

# 7<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

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## TEN MAJOR OUTCOMES



WORLD WATER COUNCIL REPORT



# “WATER FOR OUR FUTURE”

THE 7<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM TOOK PLACE AT A TURNING POINT AT THE DAWN OF A NEW SET OF GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. IT MARKS THE RISE OF A NEW PARADIGM IN CATALYZING POSITIVE CHANGE FOR A WATER-SECURE WORLD.

## Figures of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum

OVER **40,000** ENTRIES

FROM **168** COUNTRIES

**10** WORLD LEADERS

**121** OFFICIAL NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS DELEGATIONS

**80** GOVERNMENT MINISTERS

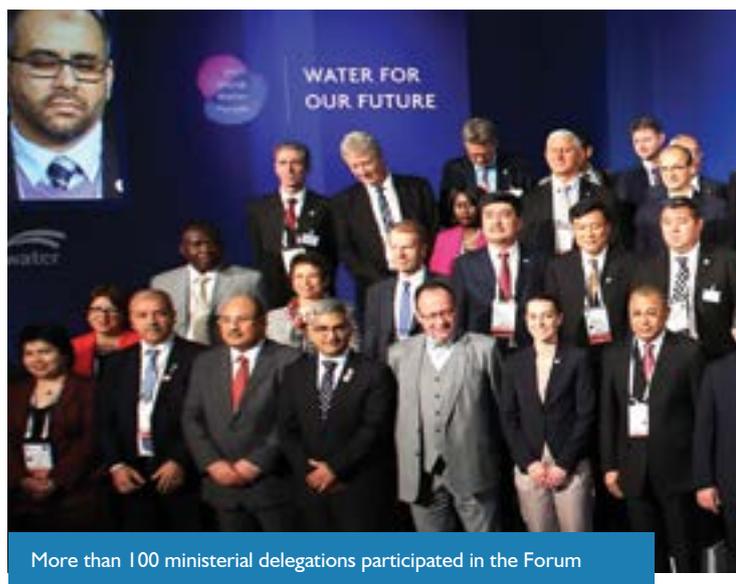
**71** PARLIAMENTARIANS

**95** LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

**400** SESSIONS & EVENTS

**900** JOURNALISTS FROM FIVE CONTINENTS

# RECORD ATTENDANCE FOR THE MINISTERIAL PROCESS



More than 100 ministerial delegations participated in the Forum

*“Water is at the core of sustainable development. It is thus important to ensure both a stand-alone water goal and a comprehensive concept of water, energy and food security as part of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.”*

Neven Mimica, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development

The 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum met a record of participation within its ministerial process with more than 100 ministerial delegations participating in the event. On 13 April 2015, the Ministers adopted the [Ministerial Declaration](#), which was accompanied by a full set of [recommendations from the international water community](#) on how best to overcome today's water challenges. The declaration was finalized after a year-long negotiation among related international parties and acknowledges that sustainable management of water resources is a collective responsibility of all stakeholders that is vital to development for all countries. It supports the inclusion of a dedicated water goal and water-related targets in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and recognizes the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum's contribution in supporting their implementation.

The declaration also commits to ministers working together to ensure a successful outcome at CoP21 in full recognition of the importance of water-related issues in climate change.

The declaration also emphasizes the importance of science and technology's role in moving from the identification of solutions for water-related challenges towards their implementation.

To support collective action on subjects of particular interest, **8 High-level Ministerial Roundtable discussions** provided unique opportunities for the political community to interact with numerous representatives from the worlds of business, civil society, academia and the media.



## HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLES

**ENSURING SAFE AND ENOUGH WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL**  
 moderated by Algeria, South Africa and Sri Lanka

**INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT** moderated by Japan and Nigeria

**SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ECOSYSTEMS** moderated by Korea

**ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND MANAGEMENT OF WATER RELATED DISASTER RISKS**  
 moderated by Costa Rica Korea and The Netherlands

