

Inclusive Basin Partnerships Transforming Water Security Across Regions

26 August 2026 (Wed), 9:00-10:30 am

Location: A2, Level 6

Session Overview

Achieving water security, climate resilience, and healthy ecosystems requires integrated river basin management and collective water stewardship that connect upstream and downstream interests, align policies across sectors, and engage diverse stakeholders in coordinated action. Through case studies from Africa, Asia, and Europe, this session will explore how multi-stakeholder partnerships, science-based decision-making, innovative financing, digital technologies, and inclusive governance can accelerate the adoption of basin-scale solutions.

Program

Introduction

Yumiko Asayama, Chief Manager, NoWNET Secretariat c/o Japan Water Forum

Case Presentations

Asia's cases

1) From Knowledge to Collective Action: Trusted Regional Networks for Water Governance, the lessons from the Sustainable Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET) and the Mekong Thought Leadership and Think Tanks Network (MTT)

- **Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa**, Partnership and Engagement for Impact Director, SEI Asia
- **Nhan Vo Tran Trung**, Programme Manager, SEI Asia

2) From One Basin to Many: Scaling Inclusive Water Stewardship Beyond Kumamoto

Harumichi Seta, Senior General Manager, Climate & Nature Lead, Sustainability Management Division, SUNTORY HOLDINGS LIMITED

3) From the Headwaters of the Echi River to Lake Biwa: Treating a River Basin as the Unit of Both Life and Finance

Hirohito Yoshida, Deputy General Manager, Sustainability Services Division, Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.

Europe Cases

4) Structured youth engagement in transboundary water governance

Guillaume Février, Vice-President of the International Commission of the French Youth Parliament for Water (FYPW)

5) Danube case

Gergana Majercakova, Global Head, Knowledge, Innovation and Capacity Development, Global Water Partnership Organization (GWPO)

Africa's cases

6) Water Pricing for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth (Case: Awash River Basin in Ethiopia)
Jacob Jan Vreugdenhil, Chief Program Officer, Woord & Daad

7) Digital Solutions for Transboundary Water Management and Climate Resilience: Transferable Lessons and Practical Recommendations from the Nile Basin Initiative

- **Louise Heegaard**, Partnerships and Funding Mobilization Expert, International Development, DHI
- **Nestor Niyonzima**, Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)

Panel Discussion

- **Moderator: Mr. Rick Elmendorp**, Director & Chair, Netherlands Water Partnership
- Panelists:
- **Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa**, Partnership and Engagement for Impact Director, SEI Asia
- **Nhan Vo Tran Trung**, Programme Manager, SEI Asia
- **Harumichi Seta**, Senior General Manager, Climate & Nature Lead, Sustainability Management Division, SUNTORY HOLDINGS LIMITED
- **Hirohito Yoshida**, Deputy General Manager, Sustainability Services Division, Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.
- **Guillaume Février**, Vice-President of the International Commission of the French Youth Parliament for Water (FYPW)
- **Alex Simalabwi**, CEO, GWPO
- **Gergana Majercakova**, Global Head, Knowledge, Innovation and Capacity Development, GWPO
- **Jacob Jan Vreugdenhil**, Chief Program Officer, Woord & Daad
- **Nestor Niyonzima**, Executive Director of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)

Q&A from audience and interactive discussion

Wrap-up- Take-away Round

Co-Conveners

