

# **5th International Conference of the *Global Network of Water Museums***



## **Cities of Water**

### **Peace and Prosperity through Water Sustainability Education**

#### **PROGRAMME**

**9 – 11 October 2024**

**PESTANA DOURO – PALÁCIO DO FREIXO**  
Parque Patrimonial das Águas  
Porto, Portugal

## Organized by



## In cooperation with



PROVINCIA AUTONOMA DI TRENTO



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

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## Rationale of the 5th International Conference of WAMU-NET

The 5th International Conference of the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET) aims to address the **historical and contemporary challenges of sustainable urban water management** with a view to promoting our unique water heritage. In addition to exploring the international dimension, the conference will focus on the water heritage of Porto and Portugal, highlighting relevant contributions to **water assets preservation, promotion, and education**.

Each WAMU-NET conference tackles a different theme and invite researchers, stakeholders, museum staff, and practitioners from around the world to share their experiences and learn from international experts in the field to enhance **water sustainability education**.

In Porto, the cultural heritage of water is represented by **Parque Patrimonial das Águas** (Waters Heritage Park), managed by the public water and energy supply company, **Águas e Energia do Porto**. Parque Patrimonial das Águas is an open-air museum of the territory that gathers all the water infrastructure of the city, registered on an online repository (Porto Water City), that aims to educate about the Porto's Water Heritage and its historical value ensuring accessibility and sustainability.

During the three-day conference, theoretical approaches will be combined with discussions, breakout rooms, and interactive sessions to exchange knowledge and stimulate new ideas and solutions for water heritage promotion and education. The contributions of WAMU-NET and its members to the **Phase 9 of IHP** and the theme of this year's WWD, **'Water for Peace and Prosperity'**, will be addressed. Specific sessions to present and discuss projects implemented by WAMU-NET and water museums for sharing experiences and networking opportunities are planned. WAMU-NET's **online repository of educational resources** will be also presented.

Water museums are a key vehicle for promoting **tangible and intangible water heritage along with natural and cultural diversity** and fostering education toward new generations. These institutions are engaged to explore and disseminate in new ways the history of water and its relations with humans, focusing on urban settings, ports, shipping, water management and other socially relevant practices.

Museums are a key platform for reflection and involvement of the large public in the technical, social, and cultural fields, addressing the complex daily functioning of urban water management and its sustainable impact on our increasingly fragile natural environment. From a contemporary perspective, museums are to be seen as providers of key insights to design new practices in a global context of critical challenges.



## Mapping Urban Waters and Water Heritage Sites

Cities have grown historically around rivers: there are many notorious examples worldwide. Cities are the **everlasting reflection of human activities**, therefore a case of **perpetual transformation**. However, cities also are the materialization of the eternal conflict between **memory and oblivion**; as such, they have left in their process of constant change several significant 'overlapping layers' related to water management that are worth tracing, interpreting, and showcasing. This is exactly the role of water museums.

The 'cities of water' represent a key part of our cultural heritage: a paradigmatic **model of water civilization**. From a contemporary perspective, historical examples provide key insights to outline **new visions and new practices** in a global context of critical challenges.

Today the cities of water and their contemporary transformations are important to understand and overcome, in the eternal game between visible and invisible, the contradictions of a crucial public industrial service and the recognition and relevance of **water as an essential public good**.

The European **Port City Atlas** will be addressed during the conference, as well as the **Urban Heritage Atlas of UNESCO**, as they provide models and insights into living with water and can inspire future water management in a period that is challenging traditional water systems. Living on and with (fresh) water has created unique tangible and intangible heritage around the world. People have carefully designed **buildings and cities that are uniquely adapted to local water challenges**. Examples include not only notorious cities like Porto, Lisbon, Amsterdam or Venice, just to name a few, but also distinctive settlements on stilts (like Nzulezu, Ghana), floating towns (Zhouzhuang Water Town, China) or construction in the bayous of the Southern US. Similarly, tidal or seasonal changes have provoked special responses in architecture and design, think of tidal ports, such as on the Elbe River in Hamburg, or living with seasonal rivers as the Bou Regreg which separates Rabat and Salé, in Morocco. River cities are also closely related to **intangible values**, including religious beliefs, for example bathing in the Ganges, India, or sending a message of peace through floating lanterns on the Motoyasu River in Hiroshima, Japan.

