

Wednesday, 22 April 2020

Dear Governing Members,

I am writing to let you know that, due to the unprecedented situation of the Covid-19 pandemic, the IWA Board of Directors has agreed that our next **IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition should be postponed and it will now take place on 9-14 May 2021**. It will still be held in the wonderful city of Copenhagen.

The biennial event is hugely important to the Association for a number of reasons. We plan for these events to attract the fullest participation, with an outstanding and diverse programme to draw members and non-members alike. The congress is also the occasion at which we conduct a wide range of Association related business. And of course, they provide a chance to meet old friends and make new ones. All of this is only possible if our members from all parts of the globe, are able to attend, and to do so safely.

The decision by the IWA Board of Directors to reschedule our flagship event was taken formally through an online meeting. We believe it will help provide certainty for all participants in their planning, and ensure we all benefit from a successful event. Thanks to the good support of our local organising partners, and the efforts of the management team, we have been able to reschedule the congress to another prime time in the year, at which we can expect safe conditions and excellent participation.

A huge amount of planning and preparation goes into the event. Your contribution to this is crucial and I appreciate it greatly. With the new date set, I look forward to us all working together to staging another fantastic IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition.

**As the news of the postponement is embargoed until 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020, I would be grateful if you treat this information in the strictest confidence.**

Recently, the Board has been meeting remotely with greater frequency and will continue to do so for a period of time in order to maintain excellent contact with the Secretariat, which is also working remotely. The Covid-19 pandemic underlines the essential nature of water services. Water professionals can count on IWA and our network to help exchange experiences and develop good practice. This is why our Association is so important.

On behalf of all of the IWA Board of Directors, I wish you well in these uncertain times, and look forward to hopefully meeting in person or remotely as soon as possible, and at least in Copenhagen in May next year.

With Kind Regards,



Diane d'Arras  
President, International Water Association

cc: IWA Board of Directors