



10th
World
Water
Forum
Bali 2024



PRESS RELEASE

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Partnership opportunities for companies and institutions at the World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia (May 18–25, 2024)

At the invitation of the Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources of Indonesia, the UNESCO IHP's Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET) will be participating in the 10th edition of the World Water Forum (WWF) in Bali with **two prestigious exhibitions, dissemination activities, and a communication campaign.**

In collaboration with UNESCO-IHP (Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO) and other institutions, WAMU-NET's contribution to the 10th WWF involves creating an immersive video installation within the Forum and setting up a permanent exhibition at the Mandala Mathika Subak Water Museum. The video installations curated for Bali will travel globally through the WAMU-NET network, which currently spans over 100 museums and institutions in 38 countries.

What is the World Water Forum

The World Water Council is an international organization with a mission to foster political commitment and drive sustainable water initiatives worldwide. Every three years, the Council organizes the largest international congress on water, known as the World Water Forum, to promote best practices in water conservation, development, and management with an emphasis on eco-sustainability. The upcoming 10th edition of the Forum will be held in Bali and will bring together heads of state, ministers, ambassadors, and delegations from numerous countries, as well as professionals and leading companies in the water sector.



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WAMU-NET's exhibition spaces at the 10th WWF

WAMU-NET will curate a **temporary exhibition** within the **World Water Forum**, featuring emotionally impactful interactive video installations. The Forum presence will be enhanced through a promotional video and a communication campaign, offering unique visibility to all partners involved in the initiative.

In addition to the Forum installation, WAMU-NET will establish a **permanent exhibition** space of 100 square meters within the **Mandala Mathika Subak Museum**. This provides a significant opportunity for local, national, and international visibility for all institutions interested in supporting the exhibition project aimed at promoting education for more sustainable water usage.

Visibility for Partner Institutions and Companies

To bring the described exhibitions and initiatives to fruition, WAMU-NET has brokered relationships with institutions and companies to explore **potential medium-term and long-term collaborations**. The content created for the upcoming World Water Forum (including hardware and video installations) will be provided free of charge to all members of the Global Network of Water Museums (comprising over 100 members in 38 countries) upon request. This will enhance the visibility of project partners and donors globally. Various WAMU-NET members in Brazil, India, Australia, and Europe have already expressed their interest in hosting the video installations designed for Bali within their own museum spaces.

Dissemination of results within the 'Phase 9' of UNESCO-IHP

Given its scope and potential implications, this project aligns with the broader Phase 9 of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme 2022-2029 ("Science for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment"). In this strategic document, WAMU-NET is explicitly acknowledged for its potential contribution to Phase 9 of UNESCO-IHP in the following terms (paragraph 119, p.25): "The World Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET) will be mobilized to **raise awareness and enhance the water culture** of citizens globally [...] through the development of materials, exhibitions, informational documents, and case studies on key sustainable education practices for the proper use of water for mass media, to raise awareness among the broader public.

The Mandala Mathika Subak Water Museum of Bali

The Mandala Mathika Subak Water Museum will be officially inaugurated in Bali by the Indonesian Government, within the highly visible international framework of the 10th Forum. This water museum is dedicated to showcasing the **traditional practices of sustainable rice field management** that have been employed in Bali for time immemorial. As an open-air architectural marvel, the Subak system stands out for its uniqueness, embodying the philosophical concept of Tri Hita Karana — a set of agricultural practices based on intergenerational cooperation that unites the human world, nature, and the spiritual realm.

The ancient Subak system and the terraced landscapes of rice fields in Bali

The Subak system is rooted in **democratic and egalitarian agricultural practices** that have shaped Bali's captivating terraced landscape. Simultaneously, it has enabled the Balinese people to become the most prolific and sustainable rice cultivators in the Indonesian archipelago. Recognizing its significance, the Subak system was designated a **UNESCO World Heritage** in 2012. Now, as part of the 10th WWF, the Mandala Mathika Subak Museum is set to open its doors, welcoming thousands of students, tourists, and visitors each year. Its goal is to explain the Subak system, a model of egalitarian agricultural practices, along with its intricate cosmogony—a reflection of a complex worldview. This exemplary practice is intended to be shared globally as a model of sustainability



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GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS

UNESCO Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET)

The Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET) is a flagship initiative of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) dedicated to promoting water sustainability education by encouraging more responsible and forward-thinking water usage. Headquartered in Venice, it stands out as one of the eight flagship initiatives worldwide under IHP and is the only one based in Italy.

WAMU-NET operates as an independent non-profit association (ETS), distinct from UNESCO. It is registered with the Chamber of Commerce in Venice and operates on an international scale. Currently boasting over 100 members, including institutions and museums from 38 different countries, WAMU-NET's reach is truly global. Museums affiliated with WAMU-NET collectively draw in more than 20 million visitors each year, underscoring the concrete impact of WAMU-NET in working towards the goals outlined in the Water Action Agenda. The objective is to reach over 200 million people through the WAMU-NET network by 2030.

For an updated list of museums and institutions belonging to the network, please refer to [this link](#).



The Resolutions of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO-IHP dedicated to WAMU-NET

The Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO-IHP has approved two Resolutions dedicated to the WAMU-NET, in 2018 and 2021. Both outcomes stem from collaboration between the Permanent Delegation of Italy to UNESCO and the Dutch National Commission for UNESCO.

1) UNESCO-IHP Resolution n.5-XXIII (d.d. 16/6/2018), titled 'Global Network of Water Museums and UNESCO-IHP in support of water sustainability education and water awareness efforts,' establishes WAMU-NET as the focal point for the development and promotion of educational programs on water and sustainability.

2) UNESCO-IHP Resolution n. 7-XXIV (d.d. 30/6/2021), titled "UNESCO-IHP in support of developing further the Global Network of Water Museums", initiates a census of water heritages (both natural and cultural) and water museums on a global scale. It supports WAMU-NET with the assistance of Member States for the initiation of international cooperation projects.

"This initiative [WAMU-NET], promoted by Italy at UNESCO-IHP, goes beyond the traditional concept of «museum» [...] and confirms [the] worldwide leadership [of Italy] concerning both protection and transmission to future generations of fundamental values related to water culture and management".

WAMU-NET activities and projects

Thanks to the support of its members and partners, the Network carries out projects, exhibitions, publications, and cooperation activities on the themes of water education and its sustainable uses globally.

- Annual youth contest and award "The Water We Want" (2024: V Edition)
- Exhibition "The Walk of Water" launched in New York on 22nd March 2023 at the United Nations Headquarters for the UN-Water Summit, in collaboration with UNESCO-WWAP and JRC (European Commission)
- Exhibition "Valuing Ancient Water Cultures" launched at the UN-Water Summit in Paris (2022)
- Digital Exhibition "I Remember Water"
- WAMU-NET Institutional Promotional Video



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