

IAHR's Participation in the 31th UN Water Meeting and Opportunities of Greater Engagement with the Global Water Community

On August 23-24, 2019, Tom Soo and I participated in the open session of the 31st meeting of the UN Water program held in Stockholm, Sweden.

The purpose of the meeting was to review recently completed and ongoing activities of the program and discuss future actions. The agenda of the meeting is attached.

Specific topics of interest to IAHR that were discussed in the meeting are:

- Preparation of the 2020 World Water Development Report (WWDR), whose theme is “Water and Climate Change”, continues. All chapters are supposed to be turned in by September 13. Copy editing of the report will start on September 16.
 - IAHR has contributed to chapters 1, 3 and 4 of this report
- The theme of the 2021 WWDR is “Valuing Water”. A workshop to launch the planning of this report will be held in September in Perugia, Italy.
 - Three IAHR members have indicated that they will participate in this workshop.
- The theme of the 2022 WWDR will be “Groundwater”. Work on this report will start next year.
 - When work starts IAHR should participate
- The UN will be launching a Decade on Ecosystems Restoration 2021-2030
 - IAHR should explore opportunities to participate in any of these activities
- The UN Water report on Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation (GLAAS) 2019 report, featuring data from 115 countries and 29 external support agencies, is scheduled for release on 28 August during the Stockholm World Water Week. This report focuses on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems and covers governance, monitoring, human resources and finance.
- The SDG 6 Data Portal which brings together data on all the SDG 6 global indicators and other key social, economic and environmental parameters is scheduled to be launched on 27 August during the World Water Week. It includes maps, charts and tables for the visualization and analysis of the data.
 - The link to SDG Data Portal is www.sdg6data.org and will be posted on the page of the IAHR WG on the SDGs to make it easier for IAHR member to access it
- The UN-Water Management Team will be drafting the UN-Water Strategy to 2030 to be discussed at the 32nd UN-Water Meeting. (The current strategy is through 2020). The drafting process will include consultations with members and partners and other relevant stakeholders
 - IAHR will have an opportunity to comment on the strategy and contribute to it
- The 6th International Symposium on Knowledge and Capacity for the Water Sector with theme “From Capacity Development to Implementation Science”, will be held in Delft on 27-29 May, 2020. UN Water Partners with an interest in knowledge and capacity development in support of the 2030 Agenda are invited to attend this event
 - If IAHR includes in its new strategy support to capacity development, then it should participate in this conference.
- The next meeting of UN Water will be held in Rome, Italy next January. During this meeting the theme of the WWDR 2024 will be decided.
 - IAHR could propose as theme for the report “Sustainable Water Infrastructure” as a way to highlight the role of hydraulic engineering in water development.