

Health Related Water Microbiology Specialist Group Newsletter

Volume 28 – December 2024

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Dear colleagues and friends,

We all need to talk, in fact, we need to keep talking, sharing experiences and knowledge, every day more, to move forward in the transition to a sustainable, safe, and equitable world. Our goals are focused on developing safe and sustainable

water management systems and protocols and continuing to improve sanitation in line with the SDGs. As the proud Chair of the Health-Related Water Microbiology Specialist Group, I would like to say that the group is an exceptional community of water professionals and scientists with a high level of commitment, excellence and values, as we see in all the organized activities in the SG and the many awards our community accumulates. At the last IWA WWC&E in Toronto, Prof. Regina Sommer from the Medical University of Vienna was appointed IWA Fellow, and the 2024 IWA Global Water Award was awarded to Prof. Joan B. Rose, Homer Nowlin Endowed Chair in Water Research, Michigan State University. Congratulations!

During the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition in Toronto, Canada, in August 2024, we had the opportunity to meet many SG members and to participate in very interesting scientific sessions organized by the HRWM SG and the Wastewater-Based Epidemiological Surveillance Cluster. During the open meeting of the HRWM SG, which was also available online,

we reviewed the work done in the past and collected interesting proposals for the future; proposals from the YWPs were particularly inspiring. In this meeting we were very pleased to officially welcome the new Chinese national subgroup to the SG, HRWM-China, chaired by Prof. Gang Liu.

The IWA WWC&E 2024 was a conference where I had the privilege to participate in an intense agenda of meetings organized by the IWA. I would like to mention the Strategic Council Meeting to review the present, the strategic plans and the role of the organization in the future. And the SG Leader's Forum with the main objective of uniting the IWA Specialized Groups to improve cooperation and management, especially in relation to the issues of sustainable progress, inclusiveness and innovation in water management. I would like to mention here some points, some of them mentioned in the latest draft of the IWA Strategic Plan 2025-30, points that I think are particularly relevant for defining challenges and goals for the next future in the HRWM SG.

Climate change demands greater attention, its impacts are becoming more evident every day, and efforts must be redoubled to strengthen policy responses; the availability of safe drinking water is one of the key issues. The need for adaptation and mitigation measures to maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems and to provide safe water and adequate sanitation systems is growing. Meanwhile, the need to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions has strong implications for water management, and we should all contribute to achieving net zero carbon emissions. Energy, water and sanitation are inextricably linked to food security, health and education, and are therefore essential to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and environmental justice. IWA and HRWM SG have a vital contribution to make and should make our voice heard. We should be a leading organization of global change for sustainability.

Regarding our next planned meeting in 2025, I am also very happy to share the great expectations we have for WaterMicro25, the 22nd Health Related Water Microbiology Conference in Amersfoort (NL), June 15-20, 2025. The organization continues to prepare an unmissable event, scientifically important and promising to be a great social experience. The number and quality of the proposed scientific presentations are very high, which is a real promise of a very successful conference and an important step forward in our field.

I want to end this letter by thanking Maronel Steyn, member of the MC and Editor of our Newsletter, the Management Team, and the SG Management Committee for their generous efforts. I want to acknowledge the valuable support of the IWA in our efforts to join forces and talents to meet the current challenges. Please stay safe, connected, and inspired, and please be ambitious, we need you all to make progress on the important challenges we face and to build a safe and sustainable future.

Yours

Rosina Gironès
(IWA HRWM Chair)



HRWM SG at the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition, August 2024, Toronto, Canada

-Article contribution by Rosina Gironès

The 2024 World Water Congress and Exhibition (WWCE) was held from August 11-15, 2024 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto, Canada, and brought together 7,000 people from around the world. Our HRWM SG had significant individual contributions, and in addition to the HRWM SG open session, two excellent workshops were held in Toronto: "Use of genetic methods for microbial water quality testing: A global, water industry-wide survey", chaired by Professors Andreas Farnleitner and Joan Rose, reviewing the results of an international survey; and a workshop of the Wastewater-Based Epidemiological Surveillance Cluster, organized by Gertjan Medema, who leads the HRWM Cluster subgroup, entitled "Public Health Value From Wastewater", with participation from public health agencies from different countries and very useful discussions on the needs identified by public health agencies to be considered in wastewater-based epidemiologic programs.

