



EXPO  
2020  
DUBAI  
UAE



Bureau  
International  
des Expositions

# EXPO TALKS: WATER

23 MARCH 2021



# Tuesday 23 March 2021

Please note that all timings are GMT + 4, and subject to final confirmation

10:30am

## Introduction to Water at Expo 2020 Dubai

*How will we protect our most precious resource today, for tomorrow?*

### Welcome Remarks

#### **Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy**

UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation  
Director General of Expo 2020 Dubai

### Keynote Remarks

#### **H.E. Mariam Almheiri**

UAE Minister of State for Food and Water Security

### Messages from Ocean Elders

#### **H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco**

Head of State of the Principality of Monaco

#### **Dr. Sylvia Earle**

Pioneering Oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence

10:50am

## Water is Life: Managing and Protecting Our Water For the Health, Wealth and Happiness of Future Generations

Moderated by **Adriano Konialidis**, Director, Participant Management, Expo 2020 Dubai

*Water is a vital component of all living things. It makes up 60 per cent of the human body and 71 per cent of the Earth. This session will spotlight initiatives that harness ancestral knowledge, and innovations for honouring and protecting this vital resource for the health, wealth and happiness of future generations.*

### The World Food Programme Half-Moon Projects

#### **Mageed Yahia**

Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), UAE, and Representative for the GCC Region

#### **David Beasley**

Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)

### Peru | Peruvian Ancestral Techniques of Preserving Water in "Qochas" (Reservoirs)

#### **José Antonio Villavicencio**

Executive Coordinator at the Sierra Azul Fund, at the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation of Peru (MIDAGRI)

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[Haiti | Addressing the Sanitation Crisis: SOIL's Efforts to Protect and Preserve Water Resources](#)

**Ashlie Bermudez**

Development Associate, the EkoLakay Programme by SOIL

[Lebanon | Compost Baladi and CubeX: Turning Organic Waste Into Energy for Agriculture](#)

**Marc Aoun**

Founder and CEO of CubeX SAL

[Oman | Produced Water: From Waste to Resource](#)

**Ulrich Emmer**

Managing Director, BAUER Nimr LLC

[Costa Rica | Our Challenges with Water](#)

**Manuel Guerrero Hernández**

Ecosystem Management Coordinator, Agua Tica by FUNDECOR

[Guinea | Water Management in Guinea: The Case of the Niger River](#)

**Ibrahima Sory Camara**

Coordinator of the focal point organisation of the Niger Basin Authority in Guinea; Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation

[UAE / Jacobs | Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium: The Seawater Energy and Agriculture System \(SEAS\)](#)

**Dr. Adel AbouJaoudé**

Director of Operations, Saudi Arabia at Jacobs

[Czech Republic | How the Czech Republic Pavilion Will Address Water](#)

**Jiri Frantisek Potuznik**

Ambassador and Commissioner General for the Czech Republic at Expo 2020 Dubai

11:35am

**[Appreciating the Value of Water Today and Tomorrow](#)**

[A Panel Discussion Curated by The Netherlands, with Leading Experts from The Netherlands, UAE and Oman](#)

**Annemieke Nijhof**

Managing Director,  
Deltares,  
Netherlands

**Dr. Mohamed Dawoud**

Manager, Water  
Resources Department,  
Environment Agency  
of Abu Dhabi

**Dr. Rashid Yahya Hamdan Al Abri**

Assistant Director General for Water  
Resources Assessment at the  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Water Resources of the Sultanate of  
Oman

**Bianca Nijhof**

Managing Director,  
Netherlands Water  
Partnership (NWP)  
**Moderator**

# Tuesday 23 March 2021

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12:05pm

## Inspiring Country Initiatives to Address Water Insecurities

Moderated by **Anaoly Blanco**, Country Manager, Participant Management, Expo 2020 Dubai

