



## TOPIC SYNTHESIS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM

### 10<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

**Session Code and Title (e.g. Topic Synthesis Session 3A):**

Topic Synthesis Session 5A

**Topic Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):**

1. Dr. Yuki M.A. Wardhana  
Executive Vice President  
Indonesia Infrastructure Guarantee Fund
2. Dr. Ratna Widianingrum  
Vice President  
Indonesia Infrastructure Guarantee Fund Institute
3. Fauziah Zen, Ph.D  
Senior Economist  
ERIA

**Session Description (300 words):**

This session is poised at the cutting edge of sustainable water management, as we embark on a journey of innovation and collaboration to rethink the value of water within a circular economy framework. Against the backdrop of growing climate concerns and rapid urbanization, this event serves as a rallying point for stakeholders from many sectors to unite around a common vision: using water as a linchpin of resilience and prosperity.

At the center of our discussion is a paradigm shift in economic thinking that goes beyond traditional measurements and embraces the holistic concept of circularity. By reframing water as a cornerstone of ecological equilibrium rather than a commodity, we want to unlock its true value and harness its potential as a driver for sustainable development.

Central to this attempt is the need to address the persistent problem of underpricing water, recognizing that its true value stretches far beyond its market price. We strive to rebalance the fiscal landscape by implementing cutting-edge economic models and new financing structures, ensuring that investments in water infrastructure reflect their intrinsic importance to human well-being and ecological health.

Furthermore, our discussions will highlight the critical role of water in climate adaptation, shedding light on its dual function as a frontline defense against environmental shocks and a conduit for revolutionary change. We hope to protect communities against the ravages of climate change while promoting sustainable growth by incorporating water issues into broader climate resilience initiatives.

In parallel, we will investigate the symbiotic link between water and the circular economy, asking how concepts of resource efficiency and waste reduction may be used to strengthen water systems. We want to create a virtuous cycle in which water maintains and feeds both human communities and natural ecosystems by implementing innovative technologies such as water reuse, rainwater gathering, and ecosystem restoration.

**Key messages (2 maximum)**



1. **The True Value of Water Beyond its Price:** The importance of moving beyond traditional economic paradigms and recognizing water's intrinsic value within a circular economy framework. By tackling the ongoing problem of underpricing, we hope to rebalance fiscal policies and investment plans to reflect water's complex value to human well-being and environmental sustainability. The capacity of local institutions, communities, and relevant stakeholders to actively participate in planning, implementation, and maintenance of integrated urban strategies needs to be investigated.
2. **Synergy between Circular Economy and Water Management:** Focus on the symbiotic relationship between water and the circular economy, emphasizing how resource efficiency and waste reduction principles can improve water system resilience. By embracing innovative solutions like water reuse and ecosystem restoration, we hope to create a healthy cycle in which water maintains and enriches both human society and natural ecosystems.



**Concrete outcomes (2 maximum)**

1. Implement Water Pricing Reform: Develop and implement policies aimed at recalibrating the pricing of water to reflect its true value within a circular economy context. This action involves conducting thorough economic assessments to determine the full cost of water provision and integrating externalities such as environmental impacts into pricing mechanisms. We will create modules for the courses.
2. Incorporate Water into Climate Resilience Planning: Integrate water considerations into comprehensive climate resilience policies at the local, regional, and national levels. This activity entails completing vulnerability assessments to identify water-related hazards and opportunities, incorporating water management practices into adaptation strategies, and investing in natural solutions like wetland restoration and green infrastructure. We will create modules for the courses or guidelines.

**Detailed Session plan:**

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
10 mins	The Chair will set the scene by providing background on the topic and its subtopics, as well as introducing the speakers.	Fauziah Zen (ERIA)	OK
40 mins	Speakers share their views on valuing and financing water as basic human needs as well as an integrated part of sustainable water system.	<p>Prof. Guy Alaerts, from IHE Delft, has a vast and intensive international experience in various water complex programs.</p> <p>Riatu M. Qibthiyah (LPEM FEB UI) will bring findings and views of valuing ad financing water especially in Indonesia’s experience.</p> <p>Andre Permana (IIGF), as Director of Business, will provide critical elements on financing water for sustainability.</p> <p>TBD (Director of Indonesia Infrastructure Finance).</p>	All institutions confirm their participation.
30 mins	The chair will open the conversation with speakers and take feedback from the floor	Fauziah Zen (ERIA)	OK
10 mins	Summary and closing remarks	Yuki Wardhana (IIGF)	OK