



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

How we know what we know about water: Community and partnership-based approaches to capacity building in the water sector

HLPF Parallel Event

Organizers: International Association of Universities (IAU), UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Supporting partners: Uganda and Finland

Date and time: July 18, 8am-9.30 ET, 2pm-3.30pm CEST (virtual event)

Recording here: <https://youtu.be/n6zjG-at7l4>

Speaker presentations can be found [here](#).

See end of document for further links.

Description

The world is not on track to achieve SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, with significant challenges remaining in almost every country on earth (Sachs, et al. 2022). Addressing the alarming state of global water and sanitation was made even more urgent during the UN Water Conference in March 2023, resulting in the Water Action Agenda and more than 700 multi-sectoral commitments to support water action through financing, infrastructure, and policy development. Nearly 20 percent of commitments feature an element of education or capacity building. However, education and science play a larger role in the achievement of SDG 6 and all SDGs (Toman, van't Land, & Harris, 2023).

Recognizing that research, knowledge transfer, and community engagement are essential for the achievement of all of the Sustainable Development Goals, and that SDG 6 is under review at this year's HLPF, this side event will explore best practices in water sector capacity building from around the world, including a focus on partnerships (with educational institutions, local governments, NGOs, etc.) as an accelerator for action.

The event will bring together experts from across the global networks of the International Association of Universities, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the Global Water Partnership, representing higher education, policy, and practice, to discuss innovative approaches to, and the remaining needs of, capacity building in the sector.

The event will result in lessons learned and documented best practices for continuing work in water-sector capacity building and knowledge exchange.

Key questions

- Why are capacity building and educational activities crucial to advance sustainable development in the water sector?
- What are the needs of different types of capacity building (degree programs, job training, trainings and workshops, etc.)?
- What are best practices for multi-stakeholder platforms in the water sector?
- How can other SDGs benefit from the types of capacity building explored in the discussion?

Agenda

- Welcoming words from host organizations
- Individual speaker presentations
- Moderated roundtable discussion
- Audience Q&A
- Closing

Speakers

- Dr. Yumiko Yasuda, *Senior Network & Transboundary Water Cooperation Specialist, Global Water Partnership, and Lead Faculty, Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security MOOC*
- Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, *Commissioner for Water Resources Planning and Regulation, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda*
- Dr. Basant Maheshwari, *Distinguished Professor (Water, Environment & Sustainability), Western Sydney University, Australia*
- Annina Takala, *University Instructor, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Tampere University, Finland*
- Dr. Robert O. Manteaw, *Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies (C3SS), University of Ghana*

Welcome: Shannon Kobran, *Regional Team Lead for Asia, SDG Academy, SDSN*

Opening Words: Dr. Jauhaina Gherib, *President, University of Manouba, Tunisia and IAU Vice-President/Chair of HESD Working Group*

Moderated by Dr. Hilligje van't Land, *Secretary General, IAU*

Further Links

SDG Academy/SDSN

- Water: Addressing the Global Crisis:
<https://www.edx.org/course/water-addressing-the-global-crisis-2>
- Governance for Transboundary Freshwater Security:
<https://www.edx.org/course/governance-for-transboundary-freshwater-security>
- Watch and share videos from the MOOC in our SDG Academy Library:
<https://sdgacademylibrary.mediaspace.kaltura.com/category/By+Series%3EG%3EGovernance+for+Transboundary+Freshwater+Security/179965001>
- Professional Certificate in Sustainable Water Management:
<https://www.edx.org/professional-certificate/sdgacademyx-sustainable-water-management>
- Activities Guide for SDG 6 for schools:
<https://www.globalschoolsprogram.org/activitiesguide>
- If you are part of a university or research-generating NGO, consider joining the Sustainable Development Solutions Network! <https://www.unsdsn.org/join-the-sdsn>
- Mission 4.7 is advocating for more Education for Sustainable Development—for all learners, at all levels— around the world: <https://www.mission4point7.org/>

IAU

- Accelerating Action for the SDGs - The Report of the 3rd IAU Global Survey on HESD can be found here:
<https://iau-aiu.net/Accelerating-Action-for-the-SDGs-Read-the-Report-of-the-3rd-IAU-Global-Survey>
- IAU HESD Portal - Database with actions from higher education and partners for sustainable development and the SDGs, we invite you to have a look and share your projects: <http://iau-hesd.net/>
- Pre-version of the latest Activity Report of the IAU HESD Cluster - showing the actions from this network in particular:
http://iau-hesd.net/sites/default/files/documents/preversion_clusterreportactivities2022.pdf

GWP

- Learn more about MOOC achievements and related events:
<https://sway.office.com/Kalx9BSNGh9F7dbz?ref=Link>
- Join our Community: <https://iwrmaactionhub.org/group/42/about>

Finland

- <https://www.vesi.fi/en/teemasivu/water-solutions-and-expertise-from-finland/>

Other

- Online courses available in Cap-Net UNDP:
<https://cap-net.org/the-network/online-courses/>

References

Sachs, J., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., & Woelm, F. (2022). *Sustainable Development Report 2022*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781009210058

Toman, I., van't Land, H., & Harris, M. (2023). *Accelerating Action for the SDGs in Higher Education*. International Association of Universities (IAU), Paris, France.