



WORKSHOP

DIGITALIZATION

IWA - Specialist Group Statistics and Economics
Ed Smeets



WHY IS IWA THERE?



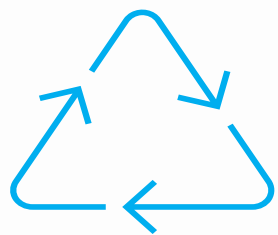
4.2 billion

people **without access to safely managed sanitation services**



2.2 billion

people **without access to an improved drinking water source**



80%

of **wastewater remains untreated** and is unsafely discharged in the environment



WHAT IS IWA'S VISION?

A world in which **water is wisely managed** to satisfy the needs of human activities and ecosystems in an **equitable and sustainable** way.

IWA does this by **inspiring change** and connecting water to issues that **underpin global goals**.



IWA NETWORK





SPECIALIST GROUPS

- Specialist Groups lie at the heart of IWA
- Develop international specialist networks and contacts
- Disseminate/exchange knowledge and information
 - by organising/contributing to conferences/workshops/webinars
 - by report/disseminate knowledge in publications/web/social media
 - by contributing to research and practice in all water areas
- Membership is open to all IWA members



SPECIALIST GROUP STATISTICS & ECONOMICS

Topics

- All economical and financial issues of water industry: tariffs, efficiency, micro economics, financing, performance management, regulation, circular economy, etc.
- Periodical world wide surveys and providing analysis/statistics on all kind of economical and financial issues



SPECIALIST GROUP STATISTICS & ECONOMICS

- self-managed by chair, vice-chair, secretary and Management Committee (= active members)
- 20 - 25 MC members (from universities, regulators, utilities, national associations, consultants, etc.)
- ca. 330 'normal' IWA members
- 2-3 times per year meetings to discuss program/activities, discuss special topics and current issues, organise workshops, do work and have some fun as well
- in between meetings the work is done by virtual meetings, mail, phone, etc.



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Paradigm shifts in information technology

- 1960-ies: Introduction Internet
- ca. 2000 / 2007: Smartphones / iPhone
- NOW: Artificial Intelligence (AI) leading to Digital Transformation

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Definition of Artificial Intelligence (AI):

AI enables computers to do tasks - based on a large amount of data and which before required human intelligence – with some degree of autonomy, leading to new insights or achieving specific goals

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Artificial Intelligence

- We all use it already longer: Netflix, You Tube, Spotify, Instagram, Facebook, Tripadvisor, Booking.com, Amazon, etc....
- There is no human consciousness or empathy involved; it is only technology trained/based on data
- Is not new (since 1950-ies)



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Artificial Intelligence: what is new?

- Internet is available everywhere and internet bandwidth is still increasing
- Data storage capacity ↑
- Costs of data storage ↓
- Processing capacity computers ↑

This leads to an exponential increase of data and possibility to do something with it

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Artificial Intelligence is one of the reasons for

- Digital transformation (digital disruption, disruptive innovation)
- New business models

Uber, Airbnb, Netflix, Amazon.com, Google maps, STRAVA,
Wikipedia, Remote Surgery, deep fake, etc....

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Digital transformation

- Affects now and in the near future every organisation and the way we will do business
- Management of companies and organisations must gain knowledge of these types of developments



6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER ECONOMICS, STATISTICS AND FINANCE AND 10th LEADING EDGE CONFERENCE FOR STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT (LESAM)

Pafos, Cyprus, 28–30 April, 2025

These two international conferences are jointly organized by the **IWA Specialist Group on Statistics & Economics**, **IWA Specialist Group on Strategic Asset Management**, **Neapolis University Pafos** and **Technical University of Crete** and will be held in parallel in Pegeia, in the suburbs of the beautiful city of Pafos, European Capital of Culture in 2017 and European Capital of Smart Tourism for 2023, renowned for its stunning beaches, fantastic climate, rich culture and history, and good quality of life.





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If you want to reach us:

- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/iwa-statistics-economics-sg/?viewAsMember=true>
- <https://www.iwacconnectplus.org/group/feeds?CommunityKey=a0M4K0000027gnFUAQ>
- Secretary: Lledo Castellet on castellet.lledo@gmail.com

World water congress & exhibition

11-15 August 2024

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Toronto, Canada

www.worldwatercongress.org

See you in Toronto!



Organised by



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