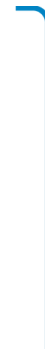


# IAHR RWANDA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

2022 Annual Report of Activities



Rwanda  
**Young  
Professionals  
Network**



## IAHR RWANDA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

### 1. Introduction on IAHR YPN

In order to understand “IAHR Young Professional Network or IAHR YPN”, IAHR must be understood first. IAHR as an abbreviation means *The International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research*. It was founded in 1935 and is a worldwide independent organization of *engineers and water specialists* working in fields related to the hydro-environmental sciences and their practical application. Activities range from river and maritime hydraulics to water resources development and eco-hydraulics, through to ice engineering, hydro-informatics, and continuing education and training.

IAHR stimulates and promotes both types of research and its application, and by so doing strives to contribute to sustainable development, the optimization of the world's water resources management, and industrial flow processes. IAHR accomplishes its goals through a wide variety of member activities including working groups, research agenda, congresses, specialty conferences, workshops, and short courses; *Journals, Monographs, and Proceedings*; by involvement in international programs such as UNESCO, WMO, IDNDR, GWP, ICSU, and by co-operation with other water-related (inter)national organizations.

As a young professional or a student, you can become part of a network of more than 2000 peers and engage with colleagues and mentors at the top of their field.

### 2. Rationale of the IAHR YPN

Since young people have the potential to propel an economy forward, investing in their health, education, and safety would increase their future productivity and financial gains. Economic developers have never been more crucial to giving stability and opportunity to their communities because the present is consistently referred to as an "unprecedented time," and young professionals in particular play a crucial role. Their distinctively aware and varied viewpoints are pushing creative and egalitarian ways to economic development, and the sector will benefit from this in the long run.

Climate change reduces the availability of nutritious food and safe drinking water while also destroying ecosystems and safe living situations. This, in turn, leads to starvation, illness, and migration, making youth especially vulnerable.

Food insecurity is expected to be especially difficult for developing countries, which are subject to catastrophic weather occurrences, have poor incomes, and a high prevalence of hunger and poverty. Droughts, for example, reduce availability to clean water, resulting in health implications such as hunger and dehydration. One aspect of poverty is poor health, which limits economic progress and personal well-being.

Young people can help reduce multigenerational poverty and contribute successfully to the maintenance and strengthening of their communities and national resources by being fully engaged, educated, healthy, productive, and empowered to realize their full potential and enjoy their rights. Resources that were formerly needed in areas such as malnutrition can now be channeled towards economic initiatives to boost productivity, build human and physical capital, and seek innovation. Addressing youth issues requires a significant amount of attention in order to preserve a country's economy, as a country's long-term development is heavily reliant on the well-being of its youth population.

### **3. Advantages of joining IAHR YPN**

Being an IAHR Young Professional helps you build and nurture your professional career. By joining IAHR as a Young Professional, you'll be part of a thought-leading global community working together for a better and sustainable water future for all.

IAHR Young Professionals Networks (YPNs) ensure that new generations of future hydro-environment professionals and researchers have the opportunity to engage in IAHR activities, network and connect with peers and senior IAHR members, receive mentoring and support, and get access to the latest knowledge, information and know-how in the early stage of their careers. YPN members represent the backbone of the future IAHR and play an important role within the association through their activities and initiatives.





## IAHR RWANDA YOUNG PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

This is the first IAHR young professional network founded in Rwanda, and the whole African continent. It was founded by final year students at University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology in the department of civil engineering (Environmental engineering and Water resources engineering).

### 1. Vision

The IAHR Rwanda YPN is a collaborative space for students and young professionals in water and environmental engineering across Rwanda. It aims to establish a thriving community of young professionals and platform for our members to support research development, knowledge sharing and professional networks. Its vision is to develop the subsequent generation of hydro-environment specialists with the ability and capacity to deal with water insecurity that our country and continent is facing.

To achieve this Vision YPN Rwanda aims at creating an inclusive environment that will unite experts from consulting firms, research institutions, industries, and other organizations interested in sharing knowledge in the field of hydro-environment engineering.

Additionally, the RWANDA YPN will host research seminars, workshops, and field trips to local projects as well as improve collaboration with other YPNs. Moreover, information and research activities will be spread through its website social networking sites.

### 2. National Strategy for Transformation (NST1)

The vision of IAHR RWANDA YPN and National Strategy for Transformation are aligned. NST1 integrates far-sighted, long-range global and regional commitments by embracing the following elements (among others):

- **The Sustainable development Goals (SDGs)** consisting of 17 Goals with associated targets and indicators, across a range of economic, social and environmental aspects;
- **The CoP 21 Paris agreement on Climate Change** and other agreements

The strategy prioritizes home grown solutions, and it also aims at increasing and modernizing agriculture productivity. The strategy is aimed at increasing the living standard of the population through provision of clean environment, and enough basic needs like food and clean water. IAHR RWANDA YPN members will be conducting researches and studies in order to get home grown, nature based, and human centered solutions to address problems present in our country's hydro environment. The researches will always be conducted in collaboration with relative government agencies mostly under Ministry of Environment.



## PROJECTED LOCAL OFFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS

A problem which is faced by everyone is better solved together. With everyone's individual effort put together, all problems that may rise become simple. As engineers and researchers, it is an advantage to work together, it helps to enrich knowledge on a daily basis thanks to other engineers. It makes engineering more of a family than a career.

### **a. Rwanda Water Resources Board**

Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB) is established by the law N° 71/2019 of 29/01/2020. RWB has legal personality and enjoys administrative and financial autonomy and is managed in accordance with relevant laws and falls within the category of non-commercial public institutions. The mission of RWB is to ensure the availability of enough and well managed water resources for sustainable development. It is with this knowledge that IAHR RWANDA YPN seeks partnership with RWB, so that young researchers and engineers in the network can work together, and learn from each other on projects which are in line with NST1 and Vision 2050 priorities.

### **b. Water and Sanitation Authority**

A government owned company with a mission of providing quality, reliable and affordable water and sewerage services through continuous innovations and detailed care to its customers' needs, with vision of becoming the most sustainable water and sanitation utility in Africa. WASAC actions spans all over the country having effects on every Rwandan citizen. IAHR RWANDA YPN would participate in studies, designs and researches which can benefit our country and its citizens.