

Post-conference Report



Welcome to the Water Innovation Europe Post-conference Report 2012



Water Innovation Europe was the joint stakeholder event of the WssTP (Water supply and sanitation Technology Platform) and ACQUEAU (the EUREKA Cluster for water), held in Brussels in May 2012. The conference was a great success, encouraging discussion and collaboration, and resulting in highly productive results for both the European water sector and related industries. ***Water Innovation Europe was a platform for stakeholders from all backgrounds and sectors to discuss the progression, development and innovation of the European water sector.***

We would like to thank our Headline Support COST, our Gold Sponsors Veolia Environnement and Suez Environnement, and our Silver Sponsors, Kemira, KWR and CETaqua, for their valuable help and contribution towards the conference.

This report aims to summarise some of the discussions that took place over the two-day conference, for the use and utilization for all of those who attended – and for those who did not have the chance to partake this year. For the full presentations and details of the event, you can visit our website: www.waterinnovationeurope.eu. Please do not hesitate to send us your feedback on the conference and this report, by e-mailing info@waterinnovationeurope.eu.

Contents

Opening & Industry Innovation Leadership Seminar.....	3-4
Strategic Implementation plan for the EIP on water.....	5-8
Case Studies – Barriers to Innovation and Examples of Solutions.....	9
Water Innovation Strategy Workshop	10-11
National Funding Priorities/Opportunities in 2012/13.....	12
Seminar – Cross-sector collaboration as a catalyst for Innovation.....	13
<u>Key-note Speeches:</u>	
Xavier Leflaive (OECD)....	14
Dominique Helaine (Suez Environnement)	15
Philippe Martin (Veolia Environnement).....	16
Wim van Vierssen (KWR)	17
Commissioner Janez Potočnik.....	18
The IWA Project Innovation Awards.....	19

Conference Introduction & The Industry Innovation Leadership Seminar

The conference was opened by WssTP President Mike Farrimond and ACQUEAU Chairman Xavier Chazelle, who provided a backdrop on both organisations and the aims behind the conference, to encourage discussion around water, innovation, European policy, industry and growth. The first seminar then began, aiming to investigate how innovation can work best for the water sector when integrating industry, especially across sectors. It was moderated by Paul Reiter of IWA, who encouraged lively and productive discussion.



WssTP President Mike Farrimond and ACQUEAU Chairman Xavier Chazelle open Water Innovation Europe

Alan Seatter, Deputy Director-General of DG Environment, set the scene by outlining how industry is a key player in innovation, and that, in seeking competitive advantages, industry drives innovation. He went on to talk about how Europe already has a well developed water industry - but that there are many more opportunities, both in Europe and globally. Innovation is needed to capitalize on this. Sometimes, innovative solutions exist but are not put into practice. The growth potential of European companies needs to be maximized by providing them with adequate levels of support and help so that innovative SMEs grow into world-leading companies. Mr Seatter concluded by noting that stakeholders have clearly expressed their support for the development of the EIP on Water – but that it is now time to take action and make this happen.

He was followed by Kaj Jansson, Vice President of Kemira R&D and Technology, who took us on a journey through the future for water and chemistry. This started with an outlook on the horizon for 2050, with a growth in the population towards 9.3 billion people, 100% increase in water withdrawals for urban and industrial use, 100% increase in energy demand, 70% increase in food production and 11% increase in water withdrawals for irrigated agriculture and industrial use.

When looking at the growth prognoses for agriculture, industry and municipality use for 2030, a gap of 40% will exist between water demand and water supply. This is a gap which needs to be solved through processes such as desalination, wastewater reuse and rainwater harvesting.

These solutions will need to be developed in the coming decade. Kaj Jansson argued that when we look closer in time, the trends and drivers in water treatment up until 2020 are: scarcity of water supply, stricter environmental regulations and enforcements, a strong water and energy connection, and a market which needs to implement the use of high technology at an affordable cost.

