This past year is one which IWA can look back on and see excellent and important progress for our Association. There have certainly been positive developments in our sector – whose essential role has been further underlined by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In these challenging times, we have also seen a fantastic response from members, who have been ever eager to find ways to commit their precious time to our Association. With 2020 having marked the 20th anniversary under the IWA identity, this level of engagement demonstrates the compelling draw of our vision to creating a water-wise world.

Towards the start of the pandemic, IWA established a Covid-19 taskforce focused on developing state-of-the-art science on the virus to protect public health. In this regard, the Association and its members worked in cooperation with similar international efforts.

Making the most of the new normal of online meetings, workshops, and conferences, we developed an impressive programme of webinars that drew in quality speakers and exceptional participation. Thousands of participants took part in over two dozen online events, with new formats including online panels and dialogues, member inductions, and special events for our Young Water Professionals community.

We have sustained our commitment to deliver on implementing the IWA 2019-2024 Strategic Plan. This plan focuses our attention on the need to progress key aims and goals, such as the strong board-level commitment to champion diversity throughout the organisation. This was reflected in the confirmation of the new Strategic Council, in Lisbon, Portugal, in October 2019.

We are poised to make greater progress with the plan, having completed the relocation of our headquarters to excellent facilities in London. This move has allowed us to manage the uncertainties around Brexit by transferring the functions of our operations in The Hague to the new office, where we now co-locate with our publishing arm to provide opportunities for greater synergy. Our operations hub in Nanjing, China also became fully operational in July 2019, while our South Asia office opened in Chennai, India. These strategic developments will help IWA press forward with championing water security and sustainability.

This past year has also included the election of Tom Mollenkopf as the incoming IWA President.

We would particularly like to thank the Board of Directors for their constant support and guidance, and our members for such loyalty during these unprecedented times and for their enthusiasm to make this a water-wise world.

Finally, we would like to thank all IWA personnel for their commitment, excellent teamwork, friendship – and for their constant willingness to always give their best and bring fresh thinking to the tasks at hand.
IWA has made further important progress with numerous initiatives that aim to shape the global water agenda.

City-focused initiatives

Within the Cities of the Future Programme, the Principles for Water Wise Cities project has received endorsement from more than 35 cities, utilities and regulators. One of the most recent additions has been the city of Berlin, on the initiative of Berlin’s water utility Berliner Wasserbetriebe and the Berlin Center of Competence for Water (KWB). Furthermore, the Superintendencia de Servicios Sanitarios (SISS) in Chile, and the city of Porto by initiative of Aguas do Porto in Portugal have also endorsed the project. In addition, the Principles are now available in 10 languages, including Japanese, German, and Persian.

IWA also recently launched a new initiative on Regulating for Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS). This initiative aims at identifying the needs, opportunities, and tools for action to support and inspire regulators in their contribution to achieving citywide inclusive sanitation in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals. As part of this initiative, IWA launched a Task Force to examine existing experiences, opportunities, and challenges, as well as an Advisory Board to ensure that the initiative’s efforts synergise with the activity of our partners.

Notable outputs so far include a webinar series on Regulating for CWIS and various news articles. One of these articles was published as part of a series for World Toilet Day. The article included important contributions from panellists of the first webinar of the Regulating for CWIS series, which focused on ‘Emerging Approaches to Regulating for CWIS’.

The Principles for Water Wise Cities are complemented by the Action Agenda for Basin-Connected Cities, which has been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, French and Chinese, and is being promoted through partner organisations.
Utililty-focused initiatives

The Digital Water Programme is designed to help water utilities transition to the next generation of smart water systems and fulfill the need for improved resiliency to managing water resources sustainably. Activities under the Digital Water Programme in 2020 included:

