

Annual Review 2023

IWA
the international
water association





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Contents



| | |
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| IWA — a growing platform for global water engagement | 2 |
| Programmes | 4 |
| Events | 7 |
| <i>The Source Magazine</i> | 11 |
| Governing Members | 12 |
| Membership | 13 |
| IWA Publishing | 14 |
| Young Water Professionals (YWP) | 15 |
| IWA Awards | 16 |

IWA – a growing platform for global water engagement



Tom Mollenkopf
IWA President



Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy
IWA Executive Director

A successful year marked another significant chapter in IWA's journey, building on the excellent momentum we achieved in 2022 as the world emerged from the global pandemic.

A significant highlight was the Association's annual Governing Assembly, held this year in Bordeaux, France, in September. The Governing Assembly saw excellent participation and representation of its 61 Governing Members. The Governing Assembly's business included a vote on the next President of IWA. As a result of this vote, IWA welcomed Dr Hamanth Kasan of South Africa as its President-Elect. Dr Kasan will take up the role of President at the end of the World Water Congress & Exhibition in Toronto, Canada, in August 2024. Dr Kasan brings a wealth of experience, leadership, and international connections to the position, with involvement with the Association extending back some 35 years.

2023 saw the launch of IWA Connect Plus, our new membership platform, at the start of the year. Connect

Plus has been launched to support global networking, the hosting and sharing of thousands of items of content especially from IWA events, and the activities of member groups. Connect Plus features latest news on developments in the water sector across the globe and provides the opportunity for members to connect and share their expertise. Its use as the registration platform for key IWA events was also introduced during the year. In all, the platform gathered around 75,000 visits during its first year of use.

A standout event of the year was the 2023 IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition (WDCE) held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 10-14 December. With nearly 3000 water and development professionals, organisations, visitors, and companies in attendance, this Congress can be seen as IWA's most successful in this event series yet. Under the theme 'Water, sanitation, and climate resilience – keys to a water-wise future', the Congress provided an excellent platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. With a focus on low- and middle-





income countries, in particular addressing the pressing challenges in Africa, this event gave voice to local needs, the complexities of achieving access to safe water and sanitation for all, and the science and innovation that can deliver solutions.

The Congress also offered an opportunity for IWA to showcase important programmes and initiatives, including the Inclusive Urban Sanitation and Climate Smart Utilities initiatives.

This year, IWA made significant strides in advancing diversity, equality, and inclusion, creating partnerships and reinforcing its commitment to fostering a more inclusive water community. Notably, the addition of seven new Governing Members marks a significant expansion of IWA's global network and influence. This diverse representation strengthens IWA's ability to address water challenges on a global scale, fostering collaboration and innovation across regions.

Important progress in IWA's youth-related activity included the establishment of the Emerging Water Leaders Endowment Fund that will support the IWA

Emerging Water Leaders Scholarship Programme. The year also witnessed the successful expansion of the Young Water Professionals Community, with the addition of five new Country Chapters globally. We are especially proud of the 13 young professionals who were able to participate in the UN Water Conference in New York in the USA under the Youth Action for SDG 6 Fellowship.

All of this means that 2023 was a year of substantial progress and impactful engagement, reflecting IWA's commitment to addressing global water challenges and driving positive change in the water sector.

Overall, the Association continued to advance its core mission to inspire change and leadership for sustainable water solutions, visible through our diverse activities and a strong membership base. This progress was supported by IWA's strong foundations, which are based on financial prudence and the commitment of all the many people that contribute their knowledge and share the Association's values.

Tom Mollenkopf, *IWA President*

Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy, *IWA Executive Director*

Programmes

2023 was an extremely successful year for IWA's programmes, with significant progress for several key initiatives. In particular, the Inclusive Urban Sanitation (IUS) initiative, launched at the 2022 IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition, gained increased momentum in 2023 through its #SanitAction campaign and a number of key milestones were achieved during the 2023 IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition (WDCE).

Innovation and inclusivity in sanitation

A prominent feature in the WDCE programme was the High-Level Sanitation Summit. This provided a pivotal engagement platform for politicians and policymakers to underscore the imperative of shaping policy and action. Meanwhile, the Innovation Acceleration Forum and SanitAction Innovators Expo provided a unique platform for innovators to display their solutions and prototypes. The summit brought together innovators, government officials, utilities, city managers, and practitioners, to explore innovative solutions and thinking around the sanitation agenda, with a special focus on Africa and its particular challenges.

