning system and contingency planning), local level (e.g. support local governments through MoUs to help to develop information-sharing system), national level (e.g to promote actions such as flood forecasting, early

warning, climate change adaptation and capacity development programs through the International Flood Initiative (IFI)), and regional level through the regional cooperative frameworks such as Asia Pacific Water Summit and Typhoon Committee which is a joint intergovernmental program by UNESCAP and WMO, and international level by collaborating with the UN agencies and international organization (such as UNESCO-IHP and IFI) by advocating the importance to address water-related disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with concrete action by providing its scientific research outcomes and lessons of the application at all levels.

**Presentation document:**

<https://programme.worldwaterweek.org/event/8383-asia-focus-strengthening-governance-to-address-asias-water-challenges>

**Asia Focus: Inclusive Financing for Water (28 Aug 2019)**

This session highlighted existing and developing finance mechanisms or initiatives being developed in Asia and the Pacific to (i) crowd in private capital and entrepreneurs in the water sector (ii) expand innovation and networks for public sector providers to ensure the poor are receiving reliable and equitable services, and (iii) support bankable solutions for corporate water stewardship.

The **OECD** shared their experience on mobilizing commercial and private finance in the water sector. They presented the preliminary results and key findings by subsectors, including water utilities, small-scale off-grid sanitation, multi-purpose infrastructure and landscape-based approaches.

**JICA** presented a case study on the Philippines Water Revolving Fund, where they successfully mobilized commercial finance for large-scale urban water utilities in the Philippines.

The **ADB** shared their experience in Southeast Asia regarding utility creditworthiness and alternative lending instruments. He introduced the different types of utility classifications in three ADB's developing member countries: Vietnam, Indonesia and the Philippines.

**Water.org** presented the WaterCredit model as a response to household finance constraints on rural and small-town water and sanitation financing in Indonesia.

**WWF** shared their experience on bankable water solutions for food and beverage companies in Myanmar and ways to promote private sector investments in green technologies for cleaner production.

**International Water Center (IWC) and Waterpreneurs** shared their experience on the 'Innovate 4 Water' Forums as marketplaces to convene local operators (entrepreneurs, utilities), local, global investors and enabling organizations in the WASH entrepreneurship space.

These are the key recommendations and lessons learnt:

- Designing blended finance in conjunction with efforts to improve the enabling environment is key. Technical assistance plays a vital role. Hence, building on existing experience to adapt and extend blended finance to new investment types and contexts can be helpful.
- Strengthening coordination and cooperation among finance providers to unleash potential for blended finance and avoid crowding out is paramount. Therefore, donor coordination and complementary partnerships are important not only for financing but also for capacity development.
- Both financing institutions and water service providers need training on credit ranking systems and project appraisal as well as on business planning and feasibility studies. Capacity building from the design phase can significantly enhance utility creditworthiness throughout the project implementation phase.
- Matching investment needs with repayment capacity often requires incremental investments over multiple cycles and/or blended finance.
- Longer-term solutions to enhance utility creditworthiness can include the establishment of a technical assistance facility to improve utilities' institutional effectiveness.
- Pricing policies are key for cost-recovery. The entire equation of Tariff-Transfer-Taxes (TTTs) must be built in project design to make financial models sustainable. TTT systems should be performance-based and inclusive.
- Creating multi-stakeholder platforms is paramount to manage water risks at basin level and scale up of water stewardship practices.
- The major challenge for implementing landscape approaches lays beneath the absence of concerted mechanisms and institutional arrangements that look at the entire water cycle. All range of stakeholders should be mobilized for successful projects: from financing institutions to NGOs.

### **Summary of each presentation**

**Kathleen Dominique and Wiebke Bartz-Zuccala, Financing for Water Initiative OECD**, shared their experience on mobilizing commercial and private finance in the water sector. They presented the preliminary results and key findings by subsectors, including water utilities, small-scale off-grid

sanitation, multi-purpose infrastructure and landscape-based approaches. These include blended models approaches that can offer a pathway into beyond-grant models to help build local markets.

**Miha Matsubayashi, Water Resources Group, Global Environment Department, JICA** presented a case study on the Philippines Water Revolving Fund, where they successfully mobilized commercial finance for large-scale urban water utilities in the Philippines. They showed the financing structure of the Fund Program: co-financed by private finance institutions, back financed by JICA with concessional ODA loans and managed by the Development Bank of the Philippines.

**Vijay Padmanabhan, Director, Urban Development and Water, Southeast Asia Department, ADB,** shared his experience in Southeast Asia on utility creditworthiness and alternative lending instruments. He introduced the different types of utility classifications in three ADB countries: (i) ownership-based classification of water companies in Vietnam; (ii) performance-based classification of water utilities in Indonesia and (iii) creditworthiness-based classification of water districts in the Philippines.

**Rich Thorsten, Chief Impact Officer, Water.org** presented on Rural and Small-Town Water and Sanitation Financing in Indonesia. He shared Water.org model of 'WaterCredit' as a response to household finance constraints with loan disbursement to communities through financial institutions and community-based organization intermediaries.

**Keiron Brand, Bankable Initiative Advisor, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** shared their experience on Bankable Water Solutions for Food and Beverage Companies in Myanmar. He highlighted three key aspects to promote private sector investments in green technologies for cleaner production in food and beverage industry: (i) wastewater treatment plants to improve the treatment of industrial wastewater and reduce the discharge of pollutants in the river basin; (ii) energy efficiency and (iii) renewable energy.

**Mark Pascoe, CEO, International Water Center (IWC) and Brieux Michoud, Managing Partner and co-founder Waterpreneurs** shared their experience on the 'Innovate 4 Water' Forums as marketplaces to convene local operators (entrepreneurs, utilities), local, global investors and enabling organizations in the WASH entrepreneurship space. They presented the foundational business model to consolidate the local ecosystem, build capacity in the entrepreneurial community and increase private capital investments through innovative water technologies, models and cross-sectoral collaboration.

**Presentation document:**

<https://programme.worldwaterweek.org/event/8516-asia-focus-inclusive-financing-for-water>

**Water Security for All: Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2020 (29 Aug 2019)**

**Session overview and the presentation documents:**

<https://www.worldwaterweek.org/event/8683-water-security-for-all-asian-water-development-outlook-2020>.