Manuela Soares, Director of DG RTD followed, outlining how research into breakthrough technologies is prevalent in Europe, but that there is a difficulty in turning them into innovative solutions, i.e. new products, processes and services that can be applied in the economy. She went on to detail how the priorities of Horizon 2020 will support the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), which aims to tackle this central problem. Companies and SME participation will also be promoted. It is expected that around 15% of the total combined budget for all societal challenges and the enabling and industrial technologies priorities of Horizon 2020 will go to SMEs.

She was followed by Arthur Thornton of Atkins Global, who discussed the temptation of presenting world water problems as simple headlines: ‘*water scarcity*’, ‘*poor quality*’, ‘*pollution*’, ‘*impact of climate change*’ and ‘*impact on biodiversity*’. However, these problems are interrelated, complex and relate to the wider economic, social and political landscape. Atkins is a global consultancy with research capability and exporting environmental services across the globe. It recognises the importance of the accurate definition of these complex problems and the required engagement of our European research capability to ensure that the appropriate stakeholders invest in the solutions.

Conclusions: Europe will need to be strongly competitive towards regions such as China and Singapore to be the area which provides those solutions. A long history in water treatment, the benefits of the different cultures and experiences of 27 EU countries and the challenge of Europe will need to act as a driver to take up the challenge facing water stress through scarcity and flooding.



Alan Seatter, Kaj Jansson, Manuela Soares and Arthur Thornton, moderated by Paul Reiter during Industry Innovation Leadership Seminar

To access the presentations from this session, please click here.

The Strategic Implementation Plan on the EIP for water

As part of WIE, WssTP and ACQUEAU organised a session, at the request of DG-Environment, to gather input on the Strategic Implementation Plan for the Water EIP.



Tony Sharp, WssTP Programme Manager leads the session for the SIP on the EIP for water

Preparations for the sessions were based on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Innovation Partnership on Water dated 10th May 2012. Reference was also made to the draft consultation document on the EIP on Water that preceded the above communication. We invited the audience to divide into 3 groups based on the 3 proposed work packages of the EIP - **urban** water management, **rural** water management and **industrial** water management.

Moderators were invited to chair these 3 groups and we invited the respective audiences to contribute comments against the following:

- Societal challenges listed in the EIP communication
- Strategic objectives
- 2020 targets
- Benefits of delivering the targets
- Operational targets
- WPs and transversal themes
- Potential focus areas by WP – as listed in the original consultation document.

Conclusions from the Urban Water Management Group – Barbara Anton



Barbara Anton of ICLEI leads the session on Urban Water Management

There were concerns that the objectives, and thus resulting demos/innovations sites at the EU level are not necessarily relevant in the global water market e.g. water management in rapidly urbanizing areas and mega-cities, and construction of new cities and infrastructures from scratch.

Potential focus areas in the urban remit were outlined as:

- The development of interfaces/systems perspective - optimisation needs to harvest synergies from cross-cutting perspectives.
- Waste water management to be researched in terms of latest technology challenges, such as making wastewater plants energy positive.
- Address impact of chemicals into the environment.
- Governance issues are missing that can foster innovation in the public sector, such as including pricing mechanisms.
- Include green space management to enhance the water situation in cities; how to link 'blue and green'; water-sensitive urban design.
- In addition, the urban water management work package **has to address the full water story**; all components of the urban water cycle as well as urban design for/with water; water demand management is important.

Conclusions from the Industrial Water Management Group – Thomas Track



Thomas Track of DEHEMA leads the Industrial Water Management discussion group

The industrial group outlined a growing awareness in society that, under economic constraints, water will become more of a raw material rather than just a utility as it is today. Because of this, it is foreseen that water will come under more competition both from the process industry and from society. Every industry has specific requirements for water - so coming up with global solutions will not work, as there are underlying challenges. The industry group therefore suggested a holistic approach - symbiosis.

