



ICOMOS
International Scientific Committee on
Water and Heritage



First Annual General Meeting and Scientific Symposium
of the International Scientific Committee on Water and Heritage
“Water and Heritage: Bridging Divides and Connecting Past, Present and Future;
Climate, Community, Context and Collaboration”
Pune, India 7 - 10 August 2024 hosted by
ICOMOS India Water Heritage Working Group in collaboration with
Bharti Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) College of Architecture, Pune
with knowledge partner Center for Water Research (IISER), Pune

Water is fundamental to life. The First Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Scientific Symposium will unite local, regional, national and international delegates from many disciplines, including water managers, environmental scientists, architects, landscape architects, planners, economists, museum educators, and historic preservation professionals, into a collaborative and inclusive dialogue about the value of water-related heritage as living assets. Our collective insights into functional, economic, material and immaterial dimensions of water can help us to develop new perspectives on water heritage, past, present and future.

The Mission of the ICOMOS ISC Water is to bridge the regulatory and disciplinary divides that separate the water management and heritage communities; to promote the sustainable stewardship of water-related culture and heritage; to inform and inspire the public and water managers about the socio-cultural significance of the tangible (engineering, architectural, landscape) and intangible (governance, rituals, ethics, spiritual) qualities of water related culture and heritage; and to raise public consciousness of these historic ‘assets’ to help meet present and future water needs.

The theme of the Scientific Symposium will focus on four concepts of water-related heritage: Climate, Community, Context and Collaboration. In terms of climate change, we welcome presentations that identify current and future threats to water-related heritage, and the need to balance mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency strategies whilst respecting the value, significance, and character-defining features of water related heritage as part sustainable stewardship. In terms of community, we seek presentations that focus on how water related heritage can unite communities, whether for restoring water related heritage that is deteriorated/not serving its purpose-built use; for economic livelihood; for health and sanitation; for urban/regional planning; for nature-culture connections, for spirituality. In terms of context, we solicit presentations that shine a light on local, regional, national and international examples of water and heritage issues/challenges and potential opportunities to meet current and future needs. In terms of collaboration, we invite inputs on how water managers and heritage professionals, planners and economists have worked together in the past, and are working together now to solve the water needs of today and tomorrow.

Specific outputs from the Scientific Symposium include (1) increasing awareness and valuation of water related heritage; (2) promoting inter-disciplinary understanding of water related heritage as living assets for the future; (3) promoting the formulation of integrated management models for water related heritage resulting from collaborations between water managers and heritage professionals; to support the development of typology specific guides for rehabilitation/retrofit vs. replacements and best practices for traditional knowledge and sustainable stewardship; and (4) exploring the diverse water-related heritage sites of Pune. Specific outputs from the AGM include: (1) discharging the current ISC Water Bureau; (2) voting in new ISC Water Bureau members; and (3) reviewing the ISC Water Triennial Action Plan (2024-2027).

To attend, please fill in this form: <https://forms.gle/zRjWTWHLDCCHGYVU7>. For more information please visit the following website for updates: <https://www.icomos.org/en/what-we-do/disseminating-knowledge/icomos-international-scientific-symposia> and <http://water.icomos.org/>