

16 - 18 SEPTEMBER

ABU DHABI, UAE

وزارة الطاق MINISTRY OF ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE





# ARAB WATER **FORUM** PROGRAMME

FOR A WATER RESILIENT AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE





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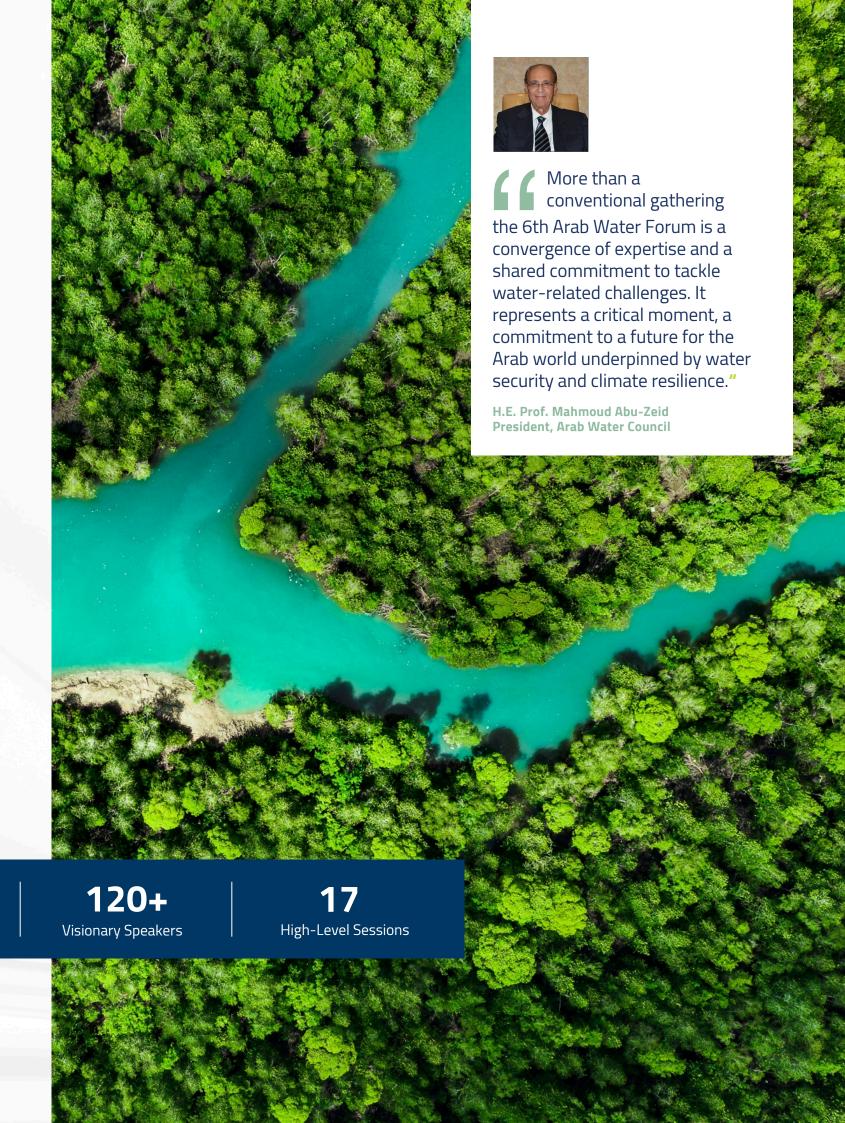


## **ABOUT THE ARAB WATER FORUM**

Building on 16 years of success, the Arab Water Forum will gather visionaries and pioneers from across the water value chain to advance the solutions that matter most to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all.

Taking place in Abu Dhabi, the three-day event provides a platform for industry leaders to fast-track collaborative efforts to meet water security goals and identify the most promising innovation and growth opportunities.

In collaboration with the League of Arab States and the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt, the Arab Water Forum is a crucial platform, facilitating collaborative dialogue and strategic partnerships that address the significant challenges of water scarcity and climate change in the Arab region.



