



3rd International Water Regulators Forum

Public Policy & Regulation for Resilient Water Services

MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2016 / 10:15 - 17:00 / FORUM ROOM 02

RATIONALE

Governments increasingly see regulation as a vital function in safeguarding good service levels, public health and environmental integrity in water management. Good public policy and regulation strengthen transparency, accountability and confidence of the sector to government, citizens and water companies.

The Lisbon Charter for Public Policy and Regulation of Water Supply, Sanitation and Wastewater Services (2015) outlines the principles, roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in developing public policy, establishing regulatory frameworks and delivering services, which “should be considered and adapted as appropriate to respond to specific circumstances and conditions”.

Today's specific circumstances and conditions are ever dynamic, with climatic variability, changing demographics and economic growth adding uncertainty and increasing risks to water management. ‘Water security’ and ‘resiliency’ are the new paradigms to plan towards. As a recent OECD report highlights, it is imperative to invest in the three I's: infrastructure, institutions and information for water security (Securing Water, Sustaining Growth, 2015).

The role of public policy and regulation in enabling these investments is critical. They can provide a breakthrough in reforming the sector, catalyzing innovation and attracting investments; regulatory authorities are the key players bridging and balancing interests of all stakeholders. Across sector and ‘along the cycle’ harmonised action is needed to address universal access to drinking water and sanitation along with issues of quality and supply, improved water management to protect ecosystems and building resiliency. These should ensure that inter-dependent regulatory outcomes like public health, ensuring eco-system stability and financial viability of services are not compromised in the long-term.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The third version of this Forum continues offering a platform for regulatory authorities from all over the world for exchanging experiences, transferring skills and building new partnerships. This year, high level water services regulatory authorities and their interlinks with public health and environmental regulators will meet their peers from related sectors, to build the foundations of an effective strategy for resilience in the provision of these services and progressing the principles as articulated in the Lisbon Charter for their application in the context of resilient water systems.

Programme Committee

Darryl Day *Water Directorate, NT, Australia*

Peter Grevatt *US EPA, United States*

Trevor Bishop *UK EA, United Kingdom*

David Alves *ERSAR, Portugal*

Ivaylo Kastchiev *EWRC, Bulgaria*

David Cunliffe *SA Health, South Australia*

Seamus Parker *QTC, Australia*

Contact information

For more information about this event please contact Ms. Carolina Latorre at Carolina.Latorre@iwahq.org

KEYNOTE

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY & REGULATION FOR WATER SERVICES

Resilient systems are those with the capacity to absorb and recover from shocks (climatic, demographic and economic), while adapting and transforming their structures and functioning to continuous pressures, changes and uncertainty. Current policies, regulations and institutions will have to align to these changes; reducing risks but taking care of managing the remaining ones. Context matters. Not all countries will suffer these challenges in the same way and so measures must differ.

SESSION 1

REGULATORY & ENFORCEMENT REGIMES FOR FUTURE QUALITY SERVICE

Decaying infrastructure and the duty to extend service provision, with rapidly evolving economies, demographics and health requirements are today's main challenges. Sound economic regulatory frameworks and enforcement regimes, and better asset management practices are needed to encourage long-term infrastructure resilience keeping services running. This session will also explore the tools being used to deal with these challenges, e.g. financial, incentives for non-infrastructure solutions, tariff design and value sharing infrastructure investments.

SESSION 2

BALANCING RESILIENCE WHILE ENSURING AFFORDABLE SERVICES

Mitigation measures and environmental regulations are increasing costs and challenging the capacity to sustain reliable provision of services as well as public trust. Connecting old style regulations for drinking water and sanitation, and those for environmental safeguarding of water sources is needed –but building resilience cannot become an obstacle to the progressive realisation of these human rights. This session will review how regulators are dealing with these challenges and lessons learned.

SESSION 3

GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Adapting to continuous pressures requires appropriate institutional arrangements at different scales and across governance levels. Flexibility is key. Institutions need to invest in a set of governance capacities and enable multi-stakeholder planning, risk management and engagement. Effective monitoring and enforcement regulatory functions largely benefit from good consumers who will react to the credibility and responsiveness of other stakeholders. This session will review different approaches taken at various governance levels to build resilience in their systems, the gaps and the opportunities with other sectors and stakeholders.

JOINT SESSION

Cooperation across Scales to Ensure Water Security

12 October, 15:30 - 17:00

This session will facilitate discussions among utility, urban, basin, regulatory leaders to identify the challenges and opportunities for cooperation across scales.

Programme / Moday 10 October

10:15 - 10:40 Opening Plenary

Introduction and settings

Seamus Parker, *Director Strategic Partners, Queensland Treasury Corporation*

Welcome speech – Lisbon Charter: challenges, expectations and responsibilities for water regulators and other stakeholders

Jaime Baptista, *National Laboratory of Civil Engineering (LNEC), Portugal*

10:40 - 10:50 Keynote

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY & REGULATION FOR WATER SERVICES

Keynote speech: New framework for the water industry – changes towards resilience.

Ron Ben-David, *Essential Services Commission, Victoria*

10:50 - 12:10 Session 01

REGULATORY & ENFORCEMENT REGIMES FOR FUTURE QUALITY SERVICE

Key speech

Panel presentations

Roundtable discussions chaired by members of the Panel

Plenary & wrap-up

13:30 - 14:50 Session 02

BALANCING RESILIENCE WHILE ENSURING AFFORDABLE SERVICES

Key speech

Panel presentations

Roundtable discussions chaired by members of the Panel

Plenary & wrap-up

15:30 - 16:50 Session 03

GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

Key speech

Panel presentations

Roundtable discussions chaired by members of the Panel

Plenary & wrap-up

16:50 - 17:00 Closing Panel

Programme Committee & IWA

* The Forum sessions are designed to be interactive. Sessions will commence with inspirational key note presentation followed by individual presentations from the panel. Presentations will be followed by roundtable discussions chaired by the panel members and plenary discussion. The outcomes of the Forum will inform the draft of operating principles for building resilience which will be circulated after the event for further consultation and approval.