

Water, WASH and Climate Symposium

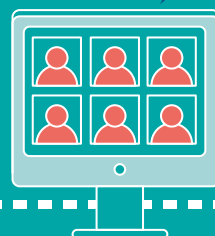
20-23 June 2022

NETWORKING SESSION



OPENING PANEL

Responding to Climate Change: the urgent need to integrate WRM & WASH



SPECIAL SESSION

This is water, WASH & Climate: Stories from Practice

THEMATIC SESSION

Frameworks to manage climate risks to WASH and water resources



THEMATIC SESSION

Nature-based and other sustainable WASH solutions to Climate Change



THEMATIC SESSION

Water Resource Management to alleviate water-mediated disasters



THEMATIC SESSION

Building equality into climate resilience - the critical case for gender and social inclusion in WASH & WRM

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONAL SESSION

The climate crisis, WASH & water security: What is the role of early career professionals in tackling the challenges of today and the future?



THEMATIC SESSION

Partnerships for scaling up private sector investment in WASH



CLOSING PANEL

Why and how should water management & WASH sector actors reach out to other sectors?





Water, WASH and Climate Virtual Symposium

Water, WASH and Climate Symposium

20-23 June 2022

The Water and WASH Futures event series brings together both WASH and WRM professionals to discuss the challenges facing the achievement of the SDG 6 targets, in the context of a changing climate and in the midst of a global pandemic.

The Water and WASH Futures series of forums continues the WASH Futures series of conferences, targeting WASH, and now also water resources practitioners working in international development. The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with the International Water Centre at Griffith University, and the Conference Committee (a full list of partners, sponsors and committee members can be found on Page 15) have built on the success of past conferences by expanding the scope from WASH to also include WRM, and by adding two virtual symposiums in the lead-up to the in-person conference. The first symposium: WASH & The COVID-19 Pandemic was held April 21-22, 2021.

The Water, WASH and Climate Virtual Symposium is the second virtual event which took place June 20-23, 2022. The Symposium comprised of 10 diverse sessions: two expert panels, five thematic sessions, an early career professional session, a networking session, and a new format for sharing Water, WASH & Climate Stories from Practice (28 in total).



Opening Panel

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Networking Session



Thematic Session

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Nature-based and other sustainable WASH solutions to Climate Change



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Building equality into climate resilience - the critical case for gender and social inclusion in WASH & WRM



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Special Session

This is water, WASH & Climate: Stories from Practice



Early Career Professional Session

The climate crisis, WASH & water security: What is the role of early career professionals in tackling the challenges of today and the future?



Thematic Session

Partnerships for scaling up private sector investment in WASH



Closing Panel

Why and how should water management & WASH sector actors reach out to other sectors?

ATTENDANCE OVERVIEW



Over **900**
Live Attendees



Over **85**
Countries
Joined



Over **100**
Speakers
Presented

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Symposium offered a platform for the dialogue between WASH and WRM professionals. There was a strong case made for the importance of integrating WASH and WRM as a core approach required to address SDG 6 in the context of climate change. Speakers communicated the sense of urgency to act to address climate change. They also emphasized the importance of data and evidence for informed decision making.

Some additional quotation highlights from the symposium included:

“Disasters undermine sustainable development” and “Water action is climate action”
said Dave Hebblethwaite, SPC, during the WRM to alleviate disasters session.

“Localising the work is very important. Cross-sectoral integration is very important as well as creating usable data”
said Rajit Ojha during the Opening Panel discussion.

“An inclusive community is a climate resilient community”
said Rosie Wheen, WaterAid, during the Building equality into climate resilience session.

“If we are not including vulnerable groups then we are not doing our jobs”
said Angelica Salele, Pacific MHH Network, during the Building equality into climate resilience session.

When speaking of the opportunity for sectors to work together, Dr Regina Souter said during the Closing Panel, **“We need to unbox and repack sectors together. Get us out of our silos and put us together to work to find solutions”.**

Monday 20 June | 12 - 2pm

OPENING PANEL

RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: THE URGENT NEED TO INTEGRATE WRM & WASH

Facilitator: Bronwyn Powell, IWC

The Symposium opened with an expert panel session that brought together four experienced WASH and WRM specialists from Nepal, Indonesia, Federated States of Micronesia and Cambodia. Facilitated by Bronwyn Powell from IWC, the panel discussed what climate change means for their work, the achievement of SDG 6 and the integration of WRM and WASH.