**WATER-FOOD-ENERGY NEXUS**  
 moderated by China and Pakistan

**FINANCING FOR STRENGTHENING WATER GOVERNANCE**  
 moderated by The Netherlands and the WorldBank

**CULTURE, EDUCATION AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN WATER SECTOR**  
 moderated by Hungary

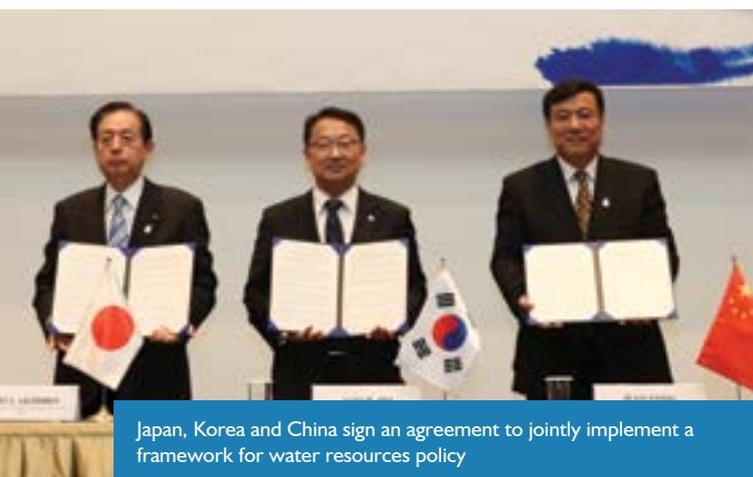
**WATER FOR PEACE AND CO-PROSPERITY-TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION**  
 moderated by Tajikistan, USA and South Africa

# COUNTRIES SIGN HISTORICAL AGREEMENTS

The 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum facilitated a number of **political agreements** which mark a step forward in international water cooperation. President Park addressed the need for participation and contributions from the international community to utilize innovative science and technology in order to ease water-related conflicts worldwide and move forward into an era of reconciliation and cooperation. She announced her will to create a dialogue channel for the co-management of rivers passing through the two Koreas.

*“We plan to create a dialogue channel for the co-management of rivers passing through the two Koreas. During this Forum, participants will present solutions for global water-related challenges, through which we will bring forward a peaceful world.”*

Park Geun-hye,  
President of the Republic of Korea



Japan, Korea and China sign an agreement to jointly implement a framework for water resources policy

OVERALL, EIGHTEEN MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING WERE SIGNED AND FIFTY BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MEETINGS TOOK PLACE DURING THE FORUM WEEK

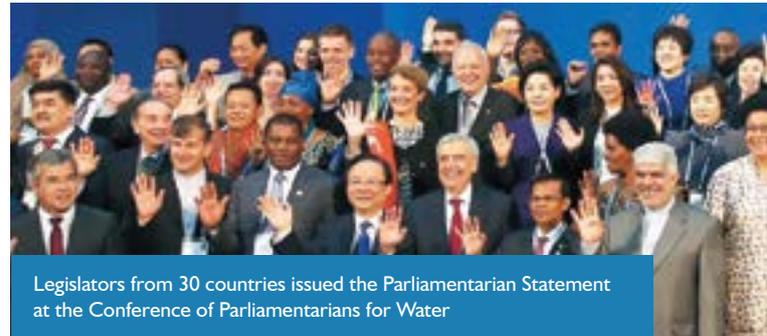
Among the agreements signed, a historic step was taken between the US and Mexico regarding the Colorado River Management. The Forum also saw a trilateral ministerial meeting between China, Japan and Korea where ministers pledged to strengthen the core role of water in sustainable development and attract more financial investment to the water sector. The agreement sets a cooperative framework for water resources policy planning to be jointly implemented in the three countries.

In addition, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea signed two Memorandums of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia and Ministry for Climate Change of Pakistan to enhance cooperation with the countries.

# PARLIAMENTARIANS' COMMITMENTS TO ACT FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Parliamentarian conference confirmed the will of lawmakers to effectively commit to legislative solutions for sustainable water management by gathering 71 parliamentarians from 27 countries. The legislators issued a [Parliamentarian Statement](#) pledging to promote international cooperation on water challenges.

The statement calls for prioritizing water security in terms of sustainable economic development, allocation of financial resources and streamlining budget execution efficiency. It also acknowledges the critical role of legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms for implementing sustainable policies and enabling the participation of all stakeholders, including youth.



Legislators from 30 countries issued the Parliamentarian Statement at the Conference of Parliamentarians for Water

The Statement also encouraged inscribing water as a central component of climate change discussions..