6,000+ Water Professionals

60+ Global Exhibitors 900+

Forum Delegates



Water security is a pressing global issue, particularly critical in the Arab region, which faces severe water scarcity compounded by long-standing disputes over water resources. The intersection of water and food security underscores the need for effective water management to achieve sustainable development and regional stability. Furthermore, integrating sustainable finance for climate resilience is crucial to support adaptive strategies and investments, ensuring long-term solutions to these water-related challenges and fostering overall regional prosperity.

Against this backdrop, the 6th Arab Water Forum provides a platform for leaders and policymakers to collaboratively shape strategies and accelerate solutions that will safeguard regional water security to ensure future prosperity for the Arab world.

This forum is not just an event; it is a call to action. We invite you to join us, where your passion for water-related solutions will drive the change we seek.

## PROGRAMME **KEY THEMES**

### **ADDRESSING REGIONAL EMERGING WATER CHALLENGES**

Emerging water-related challenges in the Arab region will take center stage on the inaugural day of the forum, addressing day one theme. This begins with recognising the evolving nature of water resource management, setting the stage for a comprehensive look at the unique challenges faced by the region. The discussions and presentations will cover pressing issues such as water scarcity, pollution, and the unpredictable impacts of climate change. Experts and participants alike will explore the dynamic landscape of the Arab region's water resources, sharing knowledge and exchanging ideas. The focus will shift to collaboration and knowledge exchange, as attendees work together to craft effective mitigation strategies, build resilience, and establish sustainable water management practices. This collective effort aims to navigate the complexities of the region's water challenges, setting the course for a future where these critical issues are addressed with innovative and sustainable solutions.

# 2 INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

In the dynamic landscape of water management, the Forum places a spotlight on innovation and non-conventional strategies as key elements for adaptation and resilience. Day two theme will serve as a platform to explore groundbreaking solutions that go beyond traditional methods. To adapt to changing climate conditions, several countries in the region have successfully expanded the use of circular economy and WEFE nexus approaches, nature-based solutions, and non-conventional water resource management practices. The sessions under this theme will showcase success stories and best practices from across the Arab region, emphasising creative and adaptive measures in response to water-related challenges. Examples from the UAE, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and others will be presented.

## **PATH TOWARDS A** SUSTAINABLE WATER FUTURE

The path to a sustainable and resilient water future in the Arab region requires aligning with global water agendas while tackling regionspecific challenges. Day three theme will offer insights into the region's water management, highlighting efforts to safeguard resources, bolster resilience, and support sustainability. Presentations from representatives of the UAE, Egypt, the Arab Water Council (AWC), and Saudi Arabia (KSA) will showcase various global and regional initiatives. The track will also include contributions from young professionals to foster inclusive dialogue and develop actionable strategies for resilience and sustainable water management.



## **SESSIONS FORMATS**

### MINISTERIAL HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES

Convening ministerial leaders in water, energy, and climate for highlevel dialogues to advance policies and initiatives for water security, prioritsing sustainable management, climate adaptation, and regional cooperation.

### **KEYNOTE & TECHNICAL PANELS**

Global water leaders will be at the forefront focusing on issues like water scarcity, quality, and sustainable management. Parallel technical sessions by top regional, international, and UN organisations will showcase innovative initiatives and projects through expert panels and audience engagement.

## **INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS**

Engaging workshops by international research organisations will focus on disaster risk reduction and nature-based solutions for climate resilience. Participants will take part in scenario-based exercises to enhance problem-solving skills in simulated disasters and explore cutting-edge nature-based approaches crucial for tackling climate challenges in a collaborative setting.

THEME: ADDRESSING REGIONAL EMERGING WATER CHALLENGES

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER DAY 1

TRACK 1

10:00 - 11:00

Joint Opening Ceremony of the 6th Arab Water Forum & World Utilities Congress

11:30 - 13:00

**High Level Ministerial Dialogue** 

Setting the agenda for the Forum, the Ministerial Panel will advance dialogue and set the stage for addressing key challenges based on the current political status of the region and generate policies, cooperation, and actions necessary to align SDGs and regional water strategies with water security initiatives in the region.