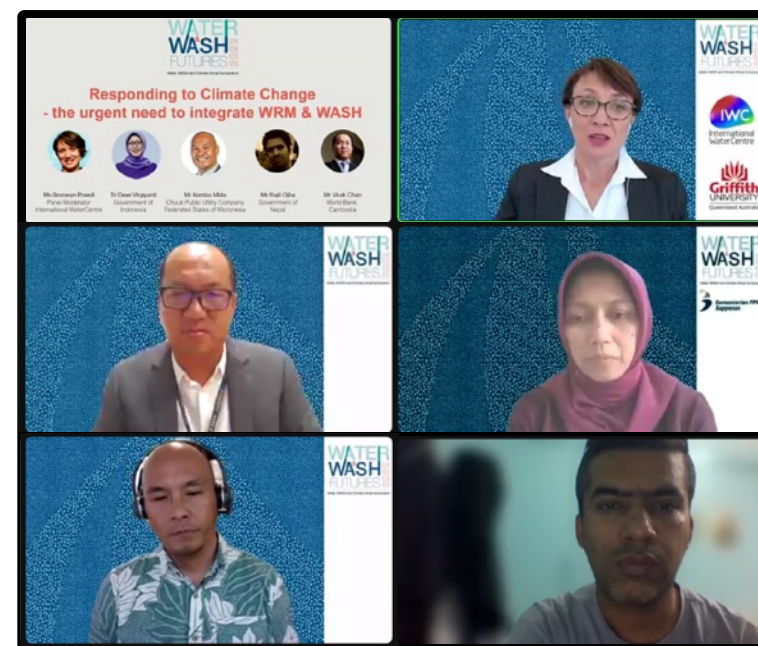
Virak Chan, Water Resource Management Specialist at the World Bank Group's Global Water Practice based in Cambodia, emphasized the importance of local evidence of climate change and stories of the impact on people, which need to be used to inform policy. He suggested that solutions should not be too complex or scientific, but rather to be useful they need to be actionable by local people. Mr Chan shared the example of the Cambodia Water Policy Forum that is designed to support the dialogue and coordination between WRM and WASH sectors.

Kembo Mida, Chief Operating Officer, Chuuk Public Utility Corporation, Federated States of Micronesia, shared his personal experience running a restaurant that is facing operational challenges due to droughts and heavy rains for short periods. He discussed the pressing impacts of king tides on communities and freshwater shortages on ships that catch tuna. "We need to switch from having reactive policy-makers to involvement and working together" said Mr Mida.

Tri Dewi Virgiyanti, Director of Housing and Settlements, Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning, shared that by 2024 there will be water scarcity in most areas of Indonesia, and the most impacted will be the poor, namely coastal and urban poor.

"Coordination, integration, collaboration are not easy approaches... There are drivers to do so though. We need to solve for what the impacts are on both sides - WASH and WRM. With the evidence we can convince [both sector] stakeholders" said Ms Virgiyanti.

Rajit Ojha, Section Chief – Department of Water Supply and Sewerage Management, Ministry of Water Supply, Government of Nepal, argued that data is important to our strategy to address climate change. He said, "investing in data pays back in terms of being able to address the impacts of climate change". With 753 local governments, he suggested that data collection approaches need to be integrated and incentivized.



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Monday 20 June | 2 - 3pm

NETWORKING SESSION

Facilitator: Rosie Sanderson, International WaterCentre

The purpose of the networking session was to give people the opportunity to meet other people working in the same place, sector and/or thematic area and to make it easy for people to do so. The session was divided into two rounds (2:00-2:30pm and 2:30-3:00pm). Rosie Sanderson from IWC hosted the introduction to the session outlining the tables per region in the first round, and per topic in the second round.

The networking session was run via the interactive REMO platform. Many attendees were familiar with the platform having used it during the WASH & COVID-19 symposium in 2021. Participants joined tables and moved around to talk with other attendees. An example of table discussing the experience of women working in WASH and WRM is shown below.



