



إكسبو 2020
دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة
DUBAI UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



المجلس العالمي
WORLD MAJLIS

in collaboration with



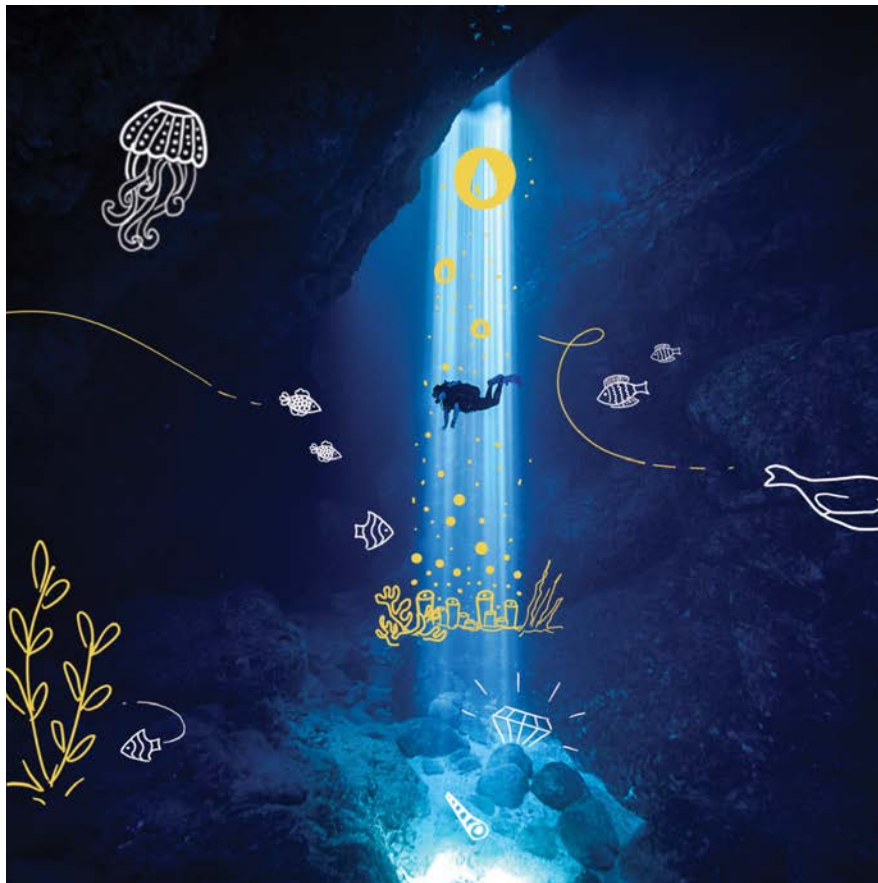
SWISS PAVILION
EXPO 2020 DUBAI

Expo 2020 Dubai Programme for People and Planet

WORLD MAJLIS AGENDA

WATER WEEK

20 – 26 March 2022



DATE

Tuesday March 22, 2022

TIME

4.00 to 6.00 PM

VENUE

Terra – the Sustainability Pavilion

THE TOPIC

THE PRICE OF WATER

Decoding its value to our future

in collaboration with Switzerland

Water bodies are reservoirs of our most precious resource as well as the lifeblood of our communities. They enable the mobility and wellbeing that we need to thrive.

Water covers 70 percent of our planet, yet only 3 percent is fresh water, and less than 1 percent is available to humankind as liquid fresh water. About half of the earth's surface is covered by over 250 lakes and river basins shared between countries and over 300 aquifers cross national borders.

Today over 2 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water. By 2030, demand for water is expected to exceed available supply by 40 percent due to population growth, rapid urbanisation, and climate change. At the same time, agriculture, and manufacturing account for over 90% of freshwater usage.

Ensuring access to water for everyone is one of the hardest tasks ahead of us and could benefit from a greater understanding of the true economic and social costs of water.

The aim of this World Majlis is to sharpen our understanding of these complex issues and explore different responses through technological innovation, business models and new forms of international cooperation.

- What are the technological innovations we can rely upon to make more water available to more people?
- How should we value water to balance economic value and the public good?
- Can water be a driver for better economic and political collaboration?

