



Asia-Pacific  
Water Forum



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

## Water for Shared Prosperity in Asia and the Pacific

### - Pathway Forward Beyond Bali

May 24, 2024

Synthesized by the lead regional coordinators:

Asia Pacific Water Forum

Asia Water Council

Asian Development Bank

During the WWF10 week, 27 organizations came together, coordinated and supported by APWF, AWC, and ADB, and delivered, successfully and impactfully, 11 sub-region-specific and priority topic-specific sessions. 102 speakers from the region and around the world, contributed their expertise, knowledge, insights, and initiatives to decode the daunting challenges and, more importantly, collectively reshape and reset some inspiring collaborations and partnerships.

**Collectively, we have further reshaped three key Pathways forward:**

#### **1. Pathway to promote gender equity and inclusiveness**

- Breakthrough: The Sri Lankan Minister shared a legislative agenda for enhanced gender-inclusive policy and planning.
- Pathway: capacity building through skill development and education, and community engagement to empower women
- Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction and Planning: Integrate gender perspectives in disaster risk reduction and WASH policies, addressing women's vulnerabilities and capacities.
- 

#### **2. Pathways to Embrace Environmental Sustainability and Circular Economy**

Scientific Collaboration and Strong Science-Policy-Social Interface

- Open science drives innovation in river basin management by integrating local knowledge and scientific research, promoting nature-based solutions, and enhancing early warning systems. Combining indigenous knowledge with modern technology addresses evolving issues, while youth-led and intergenerational collaboration improves water cycle management.



Asia-Pacific  
Water Forum



## Integrated River-Basin Management and Effective Governance

- Strengthened regional cooperation and governance to manage hydrological changes and disaster risks. Integrating socio-cultural aspects with local knowledge and traditions ensures effective water resources management. Stakeholder engagement, improved pollution management, climate resilience, better environmental monitoring, and partnerships for circular economy investment are crucial.

### 3. Pathway to foster Innovation and Technological Advancement

- improved communication and cooperation among stakeholders to address climate change challenges effectively
- robust water resource management, strategic water allocation, and the implementation of advanced water accounting systems to tackle water scarcity
- collaborative efforts and strategic technology and management investments

## Collectively, we have agreed upon three mainstreaming focuses:

1. **Mainstreaming Open Science:** River basin management, integrated water resources management, and transboundary cooperation to save the Aral Sea are among the top intervention opportunities to deliver transformative impact, led by UNESCO and partner organizations.
2. **Mainstreaming climate resilience finance:** The Atoll and small island developing states, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia all present the urgent need to scale financial flow towards water security and sustainability, led by ADB, and other international donors and investors.
3. **Mainstream robust water accounting systems:** At all levels, both public and private sectors, as well as at the household level, led by GWP Southeast Asia, with a particular focus on agriculture and food security. It includes the call for the Smart Water Management Support Facility in Southeast Asia to tackle water scarcity challenges sustainably across various sectors



Asia-Pacific  
Water Forum



**Consensus on six priorities has also emerged in the following focal areas:**

- 1. Risk assessment and management in financing Mountain glaciers preservation:** The ADB President has positioned the challenge as a Global Public Good. Its new initiative with Nepal and Bhutan in Hindu Kush Himalayas is well aligned with the UN International Year 2025 of glaciers Preservation, and fits for the purpose of Early Warning For All (EW4ALL).
- 2. Accelerating deployment of EW4ALL in region:** It provides the opportunity to enhance water security and climate resilience, in terms of both infrastructure, knowledge and data, and capacity to prevent hazardous impacts, protect lives and livelihoods, led by WMO and all other partners.
- 3. Mapping climate change impact on women health:** South Asia is now championing this agenda, led by SaciWater and other partners. It calls for partnership and collaboration from around the world.
- 4. Reshaping the metrics and standards for smart adaptive and resilient water management system and technological solutions:** That are inclusive, culturally, socially, and inter-generationally, built upon solid indigenous knowledge and expertise, led by South Korea, China and Japan, Southeast Asia
- 5. Reinforce partnerships and collaboration: In inter-generational talent development,** capacity building, and innovation, in particular, by enriching the cultural and indigenous knowledge and heritage.
- 6. Advancing data- and evidence-based transparency and accountability:** Riding the trend of converging priorities of water security and climate resilience between the public and private sector, it has become urgent to ring private sector leaders on board and join the Blue Deal with investment, expertise, knowledge, and experience to accelerate the transition.



Asia-Pacific  
Water Forum



At the closing session, highlight four Asia-Pacific regionally unique contributions to the emerging global blue deal:

1. Contributing to the global 2025 year of glaciers preservation - through the Central Asia Aral Sea partnership and the Hindu Kush Himalayas initiative. It's a regional opportunity to forging reinforced collaboration for solutions, which will contribute to the global endeavor.
2. Accelerating deployment of EWS and Contributing to the UN EW4ALL by 2027: AP has been showcasing the way forward in terms of deployment of EWS, compared to other regions, and yet hurdles remain to be removed in order to achieve the goal of 100 percent coverage by 2027.
3. Mainstreaming robust water accounting system and driving water-security-cored transparency and accountability of corporations: contributing to global alignment: from transparency and accountability to unleashing the digital and smart technological potentials, robust water accounting, data sharing, and disclosure become key part of the solution and mobilize private financing to enhance our capability to build the shared prosperity that is centered around water security climate resilience, inter-generational, cultural and social inclusivity.
4. Reinforcing commitment to expanding existing community-specific practices and actions, such as those enabled through the Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security.

We collectively appreciate the Indonesian government and the World Water Council for organizing this Asia Pacific water security Summit through the Asia-Pacific Regional Process and strengthening our regional bridge with the rest of the world under the new Global Blue Deal.