Monday 20 June | 3 - 5pm

THEMATIC SESSION

FRAMEWORKS TO MANAGE CLIMATE RISKS TO WASH AND WATER RESOURCES

Convened by UNICEF and ADB

Facilitator: Brooke Yamakoshi, UNICEF

In the thematic session convened by ADB and UNICEF four speakers shared different climate resilient water or WASH framework resources and examples of their application.

1

Christian Walder, ADB and Lachlan Guthrie, IWC, shared the Asian Water Development Outlook 2020.

2

Silvia Gaya, UNICEF, presented the GWP/UNICEF Strategic Framework for WASH Climate Resilience and then Tri Dewi Virgiyanti, Government of Indonesia shared their climate change and urban sanitation experience, and Suranga de Silva, UNICEF Timor-Leste shared the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool. Maraita Listyasari, WASH Specialist, UNICEF, Indonesia shared the importance of inclusion in adapting the framework to the local context.

3

Charles Rodgers, ADB, shared ADB's Climate Risk Management Framework, as well as introduced ADB's Guidelines for Climate Proofing Investment in the Water Sector: Water Supply and Sanitation.

4

Andrew Warren, Deltares, shared their Dynamic Adaptive Policy Pathways.



Mr Warren emphasized how the frameworks help practitioners to plan effectively:

“The aim is not to eliminate uncertainties, but the key is not to ignore them... Robust plans are plans that succeed regardless of how the future unfolds. We can successfully adapt our plan as the [climate] situation unfolds”



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Useful resources



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Tuesday 21 June | 12 - 2pm

THEMATIC SESSION

NATURE-BASED AND OTHER SUSTAINABLE WASH SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Convened by the WASH Reference Group

Facilitator: Melita Grant, ISF-UTS

Leah Sertorio, Engineers without Borders, outlined how nature-based solutions (NBSs) seek to jointly address the natural connections between systems. They offer inexpensive opportunities for communities when compared to conventional approaches. Ms Sertorio said that NBSs represent a practical means to address climate change.

Participants heard from five speakers followed by a panel Q&A. Amelia Wenger, Wildlife Conservation Society shared her fascinating experience of collaboration between conservation work, particularly marine conservation, and WASH. She said,

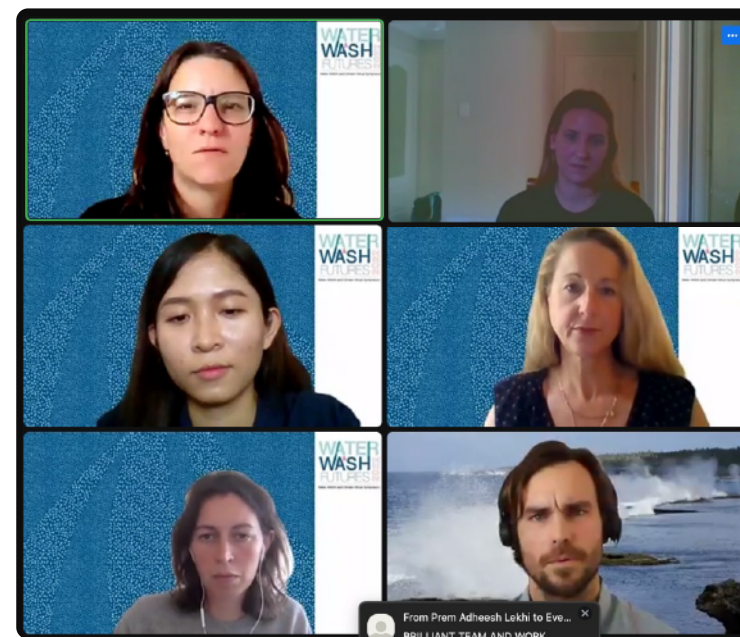
"It is estimated to cost USD \$17 billion a year in economic losses because of marine pollution. In order to mitigate the impact that our human activities have on marine life, we cannot only focus on conservation actions in the marine areas only."

She spoke of the important connection between public health and ecosystems and natural partnership between conservation and WASH/WRM because of mutual goals.

Ed Rowe, ARUP, shared the experience of the Tonga Climate and Multi-hazard Disaster Risk Assessment for Tongatapu, Tonga as part of the Pacific Disaster Resilience Program. He spoke about the process of digital mapping, including 8,000 buildings in the area and applying machine learning and modeling to estimate asset exposure and vulnerability to various climate change hazards and the resulting potential financial loss. ARUP found that pluvial flood was the highest impact for potential losses. Because of the flat topography pluvial flood was common across the island which resulted in more frequent smaller losses.