During the conference, the participants also discussed different mechanisms and networks for increasing the effectiveness of proposed water legislation.

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## NEW TOOLS FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

The Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) process was coordinated by 6 international organizations which collaborated in the development of a strategy document for action in cities. Endorsed by 95 Local and Regional Authorities from 26 countries, the [Daegu-Gyeongbuk Water Action for Sustainable Cities and Regions](#) is a roadmap which provides concrete tools to guide LRAs in the implementation of sustainable water management strategies at the local level. The document differentiates between two different levels: building strategies for local and regional authorities to improve management, and soliciting national governments to help create enabling environments for the achievement of national and global goals.



Coordinators of the LRA process present the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Water Action for Sustainable Cities and Regions

Among the many issues raised in the document, it highlights the importance of local authorities' roles in implementing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and how best to deliver their share of responsibilities in the most effective and efficient way.

# DAEGU-GYEONGBUK IMPLEMENTATION COMMITMENT ON WATER



Benedito Braga, President of the World Water Council and Jung-moo Lee Chairman of the National Committee, after signing the DGIC in the presence of Champions

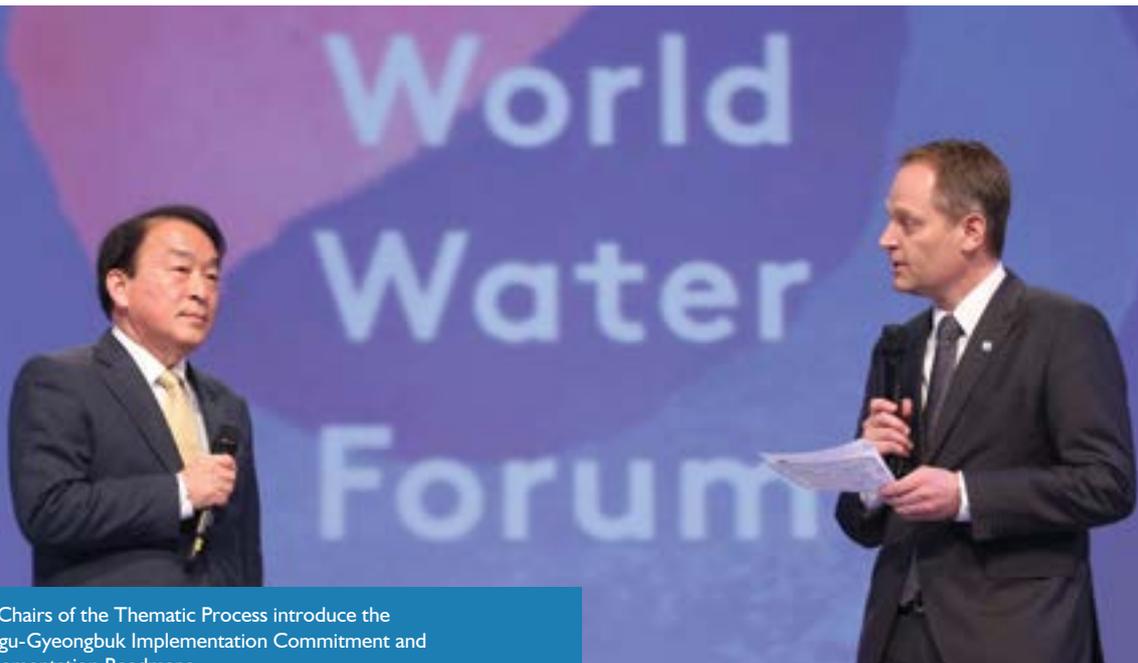
At the closing ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, a consortium of 20 international water-related organizations became Champions for the [Daegu & Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment \(DGIC\)](#), which seeks to assemble the major goals for action within each of the Forum's 16 thematic areas with the intention of supporting and monitoring progress in those areas over the next three years.

The Government of the Republic of Korea and the WWC presented the [Implementation Roadmaps](#) and the [Action Monitoring System](#) as key deliverables of the Forum, building on the Solutions of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Marseille. These mechanisms will serve to guide collective action and keep track of progress in a public arena.