MODERATOR



John Defterios

**Former CNN Emerging Markets Editor;
Professor of Business, NYU-Abu Dhabi**

John Defterios is a veteran, award-winning journalist and economic analyst with more than 35 years of experience at CNN, Reuters, and PBS Television in the United States.

John recently retired as CNN Business' Emerging Markets Editor and Anchor. Based in the network's Abu Dhabi bureau since 2011, his reporting focused on the top business stories from emerging economies, with a specialty in trade, geo-politics and energy.

He is a Strategic Senior Advisor for the global public affairs firm APCO Worldwide, board member in media and the youth development arenas, Professor of Business at NYU-Abu Dhabi and World Economic Forum Energy Fellow.

Defterios arrived to the UAE during the regional uprisings of the Arab Spring and covered the economic rebuilding and challenges across the region. Major story coverage included: the impact of Covid-19 on the global economy, oil prices collapsing into negative territory for the first time, the Ritz Carlton crackdown on corruption and the passing of King Abdullah in Saudi Arabia. He was a key member of the CNN team that won the coveted Alfred I. Dupont award for in-country coverage between 2017-18.

Defterios was a World Economic Forum media leader from 1995-2021, a member of the Global Agenda Council on the Arab World and is a WEF Energy Fellow. He also serves on the board of the Stern Stewart Institute in Germany, a non-for-profit group promoting leadership and entrepreneurship.

PARTICIPANTS



Dr. Samer Aljishi

President of BFG International, Kingdom of Bahrain

Dr. Samer Aljishi holds the position of President of BFG International, a leading multi-national engineering and manufacturing industry in the Composites Sector. He has developed BFG from a small Bahrain-based business into a diversified international organization with over 2000 employees and manufacturing facilities. BFG is today a discrete manufacturing industry developing and providing integrated highly engineered products to clients within the rail, automotive, wind energy, architectural, construction, and waste treatment industries. During his tenure, Samer established R&D and Technology Centers in France and Spain to focus on developing innovative solutions for mobile micro waste management systems for various industry sectors.

Prior to BFG, Samer was tenured as an Industrial Advisor to the Ministry of Industry Bahrain from 1990 to 1991, and in this role, he conducted

studies, performed evaluations and assessments, and provided recommendations for the development of the industry within Bahrain. From 1988 to 1989, Samer held the position of Humboldt Research Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics, where he conducted research on the science of amorphous silicon-based semiconductor alloys.

Samer obtained his PhD in Electrical Engineering & Solid State Physics, and his MEng & MA in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University. He attained his BS in Electric Power Engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and he completed the Directors Program (Corporate Governance) for Mumtalakat at INSEAD in Bahrain, and the International Manufacturing Program for Fontainebleau at INSEAD in France.



Prof Asit K Biswas

**Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Glasgow, UK;
Director, Water Management International, Singapore;
Chief Executive, Third World Centre for Water Management, Mexico**

Prof. Asit K. Biswas is universally acknowledged as one of the world's leading authorities on water, food, environment, and development-related issues. He has a very distinguished career as an academic; senior public official in Canada; advisor and confidant to Presidents, Prime Ministers and Ministers in 23 countries, six Heads of United Nations Agencies, two Secretary-Generals of OECD, several Heads of bilateral aid agencies, and four CEOs or Chairmen of MNCs in Fortune 500 list.

He has worked and lived in all continents except Australia. He was a member of the World Commission on Water, and co-founder of International Water Resources Association and World Water Council. He was a member of the Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum and is currently member of the International Advisory Board, Pictet Asset Management, Geneva; member of the Advisory Board, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; and Strategic Advisor, Singapore International Water Week.

Among his numerous awards are Crystal Drop and Millennium Prizes of the International Water Resources Association; Walter Huber Prize of the American Society of Civil Engineering; Stockholm Water Prize, considered to be the Nobel Prize for water, for "his outstanding and multi-faceted contributions to global water resource issues;" "Person of the Year" award from Prime Minister Harper of Canada; Aragon Environment Prize of Spain. Reuters named him as a "one of the top 10 water trailblazers of the world." Impeller magazine selected him as "true global water hero."