Emily Darlison and Kerry Burge, RISE, shared experience and lessons of their RISE project in Fiji and Indonesia. They discussed the importance of a participatory approach in their work which resulted in successful GEDSI outcomes.

Mariny Chheang, Engineers without Borders Cambodia, shared their experience of the Rehabilitation of Rural Water Supply and Climate Change: Kratie Province, Cambodia. Through analysis of the situation in Kratie Province they developed a climate resilient WASH program to install good quality pipes, increase the power capacity of the solar system, replace the broken plastic tank and raw water pump and improve water quality through better water treatment system.



Australian
WASH
Reference Group

 **engineers
without borders
australia**

 **Wildlife
Conservation
Society**

ARUP

 **MONASH
University**



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ADB thread

Tuesday 21 June | 2.30 - 4.30pm

THEMATIC SESSION

BUILDING EQUALITY INTO CLIMATE RESILIENCE - THE CRITICAL CASE FOR GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN WASH & WRM

Convened by DFAT & Water for Women, WaterAid

Facilitator: Rosie Wheen, WaterAid

The equality thematic session opened with a compelling address by Christine Clarke, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls. Ms Clarke said “building climate resilience into our work and everyday lives becomes more critical with each passing day.”

Participants then heard from Noeline Nabulivu, DIVA for Equality, who provided brilliant insights in her keynote address on equality as a movement and her work as a Pacific feminist including action research, policy advocacy and systems change. Ms Nabulivu said

“Pacific women face double the rates of gender violence than other parts of the world. In order to work on gender in these circumstances we have to reaffirm our commitment to upholding human rights. We have to recognise that gender is a core organising principle that structures and organises our lives.”

Shreya Gyawali, AWP, shared that millions of vulnerable people face disproportionate challenges, not only in terms of extreme events, but also with food, livelihoods and water security. Sharon Pondros, WaterAid PNG, shared lessons from the development of an inclusive WASH and climate adaptation framework from their Water for Women project. Sabitra Dhakal, GESI Advisor, SNV Nepal argued that those whose voices are heard and whose problems are shared provide local government with the tools and information to make the right decisions around water and WASH. Jose Mott, Water for Women, presented an overview of Water for Women’s gender equality and social inclusion work and forthcoming guidance for partnerships between WASH and rights-holder organisations. Sue Cavill spoke about Water for Women’s forthcoming guidance on social norms and WASH.

Following the presentations and Q&A, there was a panel session with Katharine Cross, Strategy & Partnerships Lead, AWP, Navara Kiene, Director of Programs, WaterAid PNG, Angelica Salele, Coordinator Pacific MHH Network and Ugyen Wangchuk, SNV Bhutan. The panel discussed the importance of building resilience at the community level, including vulnerable groups in decision-making, and empowering people by building the capacity of rights-holders.

Feedback from participants included: “fantastic and inspiring session, thank you to all speakers for sharing your expertise and personal experience with us”.