### Hungary

#### **Peter Kovács**

Head of the River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary

### Panama | Essential Water Management of the Panama Canal

#### **Daniel Muschett Ibarra**

Vice President for Water Resources Management, Panama

### Portugal | Trends in Ocean Sustainable Governance: Portugal's New Ocean Strategy 2030

#### **Helena Vieira**

Director General of Maritime Policy, Ministry of the Sea, Portugal

12:30pm

## Oceans of Plastic

### A Panel Discussion, Curated by Norway

Opening remarks by **Maren Hersleth Holsen**, State Secretary, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway

#### **Emily Penn**

Ocean Advocate, and Co-Founder and Director of eXXpedition, UK

#### **Dr. La Daana Kanhai**

Plastic Pollution Expert, Marine Scientist at The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

#### **Eirik Lindebjerg**

Global Plastics Policy Lead, World Wide Fund for Nature, Norway

#### **Catharina Frostad**

CSO, Clean Sea Solutions, Norway

#### **Erik Solheim**

President, Belt and Road Green Development Institute, Beijing; Chairman of the Board, Afroz Shah Foundation, Mumbai  
**Moderator**

# Tuesday 23 March 2021

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1:05pm

## From Ocean Waste to Ocean Art: Reinterpreting Materiality to Advocate for the Environment

*Ghost nets, when discarded in the ocean, can entangle and kill many marine species. But how can this material be used to spread a message of education, change and art? A collective of artists came together to create ghost net installations representing indigenous life around the coast and all the spectacular marine organisms. Through such artwork, they inspire awareness of ocean pollution, and promote conservation of the marine environment. In this session, we take a closer look at the development and outcome of this project, and how it has inspired Expo 2020 Dubai's Community Art Project, "Hammour House".*

**Sue Ryan**  
Visual Artist

**Ahmed Al Enezi**  
Senior Manager of Arts and Culture,  
Expo 2020 Dubai



1:50pm

## Fragile Waters | From Rivers to Oceans: Reversing Our Impact on Water Ecosystems

*Today, around eight million metric tonnes of garbage are dumped into rivers and oceans each year, and 80 per cent of marine pollution comes from land. From coral bleaching to overfishing to carbon pollution and ocean acidification, our great water bodies are failing, and yet any changes to policies or behaviour have been slow coming. How do we turn the tide of water pollution? If we could see what is happening in the oceans and rivers, as we can on land, would we be more likely to change our behaviour? What economic and policy initiatives could lead to more resilient water ecosystems? With the global blue economy valued at around USD 1.5 trillion a year, how do we derive benefit from the many resources of our water ecosystems without further disturbing their balance?*

*Join us in this World Majlis, to start exploring the answers to these complex questions in conversation with leading experts and thought leaders.*

**Chrissant Barbe**  
Principal Policy Analyst,  
Department of Blue  
Economy, Seychelles

**Erik Solheim**  
President, Belt and Road  
Green Development  
Institute, Beijing; Chairman  
of the Board, Afroz Shah  
Foundation, Mumbai

**Jo Ruxton**  
Founder,  
Ocean Generation,  
UK

**Kate Willoughby**  
Head of Sustainability and  
Impact, DP World, UAE

**Professor Michael  
Depledge CBE**  
Emeritus Professor of  
Environment and Human  
Health, University of  
Exeter, UK

**Nadia Christidi**  
PhD Candidate in History,  
Anthropology, and  
Science, Technology, and  
Society, MIT

**Nasser Moh'd Hussain  
Bin Lootah**  
Executive Vice President,  
Generation,  
Dubai Electricity and Water  
Authority (DEWA), UAE

**Richard Dean**  
Presenter, Business  
Breakfast, 103.8 Dubai Eye,  
UAE  
**Moderator**

*Video contribution from  
**Cha Wan Young**,  
CEO, Marine Innovation,  
South Korea*



A hand is shown from the left, holding a small amount of water. The water is dripping into a calm lake, creating ripples. The background features a clear blue sky, a bright sun in the top left corner, and a range of mountains with some snow patches. The overall scene is serene and emphasizes the theme of water.