Comments on the EIP's strategic objectives included the suggestion to introduce a policy that secures availability of demand – particularly because industries can find themselves vulnerable to changing policies. Additionally, a focus

on eco-efficiency, with a tax on a “water” footprint, encouraging industry to talk money in terms of water and thereby driving efficiency saving.

On EIP operational targets, the group concluded that the industrial water treatment sector is a key player and the most technological solutions will be driven from industry even if the effluent treated is not the biggest quantity - therefore these solutions will be transferable to the other pillars of the EIP.

Conclusions from the Rural Water Management Group – Iman Boot



Iman Boot of DG Agriculture leads the session on Rural Water Management

The rural discussion group outlined concerns on the EIP strategic objectives focusing too much on water quality, when there could perhaps be an additional focus on matters such as flood control. Regarding the EIP Targets for 2020, the group discussed the possibility of connecting water quality to water needs as a target.

Some rural focus areas put forward for consideration were:

- More of a focus on deforestation.
- The question of too much of a focus on agriculture. Rural population areas need to also be looked at, especially with regards to infrastructure maintenance.
- The meaning of biodiversity should be further defined - is it just on farmland or is it also aquatic biodiversity i.e. river basin management.
- There is room for innovation of pollution treatment using natural systems.
- Reducing the impact of human activities on agricultural groundwater.
- Maybe not just the prevention of salt intrusion, but catching freshwater before mixing with salt water.
- Innovation needed to find mechanisms for reducing eutrophication.
- Relationship between Urban and Rural (i.e. incentives for rural area to discharge a given quality of water).
- Resilient communities (i.e. rural communities working together to extract nutrients, water reuse, etc., communities becoming self-sufficient)

General Conclusions



Robert Schröder offers his remarks during the sessions.

Several key conclusions stretched across the separate groups:

- Customer aspects are relevant – thus it is important to include end-users in testing innovation.
- Regional dimensions are sometimes getting lost by the separation of work packages; this may lead to exclusion of regional water sector stakeholders. Regional/cohesion policy will have to be taken into consideration.
- The understanding of what innovation means needs to be improved.
- There should be the creation of a protected space where experimentation can take place and technologies/approaches can be tested. Allow for learning from failure. Share risk of failure.
- It is important to re-engage people with water and create a new water culture.

To access the presentations from this session, please click here.

Barriers to Innovation & Examples of Solutions

This informative session covered the broad issues which need to be addressed to promote a faster innovation process and helped to give great insight into some of the ‘barriers to innovation’ and practical steps to overcome them:

Andreea Gulasci, CEN/CENELEC highlighted a number of opportunities for innovation through standardisation instruments which can induce faster uptake of innovations with easy access to market and enhancement of the economic value of projects.

Hugh Goldsmith of the European Investment Bank (EIB) explained that the high cost and high risk of innovation projects can be a significant barrier. The EIB-EC have developed a powerful policy instrument called the risk sharing financing facility (RSFF) to blend grants with loans for “leverage”. It was concluded that more effort is needed on innovation through “soft system” efficiency gains from better public policy.

Charles Ainger, MWH presented a strategy for faster innovation through ‘step change innovation’ utilising clever analysis or modelling, collaborative solutions, and importantly, acting at the system interfaces such as catchment or customer interfaces. The S-curve innovation sequence highlighted how, through the process of persuasion and evidence, innovative ideas can be widely adopted over time and sustainable solutions achieved.

The **@qua ICT for Water Efficiency** thematic network was shown as a clear example of the process of innovation at an interface between water and ICT in 4 steps :

- Water business processes and ICT solutions: identification of gaps and expectations on ICT solutions
- Identification and validation of innovative ICT solutions in order to bridge the identified gaps
- Develop the “level of sharing” of each ICT solution (interoperability, standards, architecture & roadmap)
- Produce guidelines, standards and specifications on specific ICT solutions

Boris Lesjean, KWB, presented why innovation, within the context of the OXERAM project, can help to optimise Capex and Opex over a long time period ; why innovation is a wise investment for the future and how the concept of *Greenovation* is taking off at the local and European levels to maximise return on investment for industries.