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Water for Women thread

Wednesday 22 June | 12 - 2pm

THEMATIC SESSION

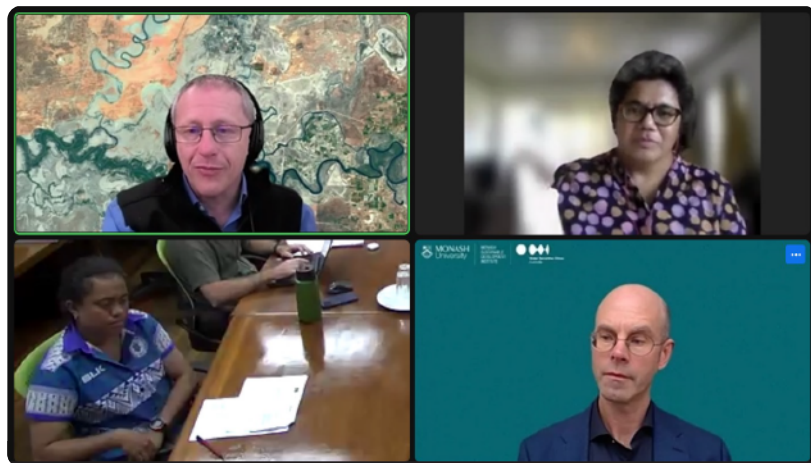
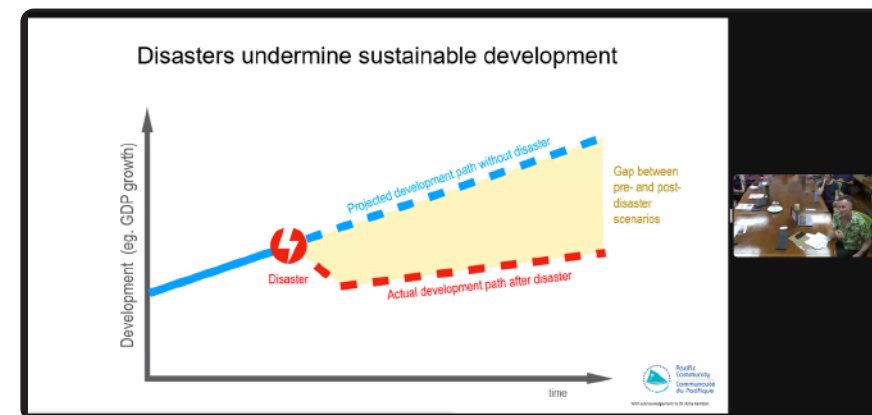
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TO ALLEVIATE WATER-MEDIATED DISASTERS

Convened by SPC, Alluvium, and the Australian Water Partnership

Facilitator: Litea Biukoto, SPC

Dave Hebblethwaite, SPC, gave a sobering presentation about the challenges of climate hazards facing the Pacific region. He referenced the World Risk Report that identifies Pacific Island countries as the top 3 in terms of exposure to risk. He explained SPC's analysis on the impact of climate hazards in terms of lives lost, impact on people, damage to houses and economic losses. He posed the question to participants "Where would this region be if it weren't for the constant impact of hazards on our lives and economies? And what role does water management play?"

Dr Niladri Gupta, Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, shared a case study on climate informed water accounting: a framework for water management in Bangladesh. Peter Sinclair, SPC, used a case study in Kiribati, South Tarawa of Bonriki Water Reserve referencing the challenge of maintaining fresh potable water in the reserve particularly during the last two years of drought. Viliame Vereivalu, Fiji Meteorological Services, shared the Fiji flood early warning system. Ani Tamata, Fiji Mineral Resources Department, shared a wonderful video on improving groundwater resilience in the Yaro village.



Ben Furmage, Monash University, shared two case studies on valuing the benefits of Nature-based solutions for Integrated Urban Flood Management in the Mekong Region. He highlighted how NBSs have multiple values at a range of scales (such as small scale, precinct and city scale). NBSs can build social connections which are determining factors in community resilience and capacity to respond and recover from disasters and hazards. Dave Winfield, Alluvium Consulting, spoke about river basin planning and the importance of engagement stakeholders and the community in the process.

Simon Tilleard, Alluvium Consulting, and Rohan Kent, AWP, summarized the session and provided key takeaways emphasizing the importance of science being accessible and relatable to all communities, bringing people along on the journey, and using WRM as a way to manage complex issues and disaster prevention strategies.



MINERAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT



MONASH University



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Wednesday 22 June | 2.30 - 4.30pm
SPECIAL SESSION

THIS IS WATER, WASH & CLIMATE: STORIES FROM PRACTICE

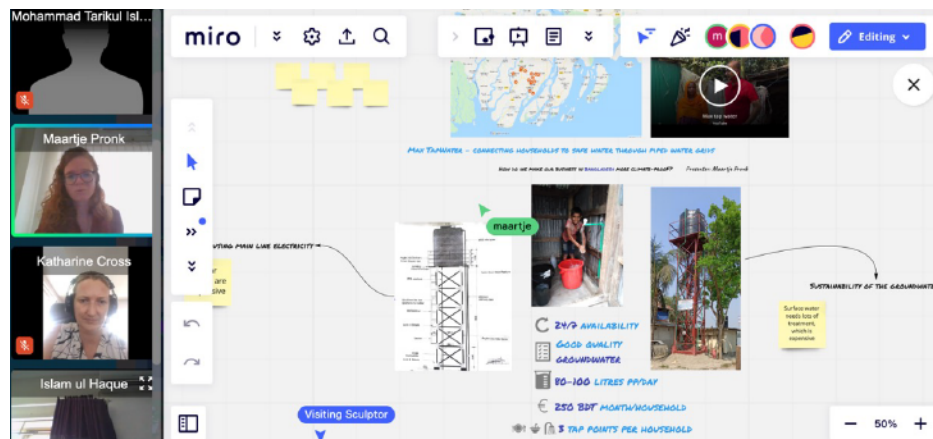
Facilitator: Dr Regina Souter, IWC and Sarah Ransom, AWP