**EXPO TALKS  
WATER  
SPEAKERS LIST**

**23 MARCH 2021**



**Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy**  
**UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and**  
**Director General of Expo 2020 Dubai**

In February 2016, Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy was sworn in as Minister of State for International Cooperation in the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Since her first ministerial appointment in February 2008, Her Excellency has and continues to manage, the Vice President's Office for Political Affairs, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

In November 2013, as Managing Director of Dubai's World Expo 2020 bid, Her Excellency oversaw a historic achievement at the Bureau International des Expositions. Dubai Expo 2020 will be the first World Expo to be held in the MEASA (Middle East, Africa and South Asia region). Her Excellency holds the position of Managing Director of the Dubai Expo 2020 Higher Committee, as well as Director General of the Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau, in preparation for the upcoming national milestone.

Since its launch in 2007 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Her Excellency has served as Chairperson of Dubai Cares, a philanthropic organisation with the aim of improving access to quality education in developing countries.

Her Excellency was formerly Chairperson of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority, which drives the UAE's global competitiveness across many sectors.

Her Excellency completed her undergraduate degree at Tufts University, earning a BA in International Relations and French, followed by an MA from Harvard University. Prior to her current position as Minister of State, Her Excellency served as Commercial Attaché and, subsequently, Deputy Chief of the UAE Embassy to the United States of America, in Washington DC.

## H.E. Mariam Almheiri

**UAE Minister of State for Food and Water Security**



Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri was appointed as Minister of State for Food and Water Security as part of the reformation of the UAE Cabinet announced in July 2020. Her Excellency is responsible for monitoring national food stocks, investing in food technology, and following up international relations in this area. Previously, Her Excellency was appointed as Minister of State for Food Security following the Cabinet reshuffle of October 2017. Her responsibilities included overseeing the development of the necessary infrastructure that would ensure the country's food security objectives, in line with the UAE Centennial 2071 Plan.

In addition, H.E. represents the UAE federal government in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) as well as the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA). She is a member of the Board of Directors in the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) and also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation, the Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) and the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Food Systems Innovation. She has also been nominated to lead some unique projects in the field of aquaculture under the initiatives of His Highness the President of the UAE, through the Ministry of Presidential Affairs to establish the foundation needed for this emerging economic sector to develop and thrive in the country.

H.E. Almheiri previously served as Assistant Undersecretary for Water Resources and Nature Conservation Affairs at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, where she was appointed to oversee the Biodiversity, Fisheries, Coastal & Marine Sustainability and Marine Research departments.

H.E. Mariam Almheiri received her bachelor's and master's degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) in Aachen, Germany.



## H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco

**Head of State of the Principality  
of Monaco**



Born in 1958 in Monaco, H.S.H. Prince Albert II is the Sovereign Prince of the Principality of Monaco, one of the smallest but most prosperous countries in the world. He is the son of Prince Rainier III and American actress Grace Kelly.

He graduated in 1981 from Amherst College, Massachusetts. He accomplished a military training period within the French Navy in 1982 on board the Helicopter Carrier "Jeanne d'Arc".

Prince Albert II succeeded His father in July of 2005.

In 2006, he launched His foundation "Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation", dedicated to fighting climate change, preserving water and defending biodiversity. Earlier that year, he travelled by dog sled to the North Pole to raise public awareness of the danger of climate change and global warming. In 2009, he spent three weeks in Antarctica visiting scientific stations.

As Head of State and President of his Foundation, Prince Albert II has been honoured with numerous prizes from organisations around the world for his contribution and actions in favour of the protection of our environment.

Following the policy engaged by his father, Prince Rainier III, Prince Albert II is committed to ethics and transparency regarding economic development in Monaco, with his country complying with all international standards.

He is also a former Olympian athlete in Bobsleigh (five participations at the Winter Olympic Games), a Member of the IOC and the Chairman of the IOC Sustainable and Legacy Commission since 2014.

In 2011, Prince Albert II married Charlene Wittstock, a South African national.

In December of 2014, H.S.H. Princess Charlene gave birth to twins Jacques and Gabriella.