Links: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/urban-heritage-atlas>

<https://books.open.tudelft.nl/home/catalog/book/73>

### Conference objectives

- Highlight the relevance of water-related urban management practices, concepts, and visions as a source of inspiration for sustainable management (also including architectural planning that is relevant to hydraulic assets, waterways and historical river ports and related social practices)
- Promote the history of urban water management to reflect on the key role of water and sanitation in the new urban society of the 21st century and improve adaptation to climate change
- Stimulate museums and interpretation centres to develop further storytelling on the historical uses of urban waters as key driver to create awareness on its value and vulnerability
- Share with WAMU-NET members projects and good practices that contribute to the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority of UNESCO-IHP Phase 9 (2022-29) on water sustainability education
- Stimulate institutions to promote the historical heritage of water cities through innovative exhibitions and projects co-designed with research centres, schools and local communities
- Develop educational and capacity-building programs to foster new projects aimed at preserving and managing traditional water systems and practices and connecting them to future practices



## Day 0 – Tuesday 8 October

15.00 – 18.00 **Early Registration at the Palacio do Freixo, Porto**

16.00 – 18.00 **WORKING SESSION – “MAPPING METHODOLOGIES FOR THE ATLAS OF RIVER PORTS AND POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO’S URBAN HERITAGE ATLAS”**

Coordinated by Carola Hein and Yvonne van Mil, TU Delft, UNESCO Chair ‘Water, Ports and Historic Cities’

19.00 Informal dinner

## Day 1 – Wednesday 9 October

### CITIES OF WATER: MAPPING THE LIQUID HERITAGE

08.30 – 10.00 **Registration at the Palacio do Freixo, Porto**

10.00 – 11.00 **OPENING SESSION – WELCOME SPEECHES**

**Rui Moreira** (City Mayor of Porto)

**Abou Amani**, (Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary UNESCO-IHE)

**Jyoti Hosagrahar** (Deputy Director, UNESCO-WHC)

Representative of the Portuguese National Committee of IHP

**Ruben Fernandes** (AEdP Executive Administrator)

**Yongming Chen** (Deputy President of the Global Network of Water Museums)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.00 – 11.05 **INTRODUCTION TO INTERVIEWS WITH ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS**

- *During the 3-day conference, interviews to participants with statements on water heritage and sustainability education will be collected by the team of TU Delft (NL) for the Blue Paper journal.*

11.30 – 13.00 **SESSION 1 – “CITIES OF WATER IN PORTUGAL. CONNECTING WATER, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE”**

Chair: **José Guilherme Abreu** (Historian, R3IAP, Rede Portuguesa de Arte Pública, UCP-Porto, Portugal)

Keynote: **Carola Hein** (UNESCO Chair ‘Water, Ports and Historic Cities’, TU Delft, The Netherlands):

*“Building with water. Mapping Portugal’s port cities and the heritage of water management”*

Roundtable *“Connecting Water, Culture, and Heritage”* with:

**Jyoti Hosagrahar** (UNESCO-WHC)

**Sara Ahmed** (Deputy President of WAMU-NET and Director of the Living Waters Museum, India)

**Mário Mesquita** (Architect, Professor at FAUP, AEdP Heritage Advisor)

**Ana Santos** (Coimbra Water Museum)

**José Manuel Lopes Cordeiro** (Portuguese Representative of The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage - TICCIH)