Dr Matthias Haury, of our Headline Support **COST**, provided an insight into how networks could be utilised to address the innovation ‘bottlenecks’ through knowledge diffusion and exploiting the knowledge process where we are now moving to a ‘world in which the focus of value creation is effective participation in knowledge flows’.



Clockwise from top: Andreea Gulasci, Hugh Goldsmith, Charles Ainger, Philippe Gourbesville, Tomas Michel Mayer, Matthias Haury, Boris Lesjean and Pierre Sacareau take part in the case studies session.

To access the presentations from this session, please click here.

The Water Innovation Strategy Workshop

At the Innovation Strategy Workshop, the WssTP President Mike Farrimond challenged the participants to define the ten leading topics to shape the European Water Innovation Strategy.



WssTP President Mike Farrimond moderated this discussion session

Summarised, these were:

1. Join forces, interconnect, engage and keep communicating

A large part of the input from the participants was a call to “join forces”. A quick impression on the remarks which have been made include:

- “We need to cover the full supply chain!”
- “SME involvement is key in discovering innovations.”
- “Partner with China, India, Africa and Brazil.”
- “Interconnect industry, urban and rural areas to come to new solutions.”
- “Involve the users in all projects by using social media”.

2. Let’s talk money

It was argued that, in Europe, there is a strong willingness to pay for good quality water and that the public recognizes the challenges which are ahead of us. Further maturing innovation in financial arrangements are needed to finance those challenges. Specific attention needs to be given to investment opportunities for water utilities, public procurement and specific tax facilities for SMEs.

3. Encourage system innovations in water reuse, energy & resource-efficiency

Participants argued that a lack of resources and high energy bills will drive innovations towards closed systems. Both resource efficiency and pollution prevention are restricted by doing so. As promising technologies in this field, membranes and intelligent sewers were mentioned.

4. Water efficient and effective food, industries and energy

Processes need to be both efficient (e.g. more crop per drop) and effective: water needs to be available at the right quality, right place and right amount, without a negative impact on other users (through water allocation, efficiency and pollution prevention). A transparent Water – food – energy (biofuel) nexus deserves priority.

5. Build water resilient communities

A clear message from the participants: Communities need to be both robust and flexible to be resilient for both floods & droughts. Dealing with uncertainties is necessary to make the optimal choices and to design a pathway forwards.

6. Challenge innovations by setting ambitious EU regulations and standards.

It was discussed that new and ambitious environmental regulations can challenge parties to innovate. Further the audience recognized voluntary industry standards have a part to play in stimulating innovation in the market uptake sector. They reduce costs for companies, and force those who fail to follow higher standards to fall behind.

7. Engage in water and ICT (Data-gathering & management)

A broad range of subjects like sensors, water monitoring technologies, data management and modeling and asset management planning were mentioned. Questions like “how can we better reach and engage people in their water use?” were put forward.

8. Water is Health

The participants clearly argued that trust is key. Water risk management and water safety planning will grow in importance worldwide as people will have higher demands in the future. Questions like “How to define water quality in the future?” were raised.

9. Good governance and processes

A key question raised was “are the current institutions and division of responsibilities a barrier for innovation?”.

10. Build an excellent, involved and responsive science infrastructure

Last but not least, “how to further involve scientists without causing a decrease in the independence of the researcher?”, “how do we encourage an EU intellectual property pro-active culture through the whole chain?” and “how do we encourage a science infrastructure through the whole supply chain?”



Some of the contributors towards this session.

National Funding Priorities/Opportunities in 2012/13



Clockwise from top: Dominique-Paul Warnier, Mathieu Fichter, Xavier Chazelle, Melanie Bauer and Kirsi Vähä-Pietilä.