- The release of a white paper on ‘Artificial Intelligence Solutions for the Water Sector’ (August 2020), which focuses on tangible solutions to address specific challenges in real-life water systems.
- A white paper on ‘The Importance of Knowing What We Do Not Know’ (October 2020), which aims to raise awareness of uncertainty in digital decision-making and how decisions can be made with greater confidence.
- Along with the Toilet Board Coalition, a white paper on ‘Improving Public Health Through Smart Sanitation’ (November 2020). This focuses on how early detection can help prevent diseases spreading, as well as highlighting challenges and solutions.
- A white paper on ‘The Role of Instrumentation in Digital Transformation’ (December 2020), which explains how instrumentation can facilitate informed decision-making.
- There were also a range of webinars, podcasts, blogs, and videos created to promote and support this important agenda.
- IWA is also a partner in the EU Horizon 2020 project Prime Water, which kicked off in November 2019, and will run until 2022. This is a Horizon 2020 funded research project which generates information on the effects of upstream changes on future water quality and quantity.
- IWA, along with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), released a publication in December 2019 entitled ‘Nature for Water: A Series of Utility Spotlights’. This showcases several IWA member utilities who are integrating nature-based solutions (NBS) into water utility operations and planning. This publication stems from the ongoing partnership with TNC.
- IWA established the Climate Smart Utilities initiative in 2020 to support water and wastewater utilities in improving their climate resiliency, while contributing to a significant and sustainable reduction in carbon emissions. As part of this, IWA will launch a Community of Practice to enable utilities to share challenges, knowledge, and best practice, as well as holding webinars and revamping the knowledge platform.
- In July 2020, a task force was established to steer the development of guidelines for water service delivery plans for small water utilities in Africa. This guide is being developed as part of REACH, a global research programme to improve water security for those in poverty, of which IWA is a partner.

There was further progress with AquaRating, the comprehensive evaluation of utilities’ performance based on indicators, best practices, and reliable information.

In the past 12 months, IWA worked with Lusaka Water and Sewerage Company in Zambia, and the Ulaanbaatar Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (USUG) and Housing and Communal Services Authority of Ulaanbaatar (OSSNAAUG) in Mongolia. All the three utilities implemented AquaRating and are now certified.

IWA also released a French translation of the World Health Organization Climate Resilient Water Safety Planning publication to help water suppliers and safety planners. Furthermore, IWA is working with the WHO on developing the second version of the IWA/WHO Water Safety Plan Manual, due out in 2021.
IWA Membership in Numbers

The IWA Membership

Individuals with IWA membership per region

137 countries represented

Membership by professional sphere

Corporate (inc. university) members

Individual IWA members

IWA Annual Review 2019 - 20
Overall, the Specialist Groups made an important contribution to recent online engagement, organising 14 webinars and three online dialogues. Dozens of newsletters were also produced and distributed to share knowledge and industry trends.

The 2019 Specialist Group Leaders Forum was held at the IWA Water and Development Congress and Exhibition in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Attendees were updated on the group objectives, leadership, outputs and ongoing activities. The Membrane Technology Group also presented on effective communication strategies for driving engagement.


The new IWA Task Group on Good Modelling Practice in Water Resource Recovery Systems was established in November 2020. This Task Group is hosted by the IWA Specialist Group on Modelling and Integrated Assessment.

Covid-19 Task Force

In response to the widening public concern around the Covid-19 pandemic, IWA developed a resources page on its website and delivered a series of Covid-19 related webinars and online dialogues that attracted substantial audiences from around the world. The resource page involved collating state-of-the-art information from around the world and sharing and linking this information with other similar international efforts.

The Association also established the IWA Covid-19 Task Force from its membership in early 2020. The Task Force connects with IWA’s Specialist Group networks, bringing together representatives from the most relevant ones. Throughout 2020, it was chaired by leading microbiologist Professor Joan Rose.

The Task Force authored a paper, ‘Role of wastewater treatment in Covid-19 control’, which was published in Water Quality Research Journal. This presented a review of the research on Covid-19 and other viruses in relation to wastewater process control and risk mitigation, and covered available techniques for wastewater process engineers to reduce health risks in this area.

To support utilities facing challenges from the pandemic, and to help the process of incorporating lessons learned, the Task Force prepared core guidelines of a pandemic management plan. This drew on sources that included responses to a call for utilities themselves to share their own insights.

The Task Force gathered detailed accounts of the experiences of the utilities in Wuhan, China and Hamburg, Germany, with articles based on these accounts appearing in The Source. Other articles published included articles on the global water science challenge of the pandemic, developments in wastewater-based epidemiology, and lessons learned for low-occupancy buildings.

The Task Force also interacted with organisations such as the World Health Organization, the US EPA, the Water Research Foundation, and the Global Water Research Coalition.
IWA held a total of 29 events, bringing together almost 10,000 participants across 21 countries.