This unique session provided participants with a virtual exhibition of stories from practice. Hosted on the REMO platform, over 40 Story Hosts shared 28 stories providing the over 100 participants with first-hand experience with their WASH and /or WRM work. Story Hosts used different formats including videos, pictures, whiteboards and presentations to share their work.

Water for Women said,

"We heard about brilliant human-centered design collaboration between @PlanIndonesia, Universitas Nusa Cendana & a local RHO, UKM Jensi-Women to create a climate-resilient, accessible & scalable toilet prototype in #Indonesia" and...

"We heard from @PlanAustralia #PNG on their experience and lessons in engaging communities on climate resilient #watermanagement and #WASH in the Autonomous Region of #Bougainville, PNG".



Wednesday 22 June | 4 - 5.30pm

EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONAL SESSION

THE CLIMATE CRISIS, WASH AND WATER SECURITY: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF EARLY CAREER PROFESSIONALS IN TACKLING THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY AND THE FUTURE?

Convened by ISF-UTS, Asia Pacific Climate Partnership & WaterAid

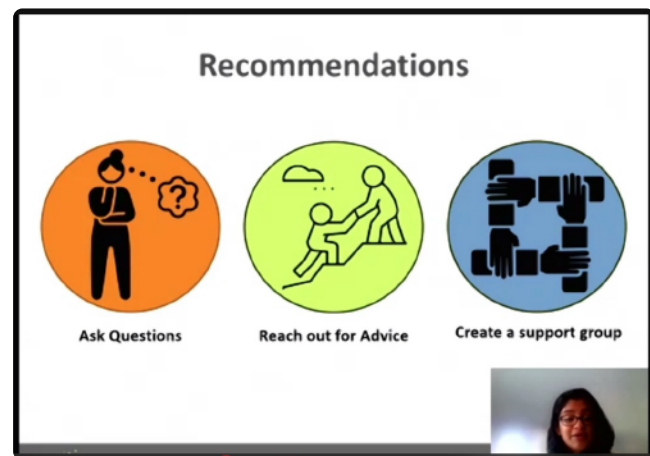
Facilitator: Tanvi Oza, WaterAid

The Early Career Professional session kicked off when an engaging round of water trivia. Many participants expressed surprise at the fact that 66% of world's population will be living in water stressed areas by 2025.

Three young professionals shared their career experience including skills they had developed, challenges faced and recommendations for other young professionals. Tema Wickham, Plan International Solomon Islands, shared key skills that helped her in her WASH career including strong communications, work ethic, time management, evidence gathering and critical thinking skills.

Neha Shetty, Alluvium Consulting, shared how she brought a fresh perspective to her projects. But also at times some challenges were imposter syndrome, lack of confidence, working efficiently in an interdisciplinary team.

Det Mouykeang, member of the Young Professional Program from the Center for Sustainable Water in Cambodia, shared recommendations that included join a WASH System foundation course, be interactive, engaged and available.



The session then went into breakout groups to discuss how we can value and lower green-house gas emissions from WASH and WRM and what types of skills young professionals need to solve the climate-related WRM and WASH problems of the future. Participants discussed the importance of collecting data, reducing dependency on trucking in water during droughts, recycling nutrient rich wastewater for fertilizer to reduce dependency on imported fertilizer, storing water locally when available in the rainy season and strong governance processes.

Skills and opportunities required by young professionals in the future include networking, innovation and ideas and funding to test them, graduate and internship opportunities, mentoring and interdisciplinary training. Young professionals bring a high sense of urgency and inclusive mindsets to the table.