The HRWM SG Open Meeting was a warm and intense reunion, attended by many members of the group and some interested IWA attendees. We presented information on the history and structure of our HRWM SG and the actions developed during the last year, with some moments dedicated to the memory of Prof. Willie Grabow, a much-loved Honorary President of the HRWM SG, who unfortunately passed away this year.

The SG warmly welcomed the new China Group on HRWM, presented by Gang Liu, who described the activities organized in China to promote the establishment of the China Chapter of the IWA HRWM SG, with the participation of Gertjan Medema and Joan Rose.



HRWM Specialist Group Members that attended the Open Meeting

We are very proud to announce that two members of the HRWM SG have been honored at the IWA WWC&E Conference for their outstanding achievements. We are very pleased to congratulate Prof. Joan Rose on her IWA Global Water Award and Prof. Regina Sommer on her election as IWA Fellow 2024. Tom Mollenkopf, who has been a brilliant IWA President and a strong supporter of the HRWM SG, presented the awards.

Professor Joan Rose has been selected as the winner of the prestigious 2024 Global Water Award of the International Water Association (IWA). The Global Water Award recognizes exceptional individuals who, through their innovative leadership and practice, have made an outstanding contribution to the progress towards a world in which water is wisely managed. Professor Joan Rose, a very dedicated leader in the HRWM SG and an international authority on water microbiology, water quality and public health safety, co-directs both MSU's Center for Advancing Microbial Risk Assessment (CAMRA) and Center for Water Sciences (CWS). Joan has chaired the IWA Specialist Group on Health-Related Water Microbiology, is a Distinguished Fellow, served on the Board of Directors from 2016 to 2021, and chaired the IWA COVID-19 Task.



Professor Joan Rose receiving the IWA Global Water Award from IWA President Tom Mollenkopf.

Professor Regina Sommer, Head of the Department of Water Hygiene at the Institute of Hygiene and Applied Immunology (Center for Pathophysiology, Infectiology and Immunology) at the Medical University of Vienna, has been elected IWA Fellow. IWA Fellows are leading personalities who have made outstanding contributions to the field of water and to IWA. Regina Sommer has been head of the Water Hygiene Research Unit at the Institute of Hygiene and Applied Immunology in Vienna since 1998, where she established the accredited Vienna Hygiene Testing and Inspection Centre in 2004. Together with Andreas Farnleitner (TU Vienna, KL Krems), she is co-director of the Interuniversity Cooperation Center (ICC) Water and Health, which she co-founded and which was established between MedUni Vienna, TU Vienna and Karl Landsteiner University Krems.



Professor Regina Sommer receiving the appointment as Fellow from IWA President Tom Mollenkopf

At the end of the conference, Professor Hamanth Kasan took over as President of the IWA Association. He succeeds Tom Mollenkopf. Professor Kasan is an Honorary Professor at the Institute of Water and Wastewater Research and an IWA Distinguished Fellow, and has developed IWA's role in the African region, promoting inclusiveness and growth within the sector.

As a SG we now look forward to WaterMicro25, the 22nd edition of the International Water Association's Health-Related Water Microbiology Specialist Group in the Netherlands, as a new opportunity for exchange, knowledge, experiences, projects and friendship.

Invitation from the WaterMicro2025 Team

-Article contribution by WaterMicro25 Organising Committee

The preparation for Watermicro2025 is well underway. We are thrilled to see how many of you have submitted an abstract or workshop proposal. We received 480 abstracts and 15 workshop proposals! And 216 of these abstracts are submitted by young water professionals. The abstract and workshop submission is now closed. As we write this, the reviews are finalised by the 81 members of the Scientific Review Committee and the Scientific Program Committee is working hard to generate a high-quality, attractive and well-balanced program for the Watermicro2025 conference. The excursions are finalised and the social events are in preparation. As you can read, this is an effort of many HRWM members, and we are thankful for the contributions of so many. You can visit Watermicro2025.nl to find information about the conference.



