

**WORLD WATER DAY 2023**  
**ACCELERATING CHANGE**  
**THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION**

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE (EICC)  
WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, HYBRID WITH LIVE-STREAM



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*Accelerating Change through Partnerships and Cooperation*

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, Scotland will join the annual World Water Day observance with its national event entitled 'Accelerating Change through Partnerships and Cooperation'. This conference aims to explore emerging trends and opportunities for water to act as a catalyst for accelerating change through intersectoral interactions, and the ways in which policy, research and innovation can come together to safeguard water sustainability and resilience worldwide. This free hybrid event is hosted by the Hydro Nation International Centre and supported by the Scottish Government and the James Hutton Institute.

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**Welcome to World Water Day 2023**

**09:15-10:00**    **Registration**

**10:00-10:05**    **Welcome**

*[Rachel Helliwell](#), Director of Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters & the Hydro Nation International Centre, James Hutton Institute*

**10:05-10:20**    **Opening address**

*Mairi McAllan MSP, Minister for Environment and Land Reform*

*Barry Greig, Head of Water Industry Policy, Water Policy & DECC Operations, Scottish Government*

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**Thematic Presentations**

**10:20-10:25**    **Session Introduction**

**Water and Health**

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**10:25-10:45**    **Wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE) to track COVID-19**

Speakers: [Andrew Millar](#), Chair of Systems Biology, University of Edinburgh & [Michael Lockhart](#), Programme Lead- Public Health Microbiology, Public Health Scotland

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**10:45-11:05**    **A prescription for sustainable policies in Scotland**

Speaker: [Sharon Pflieger](#), NHS Highland, Co-founder One Health Breakthrough Partnership

**11:05-11:10**    **Launch of 'Recommendations for Leveraging Blue Space for Health'**

Speaker: *Niamh Smith, Glasgow Caledonian University*

### **Water and Sustainable Engineering**

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**11:10-11:30**    **Sustainable Urban Infrastructure**

Speaker: [Rebecca Wade](#), *Senior Lecturer, Abertay University*

**11:30-12:00**    **Morning Break**

### **Water and Digitalisation**

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**12:00-12:20**    **Digital Environment for Water Resources**

Speaker: [Marian Scott](#), *Professor of Environmental Statistics, University of Glasgow*

**12:20-12:40**    **Digital Water: Innovation and Adoption in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**

Speaker: [Zach White](#), *Senior Insights Manager, GSMA*

### **Water and International Cooperation**

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**12:40-13:00**    **Cooperation in Urban Water and Wastewater Management: Opportunities and Challenges**

Speaker: [Asit Biswas](#), *Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Glasgow*

Session close

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**13:00**            **Lunch Break (with Networking & Exhibitions)**

On display: [Hydro Nation Scholars Programme](#) Digital Poster Exhibition and Virtual Pavilion

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### **Water and Policy: Roundtable & Hydro Nation**

**14:00-14:05**    **Session Introduction**

**14:05-15:00**    **Roundtable Session: Accelerating Change through Partnership Working**

*Led by Kerr Adams, International Development Officer, HNIC, James Hutton Institute*

**15:00-15:10**    **Hydro Nation Water Innovation Programme**

*Stephen-Mark Williams, Executive Director, ETP*

**15:10-15:30**    **Afternoon Break**

**15:30-15:45 Hydro Nation Chair: Perspectives from Scottish Water**  
*George Ponton, Head of Research and Innovation, Scottish Water*

**15:45-16:00 Summary & Close of the Main World Water Day 2023 Event**  
*Jon Rathjen, Deputy Director, Water Policy & Directorate of Energy and Climate Change Operations, Scottish Government*

**Session close**

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**Evening Event: Scotland's Centre of Expertise for Waters Annual Keynote Lecture 2023**

*\*\*\*Separate registration is required for this event\*\*\**

**16:00-17:00 Evening Reception & Networking**

**17:00-18:00 Keynote Lecture: 'The Language of Water'**  
*[Minni Jain](#), Operations Director, the Flow Partnership*  
*Chaired by Rachel Helliwell, Director of CREW and HNIC, James Hutton Institute*

**Event close**