



International Association  
for Hydro-Environment  
Engineering and Research

Hosted by  
Spain Water and IWHR, China

SPAIN WATER



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA

MINISTERIO  
DE TRANSPORTES  
Y MOVILIDAD SOSTENIBLE

VICEPRESIDENCIA  
TERCERA DEL GOBIERNO  
MINISTERIO  
DIGNA LA TRANSICIÓN ECOLÓGICA  
Y EL RETO DEMOGRÁFICO

CEDEX  
CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS  
Y EXPERIMENTACIÓN  
DE OBRAS PÚBLICAS

DGA  
DIRECCIÓN  
GENERAL DEL AGUA

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL  
DE LA COSTA Y EL MAR



# IAHR-SPAIN WATER CONFERENCE

## Celebrating 25 years of IAHR presence in Spain

## Presentation of the new SPAIN WATER-IAHR

## Agreement 2026-2030-2034

### Technical Session

### Innovation in the water sector: digitalization and Artificial Intelligence

**Date: 17 March 2026 (9:30- 17:00 h)**

**Location: CEDEX Centre for Hydrographic Studies**

**Paseo Bajo de la Virgen del Puerto nº 3, 28005 Madrid**

**Registration is free until full capacity is reached [Registration Form](#)**

#### INTRODUCTION

This conference is organized to mark two milestones: the celebration of 25 years of the International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) in Spain—located since 2001 at the CEDEX Hydrographic Studies Centre—and the presentation of a new collaboration agreement between IAHR and SPAIN WATER (CEDEX, the General Directorate for Water, and the General Directorate for the Coast and the Sea). The day will conclude with a technical session dedicated to innovation in the inland and marine water sectors.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary, participants will include the Directors General of Water and the Coast and the Sea, the Director of CEDEX, and two former directors of CEDEX who promoted and executed the move of IAHR to Spain from the Netherlands (where it had been based since 1935). Additionally, several past IAHR Presidents from the last 25 years, the former Executive Director, and the Secretary General of the IAHR office at the Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR) in Beijing will participate, alongside high-ranking officials from water sector entities that have supported IAHR.

The new IAHR-SPAIN WATER Agreement for 2026 to 2030, with a possible extension to 2034, continues the partnership that began in 2001 when the Association moved from the

Delft Hydraulics Institute (now Deltares) in the Netherlands to CEDEX in Madrid. It represents the will of both parties to continue collaborating on the dissemination of science and technology in inland and marine water matters both nationally and internationally. This new agreement remains open to the inclusion of other Spanish public or private entities through corresponding addenda.

The technical session is designed with a focus on the future of water, considering two innovative themes currently emerging in the sector: Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence. These will be discussed in the context of climate change, energy transition, water security and quality, and resilience against disasters caused by the excess or lack of water, such as floods and droughts.

Both topics will be treated from the perspective of their current status and their multiple potentials within the hydro-environment.

Leading Spanish and international speakers will present their visions and share experiences that have already been carried out or are under development.

## **PROGRAMME**

### **OPENING (9:30 – 10:00 h)**

**Áurea Perucho Martínez.** Director of CEDEX  
**M<sup>a</sup> Dolores Pascual Vallés.** Director General for Water  
**Ana Oñoro Valenciano.** Director General for the Coast and the Sea  
**Philippe Gourbesville.** IAHR President  
**Moderator: Ramón M<sup>a</sup> Gutiérrez Serret.** IAHR Secretary General

### **PRESENTATION OF THE NEW IAHR - SPAIN WATER AGREEMENT 2026-2030-2034 (10:00 – 10:30 h)**

**Áurea Perucho Martínez.** Director of CEDEX  
**M<sup>a</sup> Dolores Pascual Vallés.** Director General for Water:  
**Ana Oñoro Valenciano.** Director General for the Coast and the Sea  
**Philippe Gourbesville.** IAHR President  
**Moderator: Tom Soo.** IAHR Executive Director

