



16-19 JUNE 2026 · RIO DE JANEIRO · BRAZIL

# World Basin Summit

COOPERATIVE BASIN GOVERNANCE FOR WATER SECURITY



Realization: Secretaria de Ambiente e Sustentabilidade



WORKSHOP

# Digital Transformation for River Basins

Road to Bari: 42nd IAHR World Congress



Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	11.30 - 13.10	ROOM 3.1	Organisers: IAHR – Road to Bari 2027 – Road to Kobe 2029

Despite rapid advances in data, artificial intelligence, and digital tools, many water systems remain fragmented, and digital solutions are often disconnected from real decision-making processes.

The result is frequently “data-rich but insight-poor” management.

The workshop therefore addresses a key question: **how can the digital transformation effectively support decision-making in river basin management?**

## Main objectives

- Frame the digital transition as a strategic transformation in river basin management practices
- Clarify the role of digital tools as support for engineering reasoning and decision-making processes
- Bridge the gap between technological innovation and operational implementation
- Identify the main barriers and enabling conditions for an effective digital transition
- Promote integrated approaches in which data, models, and institutional processes are coherently aligned
- Generate practical insights to support ongoing discussions within the “Road to Bari” process and the vision of the IAHR World Congress in Bari 2027

### Session format

The workshop is designed as an interactive co-construction session, combining structured inputs and exchange between practitioners and decision-makers, with a strong focus on case study presentations and discussion.

### Session format

The workshop is intended for river basin organizations, water authorities, policymakers, technical experts, researchers and academics in the field, and international organizations.



From data-rich to **Insight-driven** river basin management

Driving change in the era of digital water





## Context and Objectives

This workshop is part of the 13th World Water Basin Summit (INBO), to be held from 16 to 19 June 2026 under the theme: “Cooperative basin governance for water security”.

The workshop focuses on the digital transformation of river basins within the broader reflection developed through the **Road to Bari** process, in which digitalization, understood as a human-centred transformation in water systems management, represents a key pillar of the pathway towards the IAHR World Congress in Bari in 2027: “**Driving Change Management in the Era of Digital Water and Global Transition**”.

In this perspective, the workshop contributes to building a shared understanding of how digital transformation can foster more integrated and forward-looking river basin management.

## Programme



**Moderator: Mr. Tom Soo**, Executive Director, International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research

11:30

### Welcome & introductions

**Mr. Edouard Boinet**, International cooperation Head of project, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

11:35

### Keynote messages

**Mr. Philippe Gourbesville**, President, International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR)

11:50

### Presentations

**Mr. Wu Chengjun**, Senior engineer, Yellow River Conservancy Commission of the Ministry of Water Resources

**Mr. Gutierrez Ulloa Carlos Emilio**, Deputy director of planning and environmental management, Regional Autonomous Corporation of Cundinamarca (CAR), Colombia

**Ms. Ariana Rosen**, Senior Research Scientist and Coordinator of the Microbiology Laboratory, National Water Institute of Argentina, Argentina

12:30

### Panellists' discussions and Q&A Session

**Mr. Hjerpe Turo**, Ministerial Adviser - Ministry of the Environment of Finland

**Mr. Gutierrez Ulloa Carlos Emilio**, Deputy director of planning and environmental management, Regional Autonomous Corporation of Cundinamarca (CAR) -(Colombia)

**Ms. Ariana Rosen**, Senior Research Scientist and Coordinator of the Microbiology Laboratory, National Water Institute of Argentina

**Mr. Wu Chengjun**, Senior engineer, Yellow River Conservancy Commission of the Ministry of Water Resources

**Mr. Philippe Gourbesville**, President, International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR)

13:00

### Conclusions

**Mr. Tom Soo**, Executive Director, International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research



## Official signing ceremony IAHR World Congress Kobe, Japan 2029

Following the IAHR World Congress in Bari 2027, the 43rd edition of the IAHR World Congress will be held in Kobe, Japan in 2029.

The official handover from Bari 2027 to Kobe 2029 will take place during the closing ceremony in Bari, marking the next step in this shared international pathway.