There are two submission options still open for you:

- **Creative presentations**

We are very excited to invite you to present your research in a creative way, for instance in the form of dance, singing, rapping, instrumental, or even comedy... You can do this presentation individually or in a group. You can submit your creative presentation via the link on Watermicro2025.nl. The deadline for submission is January 26, 2025.

- **Microbe art contest**

Microbiology is beautiful, and as microbiology scientists we create beauty in many forms. Please share your most beautiful graphical abstract, photo or micro-photo, phylogenetic tree, heat map, agar art, drawing,, anything associated with health-related water microbiology. We will select the best artwork to put on display at the Watermicro2025 conference. The best three will also be displayed on the Watermicro2025 website and the winner will receive a gift card at the conference. You can submit your microbe art via the link on Watermicro2025.nl. The deadline for submission is May 1, 2025.

The early-bird registration is already open and can be accessed via the following link: Watermicro2025.nl.

The WaterMicro25 host city, Amersfoort has been elected as the European city of the year: click [here](#) for a preview.

We hope to see you all in Amersfoort in June 2025!

OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATION for IWA HRWM Vice-Chair

The IWA Health-Related Water Microbiology (HRWM) Specialist Group (SG) is inviting applications for the election of a Vice-Chair, who will be elected for one term (2 years), and then become Chair (2 years) and Past-Chair (2 years).

The main duties of the Vice-Chair:

- To take care of the daily business of running the SG.
- To support the Chair in every issue for fostering SG activities.
- To be the second contact person for IWA.

How to apply?

If you would like to apply, please submit a **5-page max. curriculum vitae** and a **letter of motivation** describing your involvement with the IWA and/or Specialist Groups and how you aim to serve the group. Please submit your application to the IWA HRWM SG Secretary, Ricardo Santos by **February 28, 2025**.

ricardosantos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt

After the applications/nominations are received, IWA will prepare a ballot form with the nominees' names and will distribute it to all the HRWM colleagues for voting.

More information about the HRWM SG group, please visit here:

<https://iwa-network.org/groups/health-related-water-microbiology/>

<https://hrwm-watermicro.com/hrwmgroup/>

For questions, please E-mail the IWA HRWM SG Secretary:

(ricardosantos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt).

To find out more about IWA Specialist Groups and how you can manage and engage, you can consult the [IWA Specialist Group on IWA Connect](#). See under "About this Group" and "Pages" tab where you will find info on engagement, group management, FAQs and more. **You have to be logged in to IWA Connect and join the group to view the content.**

OPEN CALL FOR APPLICATION for IWA HRWM Management Committee (MC) Members

The IWA Health-Related Water Microbiology (HRWM) Specialist Group (SG) is inviting applications for the election of its Management Committee (MC) members. Four seats (Africa, Asia, Australia, and North America) are available this time.

The current Management members will be able to re-nominate themselves as well to express their interests to continue.

Also, separate from the above seven seats for HRWM MC, we will newly prepare three seats for IWA Young Water Professionals.

Each MC member will be elected for one term (4 years).

The main duties of the MC:

- Strategically coordinate and manage the activities of the HRWM group
- Contribution to the HRWM group website
- Updating and monitoring the group space within IWA Connect
- Lead/Help in the organization of the specialized conferences as a member of the program committee or organizing committee.
- Attend regularly the MC meetings (physically or online) and group members open meetings during conferences.
- Act as ambassadors for the HRWM group (and IWA) to the countries in the region they represent and help to recruit new members to the group
- Seek to identify and appoint individuals to act as national representatives for the group in countries within their region
- Encourage the involvement of young professionals in the HRWM group's activities
- Assist IWA in the strategic planning and development of the Association's programme of activities
- Elect the Management team and make appointments for specific positions necessary to fulfill the objectives of the group

How to apply?

If you would like to apply, please submit a **5-page max. curriculum vitae** and a **letter of motivation** describing your involvement with the IWA and/or Specialist Groups and how you aim to serve the group. Please submit your application to the IWA HRWM SG Secretary, Ricardo Santos by **February 28, 2025**. ricardosantos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt

After the applications/nominations are received, IWA will prepare a ballot form with the nominees' names and will distribute it to all the HRWM colleagues for voting.