**In Numbers**
- 29 events held in 21 countries
- 9,815 delegates and exhibition visitors
- 680 delegates at IWA Young Water Professional Conferences
- 4,725 delegates at IWA Specialist Group Events
- 3,142 participants at the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2019

For IWA, 2019 was marked by the outstanding success of the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This world-class Congress provided a powerful platform for progress by the water sector towards achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Congress brought together some 3,142 water sector professionals from more than 100 countries.

The event also included keynote speeches from leading industry figures, including from the Gates Foundation, WaterAid, and the International Water Management Institute.

While the 2nd Asia Pacific Regional Water Regulators Forum was held in Hong Kong, China, in partnership with IWA ASPIRE. The event was co-organised with the Water Supplies Department and the Drainage Services Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, and the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong (CIWEM HK).

As a follow-up from the 5th International Water Regulators Forum held in Tokyo in 2018, the IWA organised two Regional Water Regulators Forums. The FIAR (Inter-American Forum of Regulation) was held in Cartagena, Colombia, in partnership with ADERASA.

This allowed IWA to consolidate its position as a global knowledge hub in the water sector and the membership association for thought leaders in the sector. Positively, some 67% of respondents to an IWA member survey in July 2020 said they have participated in, or will be attending, IWA events during their membership.
Online Events

Over the past 12 months, IWA has demonstrated its ability to adapt to changing circumstances. There has been a desire for greater online engagement among both members and non-members, leading to IWA developing new formats for our audiences.

Some online activities were open to all, while others were specifically for IWA members only. Formats have included webinars, online panels, online dialogues, member inductions, online conferences and YWP chapter global coordination meetings. Many of these activities have been made available on-demand via the IWA Learn platform.

Two significant virtual specialist group conferences were also held – the Nutrient Resource Recovery conference, and the Water Loss conference. Hundreds of participants from dozens of countries across all continents attended the two events.

A particular highlight of the online events programme was the series of IWA online panels focused on Covid-19. Around 2000 participants attended each online event, along with many more from the simultaneous livestream on Facebook.

In addition, the IWA India chapter developed a webinar series, to engage professionals through regular lectures and panel discussions. To date, the India chapter has held 6 webinars, with more than 2000 participants attending overall.

An online dialogue was also held for new members in Africa, focused on sanitation topics.

Engagement through online events

- 50 online events
- 17,812 participant registrations
- 13 Specialist Groups Webinars
- 2 Congress Talks
- 5 Induction events
- 8 Covid-19 Task Force webinars
- 3 YWP Virtual Get-Togethers
- 16 Strategic Programme events
- 3 YWP Online Dialogues

IWA Activity in Numbers

- 1M Website page views
- 85K Newsletter subscriptions (total)
- 601K Video views (across all platforms)
- 24% Facebook followers (24% increase)
- 78% Twitter impressions (78% increase)
- 24% Twitter followers (24% increase)
- 58% LinkedIn followers (58% increase)
- 16% WeChat followers (16% increase)

WeChat followers 36K
LinkedIn followers 55K
Facebook followers 30K
Twitter impressions 1.5M
Twitter followers 16K
Newsletter subscriptions 85K
Website page views 1M
Video views 601K
1M
85K
601K
24%
78%
24%
58%
16%
IWA is holding its first major Digital World Water Congress during May and June 2021. The event, which is being held online, will allow for papers originally prepared for the WWCE 2020 to be presented (along with an audience Q&A).

The Congress is being held across eight days from Monday 24 May – Friday 4 June 2021. The sessions will run for a total of four hours per day, at times designed to maximise worldwide attendance.

Overall, there will be over one hundred presentations across the event.

The audience will be encouraged to engage and interact with the presenters, notably through the live Q&A to follow each session.

As well as presentations, there will be plenary sessions with keynote speakers, a poster hall, networking opportunities and more.

Existing IWA partners and sponsors will be offered free opportunities to showcase their brand and to engage with the digital audience.

To find out more, please visit digital.worldwatercongress.org
The IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition is the global event for the water industry. It attracts over 10,000 leading professionals and companies from across the water sector, including thought leaders from within and outside the industry. Together they create new insights into how pioneering science, technological innovation, and best practice shape water management.

The Congress is designed to bring together water professionals and also engage the water-consuming industry, agriculture, architects and urban planners, hydrologists and soil and groundwater experts, social sciences, ICT-sector, the financial sector and others.