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## Dr. Sylvia Earle

**Pioneering Oceanographer  
and National Geographic  
Explorer-in-Residence**



Dr. Sylvia A. Earle, a scientist, explorer, innovator, author and acclaimed speaker, is igniting public and governmental support for a global ocean network of Hope Spots, areas large enough to save and restore the planetary systems that make life on Earth possible. A National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Founder of Mission Blue, Founder of Deep Ocean Exploration and Research, Founding Ocean Elder, Council Chair for the Harte Research Institute, IUCN Patron of Nature and former Chief Scientist of NOAA, Dr. Sylvia Earle has a PhD from Duke University, 33 honorary degrees, and more than 150 awards for her leadership in science, exploration, conservation and communication.

## Mageed Yahia

**Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), UAE, and Representative for the GCC Region**



Abdel Mageed Yahia is the WFP Director in the UAE and Representative for the GCC Region. Mageed has more than 30 years' experience working in the humanitarian field in both emergency and development settings. He started his career with WFP in Rwanda in 1997, and has since served in various field and headquarters offices including Malawi, Burundi, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Darfur, Lebanon, Ivory coast, Liberia, Chad, Niger, Sudan and Rome.

As the WFP Representative in Jordan, Mageed pioneered the introduction and implementation of innovative technology-based solutions including Blockchain technology, a biometric identification (IRIS scan) for redeeming humanitarian assistance and the introduction of hydroponic containers for production of animal-feed for vulnerable Jordanians.

## David Beasley

Executive Director of the  
World Food Programme (WFP)



As Executive Director of the World Food Programme, David Beasley continues his life's work bridging political, religious and ethnic boundaries to champion economic development and education. At WFP, Mr. Beasley is putting to use four decades of leadership and communications skills to mobilise more financial support and public awareness for the global fight against hunger.

These efforts were recognised last year when the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded WFP the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

The fight against hunger is even more critical now, with rates steadily rising because of persistent conflict, the impact of climate change and, most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. Under Mr. Beasley's leadership, WFP has mobilised the resources required to respond to an ever-expanding caseload of people requiring food assistance. In 2020, the agency aims to reach up to 138 million people. Mr. Beasley is also driving greater focus and attention to WFP's work beyond emergency food assistance, highlighting how longer-term development can help bring peace and stability to troubled regions.

Before coming to WFP in April 2017, Mr. Beasley spent a decade working with high-profile leaders and on-the-ground programme managers in more than 100 countries, directing projects designed to foster peace, reconciliation and economic progress. He travelled to as many as 30 countries a year, organising, leading or participating in conferences and missions in Kosovo, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen, among others. His work has allowed him to develop deep relationships with leaders around the world.

As Governor of the U.S. state of South Carolina from 1995 to 1999, Mr. Beasley guided the state during years of economic transformation, helping to reshape the state's economy into a healthy, diverse and robust market. The work led to one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, with a dramatic increase in private sector capital investment. Mr. Beasley was the first Governor in South Carolina to make a public push for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the state capitol dome, a move that earned him the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

Mr. Beasley received his bachelor's degree from Clemson University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of South Carolina and taught at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. He was first elected to public office at the age of 21 as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives. He is married to the former Mary Wood Payne and is the father of four children.

## José Antonio Villavicencio

**Executive Coordinator at the Sierra Azul Fund,  
at the Ministry of Agricultural Development  
and Irrigation of Peru (MIDAGRI)**



Mr. José Antonio Villavicencio is the Executive Coordinator of Sierra Azul, a fund under the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation of Peru, aimed at increasing agricultural water security through the “Water Sowing and Harvesting” National Programme, contributing to Peruvian agricultural prosperity in high Andean areas, as well as to the wellbeing of low-income farmers. Mr. José Villavicencio holds a master’s degree in Business Administration and a master’s degree in Irrigation Engineering. He has broad experience in strategic planning, public financial management, agricultural development management, and investment in public projects.

