



SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

**The session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Session Code and Title:

RP2 Title changed

Incorporating Sociocultural Dimensions in Water Resources Management: Policies, Practices, and Challenges

Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

- Japan Water Forum, Mikio Ishiwatari, ishiwatari.mikio@jica.go.jp
- Asian Development Bank Institute, K E Seetha Ram, kseetharam@adbi.org
- UNESCO Beijing, Ai Sugiura, sugiura@unesco.org

Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

Water resources management is a critical component of sustainable development, and the challenges it poses require a holistic understanding that goes beyond technical and economic considerations. The session offers a comprehensive exploration of the intricate relationship between water and society, shedding light on how cultural values, beliefs, and practices influence societal perceptions of water.

The session emphasizes the need for policies and strategies that integrate sociocultural aspects into water resource management, recognizing that these factors play a crucial role in shaping governance structures and improving water access. By analyzing cases from various countries, including China, Indonesia, Japan, and others, the session provides valuable insights into the evolution of water management mechanisms in response to historical contexts, socio-economic structures, and cultural influences. The lessons learned underscore the importance of integrating local knowledge, traditions, and customs into water resource management approaches, promoting cooperative governance, and adapting strategies to evolving sociocultural dynamics. The discussion serves as a vital resource for policymakers, stakeholders, and anyone committed to fostering effective and sustainable water management practices in the region.

The expected outcomes of this session encompass:

- 1) “Incorporating Sociocultural Dimensions in Water Resources Management: Policies, Practices, and Challenge” produced by JWF and ADBI will be launched.
- 2) Global Awareness: Increased global awareness of the value of cultural diversity and indigenous wisdom in shaping inclusive water policies and practices.
- 3) Collaboration Opportunities: A platform for potential partners, including UNESCO, to collaborate in furthering the cause of culturally sensitive water management.

Detailed Session plan : 21 May 2024:

Moderator: Prita Laura

She will moderate a session in the style of a TV program.

Time Allocation	Agenda Item	Speaker (TBC)
5 mins	Welcome and Opening Remarks	ADBI Deputy Dean Seungju Baek
10 mins	Keynote speech	Taikan Oki, Vice-President, Japan Water Forum / The University of Tokyo
30 mins	Panel Discussion: Key Policy Messages from the Book	<p>Presentation by Panel (5 minutes each)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mikio Ishiwatari (Board Director, Japan Water Forum) and KE Seetha Ram (Senior Consulting Specialist ADBI) –, Sustainable Water Resources Management in Asia: A Sociocultural Perspective 2. Shahbaz Khan (Director, UNESCO Beijing) – Integrating Safety, Security and Cultural values for Integrated Water Resources Management – a UNESCO World Heritage Case Study from China 3. Dr. Eun Namkung/ Dr. Ik Jae Kim, A review of public awareness to water regulation and river management in Korea 4. Hiroaki Ikeuchi (MLIT, Japan) Novel Approaches in Flood Management Policies in Japan: Integrating Sociocultural Wisdom in Climate Change Adaptation in Japan 5. Inputs from venue, Bali: Firdaus Ali (Special Advisor, MoPWH Indonesia) –The Sociocultural Perspective on Water Resources Management in Bali, Indonesia
25 mins	Q&A Session	
5 mins	Concluding remarks	ADB Senior Staff
5 mins	Closing remarks and acknowledgements	Dr. Riznaldi Akbar, Senior Capacity Building and Training Economist at ADBI