Dr Jamila Bargach

Executive Director, Dar Si Hmad for Development, Education and Culture, Morocco

Jamila Bargach earned her PhD in Cultural Anthropology from Rice University (Texas, USA) in 1998. She is the co-founder of the NGO “Dar Si Hmad” and since 2010, the organization’s Executive Director. Dar Si Hmad has built the largest fog collection initiative in the world and manages other various environmental and education initiatives in the Southwestern region of Morocco. Dr. Bargach has worked extensively in the world of Civil Society and taught at the National School of Architecture in Rabat, Morocco from 2000 to 2010.



Carlos Garriga

Director, We Are Water Foundation, Spain

Carlos Garriga received his Degree in Business Administration and Management from the University of Barcelona, with a postgraduate degree in Protocol from UPF. He developed most of his professional career in the field of communication, working for various agencies and companies such as the Roca Group or the RBA Editorial.

Since 2020, he has been the Director of the We Are Water Foundation. In 2010, he began working at the foundation as Project Manager, responsible for coordinating projects together with international organizations such as Unicef, Oxfam Intermon or World Vision International; as well as various awareness initiatives worldwide.



Prof David Hannah, PhD

Professor of Hydrology, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham; Chair-holder of the UNESCO Chair in Water Sciences at the University of Birmingham, UK

David is a physical geographer with interdisciplinary research interests focusing on three complementary themes within hydroclimatology (interface between hydrology-climatology): (1) hydroclimatological processes within alpine, Arctic, mountain and glacierized river basins; (2) climate and river flow regimes; and (3) river energy budget and water temperature dynamics. He has cross-cutting interests in ecohydrology/ hydroecology, specifically ecological response to hydro-climatological and physico-chemical habitat variability/ change, and development of new methods for monitoring, analysing and modelling environmental dynamics.

David is Professor of Hydrology in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences and Director of Research of the College of Life and Environmental Sciences. He is Chair-holder for the UNESCO Chair in Water Sciences at the University of Birmingham.

David is listed in the Reuters Top 1000 world’s top climate scientists.



Susan Moisiso, P.E.

Global Director, Jacobs' Water Market, USA

Susan Moisiso, P.E. is the Global Director of Jacobs' Water Market. In this role, Susan leads Jacobs team of more than 9,000 Drinking Water & Reuse, Water Resources, Conveyance & Storage, Wastewater and Industrial Water visionaries and doers to develop innovative, sustainable and technology-enabled solutions for the world's water challenges. Jacobs water team is committed to providing industry-leading infrastructure, digital and environmental expertise to address complex challenges across drinking water, wastewater, desalination, conveyance and flood control challenges, all with Jacobs' OneWater approach to water management – looking at our work as a complete system.

Susan is a Technology Fellow with more than 30 years of experience in capacity assessments, system integration, and flow analysis. She joined Jacobs in 2005 and her experience in wastewater planning and capital project execution includes 16 years with the Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District. Named one of the top 40 influencers in the water industry by Global Water Intelligence magazine.

Over the span of her career, Susan has contributed to the success of some of the industry's largest and most challenging projects and programs, including London's Tideway Tunnel Program; the Ocean Outfall Legislation Program with the Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department in Florida; and Integrated Wastewater Planning for VCS Denmark.



Dr. Abishek S. Narayan

Researcher, Department of Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste for Development, Eawag, Switzerland

Abishek's research focusses on planning water and sanitation in the context of low- and middle-income countries. He primarily works on the topics of urban water management, citywide inclusive sanitation and integrated basic service provision. His transdisciplinary work has been in collaboration with several international organizations including the UN, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, SDC, GIZ, and the Gates Foundation.

Abishek finished his PhD at ETH Zurich and has a background in engineering and water management from Anna and Oxford Universities. He is also a visiting/guest lecturer at Oxford, EPF Lausanne and IHE Delft. He leads the working group on cities at the Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) and is on the board of the Swiss Water Partnership, where he coordinates youth activities.

Abishek particularly supports science communication and youth engagement in the water sector. His passion for all things water came from founding the Clean Adyar Initiative, a citizen action group for restoring a river in Chennai, India. He is a recipient of the Green Talents Award, Commonwealth Scholarship, Skoll Fellowship, St. Gallen Leader of Tomorrow Award, and is a World Economic Forum Global Shaper.