The seven winners of the inaugural Inclusive Urban Sanitation Champions Programme were announced during the closing ceremony of WDCE. This programme, acknowledging outstanding contributions towards achieving SDG 6.2 in low- and middle-income countries, had received an excellent response, with 106 submissions from 21 countries.

The IUS initiative also presented a new publication at the WDCE. The white paper titled 'Sanitation Financing in

Eight South Asian and Sub-Saharan African Cities' aims to shed light on critical aspects related to utility and government financing for urban sanitation. Focused on eight cities across Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, the publication covers several important themes, including the types of policies influencing finance allocation within the sanitation sector, resource sufficiency and gaps, equitable allocation to marginalised communities, and financial monitoring.

The establishment of a diverse Advisory Board and Task Force, along with the formation of strategic subgroups, underscored the IUS initiative's commitment to addressing urban sanitation challenges. The initiative is committed to knowledge generation and dissemination, evidenced by the publication of 35 high-impact case stories, a discussion paper, and articles in IWA's magazine, The Source. Additionally, the initiative organised three strategic webinars – furthering its reach and impact – and forged new institutional partnerships, signing MoUs with two South Asian institutions, ASCI (India) and ITN BUET Bangladesh, during the WCDE.

Climate Smart Utilities

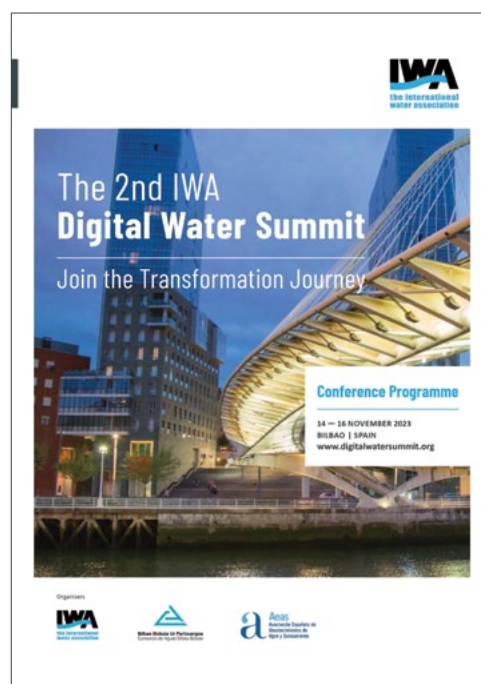
The Climate Smart Utilities initiative continued its leadership efforts around climate change and water and sanitation services. A key highlight for the year was the second edition of the Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Programme at the WDCE. This edition honoured 20 utilities in low- and middle-income countries for their innovative efforts in building a low carbon water and sanitation sector. Support for participation by utilities in low- and middle-income countries was received through a collaboration with the World Bank's NewIBNET benchmarking initiative.

In September 2023, the IWA Climate Smart Utilities Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Sub-group released a guide titled 'Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Water Resource Recovery Facilities'. This guide draws upon recent research and publications, emphasising the importance of life cycle carbon accounting and wider life cycle assessment. It serves as the first instalment in a series focusing on GHG emissions, monitoring, and mitigation in wastewater treatment.

The initiative conducted workshops at both the UN-Water Conference and the Bonn Climate Conference in 2023, in addition to organising a webinar series showcasing Danish monitoring programmes and initiatives undertaken by utilities. Furthermore, two Community of Practice meetings, attended by 70 participants, delved into discussions on trends in nitrous oxide off-gas monitoring in wastewater treatment.

Digital Water Programme

In 2023, the Digital Water Programme (DWP) went from strength to strength, underscoring the pivotal role the programme is playing in supporting the advance of digital transformation within the water sector. The programme led the delivery of the 2nd Digital Water Summit, held in Bilbao, Spain, in November. Further activities under the programme included the launch of several initiatives spotlighting members, including multiple newsletters, podcasts, and blogs underscoring our commitment to knowledge exchange and collaboration within the digital water community.





IWA Specialist Group leaders

Specialist Groups

IWA's Specialist Groups (SGs) continue to serve as dynamic hubs of expertise and innovation, driving forward thinking research and solutions in numerous domains of water management.