#### **Panelists:**



**H.E. Prof Hani Sewilam**Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation



**H.E. Madam ZHU Chengqing**Vice Minister
Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China



Amb. AlMotaz Abadi
Deputy Secretary General for Water,
Environment and Blue Economy (UfM)
Union for the Mediterranean



Mr. Talal Ahmed
MPP I Engineer of Science and Technology,
MOE, Member of Arab Youth Council for
Climate Change (AYC)
Ministry of Education and Higher
Education, Oatar



**H.E. Aoun Diab Abdullah**Minister of Water Resources
Iraa



**H.E. Mohamed Abou El Enein**Member of the People's Assembly of Egypt - Undersecretary of the Egyptian Parliament



**Dr. Nuria Sanz**Officer in Charge
UNESCO Regional Office, Cairo

14:00 - 15:30

Panel Discussion: Transboundary water resources management

Regional collaboration is critical to unlock the best possible solutions to combat climate change. For countries that share resources, it brings forward complex challenges that require strategic considerations to manage transboundary shared water resources. With unprecedented pressures on water availability, there is an increasing need for collaborative and adaptive approaches to transboundary water management, and fostering beneficial partnerships.

#### **Panelists:**



**Dr. Khaled Abouzeid**Senior Regional Water Resources Director
Centre for Environment & Development
for the Arab Region & Europe



**H.E. Amb. Sherif Eissa** Ambassador of Egypt in UAE Egypt Embassy in UAE

15:30 - 17:00

**Technical Presentations and Panel Discussion:** Climate, water & food security: adaptation and resilience measures

Recognising the unique vulnerabilities of the Arab world to climate-related disruptions in agriculture. It is critical to examine the multifaceted challenges within the climate-water-food nexus and formulate integrated strategies policies and promote innovative approaches and strengthen partnerships to enhance resilience in the region.

#### **Panelist:**



**Dr. Tina Jaskolski C**limate, Peace, and Security Policy Scientist MENA Climate Security Hub (CGIAR)

THEME: ADDRESSING REGIONAL **EMERGING WATER CHALLENGES** 

MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER DAY 1

#### TRACK 2

14:00 - 15:30

Panel Discussion: Peace, climate change and water security in the Arab

As political instability exacerbates water security issues in the Arab region, there is a critical need to provide insights into the water-related challenges arising from political unrest, evaluate risks to water and food security, and highlight humanitarian consequences in conflict zones. It is imperative to propose strategies to mitigate these risks and initiate collaborative actions to support conflict-affected countries in facing water scarcity amidst climate change and political uncertainties. This discussion will emphasise the impact of political unrest on water infrastructure and quality, particularly in regions with significant refugee populations, and underscore the need for regional and global cooperation to mediate conflicts and address urgent humanitarian needs in areas like Gaza, Sudan, and Somalia.

#### **Panelists:**



H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Abdellatif Director General Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding



Dr. Grazia Pacillo Program Director CGIAR Climate Peace and Security

15:30 - 17:00

**Keynote Presentation and Panel Discussion:** Water & Climate Sustainable Finance

With climate change intensifying water scarcity issues, there is a critical need to mobilise financial resources for viable, sustainable solutions that will bolster upgrading water infrastructures, and enable disaster risk reduction. For countries and communities vulnerable to climate change, it is imperative to address the impacts of climate change within their communities, explore the challenges hindering their access to sustainable finance, and identify the different mechanisms and innovative tools to access the loss and damage climate funds.

#### **Keynote Speech:**



Dr. Bapon Fakhruddin Water Resources Management Senior Specialist in the Division of Mitigation and Adaptation Green Climate Fund (GCF)



THEME: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER DAY 2

TRACK 1

10:00 - 11:30

Panel Discussion: Innovative approaches for adaptation and resilience for water scarcity and climate change

To adapt to the changing climate conditions, several countries in the region have successfully expanded the use of circular economy and WEFE nexus approaches including nature -based solutions and nonconventional water resources management practices. The session will showcase success stories and best practices from the Arab region, emphasising creative and adaptive measures in response to water-related challenges.

