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Institute for Water,
Environment and Health

UNITAR GLOBAL WATER ACADEMY



SDG SUMMIT
2023



SIDE EVENT @ THE 2023 SDG SUMMIT

Addressing Global Water Insecurity:

**HARNESSING THE POWER OF BIG DATA,
NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES,
AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**



18 SEPTEMBER
2023



15h30-17h00
(EST)



UN Headquarters,
Secretariat Building UNCA (S-301)
New York, USA

This hybrid panel will create a dialogue on how new technologies, large open-access databases, and inclusive international collaborations hold the potential to identify the extent and causes of global water insecurity, particularly in regions where data and resources can be limited.

Introduction to the Panel

Over two billion people do not have safe access to clean water. Yet, quantifying the extent of global water insecurity, particularly when incorporating indicators such as freshwater quality, quantity, value, and governance, can be challenging. Paucity of open-access data resources can often be a limitation in assessing progress. Here, we highlight the power of harnessing open data, novel technologies, and inclusive international collaborations to quantify water insecurity around the globe. Continual advances in remote sensing technologies, inclusive global networks, and increased accessibility of open-access data, offer exciting opportunities to further understand freshwaters around the world, including in regions that previously were relatively unexplored or suffer from insufficient access to resources. Remote sensing and open-access data platforms are revolutionizing the field of water sciences by capturing data from lakes and rivers worldwide, and openly sharing data and ideas through collaborations. The movement towards open-access data is essential to democratizing data. By developing inclusive, diverse, interdisciplinary collaborative teams, we will fuel the integration of research disciplines, incorporate new technologies, and spark creative solutions to safeguard our global freshwater resources and work towards a future of equitable access to clean freshwater worldwide.

Proposed Program and Speakers

15:30

Welcoming Remarks



Mr. Nikhil Seth

UN Assistant Secretary-General,
Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)



Dr. Amir Asif

Vice-President Research and Innovation
York University

Moderator



Prof. Sapna Sharma

York Research Chair in Global Change Biology
York University



15:40

Proposed Speakers

15:45



Dr. Kaveh Madani
 Director of the United Nations Think Tank on Water,
 Institute for Water, Environment, and Health
 United Nations University

15:55



Dr. Lina Taing
 Researcher & Development Sector Advisor,
 Institute for Water, Environment, and Health
 United Nations University

16:05



Dr. Michael Jasinski
 Research Hydrologist
 NASA

16:15



Dr. Annie Feighery
 CEO
 mWater

16:25



Dr. Claire Walsh
 Senior Lecturer in Water Engineering
 Newcastle University Centre for Water

16:35



Dr. Kathleen Weathers
 Ecosystem Scientist
 Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

16:45

Questions and Answers

16:55 - 17:00

Closing Remarks



Mr. Alex Mejia
 Director, Division for People and Social Inclusion
 UNITAR