More information about HRWM SG group, please visit here: <https://iwa-network.org/groups/health-related-water-microbiology/> or <https://hrwm-watermicro.com/hrwmgroup/>

For questions, please E-mail IWA HRWM SG Secretary, Ricardo Santos (ricardosantos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt).

To find out more about IWA Specialist Groups and how you can manage and engage, you can consult the [IWA Specialist Group on IWA Connect](#). See under "About this Group" and "Pages" tab where you will find info on engagement, group management, FAQs and more. **You have to be logged in to IWA Connect and join the group to view the content.**

Call to Host WaterMicro 2027

(Closing Date 30 April, 2025)

Health-Related Water Microbiology (HRWM) is one of the Specialist Groups of the International Water Association (IWA). Our group was the first of the specialist groups, installed in 1977 as Water Virology Specialist Group (within the former IAWPRC). The Specialist Group is a forum for the exchange of scientific information in the field of health-related water microbiology. This encompasses many fields of expertise: from environmental to clinical virology, bacteriology and parasitology, from infectious diseases epidemiology to risk assessment methodology; from water treatment engineering to environmental health practice.

The IWA SG on HRWM organizes the international symposium biennially and our members play a key role in deciding on the venue and planning the symposia. We cordially invite our SG members to propose venues to host WaterMicro2027. In order to host the conference, it is necessary to ensure you can provide the following:

- Team (including experience running conferences)
- Suitable venues and facilities for the conference session for about 300 participants.
- What country can offer (water issues/experience/differences)
- How above fits into global HRWM
- Hotel accommodation for approximately 300 participants.
- Meals (i.e. coffee/tea breaks and lunch) for approximately 300 participants.
- A social-cultural programme.

The venue for WaterMicro2025 will be decided by a vote in the open business meeting during WaterMicro2025 at Amersfoort, Netherlands. HRWM Management committee will ask the applicants to give invitation speech prior to the vote.

Host candidate Information

Full Name of Applicant:

_____ Title/Profession: _____

Institution/Affiliation _____

Postal Address : _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature:

Printed Name:

Date:

Applications should be submitted to the Secretary of HRWM SG via email (ricardosantos@tecnico.ulisboa.pt) by 30 April, 2025.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

HRWM Willie Grabow Young Investigator Award 2025

CLOSING DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 2025

NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Background

The IWA-HRWM Willie Grabow Young Investigator Award was officially announced in June 2009 during the 15th International Symposium on Health-Related Water Microbiology, WaterMicro 2009, in Naxos, Greece. Professor Willie Grabow, a brilliant environmental virologist, dedicated part of his professional life to implementing the IWA and specialist group concept and giving technical and scientific support to developing countries in the environmental microbiology field. He continues to inspire emerging scientists and has been appointed as Honorary President of our HRWM SG. The award, generously sponsored by IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. is presented in conjunction with the SG HRWM Symposia.

Objective

The IWA-HRWM Willie Grabow Young Investigator Award is made for the purpose of assisting and encouraging young scientists, who are doing outstanding research in the field of health-related water microbiology, specifically in developing countries.

Award

The award consists of a travel support grant (EUR 4.000) and a free registration fee for the HRWM Symposium the year of the award. In addition, a plaque will be presented to the recipient at the Symposium's Gala dinner. The Award winner will be asked to give a presentation on their work applicable to developing countries during the Symposium.

Nomination Process

A candidate must be nominated. Nominators may be HRWM members, schools or other organizations involved in the Health-Related Water Microbiology field.

Selection Criteria

Candidates need not be a current Member of IWA, although they should preferably have some past involvement in the HRWM Specialist Group and are encouraged to become an IWA member.

To be eligible for the Award, a nominee shall not be older than 35 years (year of birth 1988 or later).

Candidates conducting research in a developing country will have advantage in the selection process. Research published in peer-reviewed journal(s) will be considered an advantage in the selection process.