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Convened by the International WaterCentre and WaterAid

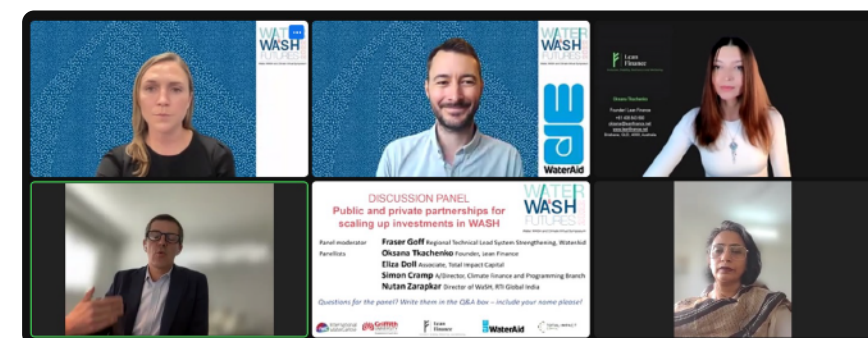
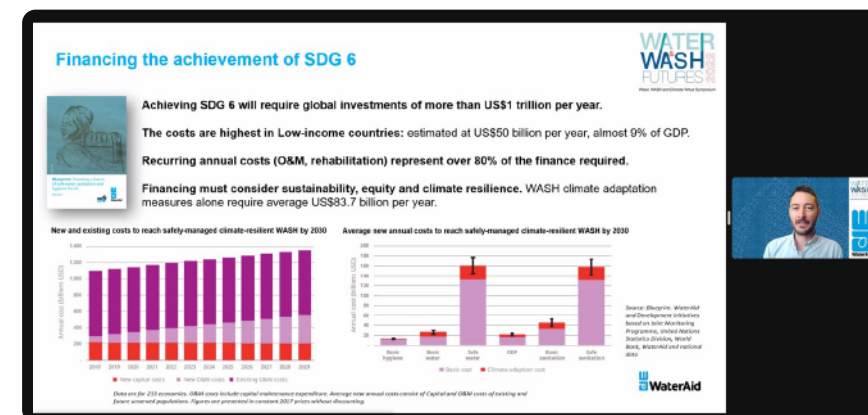
Facilitator: Regina Souter, IWC and Lean Finance

Fraser Goff, WaterAid, set the scene outlining the different types of finance (tariffs, taxes, transfers) available for SDG6. Drawing on Blueprint research he shared that \$US 1 trillion is required per year to meet SDG6, of which over 80% represent recurring annual costs.

Oksana Tkachenko, Lean Finance, shared that blended finance can fill the funding gap. The public sector can attract private sector funding, filling in the gaps and enabling WASH at a large scale, plus further leverage resources.

Eliza Doll, Total Impact Capital, gave a detailed case study of Azure Source Capital, a financing facility focused on filling a critical financing gap in the water sector in El Salvador. Ms Doll outlined that the initiative was built on partnerships (lenders, NGOs, development banks, local financial institutions, water utilities). While managing partnerships is a challenge, key ingredients for successful partnerships include regular communication (e.g. weekly meetings), continual communications with country managers, clear roles and responsibilities, and alignment around common vision on which the initiative was built.

A panel discussion included the three speakers, Simon Cramp, DFAT's Climate Finance and Programming Branch and Nutan Zarapkar, RTI Global India. The panel emphasized the importance of trust building, the need for everyone to have open minds and understand the types of risks that the private sector thinks about, and to build understanding of the WASH and regulatory environment.



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Thursday 23 June | 1 - 3pm

CLOSING PANEL

WHY AND HOW SHOULD WATER MANAGEMENT & WASH SECTOR ACTORS REACH OUT TO OTHER SECTORS?

Facilitator: Richard Damania, World Bank

The closing panel provided a rich opportunity for WASH and WRM practitioners to hear how other sectors are addressing climate change and how WASH and WRM can engage more effectively with other sectors. Four experts joined Richard Damania, World Bank, who emphasized the discussion about trust and aligning incentives when engaging people. The experts argued that there is a big need for the water sector to be much more front footed with the sectors that touch it and bring those sectors together for constructive dialogue.