### **XXV ANNIVERSARY OF IAHR IN SPAIN (10:30 – 11:30 h)**

**Felipe Martínez Martínez.** Former Director of CEDEX and promoter of the move of IAHR from the Netherlands to Spain  
**Manuel Martín Antón.** Former Director of CEDEX and signatory, in 2001, of the first agreement with IAHR  
**Etienne Mansard.** Canada. Former President of IAHR 2003-2007  
**Christopher B. George.** Former Executive Director of IAHR 1999-2018  
**Emily Wang.** IAHR Secretary General  
**José María Grassa.** CEDEX. Former IAHR Council Member

**David López.** CEDEX. Vice-President of the IAHR Spanish Chapter

**Representative from Spain Young Professional Network**

**Amparo López.** UPV. Former IAHR Vice President

**Elsa Incio.** Manager Madrid Office Global Secretariat

**Moderator: Ramón M<sup>a</sup> Gutiérrez Serret.** IAHR Secretary General

**COFFEE BREAK (11:30 – 12:00 h)**

**TECHNICAL SESSION ON INNOVATION IN THE WATER SECTOR: DIGITALIZATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. PART I (12:00 - 14:00 h)**

**Evolution of Numerical Modelling in Hydraulics (12:00 – 12:20 h)**

**David López.** CEDEX. Vice-President of the IAHR Spanish Chapter

**Digital Transformation & AI for Water sector: challenges and major trends (12:20 – 12:40 h)**

**Philippe Gourbesville.** Université Côte d'Azur (France). IAHR President

**Integrated decision-making system for the management of the maritime-terrestrial public domain, in a context of climate change and socio-economic transformation (12:40 - 13:00)**

**Ana García Fletcher.** Deputy Director for Coastal Protection. General Directorate for the Coast and the Sea

**Hydroinformatics Approaches to Water Systems: Modelling, Decision Support and Nature-Based Solutions (13:00 – 13:20 h)**

**Ioana Popescu.** IHE Delft (The Netherlands) and Vice-President of IAHR in Europe

**Discussion (13:20 – 14:00 h)**

**Moderated by Luis Balairón.** Head of the Hydraulics Laboratory. CEDEX Centre for Hydrographic Studies

**LUNCH BREAK (14:00 – 15:00 h)**

**TECHNICAL SESSION ON INNOVATION IN THE WATER SECTOR: DIGITALIZATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. PART 2 (15:00 – 17:00)**

**Decision support systems for integrated water management: Segura River Basin (15:00 – 15:20 h)**

**Ángel Bautista Yáñez.** Head of Infrastructure Security Service (DSIEX). General Directorate for Water

**Opportunities and threats of digital transformation in the urban water sector (15:20 – 15:40 h)**

**Gabriele Freni.** Università Di Enna Kore (Italy) and Past Chair of IAHR Technical Committee on Hydroinformatics

**The digitization of the coast and sea in Spain: 25 years developing solutions for its public management and protection (15:40 – 16:00 h)**

**Ana Lloret.** Director of CEDEX Centre for Harbours and Coastal Studies

**Digital twins and artificial intelligence in the urban water cycle (16:00 – 16:20 h)**

**Antonio Lastra.** Head of Innovation Development. Canal de Isabel II

**Discussion (16:20 – 16:50 h)**

**Moderated by Tomás Sancho Marco.** Deputy Director General for Public Domain and Infrastructure. General Directorate for Water.

**CLOSING (16:50 h – 17:00 h)**

**Conchita Marcuello Olona.** International Affairs Coordinator. Directorate General for Water.

**Ana García Fletcher.** Deputy Director for Coastal Protection. Directorate General for the Coast and the Sea

**Federico Estrada Lorenzo.** Director of CEDEX Centre for Hydrographic Studies

**Tom Soo.** IAHR Executive Director

### **Organisation**

IAHR and Spain Water (CEDEX, the General Directorate for Water and the General Directorate for the Coast and the Sea)