



# 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Water Economics, Statistics and Finance

26 to 28 APRIL, 2017

The Thematic Scope of the Conference is Water Challenges in XXI Century: Role of Economics, Statistics and Finance. You will find a complete description of the thematic scope in the attached document.

Water policy-makers, water users of all sectors and scientists and academics, water utilities managers, consultants and other water professionals from all over the world are invited to reflect, debate and present state-of-the art oral and poster presentations related to the leading challenges in water management, supply and sanitation, finance and policy, from an economics, statistical, and financial framework.

Main target-topics are:

1. Water resources management: The natural water cycle has long been characterized by substantial variability, which plays a large role in how modern water systems are managed. Climate change introduces even greater uncertainty raising questions about decision-making frameworks that are appropriate.
2. Water governance, regulation, and institutional frameworks: It is essential to identify good practices and develop practical tools to assist different levels of governments and other stakeholders to engage effective, fair and sustainable water policies. Which are the set of rules, practices, and processes through which water resources management decisions should be taken, implemented, and monitored?
3. Water statistics and data collection methods: Why is it so difficult to get good international water statistics, water demand and supply estimation?
4. Urban water supply and sanitation: How urban water and sanitation utilities are financed, which are their various water tariff structures, in which way do they insure accessibility, how to assess their performance, and how they are facing increasing vulnerabilities, among others. Water utilities also face a social crisis due to the increase of the cost of treating, distributing water and cleaning wastewater, which result in a reduced affordability and financial crisis. An IWRM approach when applied in an urban context requires a greater understanding of water economics and finance.

5. Rural water supply and sanitation: Given the adoption of access to water as a human right, it is no longer sufficient to exclusively address access, but rather focus on sustainable water supply in quantity, quality, accessibility and reliability. How can we move away from traditional rural supply approaches focused on infrastructure provision towards the supply of a reliable service that lasts indefinitely?
6. Agricultural water management: How to meet ever-rising demand for food while at the same time increasing farmer incomes, reducing poverty, and protecting the environment are the main challenges facing agricultural water management. Under this context, there is little discussion about the instruments available for improving agricultural water productivity, and which interventions may be suitable and feasible in a particular situation.
7. Water pricing schemes: It is essential to consider the use of economic instruments to allocate water resources, manage demand, reduce pollution discharges, finance water service costs and incentivize environmentally positive actions (positive externalities).