



SESSION DESCRIPTION

C5 Improving urban water governance

Presentations

Date: Thursday, 27 June, 2019

Time: 09:00-10:30

Rooms: S34-35

Language: English

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OBJECTIVE

The way local governments decide to govern their water resources and services has profound impacts on people's living, the sustainability of water resources, and the resilience of water systems. *Water governance refers to the political, social, economic and administrative systems in place that influence water's use and management* (SIWI, 2019). Governing urban water includes formulation, establishment and implementation of policies, legislation and institutions, and clarification of the roles and responsibilities of all levels of government, civil society and the private sector in relation water resources and services. The outcomes of urban water governance determine the equity, efficiency and resilience of urban water systems.

The session showcased diverse models, frameworks and tools to improve urban water governance and management across the globe, especially in cities in the Global South and Europe. It started with a discussion on groundwater management and protection in different regions by the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources.

Later, Tetra Tech presented the USAID-funded Albania Planning and Local Governance project, which was designed to improve service delivery at the local level. Then, the BrusSEau project addressed the added value of citizen science in terms of water knowledge to administrations by enhancing planning coordination, resilient water management and recognizing the expertise of inhabitants in this field.

The City Water Resilience Approach and its supporting resilience and governance tools used in eight global cities was presented by Arup, followed by the case of community based communication and innovative tools used to improve climate adaptability and water security in marginalized communities in Singapore and Europe by DREISEITL consulting. The session concluded with a presentation from Zamboanga City focused on the consideration of social and cultural norms to improve planning, installation of adaptive infrastructure and other investments related to water resources.

OUTCOMES

- participants learned of frameworks and tools used globally for urban water governance to improve the water management system and service delivery;
- participants gained understanding of the role of participatory processes focused on citizen satisfaction and customer service to improve local service delivery and foster urban and rural resilience;
- and took this knowledge with them to apply in their own communities, cities and regions.



METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator provided an introduction to the session topic and contributors. **(5 minutes)**
- Each presentation was allotted 10 minutes. **(6 x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator managed questions and answers. **(20 minutes)**
- Closing remarks by the facilitator. **(5 minutes)**

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Lykke Leonardsen, Head of program for Resilient and Sustainable City Solutions, City of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark*

Presenter *Michael Eichholz, Policy Advice on Groundwater, Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resource (BGR), Hannover, Germany*

Managing the groundwater threat to urban resilience

The presentation showcases how cities can better manage, protect and benefit from groundwater as groundwater storage reserves are critical for climate change adaptation. The presentation combines conventional water-supply infrastructures with innovative nature-based solutions that can build a more resilient urban water cycle.

Presenters *Adrienne Raphael, Associate, Tetra Tech, Burlington, United States*

Strengthening resilience and service delivery in the Albanian water sector

USAID-funded Albania Planning and Local Governance Project, implemented by Tetra Tech, aims to provide technical assistance and training to the Albanian central government and local institutions to implement decentralized reforms and to improve the service delivery. The key focus is to improve irrigation and drainage while increasing the government's revenue and reducing non-revenue water.

Presenter *Dimitri Crespín, Hydrologist, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels, Belgium*

Testing hydrological communities in Brussels to mitigate flood risk

"Brusseau, Brussel sensible à l'eau", is an interdisciplinary and participatory project, funded by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Brussels-Capital Region (Innoviris), with the aim to increase flood resiliency in the city. The collaborative research-action directly involves citizens and inhabitants of targeted municipalities, referred to as Hydrological Communities. Together, we explore increasing issues of water management in an urban and regional context and model solutions through four co-creative methodologies: Historical Approach, WatreCitiSense, New Urban Rivers and Water Islands (scientific, historical, architectural, urban planning).



Presenter *George Beane, Consultant, Arup, London, United Kingdom*

City Water Resilience Approach

The presentation showcases the City Water Resilience Approach (CWRA) which has been developed in partnership between Arup and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) to help cities improve the resilience of their urban water systems. As part of this effort, Arup has developed the water governance digital tool OurWater, which helps cities bring together stakeholders from across the water cycle.

Presenter *Bettina Dreiseitl-Wanschura, DREISEITL consulting, Überlingen, Germany*

Water challenges as a source for creating resilient communities

This presentation illustrates how community-based tools, models and frameworks helped Singapore to increase their climate adaptability and water security, and to improve the living conditions of marginalized communities.

Presenter *Eduardo M. Bisquera Jr., Office of the City Environment and Natural Resources, Local Government of Zamboanga City, City of Zamboanga, Philippines*

Sustaining water resilience ecosystems amidst impact of weather patterns cycle

A local utility draws mainly from surface water for drinking and domestic uses. The impact of changing weather patterns may cause water shortage. In the event of water insufficiency, it affects the agricultural and economic enterprises, among others. Hence, the local planning activities strengthen governance with policies on appropriate land use, city extension, watersheds and coastal resource management plans. Currently, it deliberates on the proposed local Environmental Code design to improve ecosystems functions; and pursuing the ecosystems approach geared towards ecosystems stability. In progress is the development of a forest land use plan that determines the existing and compatible land uses. The intermediate interventions includes pushing the sustainable water policy, conducting information and awareness campaign; and installation of adaptive infrastructures taking into considerations the social and cultural norms.

Further recommended reading:

- IWA 'Principles for Water-Wise Cities' (www.iwa-network.org/waterwisecities)
- www.iah.org/strategic+overviews+series