This session was moderated by Dominique-Paul Warnier – the EUREKA High Level Representative of France.

In this session, Mathieu Fichter of DG Regio outlined how the Cohesion Policy will help to support innovation in water management looking ahead from the 2007-2013 framework to the 2014-2020 framework of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Ex-ante conditionality in the next Cohesion Policy was explained in the context of WFD pricing policies, cost recovery and river basin management plans. The smart specialisation strategy was outlined in order to leverage private research and innovation expenditure, which complies with the features of well-performing national or regional research and innovation systems.

Water is an important focus of the cohesion policy towards sustainable growth and focus will increase on innovation and resource efficiency.

Dr. Melanie Bauer of the Water Technology and Waste, Management Agency, Karlsruhe, went on to consider patterns of funding in the German national system, and was followed by Xavier Chazelle, Chairman of ACQUEAU who ran through the new systems being put into place at ACQUEAU to help assist SMEs find funding routes.

Kirsi Vähä-Pietilä, the EUREKA NPC of Finland, then gave the perspective of a national funding body and stated that “funding is available for challenging innovation projects for growth-seeking SMEs, customer-driven value networks and international cooperation”. In the water context their focus areas are for clean water quality management; efficient use of water; management of water assets and risks through utilising internationalisation, enabling technologies and pilots and demonstrations, whilst building up new business models and services.

To access the presentations from this session, please click here.

Cross-sector collaboration as a catalyst for Innovation



Clockwise from top: Luisa Prista, Jacques Magen, Robert Schröder, Miguel Ángel Gilarranz, Ed D'Hooge.

Development of innovation at the interfaces between sectors has been recognised as a key enabler for innovation- this session provided details and examples of how this is being achieved.

Luisa Prista presented that at the EC level, the Horizon2020 framework will see a shift from pure research towards innovation through the recognition that individual sectors and communities cannot work alone - there is a requirement for systemic and integrated solutions.

Jacques Magan presented the Eureka Cluster, Celtic+, whose slogan 'smart connected world', can help to provide adaptable solutions to the water sector including sensors, power supply and communication of networks.

Robert Schröder presented the perspective of cross-sector collaboration from the point of view of the newly confirmed EIP on Water.

Miguel Ángel Gilarranz, a JPI Representative talked about the Water Joint Programming Initiative's aim to promote synergies in research throughout the water sector and to help structure the research so that it eventually makes a positive breakthrough to increase European market share of innovative solutions.

Ed D'Hooge, Cefic, closed the session with an informative talk on the new SPIRE PPP which will bring together a wide number of process industries to work together to provide a collaborative framework with the water innovation objectives: water symbiosis; systems to guarantee water availability; impurity control in closed water cycles; and the integration of water and energy.

To access the presentations from this session, please click here.

Keynote Speeches

Xavier Leflaive (OECD): “Outlook to 2050”

Xavier Leflaive of the Environment Directorate, OECD provided the first keynote speech with a global outlook on the world's freshwater supplies. Xavier explored the key challenges, stresses and competition, on and for water resources up to 2050 as covered in the water chapter of the OECD environmental outlook report.



In order to meet the challenges a number of policy responses were considered as follows:

- Water efficiency
 - Pricing
- Water allocation
 - Flexible mechanisms (potential trading)
- More aggressive policies to further reduce nutrient discharges
 - Policy coherence
 - Water, food, energy, urban planning, etc.
- Technology: non-prescriptive policies
 - Anticipate and plan
 - At the appropriate scale
- Promoting flexible solutions

Coherent policy framework decisions can help to promote innovation both technical and non-technical, which respond to specific and potentially diverse demands:

- Save costs and facilitate access to finance
- Curb water demand (drip irrigation, smart water systems, appliances)
- Improve water quality (wastewater treatment techniques)
- Make better use of alternative sources (water reuse, rainwater harvesting)
- Combine with non-technical innovation
- Engage with the community.

