



Water Online Week 2021 | March 22-26

Water, Climate, Action!

As the World Bank Group aspires to foster a green, resilient, inclusive and transformative recovery around the world, the Water Global Practice rises to the challenges of climate change and COVID-19 in its yearly flagship event: *Water Online Week 2021: Water, Climate, Action!*

Joined by decision-makers, influencers and experts, the World Bank [Water Global Practice](#), the [Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership](#) (GWSP) and the [2030 Water Resources Group](#) (2030 WRG) will highlight the critical importance of delivering water supply and sanitation services, sustaining water resources and building resilience.

The vision of a Water-Secure World for All is key to fostering green energy, ensuring food security, universal access to services for health and providing measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change that will underpin a sustainable future for people and the planet.

March 22, 2021 – 8-11 am EDT

WOW! 2021 Grand opening

Water, Climate, Action!



Water Online Week 2021 (WOW!) opens on World Water Day, March 22, to shine a light on the unifying power of water to shape our future across the challenges posed by the ongoing health crisis, climate change and the economy.

For the Grand Opening of WOW! we will hear from global decision-makers and experts who may not be directly involved in the water sector but depend on it to realize their ambitions. Their agenda and their challenges in return shape how we understand water. A high-level discussion on the critical role of water for health, food production and green energy will be followed by snapshots of World Bank engagements around the world. The second panel, chaired by IFC, will hold a conversation with a panel of CEO's from

large companies and foundations about how they measure and reconcile the corporate risks and targets they have set for water and climate.

Speakers

Jennifer Sara, World Bank Global Director of Water, will welcome all to the grand opening of WOW! The week will kick-start with an opening panel about water from the perspective of health, food systems, political leadership, and the water-energy-climate nexus.

Panel: **Water, Climate, Action! Working across sectors to deliver water for people, production and planet**

H.E. Serigne Mbaye Thiam, Minister of Water and Sanitation, Republic of Senegal
Jeffrey Kightlinger, General Manager, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization
Martin Frick, Deputy Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit

Global CEO Panel: chaired by IFC leadership. Among the panel members:

Natarajan Chandrasekharan, Chairman of the Tata Group
Zouera Youssoufou, Managing Director and CEO of the Aliko Dangote Foundation
Lydie Hudson, CEO of Sustainability, Research and Investment Solutions of Credit Suisse

Closing remarks provided by **Mari Pangestu**, World Bank Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships.

Plenary 2 – March 23, 2021 – 8-9:30 am EDT

Water for Cities

Building the Next Generation of Resilient and Inclusive Cities



Add to your calendar



Join the Session

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the critical role that water utilities play in safeguarding public health, protecting the poor and vulnerable, ensuring sustainable business growth and job creation, and mitigating the impacts of pandemics. And while water utilities suffer the impacts of climate change, they are also a source of global carbon emissions from energy use in the transportation, distribution and treatment of potable water and wastewater. Therefore, water utilities can have important contributions to the climate adaptation and mitigation agendas and in building resilience to an array of shocks and stresses, while ensuring equity and access to water and sanitation services through innovative approaches as well as important regulatory and financing efforts. In this plenary, World Bank experts and utility managers will discuss their experiences addressing critical challenges towards increasing access to WSS services, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and building water resilient and inclusive cities and utilities.

Speakers

Opening Remarks by **Ousmane Diagana**, World Bank Regional Vice President West and Central Africa

Keynote Presentation by **Michael Webster**, CEO of Cape Town Water

Panel: **Building Resilience, Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change**, moderated by **Gustavo Saltiel**, World Bank Global Lead, Water Supply and Sanitation

Ms. Eva Clemente, Manila Water Group Director for Strategic Asset Management, Philippines

Dr. Eng. Silver Mugisha, Director General, NWSC, Uganda

Dr. Prabhushankar, Executive Director, Chennai Metro Water Board, India

Mr. Juan Carlos Cordova, General Manager, SEDAPAR, Peru

Panel: **Looking Ahead: Designing Programs at Scale to Build Water Resilient Cities**, moderated by **Genevieve Connors**, World Bank Practice Manager, Climate Change

Junaid Ahmed, World Bank Country Director, India, (TBC)

Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly, World Bank Country Director, South Africa.

