Rationale

Governments increasingly rely on regulation to deliver positive externalities to society by constantly enhancing service quality levels, safeguarding public health and preserving environmental integrity in water management. In addition, sound public policy and regulation strengthen transparency, accountability and confidence in the sector for governmental bodies, citizens and water companies. Therefore, the Water Policy and Regulation community at IWA has devoted enormous efforts to support the increasingly important role of regulators in the global water and sustainable development agendas, enabling the advancement of water-wise policies and regulations. In particular, it has provided a safe learning environment where regulators exchange experiences and test innovative ideas to address common issues and challenges. Furthermore, the community has helped regulators in their communication efforts with other relevant stakeholders, producing communication pieces and fine-tuning concepts and guidelines. For instance, The Lisbon Charter outlines key stakeholders’ principles, roles and responsibilities 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".

Nevertheless, today's water sector regulators all over the globe are facing increasing levels of uncertainty stemming from natural, social, and economic dimensions, hampering their ability to support good water management. This situation hinders regulators' capacities to fulfil their mandates. For instance, while Covid-19 deeply affected societies worldwide, the unpredictability of challenges associated with climate change may be much harder to deal with. Moreover, international conflicts and global supply chain issues affecting producers of materials and inputs intensively used in the water sector will diminish the ability of regulators to set balanced tariffs and targets. Lastly, regulators have to face these severe challenges while dealing with political systems greatly weakened by polarisation and populism amidst growing social inequalities.

In this challenging context, it is vital to explore how different regulatory authorities are coping with increasingly volatile contexts. Therefore, the Forum’s primary purpose is to discuss good regulatory (re)design practices in dealing with unpredictable circumstances and conditions. It also aims to discuss how to increase the capacity and willingness to generate learning processes from experiences amid increasing unpredictability, in order to build the foundations of an effective strategy for resilient regulatory services provision.

Forum Structure

The 7th IWRF continues offering a platform for water sector regulators from all over the world to exchange experiences, transfer skills and build new partnerships. It gathers high-level representatives of regulatory authorities and officials of agencies with regulatory and supervisory functions over the provision of water, sanitation, and drainage services, as well as their peers from public health and environmental regulators. The discussions will focus on how regulatory functions are being supplied in times of increasing natural, social, and economic uncertainty. Sessions will allow participants to discuss strategies to build resilient regulatory services amid rising levels of uncertainty driven by, for instance, climate change and public health outbreaks (natural factors), increased unpredictability of cost factors resulting from international conflicts and economic crises (economic implications), all compounded by political instability induced by growing polarisation and populism (social factors).
During the Forum, discussions are structured around highly interactive sessions that combine short inspirational presentations and roundtable discussions led by the speakers. The roundtable discussions allow participants and speakers to analyse and discuss each topic in detail, share comparative experiences, address proposed questions, and suggest one or more recommendations for consideration during the plenary.

**Forum Outline**

The International Water Regulators Forum will run over two days on the 14th and 15th of September 2022 during the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition (WWCE).

The Forum consists of three closed sessions and two open sessions. The closed sessions are strictly by invitation, where regulators have an opportunity to discuss among themselves the burning issues related to the Forum’s main topic, reflecting on how it affects their capacity to deliver on their mandates, and outlining potential solutions and counteractions. The open sessions consist of a closing plenary and a congress session organised by the IWRF Programme Committee. In the closing plenary, the discussions held in the three closed sessions will be summarised and presented to the WWCE audience, providing an opportunity to engage with other relevant stakeholders and explore the interlinkages between regulation, science, policy and practice. In addition, the IWRF congress session aims to benefit from the academic richness and expert audience attending the IWA WWCE 2022.

All sessions are separate lasting 90-minutes:

**Session 1:** “Except in cases of force majeure”: The impact of environmental and social disruptions on economic regulation. Who pays for the incremental risk?