Evaluation Process

Award Submissions will be received by the Coordinator of the Award Committee. Submissions will be compiled/organized and distributed for review by the Committee. Candidates not in compliance with application rules will be disqualified. The selection criteria will drive the evaluation process. In judging the candidates' research the originality shown and the major contributions in the area of health-related water microbiology will be considered. Results of the application will be sent to the applicants. The decision of the Award Committee will be final.

Award Committee

- Bettina Genthe, South Africa (Coordinator)
- Andreas Farnleitner, Austria

- Alexandria B. Boehm, USA

Deadlines

Application Deadline: 28 February, 2025

Award Notification: 31 March, 2025

Applications should include the following:

- Completed Nomination Form – <https://hrwm-watermicro.com/2022/12/23/call-for-applications-willie-grabow-young-investigatoraward-2025/>
- At least one letter of support, giving the basis for nomination and supporting the qualifications on research on which the nomination is based.
- Curriculum vitae of the nominee.

Willie Grabow Young Investigator Award 2025 Application form

Full Name of Applicant:

Title/Profession:

Institution/Affiliation:

Date of Birth:

Citizenship:

Postal Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Nominator Information

Full name of Nominator:

Title/Profession:

Institution/Affiliation:

Date of Birth:

Citizenship:

Postal Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

I testify that this nominee fulfills the requirements for this award and that all required documents have been supplied to the committee.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Date:

Curriculum Vitae: Enclose a current CV for the candidate.

Letter(s) of Support

Enclose at least one letter in support of the nomination, testifying the contributions of the candidate to the Health-Related Water Microbiology field and work in developing countries if applicable.

Application documents must be submitted to the coordinator of the Award Committee member via e-mail by 28 February 2025: bettinagenthe@gmail.com, with cc of andreas.farnleitner@kl.ac.at and aboehm@stanford.edu

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Huw Taylor Prize 2025

CLOSING DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 2025

NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Background

The Health-Related Water Microbiology (HRWM) Specialist Group of the International Water Association (IWA) decided to honour Prof. Huw Taylor, who sadly passed away in 2017 by establishing a continuing award, to be presented in his name every two years to a deserving investigator. Huw's outstanding research was instrumental to the development of Microbial Source Tracking (MST) as a scientific method and its application as a tool to identify contamination sources. His work pioneered MST in developed and developing settings, from monitoring contamination sources in river and marine systems in the UK and Europe, to mapping and managing disease transmission in urban slums in Kolkata, India. His research legacy has provided water and sanitation solutions in Haïti, West Africa, Brazil, Malawi, Kenya, Nepal and India. He assisted the NGO Médecins Sans Frontières in Haïti during the cholera outbreak that followed the 2010 earthquake to design a safe treatment system for cholera hospital wastewaters. He coordinated an international WHO expert team to advise on the sanitation response in the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014-2016. However, his lasting legacies go beyond the novel low-cost excreta disinfection approaches and MST tools he developed to the scores of students, early career researchers he supervised, mentored and supported during his lifetime.

It was the HRWM Board's unanimous decision to award **Professor Huw Taylor with the first prize 2017 in research in Thailand** Darwin (2023).



The first 'Huw Taylor Prize' 2017 awarded in memory of Prof. Huw Taylor at the 20th HRWM Symposium, Vienna, Austria (Photo Credit SG HRWM)

Huw Taylor Prize

Objective

To assist and encourage outstanding research in the field of Health-Related Water Microbiology that provides water and/or sanitation solutions in emergency and/or low-income settings.

Criteria

- Nominees may be students and researchers that have produced outstanding research in the field of HRWM to provide water and/or sanitation solutions in emergency and/or low-income settings.

- Nominees have conducted research in the abovementioned settings and the research has led to (or is leading to) tangible solutions in water and/or sanitation to improve the health of vulnerable populations.
- Nominees are normally expected to have published their research in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Nominees must be members in good standing of the IWA-HRWM Specialist Group.

Nominating Process

- Candidates may be nominated by IWA-HRWM members, their institution of higher learning, or other organization involved in the HRWM field.
- Nominations must include the name, address, educational background, relevant employment history, and HRWM experience of the nominee.
- Nominations must include a narrative summary, not to exceed two typed pages, supporting the qualifications of the nominee and the basis for the nomination.
- The HRWM Huw Taylor Prize selection committee must receive nominations by the 28th February 2025 prior to the 22nd HRWM WaterMicro Conference (15-20 June 2025, in Amersfoort, Netherlands).