To access the presentations from this session, please click here.



Dominique presented an overview of key concerns regarding R&D applied to the water business sector. Most of these challenges are strongly driven by the increasing pressure on fresh water resources implied simultaneously by population growth, the pollution of water stocks, and the climate change consequences. In the next few decades, three major challenges will have to be implemented and innovation will contribute to make them more efficient:

1. Reducing the consumption of water in agriculture and in industry by developing less intensive technologies
2. Finding new resources by being able - economically and energetically - to use brackish waters and sea water or by being able to implement better water recycling
3. Protecting fresh water resources and reducing their level of pollution/contamination with chemicals, drugs and pesticides.

Innovation will have to deliver specific answers and solutions according to each context.

Municipal water

The overall goal for Municipal Water still remains to upgrade drinking water and waste water infrastructures, and to improve the efficiency and the security of those services. One of the major innovation leverage consists in a better integration of ICT (Information Communication Technology) potential. Full-scale experiences are in progress and the deployment of effective Smart Water solutions will enable to achieve significant improvements in the water quality and quantity management, and also in energy savings.

Agriculture water

Agriculture uses more than 70% of the total fresh water consumption for feeding a tremendous demand of food, biofuel, biomass, etc., and contributes at the same time to diverse impacts on the Environment. Here again, new technologies for assessing on a real time basis a fine tuning between needs and supplies of water will be a tremendous area of innovation.

Industry water

Each industrial sector has its own challenge regarding water issues, in terms of required quality or volume. As a consequence in certain areas, one of the major common challenges for industrialists will be to implement the “zero liquid discharge” concept. Such an objective will require new technologies and improve dramatically the energy demand. Recent innovations within the membrane sector may offer interesting opportunities that will have to be experimented and validated.

Philippe Martin (Veolia Environnement): Modeling, planning and managing the evolution of territories



Philippe Martin, Senior Vice President, Research & Innovation at Veolia Environnement, and new ACQUEAU board member, opened session 3 of Water Innovation Europe with a keynote speech on modelling, planning and managing the evolution of territories from the Veolia perspective.

Veolia have a wide reach across the Water, Waste and Energy sectors, and Philippe explained the integrated approach they are developing to manage territories and more specifically cities as complex and layered systems in various situations around the world. He shared with the audience the Veolia vision; through the 'evolution of cities and territories' they will be able to model, plan, and monitor in smart and modular ways, to serve citizens and economic development in a sustainable manner.

Philippe went on to explain how Veolia are attempting to speed up the innovation process, working alongside SMEs through their 'innovation accelerator' program, launched in 2010. Finally, a case example in Winnipeg, USA was used to describe how Veolia have been working on deployment of innovative business models to bring about efficiency in the management of infrastructures in order to increase the efficiency and intelligence layers deployed on the infrastructures.

To access the presentations from this session, please click here.

**Wim Van Vierssen (KWR): Meeting grand societal challenges through
a responsible & innovative water sector**



Wim van Vierssen, Professor at TU Delft and CEO of KWR, set the scene by showing an outline of differing environmental scores across borders of the world, arguing that many of those challenges are related to the water cycle, and can be solved by innovation. He further showed the extensive interrelations of water by showing a world map which displayed a web of inter-linkages between countries from the West, East, US and Africa due to virtual water trade.

Further, the drivers and ingredients for change, the environmental imperative, the knowledge economy and an engaged population, were introduced and discussed from the perspective of water innovation.

“What is needed is firstly an environmental imperative”, which requires a systems-based approach, the ability to deal with uncertainties and complexities and the ability to integrate, combine and transcend knowledge from many different actors and fields of knowledge.

Secondly, a knowledge economy which increasingly sees knowledge and innovation as central to economic growth and competitiveness and thirdly an *‘the engaged populace’*, which refers to the increase in the educational level of the general population, the weakening of the authority of science and the increased recognition of the value of lay and indigenous knowledge.