The Congress provides new networking and business opportunities, and ensures maximum interaction between participants, exhibitors and sponsors. It connects likeminded attendees and has a track record of fostering new collaborations and partnerships. The event also provides a platform for exhibitors and sponsors to raise their profile among leading water professionals and companies.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition in Copenhagen, Denmark, has been moved to 11 – 15 September 2022. IWA hopes this decision now gives participants, exhibitors, sponsors and speakers a greater degree of certainty, and helps to enable your attendance in 2022.

This upcoming edition of the World Water Congress & Exhibition will report on the water sector progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with an emphasis on SDG6. Participants will have the opportunity to analyse, discuss and highlight solutions at high-level summits, case study presentations and much more.

For more information, please visit www.worldwatercongress.org

Previous Conference in Numbers (Tokyo)
- 9815 participants
- 462 presentations
- 280 hours
- 252 exhibitors
- 75% decision makers

Benefits of attending
- Thought Leadership
- Brand Awareness
- Networking
- Collaboration
- Credibility
- Entertainment
IWA Publishing

Over the past year, IWAP journals accepted more than 1,900 articles – the highest total ever – and received more than 2.5 million downloads.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

In April, IWA Publishing opened up all of its journals as ‘free to access’, to ensure that COVID-19 disruption didn’t prevent researchers and practitioners from accessing relevant content. A collection of virus-related water articles was developed, as well as a Spanish language COVID-19 operator’s manual. Many journals, including Journal of Water & Health and Journal of Water and Sanitation and Hygiene for Development, published special papers addressing key aspects of the pandemic.

Open Access keeps growing

Hydrology Research celebrated its 50th anniversary by becoming completely Open Access. All articles in the journal are now free to read by everyone around the world. As a result, downloads of articles increased by 195% during 2020, while article acceptances grew by a healthy 27%.

A new agreement was signed with EIFL which further extended accessibility to Open Access publication around the world. This enabled authors in countries including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal and North Macedonia to publish OA in our journals without paying fees, as well as 50 other countries due to the partnership with Research4Life. This is in addition to the 50 countries where APCs were already waived through the partnership with Research4Life. In 2020, 82 articles were freely published Open Access by authors in low and middle income countries.

Overall, almost a quarter of all articles published in IWA Publishing journals in 2020 were Open Access. In addition, 15 books were made Open Access. This trend is continuing in 2021.

Open Access Ambassadors programme launched!

IWA Publishing welcomed its first OA Ambassadors to raise awareness in their local communities about global OA movements and opportunities, empowering the next generation of water leaders.

New edition of Biological Wastewater Treatment published

Twelve years after publication of the definitive resource on the subject, the second edition of Biological Wastewater Treatment: Principles, Modeling and Design was released in July 2020. The book has been updated with new approaches, deeper insight and advanced knowledge.

Water Science and Technology – a journal for the whole world

WST continues to improve and evolve. Time from article submission to first decision halved during the year, due to improved operational efficiencies. The journal’s editorial team was also updated, with new editors joining from Africa, Asia and North America. WST reached all corners of the planet during 2020, with its articles read in every country worldwide.
Young Water Professionals (YWP)

Over the past twelve months, IWA continued to develop its value proposition for IWA Young Water Professional members, offering open activities as well as member-only engagement and services. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, activities focused on YWPs have featured prominently in IWA’s expanded online engagement. Member-only engagement for YWPs included the series of Online Dialogues with experienced professionals, and more recently, the YWP Online Get-Togethers. Designed to be highly engaging for YWP members, these online sessions covered a wide range of professional development and thematic topics, including but not limited to women in the water sector, the role of volunteering in career development, and the SDGs. Meanwhile, the most recent YWP Get-Together focused on Technological Innovation in the Water Sector.

As for YWP Chapters, in the past few months alone we have seen a wide range of activities being held by national and regional groups of YWPs across the globe, including: online debates in Ghana and Nigeria, riverside chats with Senior Professionals in Canada, webinars on the water cycle in Denmark, and workshops in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Representing IWA’s YWPs are the Emerging Water Leader’s (EWL) Steering Committee. Elections for the 2020-2022 EWL Steering Committee took place in October 2020 and they formally took office in November 2020.