Selection Process

- A standing committee to be known as the Huw Taylor Prize Committee will review nominations for the award and will make a selection known to the HRWM Board.

Nature of Prize

- The award will consist of an engraved glass trophy, a framed certificate identifying the recipient, and a stipend for registration costs associated with the IWA-HRWM Specialist Group meeting scheduled for the year of award.
- Huw Taylor Prize recipients are expected to give a presentation on their work during the meeting for which they receive the award.

Prize jury

- Prof Nicholas Ashbolt (Chair), Australia
- Prof Kwanrawee Sirikanchana, Thailand
- Prof James Ebdon (Secretary), UK
- Prof Gertjan Medema, Netherlands

Deadlines

Application Deadline: 28 February 2025

Award Notification: 31 March 2025

Applications should include the following:

- Completed Nomination Form: <https://hrwm-watermicro.com/2022/12/23/call-for-applications-huw-taylor-prize-2025/>
- At least one letter of support, giving the basis for nomination and supporting the qualifications on research on which the nomination is based (free format).
- Curriculum vitae of the nominee (free format).

Applications must be submitted to the Secretary of the Prize Jury Prof James Ebdon via email (je3@brighton.ac.uk) by 28 February 2025.

Huw Taylor Prize 2025 Application form

Full Name of Applicant:

Title/Profession:

Institution/Affiliation:

Date of Birth:

Citizenship:

Postal Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Nominator Information

Full name of Nominator:

Title/Profession:

Institution/Affiliation:

Date of Birth:

Citizenship:

Postal Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

I testify that this nominee fulfils the requirements for this award and that all required documents have been supplied to the committee.

Signature:

Printed Name:

Date:

Curriculum Vitae: Enclose a current CV for the candidate.

Letter(s) of Support

Enclose at least one letter in support of the nomination, testifying the contributions of the candidate to the Health-Related Water Microbiology field and work in developing countries if applicable.

Application documents must be submitted to the Secretary of the Prize Jury James Ebdon via e-mail (je3@brighton.ac.uk) by 28 February 2025.

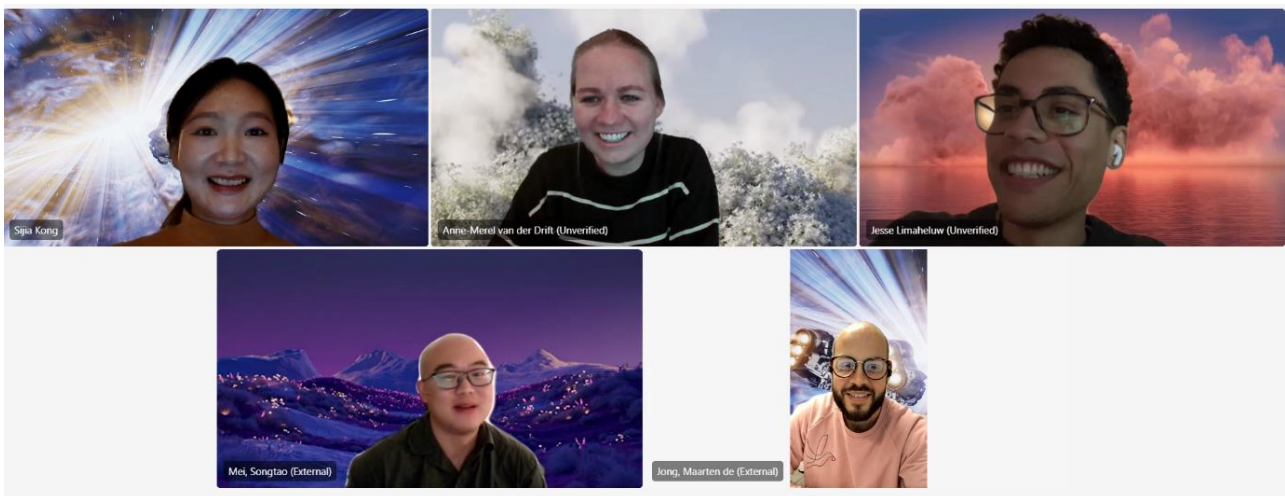
YWP and what to expect at WaterMicro2025 -