He showed the water sector to be a fragmented sector with a strong local flavor: the scale and type of operators in Europe varies significantly.

Europe now is still strong in water research: a graph which displayed the scientific output in water research fronts showed that now about 30 % of scientific output originates from the EU27 compared to 12 – 22 % from the USA and 6 – 14% from China. A broader look on developments shows also that this can change rapidly.

Summarized Wim van Vierssen’s key lessons for the audience to take home were:

- Water is (still) a “small” (research) subject. We need to join forces to make an imprint on society
- Innovation is cyclic *and* occurs in parallel; co-innovation and co-makemanship are key notions
- Societal Value Propositions are important drivers for Market Transitions
- We need to combine scientific excellence with operational & commercial relevance.

To access the presentations from this session, please click here.



Commissioner Potočnik opened his speech by thanking participations and speakers alike for their valuable contributions over the two days of the conference – stating that the conference could not have been better timed, given the adoption by the Commission of the European Innovation Partnership on Water less than a week before.

He went on to outline the importance of water as a pillar of economic and social development, and that while a lot of progress has been made in the EU since the adoption of the first EU Directive on water, more must be done. As pressures on the earth's natural resources continue to increase, it is important to ensure that water policy is fit to respond to present and future challenges. This is a key intention behind the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources, which is planned to be adopted in November. This will be the EU policy response to the increasing vulnerability of the water environment and will identify actions to strengthen water policy. Commissioner Potočnik then went on to outline several other areas to be developed, including the stepping up of communication efforts, and turning challenges faced into opportunities.

The European Innovation Partnership on Water focuses on finding solutions to major water challenges; offering benefits for water protection, as well as market opportunities. Environmental objectives and economic potential are both reflected in the targets of the Partnership, but the key, as was outlined in this speech, is to first identify what is needed and what already exists. That is the reason why it is extremely important to include existing initiatives into the work and governance structure of the Innovation Partnership on Water.

From there, we need to ensure that these innovative solutions can be disseminated and can be successfully brought to the market, in Europe and outside. This will allow us to achieve the economic growth we are trying to support and create the possibility to use the different solutions available to better implement our policies.

The speech was closed by Commissioner Potočnik's encouragement and anticipation for our continued cooperation and commitment to place innovation at the heart of the solutions to deal with our water challenges and take the many opportunities it brings.

To access the presentations from this speeches, please click here.

The IWA Project Innovation Awards European and West Asia Regional Finals Dinner & Ceremony



The Project Innovation Awards Programme (PIA) was established by the International Water Association in 2006 to recognise excellence and innovation in water engineering projects throughout the world. The Awards programme supports IWA's goal to "connect water professionals worldwide to lead the development of effective and sustainable approaches to water management".

A total of 24 project entries were received for the Europe & West Asia Regional PIA competition. Depending on the project category, evaluation of entries are based on a set of criterion that include originality and innovation; social, economic and sustainable design considerations; future value to the water engineering profession; and the extent to which projects meet the clients' or owners' needs.

The Europe & West Asia Regional PIA competition is held in collaboration with the European Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform (WssTP) and ACQUEAU. The winners received their awards at an Awards Ceremony and Dinner on 15 May 2012 in Brussels, Belgium during the Water Innovation Europe Conference.

All European winners and honour awardees will be advanced together with the winners and honour awardees of the East Asia, Asia-Pacific and North America Regional Awards competition to compete for the PIA Global Grand Prize, which will be presented at the IWA World Water Congress in Busan, Korea on 19 September 2012.

The 2012 Project Innovation Awards are sponsored by global sponsors - ARCADIS Malcolm Pirnie, GHD, KWR, Nagaoka International Corporation, SKM - and regional sponsor - Veolia Water Solutions and Technologies.

To learn more about the IWA PIAs and see the complete details of all winners, [please click here](#).