Dr Tristan Armstrong, Senior Sector Specialist, Agricultural Development and Food Security, DFAT, shared an example of working with communities to lift the saline water out of the soil and to find efficient use of resources such as reverse osmosis desalination plants. Mr Armstrong said that managing water in a changing environment is critical for food security, water security and other outcomes. In Vietnam, the Mekong region is facing threats from climate change and insufficient water from upstream. The impacts can touch hundreds of millions of people due to the impact on rice production. Rice production is a major source of green house gas (GHG) emissions.

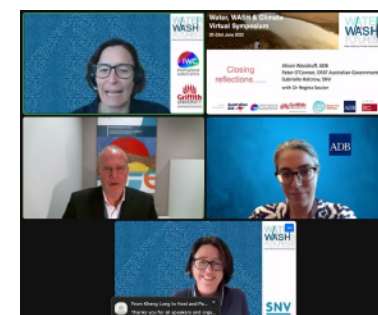
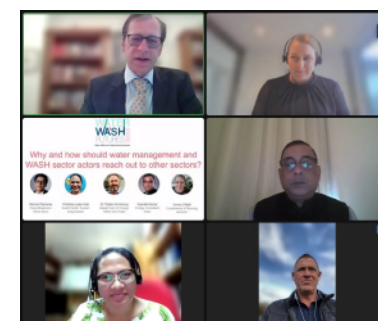
“We know from research and publicly funded initiatives that you can substantially reduce GHG emissions in rice through better water management. You can change fertilizer, varieties of rice that are planted and how you manage them to dramatically reduce the GHG emissions whilst improving yields” said Mr Armstrong.

To close the symposium we heard from Peter O'Connor, DFAT, Alison Woodruff, ADB and Gabrielle Halcrow, SNV, on their key takeaways from the whole symposium. Mr O'Connor highlighted the urgent need to address water scarcity. He cited the example from the opening panel: “although you read a lot about climate migration, but here’s a Senior Public Official telling us his fears that he and his family might become climate refugees” (in the Federated States of Micronesia). He also highlighted that given the challenges are interconnected, we need interdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration. Climate change is one such area of common ground as well as supporting communities. He also encouraged participants to support early career professionals who bring fresh perspectives and a sense of urgency.

Alison Woodruff, ADB, summarized that it is clear that if policy makers and practitioners want to build water security and resilience, they can not work in silos. WASH needs to be considered in nature-based solutions and disaster risk management. She said that participants heard this week good examples of how we can work together through conscious and sustained efforts, as well as lessons to build on. Climate change is the push to work together. She said that forums such as this symposium are great at bringing people together to think about resilience.

Gabrielle Halcrow, SNV, highlighted the diversity of experience that was shared during the symposium, the sense of urgency to address climate change and how we are better when we work together. She said that voice was important, as well as data and evidence on progress on SDG6 and climate action. She commended the Stories session for bringing personal, practical experience to the forum.

Peter O'Connor thanked participants for their attendance and announced the forthcoming Water and WASH Futures: Achieving SDG 6 in a changing climate in Brisbane in February 2023.



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Useful resources



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PACIFIC HUB

For this event, with the support of Water for Women and partners, we organized two Pacific hubs where participants could gather to join the virtual symposium. Our hub partners, WaterAid in Papua New Guinea and the University of the South Pacific in Vanuatu, welcomed over 50 people. In addition, SPC hosted around 15 people at their office in Suva, Fiji, for the symposium. The opportunity for in person networking and the provision of reliable internet connection enabled strong participation.



PNG



Vanuatu



Partners



Sponsors



Water and WASH Futures Committee

Peter O'Connor | Conference Committee Chair, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Clarissa Brocklehurst | Conference Facilitator, Consultant

Regina Souter | Conference Director, IWC

Takara Morgan | Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Bilal Akbar | Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Kate Orr | Water for Women Fund

Bronwyn Powell | Independent

David Hebblethwaite | The Pacific Community (SPC)

Meredith Hickman | WaterAid Australia

Gabrielle Halcrow | SNV Netherlands Development Organisation

Isobel Davis | Consultant

Sarah Ransom | Australian Water Partnership

Shona Fitzgerald | World Bank

Jeremy Kohlitz | Institute for Sustainable Futures

Hannah Barrowman | Asia Pacific Climate Partnership

Geoff Wilson | Asian Development Bank

Simon Tilleard | Alluvium

Gaetano Romano | Engineers without Borders

Brooke Yamakoshi | UNICEF

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