



**Institute for
Water Education**
under the auspices
of UNESCO

Rectorate

Prof. Eddy Moors PhD, MSc
T +31 15 2151 701
E E.Moors@un-ihe.org

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Dear Excellencies, Distinguished Guests

To fix the world's water crisis, you need people and institutions to have the capacity to do so. This is why the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education calls upon all countries to prioritize capacity development in all their water and sanitation-related efforts. For any investment in water infrastructure to have a lasting impact, capacity development must be part of the package.

Too often, the water sector investments devote little or no resources and attention to the issue of capacity. In the search for quick or immediate return-on-investment, developing capacity – which requires sustained efforts over a longer period of time – falls to the wayside. The consequence is a world that remains unprepared to face current and future challenges. By including capacity development, at individual, organizational and sectoral levels, water investments become truly sustainable.

This is why capacity development is part of the Global Acceleration Framework, a key approach that was endorsed here at the Conference in a welcome move. This framework highlights capacity development as one of five accelerators. But just like progress in SDG6 is a prerequisite for fulfilling all SDGs, action in the capacity development accelerator is a requirement for advancing in the other the accelerators. Individual and institutional capacity is needed for the accelerator 'innovation' to have the desired effect. Capacity is needed for the 'data and information' accelerator to support wise decision making. It's needed for 'financing' to deliver impact, and for developing sound 'governance' arrangements that lead to sustainable and universal access to water and sanitation.

Therefore, we urge all decision-makers at this Conference to prioritize capacity development. This means devoting more resources to capacity development not only in future investments, but also changing existing financing schemes to prioritize capacity development. It means thinking in the long term instead of focusing on immediate return of investments – something that may appear expensive in the short term, but in the long term, there is no other way. Capacity development is key to sustainably solving the world's water crisis.

Your Sincerely

Prof. Eddy Moors

Rector

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, under the Auspices of UNESCO

Visiting address

Westvest 7
2611 AX Delft
The Netherlands

Postal address

PO Box 3015
2601 DA Delft
The Netherlands

T +31 15 215 1715
E info@un-ihe.org
www.un-ihe.org