-Article contribution by WaterMicro25 Organising Committee

WaterMicro2025, our Specialist Groups' biannual international conference will take place from June 15-20 2025 in Amersfoort, the Netherlands. This year, the theme of the conference is "Safe water in a changing World" covering a variety of topics from global change and water safety to control options in a changing world. With over 200 abstracts submitted by Young Water Professionals (YWP), we are excited to welcome many YWPs to WaterMicro25.

The WaterMicro25 YWP committee consists of 5 PhD students currently working in the Netherlands with international conference participation and co-organization experience, who play an integral role in organizing the conference. We are hosting a series of activities designed for the next generation of water experts, from interactive workshops and career Q&A sessions to informal networking events like the YWP dinner. We are also supporting active YWP involvement throughout the program, as facilitators, keynote speakers, and panel members.

To facilitate pre-event and on-site communication, and connect with fellow YWPs joining the conference, we've established a public LinkedIn group: WaterMicro25 YWPs (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9881150/>), sharing updates, logistical assistance, and group discussions. We are excited to welcome YWPs from around the world to this dynamic event and to help them make the most of their WaterMicro25 experience!



(First row from left to right: Sijia Kong --- Delft University of Technology, Anne-Merel van der Drift --- Utrecht University and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Jesse Limaheluw --- Utrecht University and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM))

Second row from left to right: Songtao Mei --- Wageningen University, Maarten de Jong --- the Public Health Service (GGD) Amsterdam)

Thai Researchers Win UN Award for Innovative Pandemic Response

-Article contribution by Kwanrawee Joy Sirikanchana

A team of Thai researchers, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, has won the 2024 United Nations Public Service Award (UNPSA) for their innovative public health project called "Academic Insight into Action for Pandemic Response." This award was presented during the United Nations Public Service Forum held from June 24–26, 2024, in South Korea. The project focuses on using wastewater surveillance to monitor COVID-19 trends, demonstrating how academic research can be applied to real-life challenges to help communities respond more effectively to disease outbreaks. The project is the result of collaboration between researchers from several Thai institutions and the Ministry of Public Health. Key contributors include Chulalongkorn University (Dr. Jatuwat Sangsanont, Assoc. Prof. Nasamon Wanlapakorn, and Prof. Yong Poovorawan), the Chulabhorn Research Institute (Dr. Kwanrawee Sirikanchana, Ms. Montakarn Sresung, and Emeritus Prof. Skorn Mongkolsuk), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (Asst. Prof. Surapong Rattanakul), and Walailak University (Asst. Prof. Prasert Makkaew and Asst. Prof. Nopadol Precha). Their collaborative effort developed a wastewater surveillance system that not only tracks COVID-19 but can also be adapted for monitoring other infectious diseases.

This award highlights the success of Thailand's researchers and public health officials in tackling public health challenges through teamwork. The wastewater surveillance system plays a critical role in early outbreak detection and efficient resource allocation, serving as a model for addressing global health issues and demonstrating the power of interdisciplinary and government-academic collaboration.