In 2023, SG-related developments included the launch of a Cluster on wastewater-based epidemiology and the establishment of the new SG on Sustainable Coastal and Estuarine Development. Throughout the year, SGs organised 23 conferences, conducted over 20 online webinars, and delivered presentations during the IWA WDCE. SG leaders also actively participated in the first online SG Leaders Forum, focused on enhancing engagement among SGs.

- 51 groups
- 10+ task groups
- 3 clusters

Operations and Maintenance Network

IWA's Operations and Maintenance Network (OMN) achieved a significant milestone in 2023 with the launch of the second edition of the Water Safety Plan manual in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The launch event convened experts and stakeholders from around the world to discuss the importance of water safety planning and share insights and experiences gained over a decade of practical implementation.



Events



Mathi Vathanan, Keynote Speaker



IWA President, Tom Mollenkopf

Water and Development Congress & Exhibition

The year saw IWA's most successful Water and Development Congress & Exhibition (WDCE) to date. Held on 10-14 December 2023 at Rwanda's iconic Kigali Convention Centre, the event brought together almost 3000 water and development professionals, organisations, visitors, and companies, primarily from low- and middle-income countries.

The Congress set a benchmark for IWA's growing presence and support for the sector in Africa, reflecting the critical role of the continent in IWA's future. With a theme

focused on 'Water, Sanitation, and Climate Resilience – keys to a water-wise future', the Congress featured an extensive programme, including keynotes, technical sessions, workshops, and five important forums.

Keynote speaker Mathi Vathanan, Principal Secretary from the Government of Odisha, India, set the tone by sharing insights into his state's success progressing to 24/7 'Drink from Tap' urban water systems, prioritising the importance of the urban poor and engaging women who now work within this programme.



Rose Kaggwa, IWA Board Member



Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Results 2023 announced at WDCE in December 2023



WDCE 2023 SanitAction Innovators Expo

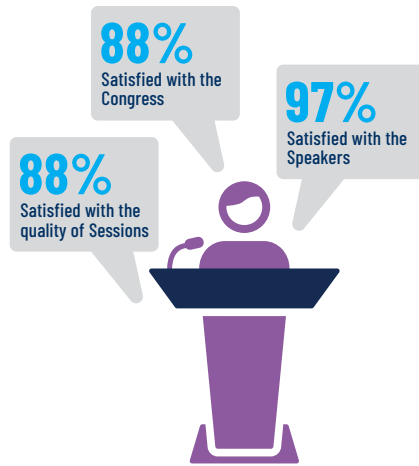
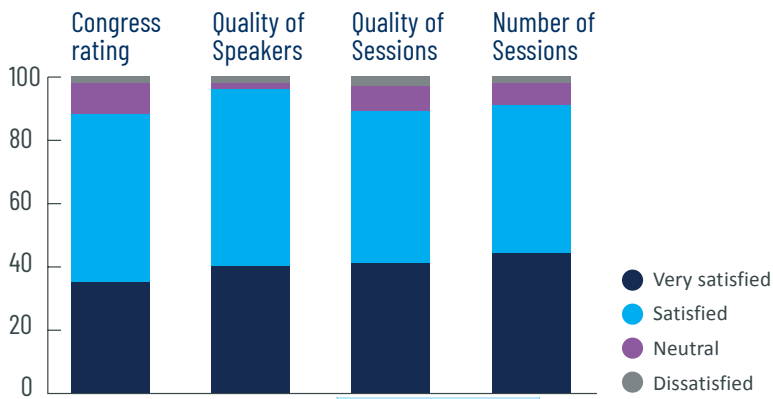


IWA Inclusive Urban Sanitation Champions 2023 announced at WDCE in December 2023

Sanitation and climate resilience were key topics throughout the event, with highlights including the High-Level Summit on Sanitation and the second edition of IWA’s Climate Smart Utilities Recognition Programme.

The success of the event was made possible through collaboration with local, regional, and global partners, especially the Government of Rwanda and utility WASAC Group, who provided invaluable support. The event also saw the announcement of the winners of the prestigious Water and Development Awards 2023.

High satisfaction rates





SK Hong. LET 2023 Organising Committee Chair

Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies

The 18th edition of IWA's Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies was held in Daegu, South Korea, from 29 May to 2 June 2023. The successful event saw an impressive turnout, drawing more than 300 participants from 36 countries. This prestigious event served as a platform for the dissemination of cutting-edge research and insights in water and wastewater technologies, featuring 67 top-tier presentations and showcasing more than 100 posters highlighting the latest innovations and findings in the field.

Digital Water Summit

IWA's programme of events for the year also included a highly successful second edition of the Digital Water Summit, held in Bilbao, Spain. This was a business-to-business event with programme content and structure designed to connect solutions providers and end user water utilities. The event garnered significant attention, with nearly 400 delegates convening to explore the latest innovations and strategies in digital water management.



Opening ceremony Digital Water Summit 2023

Future events – the path to 2030


A further important event-related development was the selection, during the IWA Board and Governing Assembly meetings held in September, of Kuching, Malaysia, and São Paulo, Brazil, as the locations for the World Water Congress & Exhibition editions to be held in 2028 and 2030, respectively.

The Source Magazine

The Source is IWA's quarterly magazine, delivered both in print and online. It is available to all IWA members as a benefit of membership.

The content of the magazine is specifically intended to reflect IWA's goal of inspiring a world in which water is wisely managed. It offers features, viewpoints, and updates to help readers keep up to speed with the issues that shape the sector and progress in response to these topics.

Topics covered in detail in 2023 included: experiences of implementing city resilience in New York; the opportunities presented by digital technology for IWA's development; a leading example from Hong Kong of the use of wastewater based epidemiology as a means of informing public health measures; thinking on the opportunities to progress inclusive urban sanitation; how decentralised approaches offer ways to overcome barriers to access services; alternative, circular paths for wastewater treatment; progress with improving the sustainability of desalination technologies; and the potential for contract frameworks to support improvements in operations and maintenance.

 View The Source online at www.thesourcemagazine.org

 Follow @WaterSourceMag on X



IWA Governing Members



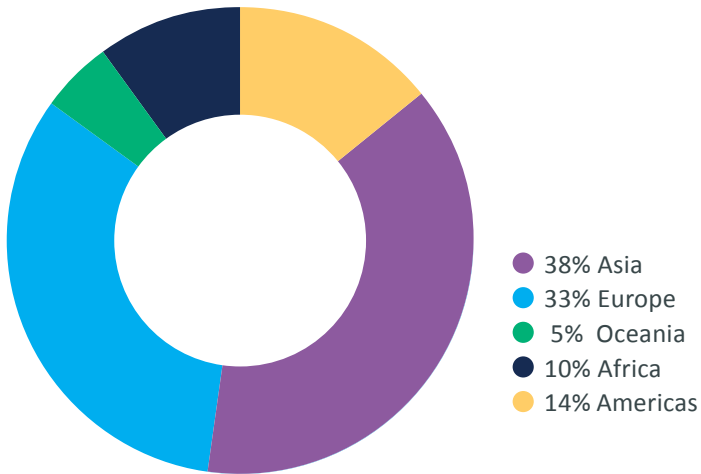
IWA's Governing Membership continues to grow, with the total reaching 61 at the end of the year.

Their mission is to leverage the International Water Association at a National/Local level.

Recent additions include Sri Lanka (2019), Bangladesh and Brazil (2020), and Ecuador, Bolivia and Vietnam (2021/22), Fiji (2022), Colombia, Ghana, Mexico, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia (2023)

Membership

IWA membership by region



IWA members in 2023



8,368

Individuals

(Individual members,
Nominated Representatives,
Nominated Academics)



338

Corporates



79

Universities



61

Governing
Members



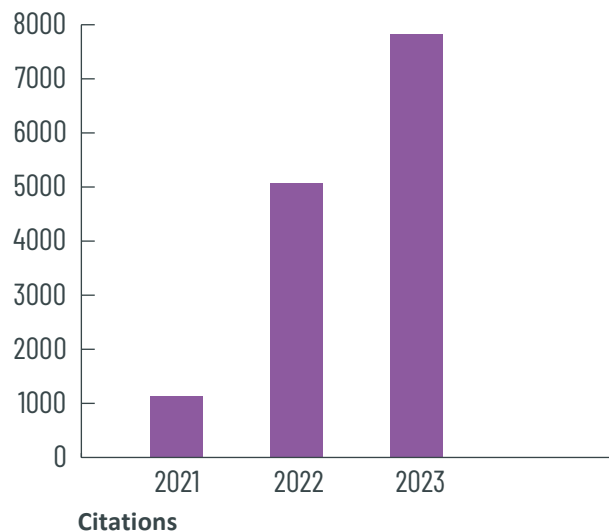
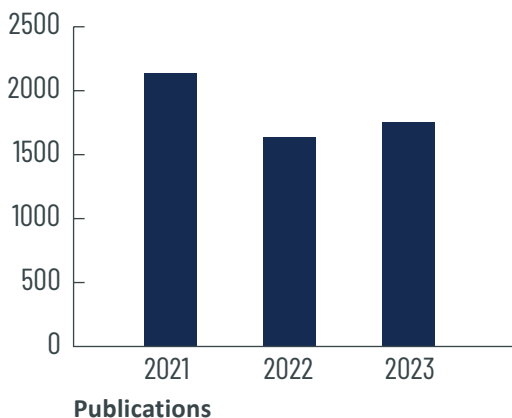
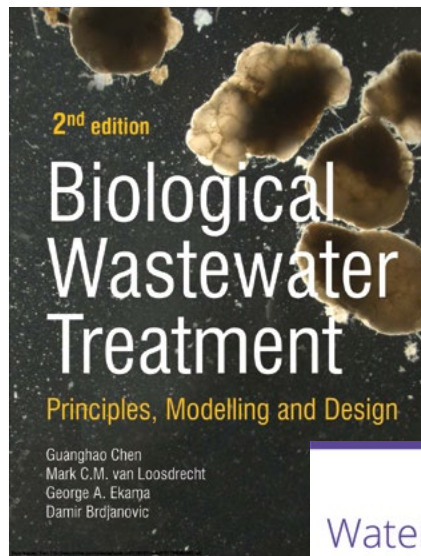
Open Access has transformed the accessibility of IWA Publishing’s world-leading content, with 70% of works published Open Access.

In 2023 the median Impact Factor (IF) of our journals increased by an average of 3%, outperforming other journals in the JCR Water Resources category by 15.4%. Over half of the journals increased IF by a quartile, with seven placed in Q1 or Q2.

The total number of papers published increased from 1636 to 1756, while the total number of citations increased from 5067 to 7828. This impressive 55% growth in citations and the high quality of the journals are thanks to the continued hard work, dedication, and valuable research of our authors and editors.

Regarding books, the programme continued to grow in 2023. 70% of titles published were Open Access, increasing the visibility of the authors’ works. The most notable book published during the year was the second edition of *Biological Wastewater Treatment: Principles, Modelling and Design*, the updated version of IWA Publishing’s bestselling title.

Work continues on increasing the diversity of our editorial teams. Between 2018 and 2023, journal editorial board membership from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America grew by 141%.



Young Water Professionals (YWP)



The IWA-Grundfos Youth Action for SDG6 YWPs in New York



The UN building, New York



Young Water Professionals (YWP) reception at Water and Development Congress & Exhibition in Kigali



IWA's Young Water Professionals (YWP) showed notable growth and impactful initiatives through 2023. With the addition of five new Country Chapters globally, the community continues to expand its reach and influence.