#### **Panelists:**



Mr. Ahmed Al Shamsi CEO SWS Holding



H.E. Dr. Jauad Al Kharraz Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)

11:30 - 13:00

**Presentations and Panel Discussion:** Circular water economy for climate security: initiatives for smart & green transition

Circular water economy is crucial in ensuring climate security through innovative technologies, sustainable finance, and policy recommendations. Technology will play a vital role in optimising water use, mitigating environmental impact, and advancing resource security. Sustainable finance will be examined for supporting circular water economy initiatives. Policy recommendations will be proposed to integrate circular principles for sustainable water use. The session will also discuss potential financial models, investment opportunities, and public-private partnerships to drive the green transition in water management.

#### **Keynote Speech:**



H.E. Eng. Abdallah Bin Ibrahim Chairman of the Saudi Water Authority Saudi Water Authority

#### **Panelists:**



Prof. Walid Aberrahman Vice President Arab Water Council



Mr. Abed Ezz El Regal Chairman & CEO ABU OIR Fertilizers



14:00 - 15:30

Presentations and Panel Discussion: WEFE-nexus: best practices and governance

The session will provide a comprehensive understanding of the interlinkages of water, energy, food, and ecosystems in the MENA region. Experts will exchange best practices, discuss innovative solutions & strategies and explore successful demonstrations for managing the interlinked challenges of water, energy, food and ecosystems for improved resource efficiency in the region.

15:30 – 17:00

Interactive Workshop: Disaster risk reduction: loss and damage in the water sector

This workshop offers a unique platform for scenario-based exercises, enhancing collaborative problemsolving and decision-making skills in simulating real-world disaster situations. The workshop will focus on the concept of loss and damage, examining economic, social, and environmental impacts through case studies. Participants will take away strategies for integrating disaster risk reduction into water sector policies and highlight local frameworks and national plans. Additionally, successful community-based approaches, innovative technologies, and early warning systems will be showcased, along with opportunities for accessing climate funds.

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THEME: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER DAY 2

TRACK 2

11:30 - 13:00

Presentations and Panel Discussion: Role of non-conventional water resources in the future of adaptation and resilience to climate change

In the face of water related challenges, the exploration and utilisation of non-conventional water resources have emerged as beacons of success. Over the years, various initiatives and projects have demonstrated the potential of non-conventional water resources in not only mitigating water scarcity but also fostering adaptation and resilience. The session will aim to identify collaboration opportunities for implementing NCWR technologies in water resources and agriculture, emphasising the feasibility and efficiency of these innovations. The session will also focus on promoting best practices, developing informed policies, and emphasising the importance of legal frameworks, investment incentives, and capacity building for successful NCWR implementation.

14:00 - 15:30

Interactive Session: Digital transformation & Al for smart water management

Digitalisation is revolutionising water management in the Arab region, transforming the way water resources are managed, monitored, and utilised. This session explores the transformative potential of digital technologies and AI in enhancing water management techniques, showcasing efficiency gains and sustainability benefits. Discussions will include user-centric strategies, cybersecurity, optimising decision support systems, water distribution, and maintenance forecasting ultimately contributing to more effective and efficient water management practices.

15:30 - 17:00

Interactive Session: Nature-based solutions for water resilience

This workshop will showcase best practices and facilitate knowledge exchange for Nature-based Solutions (NBS) in water resilience, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration. The workshop will highlight environmental and societal benefits, identify barriers and solutions, inspire innovation, and create networking opportunities through working groups and interactive exercises.