In addition, renowned scientist and engineer Dr. Siddhartha Roy (pictured) was selected as the latest winner of the IWA Young Leadership Award. The award is presented every two years to an exceptional water professional, who has demonstrated significant achievements in their career. Dr. Roy now begins a two-year term as an industry ambassador for the IWA and the water sector in general.

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 magazine’s content reflects IWA’s goal of inspiring a world in which water is wisely managed, offering features, viewpoints, and updates to help readers keep up to speed with the issues that shape the sector, and leading responses to these topics.

Recent topics covered in detail include: options for creating climate smart utilities, the water sector’s response to Covid-19, and opportunities for financing future needs.

The Source can be viewed online at www.thesourcemagazine.org. The website is regularly updated with fresh and engaging content from across the sector.

You can also follow The Source on Twitter @WaterSourceMag
IWA seeks to recognise and reward water sector leaders who are renowned by their peers as leading and credible experts in their fields. IWA Distinguished Fellows and Fellows support IWA’s mission and represent the association during events and other opportunities. In addition, these industry-leaders help to promote IWA, support growth in the IWA network, increase member engagement, and disseminate IWA’s thought leadership.

IWA Distinguished Fellows

IWA is proud to announce...

Prof. Akiça Bahri
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Tunisia

Prof. Charles N. Haas
Drexel University, USA

Prof. Xia Huang
Tsinghua University, China

Prof. Hamanth Kasan
Rand Water, South Africa

Prof. Jurg Keller
University of Queensland, Australia

Prof. Michael K. Stenstrom
University of California, Los Angeles, USA

Prof. Saravanamuthu Vigneswaran
University of Technology, Sydney, Australia

IWA Fellows

IWA is proud to announce...

Helle Katrine Andersen, Danish Water and Wastewater Association, Denmark

Dr. Mari Asami, National Institute of Public Health, Japan

Prof. Jes Clauson-Kaas, HOFOR A/S, Denmark

Cheryl Davis, CKD Consulting, USA

Prof. Francesco Fatone, Politecnico University of Marche, Italy

Prof. Zhen (Jason) He, Washington University in St. Louis, USA

Prof. Hiroyuki Katayama, The University of Tokyo, Japan

Dr. Olivier Lefebvre, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Dr. Jorge Rodriguez R., Khalifa University, United Arab Emirates

Kathryn Silvester, Sydney Water, Australia

Ed Smeets, Edmodi BV, The Netherlands

Prof. Ana Soares, Cranfield University, UK

Prof. Guoren Xu, Harbin Institute of Technology, China

Prof. Jizhong Zhou, Princeton University, USA

Prof. Amy Pruden, Virginia Tech University, USA

Prof. Harsha Ratnaweera, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway

IWA congratulates all the new Distinguished Fellows and Fellows, and thanks them for their continued support, and active efforts to represent and enhance the association.
IWA has a range of awards categories, including the Global Water Award, Women in Water Award, Project Innovation Award, the Professional Development Award, the Water & Development Award, the Young Leadership Award, and the IWA/ISME Bio Cluster Award.

A highlight of the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition in Colombo, Sri Lanka, was the presentation of the 2019 IWA Development Awards. These went to two outstanding individuals for their contributions to progress on water needs in low- and middle-income countries.

The call for nominations attracted unprecedented levels of interest, with 74 valid peer nominations from 29 countries. Nominated candidates were invited to make submissions, with a total of 41 completed applications received from 19 countries. There were 25 candidates in the research category and 16 candidates in the practice category.

The IWA Water and Development Research Award honoured Dr Miriam Otoo, senior associate with the water, resources and infrastructure sector at Tetra Tech, ARD, for her research on resource recovery business models for low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). Dr Otoo’s research work was considered by the award jury as being crucial to the progress of the sector, by addressing technical challenges and influencing policy and adoption.

The IWA Water and Development Practice Award was awarded to Mr Sikandarsab Meeranaik, of the Sankolpa Rural Development Society, for his work on the development and implementation of rainwater harvesting systems in vulnerable dry regions. The low-cost technology implemented by his organisation in rural India was considered to epitomise the spirit of the IWA Development Practice Award, by directly supporting farmers, communities and improving food production in times and drought.

In addition, the IWA/ISME Biocluster awarded the Grand Prize to Prof Thomas P Curtis, and the Rising Star Award 2020 to Dr Fangqiong Ling, in recognition of their achievements in interdisciplinary research at the interface of microbial ecology and water / wastewater treatment.