



Press Release - International Water Association (IWA)

For immediate use

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Celebrating success at the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition

The International Water Association's 2024 World Water Congress & Exhibition is under way in Toronto, Canada, with celebration of success in the global water sector taking centre stage.

The week-long event got off to a great start on Sunday, 11 August with the biennial meeting's traditional Opening Ceremony. This was the occasion for revealing the winners of three prestigious awards.

Professor Joan Rose was announced as the recipient of the Global Water Award; Sabrina Rashid Sheonty won IWA's Young Leadership Award; and Professor Juliet Willetts won the Gender Diversity and Water Award.

The 2024 edition of the biennial IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition runs from 11-15 August. It draws together individuals and organisations from across the globe who are working to advance solutions to the world's most pressing water challenges. Focusing on the

theme 'Shaping our water future', the event has particular relevance to the climate change agenda and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The event features 200+ technical and workshop sessions, 400+ posters, 900+ presenters, and 250 exhibitors in the global exhibition. The programme also includes 9 keynote speakers.

The keynote speaker in the Opening Ceremony was world-renowned scientist, innovator, and communicator on water and climate issues, Dr Peter Gleick. He is co-founder of the Pacific Institute in Oakland, California. His keynote described the Three Ages of Water – the title of his latest book – that traces water's 'prehistoric past, the power present and the hope for the future'. He said: "The core of my message is that we're living in a remarkable time, a time when we're in a transition from the challenges that we all are working on to a positive, sustainable future; what I call the Third Age of water. We need a new age of water. We need a new way of thinking and doing."

As well as the three awards presented in the Opening Ceremony, IWA's latest membership awards were revealed at the Presidents' Dinner held on 10 August and hosted by IWA President Tom Mollenkopf and Congress President Peter Vanrolleghem.

The award of Honorary Membership of IWA was presented to Darryl Day of Australia, Jiuhui Qu of China, Anders Bækgaard of Denmark, and Cheryl Davis of the USA. IWA's Outstanding Service Award was presented to Helle Katrine Andersen of Denmark and Jean-Luc Bertrand-Krajewski of France. IWA's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Water Management & Science went to Silver Mugisha of Uganda and Mathi Vathanan of India. The IWA Publishing Award was awarded to Professor Hong Ying Hu of China.

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PICTURE

Left to right: IWA Executive Director Kala Vairavamoorthy, Sabrina Rashid Sheonty, Professor Joan Rose, Professor Juliet Willetts, and IWA President Tom Mollenkopf AO.

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About the International Water Association (IWA) Awards

For more information on the Awards of the International Water Association (IWA), see:

<https://iwa-network.org/awards/>

About the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition

The IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition gathers water experts, thought-leaders, decision makers, leading researchers, and business representatives from within and outside the water sector. Keynote speakers are top specialists in their field. They frame the critical debates facing the water sector, while workshops, technical sessions, business forums, and solutions presented in the global exhibition showcase the latest science and best practices. For more information on the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition, please visit worldwatercongress.org

About the International Water Association (IWA)

The International Water Association (IWA) is a global network of water professionals, researchers, and practitioners committed to achieving sustainable water solutions. IWA connects people and organisations to drive innovation, knowledge, and best practices in water management. Through its diverse membership and collaborative platforms, IWA strives to tackle pressing water challenges and shape a sustainable future. [International Water Association - International Water Association \(iwa-network.org\)](http://International Water Association - International Water Association (iwa-network.org))