It is also expected that the Roadmaps will provide a clear picture of how to implement various aspects of the water-related Sustainable Development Goals and thereby create support for the achievement of the SDGs as a whole. Moreover, the Action Monitoring System will create concrete linkages between successive Forums in terms of catalyzing action, so that the momentum for positive change for the cause of water is continually increased.

In addition, the **Water Showcase** provided opportunities to exchange practical experiences, knowledge, information and policies through sharing actual cases with successful outcomes and instructive lessons. The best illustration of implementation was one of two recipients of the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Water Prize awarded at the closing ceremony.

CHAMPIONS FOR THE DGIC: UNESCO-IHP, PS-EAU, AQUAFED, ICHARM, ICOLD, FAO, IWA, UN-HABITAT, K-WATER, RAMSAR, IWRA, GWP, ADB, OECD WATER GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE, INBO, UNESCO REGIONAL SCIENCE BUREAU, INWTC, UNESCO, WFWP



Co-Chairs of the Thematic Process introduce the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Implementation Commitment and Implementation Roadmaps

*“This moment is not the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum but the beginning. From this moment, we will carry out our actions with the Implementation Roadmaps on the Action Monitoring System until the next Forum in 2018.”*

Hyoseop Woo, Co-Chair  
of the Thematic Process

*“Implementation Roadmaps are the key outputs of the Thematic Process. They set the objectives, the priorities for implementation alongside the communications and advocacy that are needed. Everybody can join the Implementation Roadmaps. Everybody can align to the objectives. They can join coalitions of champions for implementation; they can make commitments that are appropriate for them.”*

Mark Smith, Co-Chair  
of the Thematic process

To learn more, visit the Action Monitoring System website  
[ams.worldwaterforum7.org](https://ams.worldwaterforum7.org)

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND BEYOND

At least 3 high level events reaffirmed the need to maintain momentum for a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal for water, while the subject of SDGs was also raised in many of the Forum's other sessions.

The World Water Council along with the Governments of The Netherlands, South Africa and Switzerland and the Butterfly Effect convened a High-Level Panel on the role of water in the post-2015 development agenda. This panel discussed how to ensure the inclusion of water-related Goals and Targets in the SDG framework, but also what elements are necessary for their successful implementation and monitoring in the coming 15 years. The World Water Council urged policy makers and water stakeholders from all nations to maintain the momentum for a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal for water in order to achieve water security in all domains.

*“We should also resist the temptation to treat the SDGs as a checklist we can simply tick off. Instead, they should be translated into projects that help us reach them.*

*And that is exactly what this World Water Forum is about - implementation. It is time to act.”*

Melanie Schultz van Haegen,  
Minister of Infrastructure  
and the Environment  
of The Netherlands

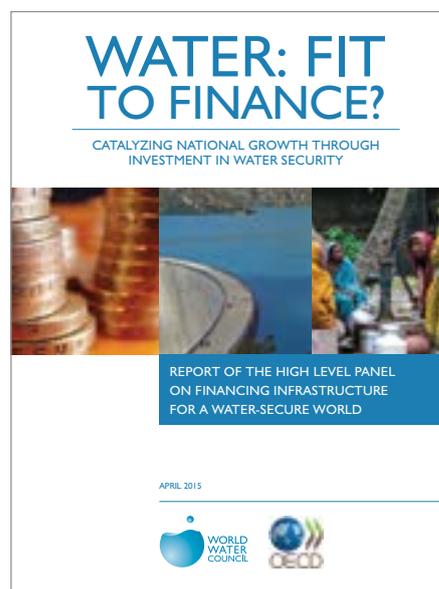


# FINANCING DISCUSSIONS CHALLENGE BOUNDARIES

Serving as a follow-up on recommendations emanating from the Camdessus Panel (2003) and the Gurria Task Force (2006), the World Water Council and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development invited high-level representatives from governments, international agencies, the private sector, the NGO community and academia to address water infrastructure financing to meet water security for the demands of the global population and global economy.

Under the chairmanship of Angel Gurría, Secretary-general of the OECD, the panel set out clear objectives and looked into the financial resources that will be necessary to achieve this infrastructure, and the means to generate necessary funds.

By launching the report '[Water: Fit to Finance?](#)', the World Water Council and OECD demonstrated the increasing need for investment in major water infrastructure schemes as a means to catalyze national growth. With the increasing use of water for all kinds of activities – agriculture, industry, energy – water infrastructure will have to be multi-purpose.