13.00 – 14.15 Lunch

13.45 – 14.15 **Presentation of posters: “Porto: The City of Waters”**

14.15 – 16.00 **SESSION 2 – “MAPPING LIQUID HERITAGES: WORLD INVENTORY OF WATER MUSEUMS AND WATER-RELATED HERITAGE SITES”**

Chair: **Mariana Castro Henriques** (Director of the Museu da Agua, Lisbon, Portugal)

Keynote: **Alexander Otte** (UNESCO-IHP): *“Water Sustainability Education in the Phase 9 of UNESCO-IHP”*

Roundtable *“Ancient Hydro-Technologies (AHTs), Archaeological and Industrial Heritage, Eco-museums, and Digital Museums: Contributions to Mapping Liquid Assets”* with:

**Jordi F. Moratò** (UNESCO Chair, Polytechnic University of Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain)  
“Community of practice (CoP) for Ancient HydroTechnologies (AHTs) and the eco-hydrology demonstration sites”

**Eriberto Eulisse** (Executive Director, Global Network of Water Museums): “*The Voices of Water*: mapping AHTs for the forthcoming Virtual Science Museum of UNESCO”

**Bárbara Rangel** (FEUP Porto, Portugal): “The archaeological and industrial heritage of water in Portugal”

**Manuela Pedreira** (Responsible for the Barroso Ecomuseum - Casa do Capitão) – “Community heritage”

**Matteo D'Agostino** and **Fotini Tsigoni** (TU Delft, Netherlands): “Step two of the *World Inventory of Water Museums* (WIN): the case of Nijmegen/NL”

**Débora Silva** (Responsible for the historical heritage of the AEdP) – “Virtual and digital museums”

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee-Break

16.30 – 17.30 Roundtable (*continuation and Q&A session*)

17.30 – 18.00 **Conclusions of Day 1**

**Rui Moreira** (Deputy Mayor of Porto)

**Abdennabi El Mandour** (Deputy President of WAMU-NET and Director of the Water Civilization Museum of Morocco ‘Mohammed VI’)

**Eriberto Eulisse** (Executive Director, WAMU-NET)

18.00 – 20.30 **NETWORKING COCKTAIL AND PROMENADE THROUGH THE CITY CENTER**

## **Day 2 – Thursday 10 October**

### **WATER SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY**

9.30 – 10.00 **Registration at the Palacio do Freixo, Porto**

10.00 – 13.00 **SESSION 3 – TOWARD AN ONLINE REPOSITORY OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES: CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AND TO WATER MUSEUMS**

Chair: **Joana Lessa**, University of Algarve, Portugal

Speakers: **Lucrezia Gigante** (PO, Global Network of Water Museums), Introduction to the session and coordination of breakout rooms

**Selected contributions from water museums** (ongoing evaluation from the Call for proposals)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 12.00 **Selected contributions from water museums** (*continuation*)

12.00 – 13.00 **BREAKOUT ROOMS ‘DESIGNING WAMU-NET’S ONLINE REPOSITORY FOR WATER EDUCATION’**

- Rapporteurs: **Gisela Herrerias**, ‘Agua para Siempre’ water museum, Puebla, Mexico; **Victor Croitoru**, water museum of Cluj ‘L.Truta’, Romania; **Ian-Kerr Wilson**, Canada; **Hanane Benqlilou**, Morocco; **Karin Wundsam**, Danube Water-Adventure, Austria; **Liliana Pena Naval**, Brazilian water museum, Tocantins.