THEME: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER DAY 3

TRACK 1

Panel Discussion: Advancing global and regional water initiatives for a sustainable future

Regional water strategies are intertwined with global water agendas including SDGs, UN Water Decade, UNDRR and COP. Water scarcity is a global challenge that requires international collaboration and perspectives. This session will explore efforts to establish a resilient framework for water management under climate stresses, and outline a roadmap for a resilient water future, aligning with global water agendas.

Interactive Panel Discussion: Youth and gender Voices on water security and sustainable future

Diverse voices are critical to ensure a sustainable future in water security. With women, children, and marginalised communities impacted most due to climate challenges, their voices are critical in the decision-making processes addressing climate change and ensuring equitable water management. The session will spotlight their perspectives on climate advocacy and innovative solutions, featuring a diverse pool of panelists reflecting their visions. Insights from working groups will be integrated in the discussion. The session will culminate in a youth and gender declaration for policy change, encapsulating the discourse's key outcomes, and displayed for all participants.

**Interactive Plenary:** Together Towards a Sustainable Future

The future of water management lies in collaborative efforts, sustainable practices, and the integration of diverse voices to drive meaningful change and secure a sustainable water future. This session will identify the key recommendations that have been concluded from the forum across three days and highlight the priority areas for action to address water-related challenges, emphasising collaborative strategies and innovative solutions towards a resilient and secure water future.

**Closing Ceremony** 



## ARAB WATER FORUM **SPEAKERS**



H.E. Prof. Mahmoud Abu- Zeid President Arab Water Council



H.E. Madam ZHU Chengqing Vice Minister Ministry of Water Resources of the People's Republic of China



H.E. Prof Hani Sewilam Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt



H.E. Aoun Diab **Abdullah** Minister of Water Resources, Iraq



H.E. Eng Tawfiq Al-Sharjabi Minister of Water and Environment, Yemen



H.E. Ahmed Aboul Gheit Secretary General League of Arab States



H.E. Prof. Loïc **Fauchon** President World Water Council



El Enein Member of the People's Assembly of Egypt undersecretary of the Egyptian Parliament



H.E. Amb. Sherif Eissa Ambassador of Egypt in UAE Egypt Embassy in UAE



Abbadi Deputy Secretary General for Water, Environment and Blue Economy (UfM) Union for the Mediterranean

Amb. AlMoataz



H.E. Ambassador Ahmed **Abdellatif** Director General Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding



Mr. Marco Riccardo Rusconi Director Italian Agency for **Development Cooperation** (AICS)

# ARAB WATER FORUM **SPEAKERS**



**Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi**Director General
ICBA-UAE



Prof. Walid
Aberrahman
Vice President
Arab Water Council



**Dr. Hussein Al-Atfy**Secretary General
Arab Water Council



Dr. Nuria
Sanz
Director
UNESCO Regional Office in
Cairo,
UNESCO Liaison Office with
the League of Arab States



Dr. Roula Khadra Science Coordinator, International Officer, Water Resources Management CIHEAM Bari



Dr. Amgad El Mahdy Regional Manager - Middle East and North Africa Green Climate Fund



Eng. Jihad Al- Mahamid Secretary General Ministry of Water & Irrigation, Jordan



Dr. Mohamed
Al Mulla

Director, Water Resources
Ministry of Energy and
Infrastructure, United Arab
Emirates



Prof. Shiqiang
WU

Vice President
Nanjing Hydraulic research
institute (NHRI), MWR,
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XIE

Deputy Division Chief
Nanjing Hydraulic research
institute (NHRI), MWR,
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Professor
Nanjing Hydraulic research institute (NHRI), MWR,
China



Dr. Youssef
Brouziyne

Head of Regional Office for
the Middle East and North
Africa, International Water
Management Institute

## ARAB WATER FORUM **SPEAKERS**



**Prof. Safwat Abdel** Dayem **Emeritus Professor** National Water Research Center



Dr. Khaled Abouzeid Senior Regional Water **Resources Director** Centre for Environment & Development for the Arab Region & Europe



H.E. Eng. Abdallah **Bin Ibrahim** Chairman of the Saudi Water Authority Saudi Water Authority



