

## Preface

The 40th World Congress of IAHR (International Association of Hydro-Environmental Engineering and Research) was held in Vienna, Austria, from August 21 to 25, 2023.

The Organisers of the Congress have been IAHR and the University of Natural Resources, Vienna (BOKU). The Congress was supported by "Spain Water", the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR), as well as the City of Vienna, other local entities, and more than 10 sponsors.

This congress marked the first in-person meeting after a long period of virtual interactions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, social interactions and networking opportunities were pivotal to the success of the event, beginning with the icebreaker welcome reception on Monday, 21 August, at Vienna's city hall. Networking continued during field excursions, with a total of seven excursions taking place. A highlight was the congress dinner, held at the BOKU River Lab where not only a discharge of 10,000 l/sec can flow without pumping, the location also provided an incredible setting for attendees to dance the Danube Waltz.

Thereby the Congress focused on "Rivers - Connecting Mountains and Coasts". The program comprised 148 technical and special sessions, four High-Level Panels (HLPs), four Industry Stream Events, and two master classes. Seven keynote lectures on diverse topics enriched the program ranging from "Large Rivers and Humans" over "Machine learning for earth and climate sciences" to "Climate change impacts on African Hydro-environments".

After the review process, 1093 abstracts were accepted for the regular scientific program of the Congress according to the following themes:

- Theme 1: River research and management
- Theme 2: Deltas and coastal engineering
- Theme 3: Sediment transport and morphodynamics
- Theme 4: Integrated management of extremes, climate change
- Theme 5: Environment and society
- Theme 6: Urban water and water industry
- Theme 7: Hydraulic engineering and water management
- Theme 8: Computational and experimental methods

On behalf of the organizers of the 40th World Congress of IAHR, we thank the speakers and delegates, the members of the different Committees involved in the organization, the IAHR Council, the IAHR Technical Committees, the Chairs of Sessions, the Convenor(s) of the Special Sessions, Side Events and Workshops, as well as the colleagues and volunteers from all the involved institutions.

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