

Official World Water Forum Side Event

“Enhancing Water Security through National Dialogues on Water”

By AWC & OECD

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World Water Forum Official Side Event: Enhancing Water Security through National Dialogues on Water
Date: 22 May 2024
Time: 10.20-11.50 am
Venue: Kintamani 7 in BNDCC
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Keywords: Dialogue; Policy; Enhancing financing capacities; Technologies, innovation and diffusion; Economic growth.

Promotional session description

The Asia Water Council (AWC) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have jointly facilitated National Dialogues on Water in Asia since 2021, focusing on vital water policies, finance, and technologies, with support from the Korean Ministry of Environment.

The session will feature discussions on lessons learned and best practices from these dialogues, emphasizing three key features: highlighting the role of water in enabling sustainable and inclusive economic growth and examining how technological innovation can better support effective water resource management. The session will conclude with reflections on the importance of participation and information exchange through National Dialogues on Water and provide practical tips for their success.

Short description of the session

Water is essential to enable sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity. The global economic losses associated with inadequate water supply and sanitation services amount to USD 260 billion/year, equal to a significant proportion of the GDP of some countries. Estimated welfare gains of improving water security to irrigators amounted to USD 94 billion globally in 2010. And the expected global flood damages to urban property alone have been estimated at USD 120 billion/year.

Participation, information-sharing and exchange are one of the core dimensions for achieving water security for economic growth. In several countries in Asia, including Indonesia, Korea, Mongolia, Thailand and Uzbekistan, National Dialogues on Water to support achievement of the SDGs, have been undertaken with joint technical support from the OECD and the Asia Water Council, and support from the Korean Ministry of Environment. These have proven to be a valuable platform to deliver on national water agendas, by focusing on a critical mix of water policies, water finance and water technologies.

In this session, the OECD and AWC will facilitate discussions between Dialogue countries and other participants on lessons and good practices that have emerged from these National Dialogues. This session will focus on 3 areas that recurred across all Dialogues:

- **Water for sustainable and inclusive economic growth.** The session will start by setting the scene, articulating how water is key for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. This will be done by highlighting country case studies from Mongolia, Indonesia and Thailand where water policies and technologies have been at the heart of their economic growth strategy. A recent

example is Indonesia's "Vision 2045: Toward Water Security" action plan, acknowledging that economic objectives can only be met through water resources planning and investment.

- **Technological innovation and diffusion.** Water objectives can only be met through the development and diffusion of innovative and more efficient ways to manage water resources, such as through technical innovations, software innovations, and nature-based solutions.
- **Participation and information-sharing:** The Session will conclude with a reflection on how participation, information-sharing and exchange, in particular through National Dialogues on Water, can contribute to achieving water objectives. It aims to provide concrete tips on how to run successful National Dialogues on Water going forward.

Objectives

The side event is to bring together the policy, finance, and technology communities with the following objectives:

- To highlight some of the features of the state of play of water policies, finance and technologies in Asian countries and to share the lessons learnt from recent National Dialogues on Water;
- To discuss and share good practices on strategies for water finance and water innovation and diffusion;
- To provide concrete recommendations for countries to run National Dialogues on Water that contribute to water security, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity.

Key learnings from the session will also be shared after the session in short summary notes.

Alignment with the World Water Forum theme on 'Water for shared prosperity'

Water as a condition for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and prosperity is at the heart of this session. It reflects one of the core values of the WWF, namely that bringing stakeholders experts and together through dialogues, can contribute to the achievement of national and global water objectives.

Target audience

It will be an open-door session, open to all WWF attendants. It should be of particular interest to:

- Representatives of national and subnational governments, particularly in Asia, to facilitate the exchange of expertise and experiences.
- Technology providers, particularly those seeking alignment with policy agendas and/or those exploring financing options.
- Development Banks and International Financial Institutions, particularly in the context of preparation of policy loans or when looking to support water sector reforms.

Agenda and speakers

Time	Item	Proposed speakers (TBC)
6'	Opening & National Dialogues on Water	3' Prof Dr Walid Oueslati, Head of the Climate, Biodiversity and Water Division, Environment Directorate, OECD 3' Dr Cho Yong Deok, Secretary General, AWC
40'	Water for sustainable and inclusive economic growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderated by Sophie Trémolet, Water Team Lead, OECD 	7' Ms Sophie Trémolet, Water Team Lead, OECD 7' Mr Chumlarp Tejasen, Assistant to the Secretary General of the Office of the National Water Resources, Thailand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4' Q&A 7' Ms Saikhanjargal, Head of Department, Water Agency, Mongolia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4' Q&A 7' Mr Mohammad Irfan Saleh, Director of Water Resources, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4' Q&A
33'	Technological innovation and diffusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderated by Kyung Moon Park, Project Manager, AWC 	7' Prof Dr Yum Kyung Take, Sungkyunkwan University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4' Q&A 7' Dr Dinara Ziganshina, Director at the Scientific Information Centre of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (SIC ICWC) in Central Asia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4' Q&A 7' Mr Hangki Ahn, Policy Analyst at AWC and OECD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4' Q&A
10'	Conclusions: Practical Tips for successful National Dialogues on Water	Marijn Korndewal, Policy Analyst, OECD
1'	Closing	Ms Sophie Trémolet, Water Team Lead, OECD – moderator