H.E. Dr. Jauad **Al Kharraz** Director Regional Center for Renewable Energy and **Energy Efficiency** 



Dr. Emilio Ciarlo Director General of One Water Committee Euro-Mediterranean forum, 2025 Italy



Dr. Bisher **Imam** Regional Hydrologist UNESCO Regional Office, Cairo



Dr. Abdelaziz Zaki Science National **Professional Officer UNESCO** Regional Office



**Prof. Vinay** Nangia Research Team Leader -Soil, Water, and Agronomy ICARDA



Mr. John Wendelbo CEO and President, Flow Science Inc. FLOW-3D



Refay Director of Technical Services El Refay for Engineering Services Certified Associate (partner) of FLOW-3D



Ahmed MPP I Engineer of Science & Technology, MOE, Member of Arab Youth Council for Climate Change Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Qatar



Dr. Grazia Pacillo Program Director CGIAR Climate Peace and Security

# ARAB WATER FORUM **SPEAKERS**



Dr. Tina
Jaskolski
Climate, Peace, and
Security Policy Scientist
MENA Climate Security Hub



Dr. Bapon
Fakhruddin
Water Resources
Management Senior
Specialist in the Division of
Mitigation and Adaptation
Green Climate Fund



Mr. Abed Ezz El Regal Chairman & CEO ABU QIR Fertilizers



Eng. Hebah
Abbas
Chairwoman
Kuwait Water Association



Prof. Ali Rhouma Project Officer Prima



Prof. Fadi Comair Professor of Applied Hydrology, Integrated Water Resource Management & Infrastructure at EEWRC The Cyprus Institute

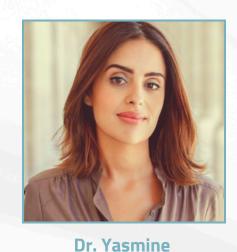


Eng. Samer Muhandes Product Manager AutoDesk - UAE



Dr. Hazem
Gouda

Associate Professor
University of Wollongong in
Dubai - Faculty of
Engineering and
Information Science



Seghirate
Administrator at the
General Secretariat
CIHEAM Paris



Dr. Jean
D'Cunha
Senior Global Advisor on
Gender, International
Migration and Decent Work



Mr. Ahmed Al Shamsi CEO SWS Holding



Dr. Aymen Sawassi Water Management and Modeling Expert CIHEAM Bari

## THE **EXHIBITION**

In response to growing demand to ensure regional water security, the Arab Water Forum is poised to redefine the landscape of the water sector – facilitating collaboration and action at the heart of the global water ecosystem.

Showcasing the latest innovative solutions, the Arab Water Forum will host exhibitors spanning national and international utilities, IWPs, financial institutions, technology providers and companies across the sector – encompassing desalination, storage, distribution, wastewater treatment and conservation.

Convening policy makers and industry leaders, the Arab Water Forum provides access to partnership and investment opportunities with decision-makers and financiers across the water value-chain.