This initiative was in complement to other important work provided on the economics and financing theme coordinated by the Asian Development Bank, such as the Global Dialogue on Water Security and Sustainable Growth coordinated by Global Water Partnership and the OECD.

# CONNECTING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS WITH WATER CHALLENGES

The **Science & Technology process** was a new component created especially for the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. It focused on the implementation of scientific and technological innovations in water management to help countries tackle global water challenges and ensure sustainable development. The process also aimed at bridging the scientific and technological gap between developed and developing countries by encouraging the sharing of information and technological action tools for imminent water challenges.



CEO Innovation Panel



Launch of the Science & Technology White Paper

The **White Paper** released at the Forum served to identify the current status of water-related scientific and technological methods and provided future directions for innovation in each of the five sectors around which the process was articulated: efficient water management, resource recovery from water and wastewater systems, water and natural disasters, smart technology for water and understanding and managing ecosystem services.

In addition, three special **CEO Innovation Panels** provided opportunities for interaction between CEOs of water-related enterprises, high-level government officials, water experts, and other stakeholders on the front lines of global water issues. During the sessions, leading figures shared their experiences and discussed means to foster innovation, engage business in adopting water stewardship approaches, promote sustainable water goals and build water resilience for cities.

The sessions concluded with the awarding of the **World Water Challenge** prizes, rewarding successful solutions to water-related challenges.

## INTER-REGIONAL SESSIONS GENERATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN CONTINENTS AND PROCESSES

The Regional Process was able to identify that greater commitment from countries was imperative to addressing the issues of the water sector. In addition to the World Water Forum's dedicated regional process sessions, the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forum introduced a successful new set of **inter-regional dialogues** to discuss common thematic issues from different geographic perspectives to help share experience, learn from each other and bring those lessons back home.

Some of these sessions involved as many as five regions tackling topics such as adapting to climate change or water and food. Through collaborative discussions, and cross-cutting concluding sessions, participants gained a broader understanding of how to deal with similar challenges in different contexts.

## PRIZES RECOGNIZE DEVELOPMENT AND WATER SOLUTIONS

Four prestigious water prizes worth hundreds of thousands of dollars were awarded during the 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

The **King Hassan II Great World Water Prize**, instituted by the Kingdom of Morocco and the World Water Council, was awarded to Nigerian social entrepreneur Maman Abdou for his technological contribution to developing remote-control irrigation systems.

The **Kyoto World Water Grand Prize**, awarded by the Japan Water Forum and the World Water Council, was given to the Environment and Public Health Organization of Nepal, a group recognized for its outstanding grassroots activities in dealing with water problems.



Laureates of the King Hassan II Great World Water Prize (left) and Kyoto World Water Grand Prize

The **Mexico World Water Prize**, instituted by the Government of Mexico was given to three individual innovators in successful implementation of public policies for water resources management: the first place went to Alicia Rafaela Vázquez of Management and Sanitation Service of Montevideo; the second place to Thanasak Wattanathana of Metropolitan Waterworks Authority; and the third place to Sergio Rubi Sequoia of Empresa Nicaragüense de Acueductos y Alcantarillado.

The two **Daegu-Gyeongbuk Prizes** went to Ricardo Alba of Colombia, for the development of a rainwater collector made of plastic bottles for schools and poor urban areas, and Kanupriya Harish of India, for designing a resident-led water management group with an effective governance system. The laureates received their prizes from the Daegu Metropolitan Government.



A BIG THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
THE 7<sup>TH</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM

SEE YOU IN BRAZIL IN 2018

### About the World Water Forum

Serving as a stepping-stone towards global collaboration on water challenges, the World Water Forum is a unique multi-stakeholder platform where the water community and the policy and decision makers from all regions of the world can work together to create joint solutions.

Necessitating two years of collaborative preparation with stakeholders from around the world, the World Water Forum consists of 4 preparatory processes within a common framework.

It is considered as the world's largest event around water.

The 7<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum was jointly organized by the World Water Council and the Republic of Korea together with the City of Daegu and the Province of Gyeongbuk.

More information is available online at:

[eng.worldwaterforum7.org](http://eng.worldwaterforum7.org)

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#### CO-ORGANIZERS