**Session 2:** Demonstrating the added value of regulation to cope with greater political instability: How regulators are ringfencing from political instability and its perverse impacts on the governance of the regulatory frameworks?

**Session 3:** Coping with climate change: Climate smart regulation to boost utilities uptake of climate action and circularity.

**Session 4:** Closing Plenary: Regulating water services in times of increasing natural, social, and economic uncertainty (open session).

**Session 5:** Coping with uncertainty: Forward-looking approaches to cope with uncertainty and help deliver regulatory mandates (open session).

**Programme Committee**

The Forum is shaped and steered by a diverse and motivated Programme Committee, a committed group of professionals consisting of high-profile members of the IWA regulators community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tone Madsen, Chairperson</td>
<td>Head of the Water Regulatory Authority, Danish Competition and Consumer Authority (DCCA - KFST)</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Oscar Hugo Pintos</td>
<td>President of the Association of Drinking Water &amp; Sanitation Regulators of the Americas (ADERASA)</td>
<td>Argentina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Seamus Parker</td>
<td>Executive Director of the Queensland Treasury Corporation</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Dan Palombi</td>
<td>Senior Advisor of Resource Geoscience at the Alberta Energy Regulator - Alberta Geological Survey (AER-AGS)</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Mari Asami</td>
<td>Chief Senior Researcher at the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH)</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Loga Veeraiah</td>
<td>Executive at the National Water Services Commission (SPAN)</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Patrick Lester N. Ty</td>
<td>Chief Regulator of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System – Regulatory Office (MWSS-RO)</td>
<td>Philippines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ms Vera Eiró  
CEO - President of the Board at the Water and Waste Services Regulation Authority (ERSAR)  
Portugal

Mr Paul Hickey  
Managing Director of the Regulators Alliance Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID - Ofwat)  
United Kingdom

Ms Yvonne Magawa  
Project Manager at the Eastern and Southern Africa Water and Sanitation Regulators Association (ESAWAS)  
Zambia

For a complete description of our Programme Committee members, please visit:  
https://worldwatercongress.org/international-water-regulators-forum/

Programme

For the most updated Forum programme, please visit:  
https://worldwatercongress.org/international-water-regulators-forum/

Forum Overview

Day 1 — Wednesday, Sept 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10.30 — 12.00 | SESSION 1 (Closed)  "Except in cases of force majeure": The impact of environmental and social disruptions on economic regulation. Who should bear the costs of incremental risk? | Introduction by Chair  
Setting the scene: Case Presentations  
Break-out room discussions  
Plenary and wrap-up |
| 12.00 — 13.30 | LUNCH BREAK                                 |                                             |
| 13.30 — 15.00 | SESSION 2 (Closed)  Demonstrating the added value of regulation in times of political instability: How could regulators defend themselves against political instability and its perverse impacts on governance and regulatory regime? | Introduction by Chair  
Setting the scene: Case Presentations  
Break-out room discussions  
Plenary and wrap-up |
| 15.00 — 15.45 | COFFEE BREAK                                 |                                             |
| 15:45 — 17:15 | SESSION 3 (Closed)  Coping with climate change: Climate smart regulation to boost utilities uptake of climate action and circularity. | Introduction by Chair  
Setting the scene: Case Presentations  
Break-out room discussions  
Plenary and wrap-up |
### Day 2 — Thursday, Sept 15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 12:00</td>
<td><strong>SESSION 4 (Open)</strong> Plenary: Regulating water services in times of increasing natural, social, and economic uncertainty (open session).</td>
<td>Introduction by Chair, Summary of Discussions, Q&amp;A, Wrap-up and closing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 – 13:30</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH BREAK</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:30 – 15:00</td>
<td><strong>CONGRESS SESSION (open)</strong> Coping with uncertainty: Forward-looking approaches to cope with uncertainty and help deliver regulatory mandates (open session)</td>
<td>Introduction by Chair, Presentations, Q&amp;A, Wrap-up and closing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>