BOOK YOUR STAND - sales@arabwaterforum.org

## **SECTOR FOCUS**



**Water Desalination** and Supply



Water Infrastructure and Utilities



Wastewater Treatment and Reuse



Water Conservation and Efficiency



Water Technologies and Digitalisation



**Environmental Protection** and Sustainability



Water Storage, Transport, and Distribution



Point of Use and Point of Entry

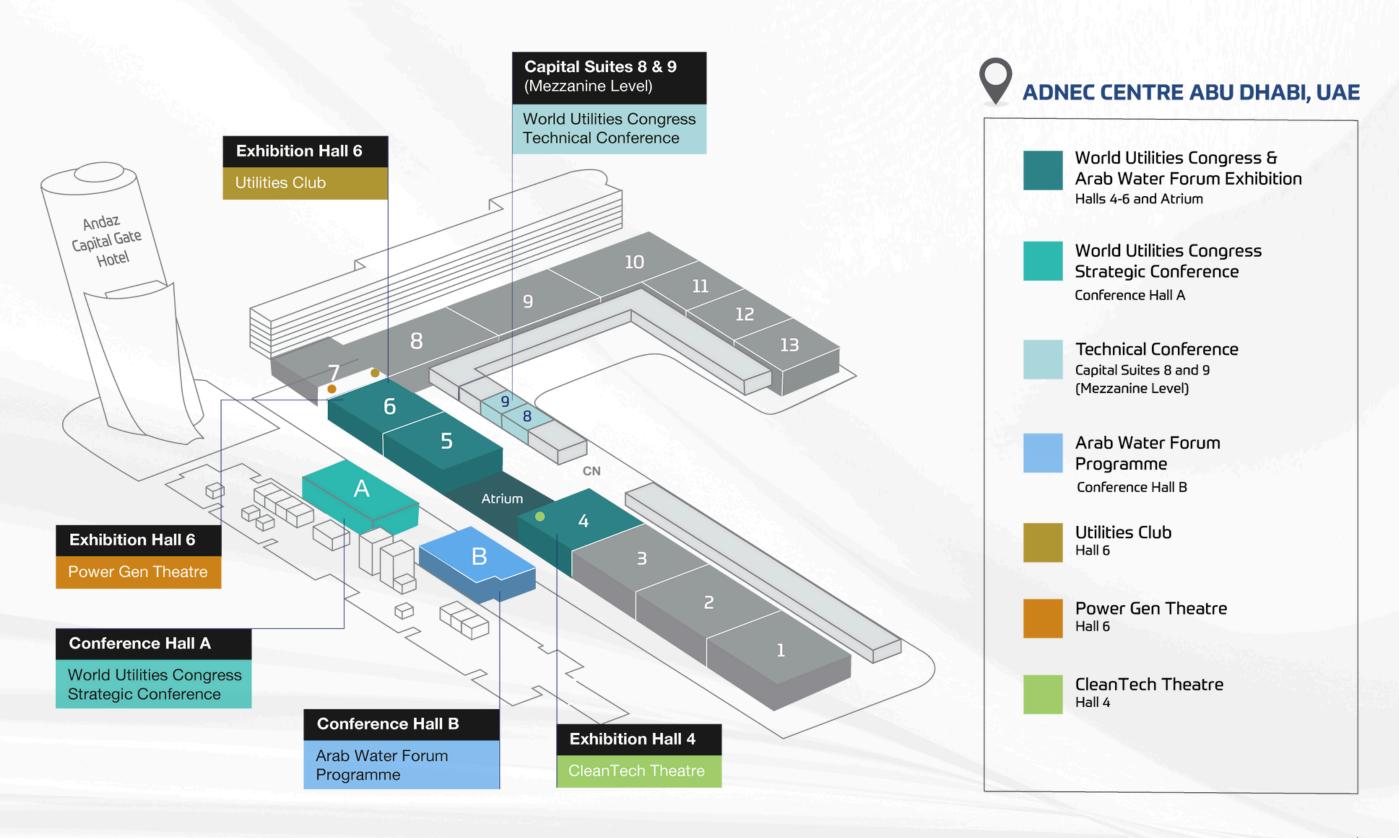


Aquaculture and Agriculture



Government, Municipalities, and Water Authorities

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## Programme Pass Includes:

### **ALL ACCESS PASS**

Arab Water Forum Programme - 3 day pass

World Utilities Strategic Conference - 3 day pass

World Utilities Technical Conference - 3 day pass

Delegate Lunch

Access to Exhibition Halls

\$2,499

### **NON-MEMBERS PASS**

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Programme - 3 day pass

Delegate Lunch

Access to Exhibition Halls

\$799

### **MEMBERS PASS**

Arab Water Forum
Programme - 3 day pass

Delegate Lunch

Access to Exhibition Halls

\*Exclusive for members of the Arab Water Council.

\$599

### **YOUNG PASS**

Arab Water Forum Programme - 3 day pass

Delegate Lunch

Access to Exhibition Halls

\*Exclusive to individuals aged 25 and

\$299





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