Vivek Pathak, Director and Global Head for Climate Business, IFC (invited)

Closing Remarks by **Jennifer Sara**, World Bank Global Director, Water

Plenary 3 – March 24 – 8-9:30 am EDT

Water When We Need It

Water Storage in a Changing Climate



Water storage is playing an increasingly important role in adapting to -- and further mitigating -- climate change. This session will look at the role of natural and built water storage in ensuring that people and the planet have the right amount of water when they need it in the face of a changing climate. A changing climate will alter where, when and how much rain falls, how much water is needed for growing food, energy production and for other cooling purposes: as a result, we will need to adapt how we are storing and otherwise managing water to ensure we have the right amount (and only the right amount!) of water when and where we need it. This session will examine ways we can address our current and looming water security challenges through a broad spectrum of green and grey approaches to water storage. Further, the session will look at the ways in which water storage can assist in mitigating climate change through reducing carbon emissions, including through supporting green energy and climate-friendly investments at scale.

Speakers

Opening remarks by **Axel van Trotsenburg**, World Bank Managing Director, Operations

Keynote & Q&A: Experience in Colorado River by **Terry Fulp**, former manager of lower States, Colorado River, USB

Remarks by:

H.E. Minister Gabriel Quijandría Acosta, Minister of Environment, Peru
Debashree Mukherjee, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti (invited)
Riccardo Puliti, World Bank Senior Director, Energy and Extractives
Marina Wes, World Bank Country Director for Egypt

Ignite Talks on Climate mitigation and adaptation activities led by **Eileen Burke**, World Bank Global Lead, Water Resources Management

Plenary 4- March 25 – 8-9:30 am EDT

Root Causes – Climate in Agri-Water

Rearticulating the value proposition in Agri-water



Agricultural water management has been glorious in overcoming farming’s largest uncertainty: rain. But in doing so, it has created new vulnerabilities, and even contributed to the very climate hazard it was designed to manage. This session will look at the role of Agri-water in building climate resilience and addressing climate mitigation. The first theme will be on Scaling Solutions in Farmer Led Irrigation Development to help overcome major climate risks and make farmers thrive - using models to promote scale, cost-effectiveness and sustainability across and beyond Africa. Secondly, the next generation of engagements in Agri-water will need to address GHG emissions, particularly in large-scale irrigated rice. Improving on-farm water management supports climate mitigation, farmer income, water productivity, water quality, health, and biodiversity. This, however, requires systems change on the demand and supply side and creating the enabling environment that rewards change for the global good. New insights, tools and approaches to accelerate action on both agendas will be highlighted.

Speakers

Introduction: Pieter Waalewijn, World Bank Global Lead, Water in Agriculture

Panel: **Scaling solutions in Farmer Led Irrigation Development** moderated by **Joy Busolo**, Sr. Water Resources Management Specialist, 2030 WRG, World Bank

Hon. Dr. Gerardine Mukeshimana, Minister for Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda (invited)

David Gatende, Group CEO, Davis & Shirtliff

Keith Hansen, World Bank Country Director Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Somalia
Simeon Ehui, World Bank Regional Director Sustainable Development West Africa

Paddies for the Planet: Climate Mitigation in Agri-water

Keynote presentation on climate impacts of Water in agriculture and possible solutions by **Jonathan Foley**, Executive Director at Project Drawdown

Presentation to Government Official from China on experiences with AWD and irrigation services (invited)

Panel discussion moderated by **Claudia Sadoff**, Managing Director Research Delivery and Impact CGIAR

Dr. Aruna Rachakonda, Marketing Director South Asia, CORTEVA Agriscience (invited)

Paul Nicholson, Head of Rice Research and Sustainability at Olam International Limited (invited)

Benoit Bosquet, World Bank Director Sustainable Development, East Asia and Pacific

Martien van Nieuwkoop, World Bank Global Director Agriculture and Food

Closing remarks by **Jennifer Sara**, World Bank Global Director, Water

////////// The public forum (by invitation only) concludes on March 25 \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\

Stay tuned for more information about the Closing plenary
World Bank Staff Only - March 26 – 8-10 am EDT