



SIDE EVENT DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Session Description 2 is for the specified program of the side event. Please complete this form no later than 22nd of April 2024.

**The session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Session Code and Title:

Emerging Paradigms for Water Sustainability in Cities: Case Studies in East Asia Region

Side Event Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

Session coordinator and moderator:

Shahbaz Khan, Director, UNESCO Regional office for East Asia s.khan@unesco.org
Ai Sugiura, UNESCO Program Specialist for Natural Sciences a.sugiura@unesco.org
Zhengang Peng, Secretary General of the Yangtze Culture Forum, 1525952885@qq.com

Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

Water is a fundamental resource that sustains life, ecosystems, and economies. The intricate relationship between urban governance and water management is deeply intertwined with the availability and sustainable management of water resources. With more than half of the world's population living in cities, the transformational change of urban areas is pivotal for achieving sustainable development across current and future generations. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without focusing and considering how to make cities more livable, accessible and equitable.

At the global level, water related global agendas such as 2030 agenda, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) cannot be achieved without synergy among UN bodies, international organizations, member states, and cities. This session of Emerging Paradigms for Water Sustainability in Cities will include topics of:

- Sustainable and inclusive integrated urban water resources management
- Evidence-based decision making
- Incorporating technology (i.e. big data analytics, generative AI, computer simulations) into water sustainability
- Participatory design and community engagement on topics of water management, urban planning, and sustainable development
- Advancing water science while expanding towards transdisciplinary
- Strengthening water education for a sustainable present and future
- Youth as Researchers

Meanwhile, empowering youth is essential for sustainable river city co-development and they constitute the largest urban population segment. As a platform to gather their voices and views, the online competition "Water Sustainability in Cities" will invite young visionaries to explore the dynamic interplay between water and urban landscapes. This creative endeavor seeks to celebrate the fusion of these elements while co-envisioning sustainable futures.

By addressing the cultural and city co-development challenges and strategic direction, the session will highlight the importance of water management in urban spaces while actively involving multiple stakeholders in East Asia region and beyond.

Detailed Session plan: *F/M indicates Female or Male



90 mins

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
10 min	Opening	UNESCO representative/Ministry City mayor representative (Mayor of Daegu, TBC)	
30 mins	Speech	-Wang Jianguo, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Southeast University-Invited -Erik Solheim, former UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP; current Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Belt and Road Green Development International Alliance; TBC - Prof. Ir. Dwikorita Karnawati, M.Sc., Ph.D, Head of BMKG, Indonesia TBC	
45 mins	Panel Discussion/ case sharing	-Dr. Anthony Cinco Sales, the regional director of the Department of Science and Technology-TBC -Dr. Ivan Henares Sectary General for the Philipines National Commission for UNESCO-TBC -Prof. Kaoru Takara, Chair Holder, UNESCO Chair on Water, Energy and Disaster Management for Sustainable Development (WENDI)-TBC -Asia Water Council representative, TBC -Saeed Nairizi, President for International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage-(invited) -Jiang Bo, Vice Chairman of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)-TBC -Sarah Ahmed, Director of the Water Museum of Life in India-TBC -Eddy Moors, Chairman of the Global Alliance of Water Museums, Dean of the Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands-TBC - Student representative invited.	
5 min	Closing		

Additional information: