

Groundwater Forum

Groundwater – a resilient resource in times of change and crisis



The Groundwater Forum aims to promote groundwater as a critical resource to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In three sessions, the forum will explore and facilitate participant discussions on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of a groundwater-based water supply. By sharing knowledge on the resilience of a groundwater-based water supply in times of conflict and climatic crisis, the forum aims to support water utilities and other decision-makers urgently in need of futureproof strategies.

Organized by:

Key organizing committee from Danish Water Forum: Anders Bækgaard, former congress president, Ida Holm Olesen, InSa-Drikkevand, Inês Breda, Grundfos, Jesper Goodley Dannisøe, DWF, and Michael Ramlau, AVK.

In cooperation with Simon Gautrey, WSP, Eric Hodgins and Mike Lywood representing Local Organizing Committee and Pia Jacobsen, Water Valley Denmark.

When? Monday 12. August 2024

Where? Room 803A

Programme overview:

10:30-12:00 am

Session I: Strengths and weaknesses of a groundwater-based water supply

1:30-3:00 pm

Session II: Hidden opportunities of a groundwater-based water supply

3:30-5:00 pm

Session III: Imminent threats of a groundwater-based water supply

Groundwater Reception 5pm: In extension of the Groundwater Forum, the participants are encouraged to continue discussions at a reception kindly hosted by Grundfos at booth 400 in the Exhibition Hall.

Detailed program on the following pages.

Groundwater Forum Monday 12. August 2024		
Groundwater - a resilient resource in times of change and crisis		
Title	Keywords	Speakers
10:30-12:00 am		
Session I: Strengths and weaknesses of a groundwater-based water supply		
Session Chair: Ida Holm Olesen, Danish Water Forum, Denmark.		
Session Co-Chair: Simon Gautrey, WSP Canada		
Official opening of Groundwater Forum by Jarl Frijs-Madsen, Ambassador, Royal Danish Embassy to Canada		
Why Groundwater is Important to the Future of Humanity	A global perspective on the status of groundwater-based water supplies Global Water crisis Knowledge of groundwater as a prerequisite for a sustainable groundwater supply Groundwater project	Dr. John Cherry, University of Guelph, Canada
25% Groundwater and increasing – A growth scenario from the Region of Peel, Canada	Balancing water supply from groundwater and surface water in a changing climate Pros and cons of increasing the use of groundwater	Luis Lasso, Region of Peel, Canada
Groundwater in a South African perspective	Harnessing localised polycentric governance for groundwater management to enhance water security and resilience	Dr Shafick Adams, Water Research Commission, South Africa
100% Groundwater – the Danish experience	A robust groundwater dependent water supply under pressure from pollutants and nature restoration. Strengths and weaknesses of Denmark’s water supply	Dr. Martin Rygaard, HOFOR – Greater Copenhagen Utility
Interactive session facilitated by Water Valley Denmark		Pia Jacobsen, Water Valley Denmark
1:30-3:00 pm		
Session II: Hidden opportunities of a groundwater-based water supply		
Session Chair: Bjørn K. Jensen, Water4All, Denmark		
Session Co-Chair: Hans-Martin Friis Møller, Kalundborg Utility, Denmark		
Any hidden potentials of groundwater towards SDG6 and beyond?	Main conclusions from the report “Hidden Wealth of Nations”	Gustavo Saltiel, Global lead for water supply and sanitation, World Bank
The transition from surface-water based to groundwater-based water supply in times of conflict	Case from Mykolaiev, Ukraine	Viktor Pisotskiy, Director for Strategic Planning, Mykolaiev, Vodokanal, Ukraine
<i>See next page</i>		

<i>Session II (continued)</i>		
How to find the hidden treasure? Geophysical techniques	Status and latest developments in groundwater exploration	Esben Auken, TEMcompany, Denmark
Sustainable groundwater management in rural areas in developing countries	Examples from Ghana, Kenya and Ethiopia	Anise Sacranie, Grundfos, Denmark
Towards SDG6 in developing countries: the potential of groundwater	Public-Private Partnerships can facilitate integration of groundwater as a large-scale water source in developing countries	Ryan Phillips-Page, Operations Water, Canada
Interactive session facilitated by Water Valley Denmark		Pia Jacobsen, Water Valley Denmark
3:30-5:00 pm		
Session III: Imminent threats of a groundwater-based water supply		
Session Chair: Anders Bækgaard, IWA Congress President 2022, Denmark		
Session Co-Chair: Julia Gathu, IWA GWM SG, Kenya		
Groundwater quality threats from mining for the green energy transition	Groundwater related issues from the mining, processing and disposal of minerals critical to the energy transition.	Professor Roger Beckie, University of British Columbia, Canada
Overview of mining practices and regulation in Canada as they relate to groundwater	Introduction to mining practices and regulation in Canada and measures taken to protect groundwater quality from mining.	Simon Gautrey, WSP Canada
Climate change increases the frequency of forest fires – how does this impact groundwater quality?	Threats to Groundwater Quality and Public Health from Wildfires and other Climate Shocks	Professor Monica B. Emelko, University of Waterloo, Canada
Groundwater vulnerability in the face of climate change	Effects of extreme weather patterns such as floods and drought – examples from Kenya, China and Brazil	Julia Gathu, Drilling for Life, Kenya
Untreated effluents as a threat to groundwater quality and public health	Emerging contaminants in groundwater – a global view and examples from Mexico.	Dr. Pabel Cervantes-Avilés, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
Interactive session facilitated by Water Valley Denmark		Pia Jacobsen, Water Valley Denmark
17:00-17:30		
Groundwater reception	Hosted by Grundfos	Grundfos booth (nr. 400)