



World Congress
on Water, Climate
and Energy

The Convention Centre
Dublin, Ireland
May 13-18, 2012

IWA World Congress on Water, Climate and Energy, Dublin May 2012

The International Water Association (IWA) is the global leader in advocacy for policy coherence in the inextricably linked natural and anthropogenic cycles of water, energy and other vital resources to support all forms of life on earth. With offices worldwide and on all continents and with individual and corporate membership in excess of 10,000, the declarations and resolutions emanating from IWA events have a very successful track record of significantly influencing global policy and legislative instruments in the vital areas cited above. The IWA includes pre-eminent researchers and practitioners from around the world, who contribute to the IWA advocacy role via leading edge publications and direct promotion and development of latest emerging science and technology to key international decision-makers.

The hosting of the IWA inaugural World Congress on Water, Climate and Energy has been awarded to Dublin, Ireland and will take place at the Convention Centre Dublin from 13th to 18th May 2012. Mary Robinson, previous President of Ireland and High Commissioner for Refugees of the UN will deliver a plenary address during the proceedings. The Congress will be opened by Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan and will be addressed by PJ Rudden, President of Engineers Ireland. The Congress will focus on how to build a sustainable future with particular emphasis on the Water, Climate and Energy nexus and will also address the very real relationship between the current economic and environmental crises which must be tackled in this generation.

Attendees will span the continuum from pure and applied research to practice and full commercialisation and cover all facets of the water, climate and energy fields. This provides Irish people and businesses the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas as well as showcase our strengths and capabilities in the sectors. As well as excellent content, the event will provide unparalleled networking opportunities. The scientific and technical programme will cover forward looking themes, with



opportunities to share experiences and innovations in research, science and technology. Through presentations, workshops and discussion, the congress will make a contribution to the way that the

water, climate and energy interactions are managed around the globe. IWA is expecting over 1000 delegates with strong attendance from Ireland and Europe as well as the United States, Australia and over 50 other countries.



Water, energy and climate change are intrinsically linked and the management of any one sector cannot be managed without due consideration for the implications for the others. Legislators must consider the energy and water implications together and fully integrate water and energy policies. The Congress will focus on this interdependence of these three sectors at a global and a national level.

The global community has made a commitment to improving standards of living for the more than 50% of the world's population which does not have access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitation. This includes not only meeting people's basic domestic needs but also covers economic development with the concomitant increased demands on energy. As the standard of living increases, the demand for water and energy increases in tandem. In addition, the United Nations says that the global population will double by 2050. The increase in population together with the increased food requirements further increases the demand for water and energy. We are, therefore, faced with the dilemma of an increased demand for resources in the face of a global mandate to bring about a reduction in energy usage and pollution in the face of the uncertainty of climate change and associated flooding, hurricanes, and extreme weather events.



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www.iwa-wcedublin.org

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In turn, addressing global climate challenges is contingent on both water and energy concerns. Not only must legislators understand the link between energy and climate, they must act now to address global challenges. Water and energy are essential for global security, food production and economic development. There is an increasing global commitment to solving these challenges, for example by improving efficiencies, technology applications, incentives and policy management.

Opportunities for efficiency gains in water and energy are readily available at a city, industry and local user scale. Changes in consumption patterns and behaviours together with more efficient technology applications are required to deal with future population and demand increases. Technology exists to generate renewable energy from heat recovery from water and hydropower. However, there is growing conflict over the impacts of low-carbon energy generation technologies and their impacts on water supplies. It is argued that increased reliance on water-intensive biofuels, hydropower and other thermal power stations would exacerbate and increase the vulnerability of water supplies.

Meanwhile, at a national level, recent claims that there are two trillion cubic feet of natural gas locked in shale beneath the surface of north Leitrim and adjoining counties has raised national concerns over hydraulic fracturing – commonly known as “fracking” and the potential for pollution of our groundwaters. There has also been extensive debate on the suitability of soils in Ireland for onsite waste water treatment and potential

for contamination of drinking water supplies. Recent research has pointed towards significant amounts of land being unsuitable.



These are some of the challenges and issues facing us nationally and globally that will be considered at the inaugural IWA Water, Climate and Energy Congress in Dublin in May 2012. Decision makers and the international community hope that focus on these links between water, climate and energy will create an environment that will enable progress to be made in the provision of solutions to the dilemmas we all face. The event will convene world leaders to enable joined-up thinking in relation to Water-Climate-Energy and hopefully agree a Draft Resolution of ten “Key Actions” each with an associated list of “Critical Success Factors” to build on already agreed protocols such as the Kyoto Protocol and set the agenda for further advancement in the quest for global policy coherence, legislative consolidation, social ethics and equity, market structures and economic instruments, and technology development.

Ray Earle
Congress Chair
IWA World Congress on Water,
Climate and Energy 2012



Visit the website and download the preliminary programme today!

Ensure to book your visit to Dublin 13-18 May 2012

Group Registration Discounts Available

Discounted Airfare

Aer Lingus is delighted to offer delegates attending the World Congress on Water, Climate and Energy 2012 an early bird discount offer of 20% off fares to Ireland from UK & Europe and \$50 discount off return fares from the USA.

This discount will be effective for flights booked between **15 February and 17 March 2012.**



Technical Tours

The programme committee have put together an exciting technical tour programme for Friday 18th May. Visit the website for further information



Social Tours

Why not extend your stay in Ireland or be sure to take part in one of the exciting daily tours. Explore Dublin, visit Wicklow the “Garden of Ireland” or see Newgrange- a destination older than the pyramids or simply take time to play a round of golf!

Visit the website to see further information www.iwa-wcedublin.org