13.00 – 13.30 **Reporting to the plenary, discussion and conclusion**

13.30 – 15.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 **Video Screening**

15.00 – 17.30 **CULTURAL VISITS: THE WATER HERITAGE OF PORTO – SITE VISIT NO.1 : THE ‘PARQUE PATRIMONIAL DAS ÁGUAS’, THE URBAN UNDERGROUND HYDRAULIC AND SEWAGE SYSTEM AND THE RESERVOIRS IN THE NORTH OF PORTO**

21.00 – 23.00 **GALA DINNER**

## Day 3 – Friday 11 October

### WAMU-NET'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY: NETWORKING PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

#### 10.00 – 11.00 **OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Chair: **Eddy Moors**, President of WAMU-NET and Rector of IHE Delft, Netherlands

#### **PROJECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR NETWORKING:**

- **Javier Taks**, UNESCO Chair, Montevideo: presentation of the book *“Water museums in Latin America”* (in cooperation with the UNESCO Office of Montevideo)
- **Giulia Sergianpietri**, **Margarita Maruskic Kulas**, **Vicky Malotidi**, **Chiara Soldati**, and **Eriberto Eulisse**: *AQUAPLAY – a new interactive tool for online Education on WAMU-NET website. Opportunities for members and MoU signature* (EU-funded ‘CREDIT’ project, Creative Europe)“
- **Sandra de Vries** and **Gabriela Costea**, *“Toward the thematic Healthy Danube Network of water museums”* (Eu-funded project “Danube for All”, Life Programme)
- **Sara Ahmed** and **Amitangshu Acharya**, *“Aquamuse: Reimagining Water Museums”*
- **Abdennabi El Mandour**: *Report on the reconstruction of the Azzadan watermill in the Atlas, Morocco*, supported by WAMU-NET
- **Edo Bricchetti**, **Abdennabi El Mandour**, **Eriberto Eulisse** and **Lahcen Kabiri**: *The Oasis Ecomuseum of Errachidia as a pilot project for the Moroccan Oasis Ecomuseum Network*
- **Eriberto Eulisse**: *Fostering soil literacy through art practices and travelling exhibitions: opportunities for WAMU-NET members* (EU-funded project “SoilTribes”, Horizon)

#### 11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

#### 11.30 – 12.45 **COMMUNICATIONS FROM WAMU-NET MEMBERS AND PRESENTATION OF NEW PARTNERS**

#### 12.45 – 13.30 Q&A and open discussion

#### 13.30 – 15.00 Lunch

#### 14.30 – 15.00 **MOU SIGNATURES**

**MoU no.1: “AQUAPLAY – online interactive education on WAMU-NET website”** (EU-funded ‘CREDIT’ project, Creative Europe). In cooperation with: WAMU-NET; DocServizi, Italy; Aquatika freshwater aquarium, Karlovac, Croatia; MIO-ECSDE, Greece; Water Factory of Bologna (GACRES), Italy.

**MoU no.2: “Cultural Corridors through water museums”**. In cooperation with: WAMU-NET; Ghajn water museum, Malta; Albear Aqueduct museum, La Habana, Cuba; Lapis Water Museum, Naples, Italy.

#### 15.00 – 15.30 Conference conclusions: *“The contribution of WAMU-NET to IHP Phase 9 and the Water Agenda”*

**Eddy Moors** - President of the Global Network of Water Museums

**Filipe Araújo** - President of AEdP

#### 15.30 – 17.30 **THE WATER HERITAGE OF PORTO – SITE VISIT NO.2 : ‘PARQUE PATRIMONIAL DAS ÁGUAS’ - THE URBAN UNDERGROUND HYDRAULIC SYSTEM AND RESERVOIRS IN THE SOUTH OF PORTO**

#### 21.00 – 23.00 **GALA DINNER**

## Day 4 – Saturday 12 October

### FIELD TRIP (optional)

#### 10.00 – 17.30 **FIELD TRIP FROM PORTO TO POCINHO ON THE RIVER DOURO (WORLD HERITAGE OF UNESCO)**

*“Cultural, Evolving and Living Landscape”*

Itinerary: Porto – Peso da Régua (Bus) / Peso da Régua – Barca d’Alva (Ship) / Barca d’Alva – Porto (Bus)

- **All sessions will take place at the Palacio do Freixo, Porto**