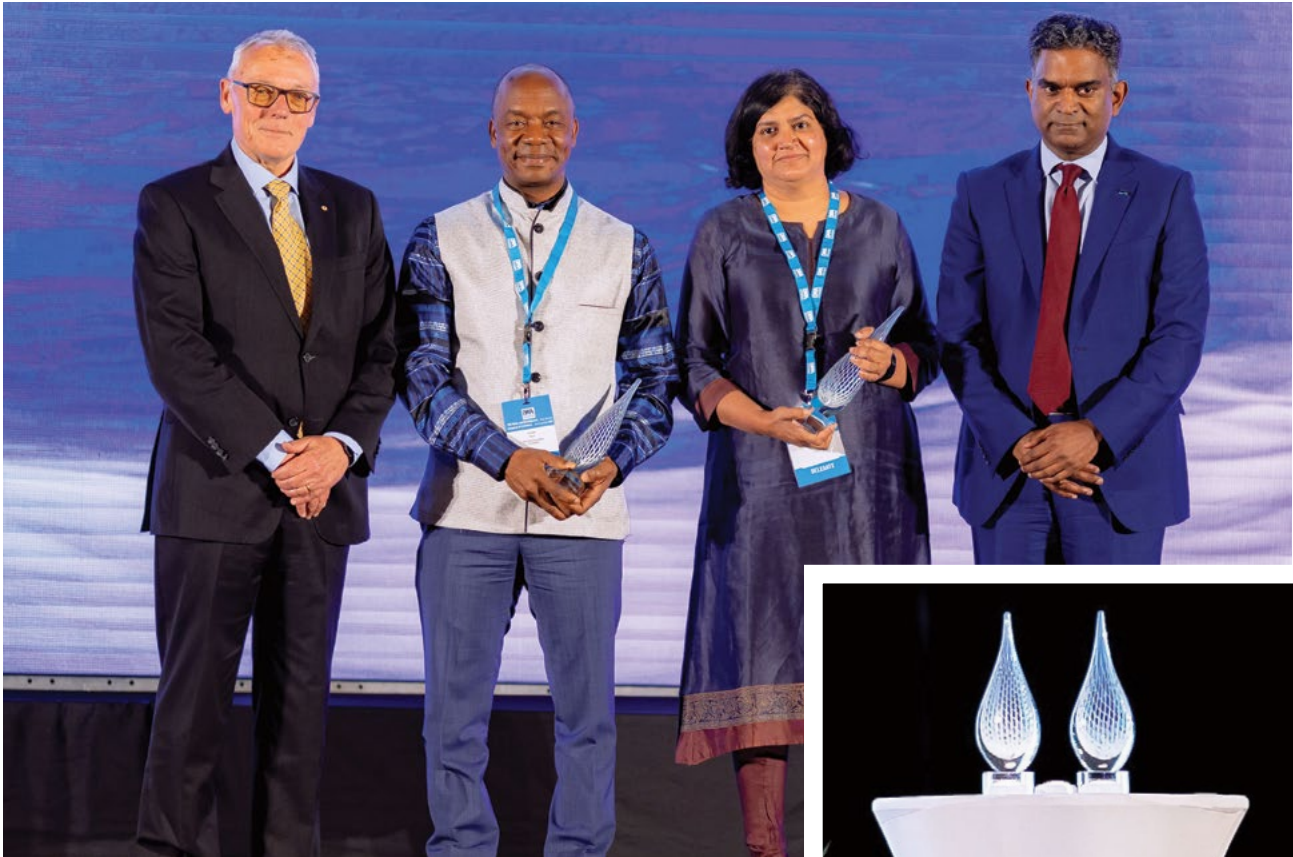
A highlight of the year was the IWA-Grundfos YWP Youth Action for SDG 6 Fellowship. The support of this partnership enabled 13 outstanding YWPs to attend the UN Water Conference in New York in the USA, further enhancing their exposure and engagement in water sector discussions. A further result of the collaboration was a publication by the SDG 6 Fellows launched during the WDCE, aiming to underscore the crucial role young individuals play in the UN 2030 SDG Agenda. It focused on illustrating how the water sector can be revolutionised by their passion and ingenuity.

A significant milestone in IWA's youth-related activity was the successful establishment of the IWA YWP Leadership Programme Endowment Fund generously founded by an endowment from Glen and Patty Daigger.

The Emerging Water Leaders Forum at the WDCE showed the commitment and leadership of the next generation in addressing water related challenges.

In addition, plans to recognise the YWP Chapter of the Year were announced at WDCE, with the inaugural edition planned for Toronto, Canada, in 2024.

Awards



Left to Right: Tom Mollenkopf, President; Doulaye Kone; Veena Srinivasan and Kala Vairvamoorthy, Executive Director

The IWA Water and Development Awards 2023 were announced and presented during the opening ceremony of WDCE. The recipients were Dr Veena Srinivasan for Research and Dr Doulaye Kone for Practice.

These awards honour excellence, leadership, and innovation in the water sector, aiming to promote sustainable water management in low- and middle-income countries. Judged by a diverse panel of experts, they acknowledge outstanding contributions to research or practice that have made a tangible impact in these regions.

In deciding to recognise the achievements of Dr Veena Srinivasan, the judges noted that she demonstrated bravery and passion in her quest to follow an emerging

but much needed knowledge path in socio-hydrology, and also acknowledged her advocacy for research and the establishment of WELL Labs in Bengaluru, India.

Dr Doulaye Kone of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was awarded for catalysing technological innovations in non-sewered sanitation through the 'Reinvent the Toilet Challenge' and promoting sustainability in faecal sludge management. His visionary leadership has influenced policies and strategies in the water and sanitation sector.

Both winners have extensive experience and have made significant contributions to their respective fields, driving impactful change in water and sanitation.





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