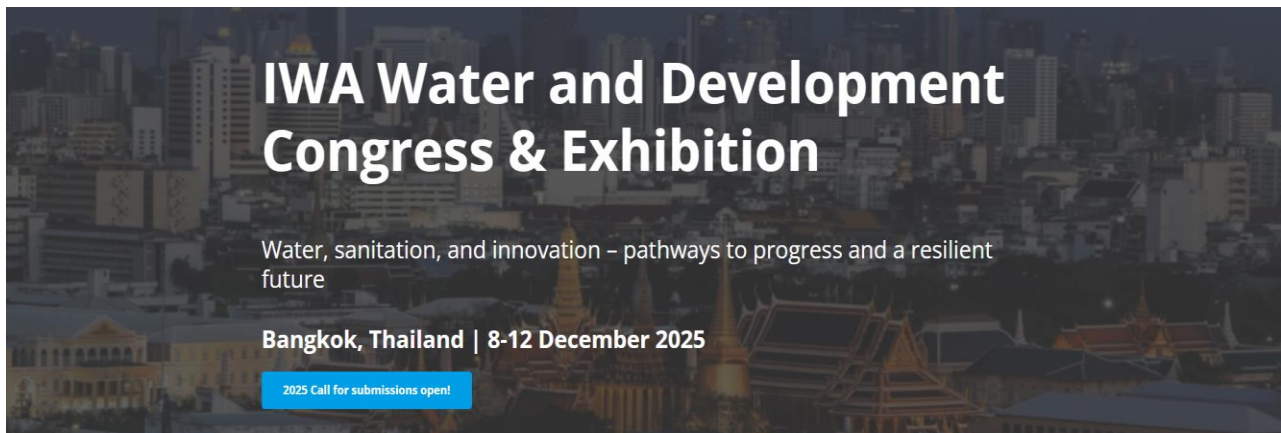
News from IWA Headquarters

IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition

Bangkok, Thailand - December 8th – December 12th, 2025

The International Water Association’s Water and Development Congress & Exhibition (WDCE) 2025 will once again deliver a comprehensive programme focused on the water-related needs of low- and middle-income countries. With an overarching theme of Water, sanitation, and innovation – pathways to progress and a resilient future, the 2025 edition will present solutions spanning water and sanitation services, the role of water in urban areas, the links between cities and basins, and the opportunities to achieve climate resilience. More information on

<https://waterdevelopmentcongress.org/>



The Call for Abstracts is Open for IWA-ASPIRE

Submitting an abstract for the IWA-ASPIRE Conference 2025 offers professionals in the water industry an exceptional chance to present their research, innovations, and best practices to a global audience.

The Call for Abstracts closes at 5pm **Friday, 24 January 2025**

Click here to learn more [IWA-ASPIRE Conference](#)

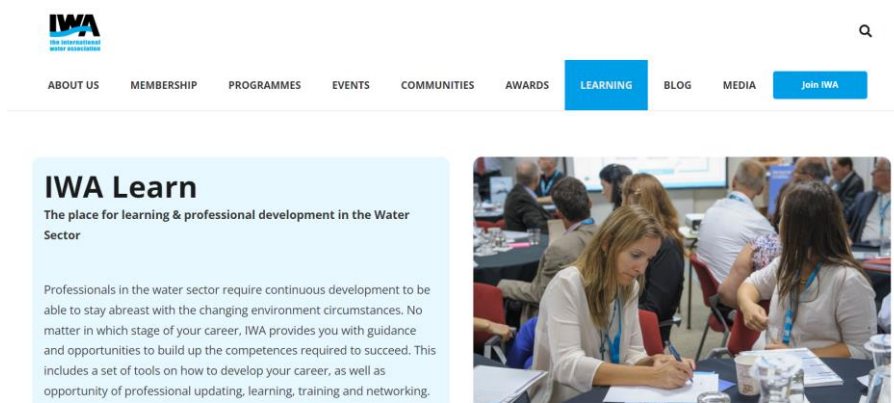


IWA LEARN

The place for learning & professional development in the water sector

Professionals in the water sector require continuous development to be able to stay abreast with the changing environment circumstances. No matter in which stage of your career, IWA provides you with guidance and opportunities to build up the competences required to succeed. This includes a set of tools on how to develop your career, as well as opportunity of professional updating, learning, training and networking.

To learn more, visit the IWA Learn platform: <https://iwa-network.org/iwa-learn/>



News from IWA Publishing

New and Relevant Books:

Sanitation for All: A Women's Perspective

By Blanca Elena Jiménez Cisneros, Akissa Bahri, Juliana Calabria de Araújo, Claudia Campos, María Luisa Castro de Esparza, Bettina Genthe, Paula Kehoe, Corinne Schuster-Wallace, Kwanrawee Sirikanchana, Maria Inês Zanoli Sato

Pushing the Paradigm of Global Water Security

Edited by Victoria Anker, Rachael Maysels, Maria Valasia Peppas

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New and Relevant Journal Articles:

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Shan Chen, Yuanzhao Ding

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