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## Ashlie Bermudez

**Development Associate,  
the EkoLakay Programme by SOIL**



Ashlie is the Development and Communication Associate at SOIL, and an advocate for climate change resilience among vulnerable populations. She previously worked as an Urban Agriculture Extension Agent with the Peace Corps in Senegal, and in communications and development for the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti. Her passion for sustainable development and social justice in Haiti is amplified through her creative communications and advocacy strategy.

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## Marc Aoun

**Founder and CEO of CubeX SAL**



Marc Aoun is an environmental scientist and alumnus from the University of Utah in the USA. Given his passion for the waste management field, he co-founded and currently holds the position of General Manager at CubeX and Compost Baladi SAL that seeks to implement bio-waste management solutions anchored in the circular economy approach.



**Ulrich Emmer**  
**Managing Director,**  
**BAUER Nimr LLC**



Ulrich Emmer is the Managing Director of BAUER Nimr LLC in Muscat, Oman.

BAUER Nimr designed, constructed and also operates the world's largest constructed wetland, the Nimr Water Treatment Plant for produced water, as a concession-holder for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO).

Ulrich started his career in 1994 in Germany with Bauer Spezialtiefbau in the construction sector and made his way quickly onto an international stage. Ulrich spent most of his professional career in the Middle East overseeing construction projects, advancing from a project manager up to executive levels for various daughter companies of The Bauer Group. Clients included entities like Emaar, Nakheel, Aldar, Dubai Metro and ADNOC, for prestigious projects such as the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, which is currently the tallest building in the world. He also worked on construction projects in Bangladesh, the Philippines and Africa in senior positions.

After 25 years of working successfully in the construction industry, Ulrich decided for a change in 2019 and joined the environmental sector as the Managing Director of BAUER Nimr, fascinated by the sustainable approach the wetland takes as well as by the concept of circular economy, bearing the potential of being a major contribution to protect the environment.

Apart from PDO, BAUER Nimr is also working together with BP, Shell, Abraaj, KCA Deutag and KOC to name a few.

Ulrich Emmer is of German nationality, studied civil engineering at the Technical University of Munich, and holds a university diploma.

In his time outside the office, Ulrich maintains balance by spending time with his family, and through sports as a passionate road cyclist.

## Manuel Guerrero Hernández

Ecosystem Management Coordinator,  
Agua Tica by FUNDECOR



Manuel has a master's degree in Natural Resource Management with an emphasis on Environmental Management from the Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED), and a degree in Tropical Biology with an emphasis on Natural Resource Management from the Universidad Nacional (UNA).

As the Ecosystem Management Coordinator in FUNDECOR, part of his work is to generate projects that impact the quality and quantity of water, and translate into a system that improves the quality of life for populations.

He is the Technical Secretary – Manager – of Agua Tica, and is in charge of managing projects within the framework of the initiative, such as the Water for the Future project that replenishes water to nature through forest protection, regeneration and reforestation activities, calculation of potential aquifer recharge (AR), implementation of the Agua Tica area of influence, stable isotope project, LandScale project, and support for the Rios Límpios National Strategy.

His work combines different activities as management and generates models with geographic information systems, to visit farms to sample springs or to corroborate that a certain project is properly developed, as well as the management with actors within the territory so that they join Agua Tica.

In FUNDECOR, he has participated in projects such as environmental murals, carbon-neutral schools, routing maps for NavSat, community mapping, biological monitoring and rapid biological studies, among others.

## Ibrahima Sory Camara

**Coordinator of the focal point organisation of the Niger Basin Authority in Guinea;  
Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation**



Mr. Ibrahima Sory Camara is a chemical engineer, a specialist in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and the Coordinator of the focal point organisation of the Niger Basin Authority in Guinea, at the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation of the Republic of Guinea.

He is the Strategic Coordinator of the Integrated Programme for Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Niger River Basin (PIDACC / BN) – Guinea component.

His expertise has developed in water resources administration, mobilisation and management of water resources, agricultural water management, water security, management of transboundary waters and the development of river basins.

He is a member of the Technical Committee of Experts of the Niger Basin Authority (ABN), as well as the ABN Project/Programme Steering Committee. He is also a member of the National Technical Committee for Environmental Analysis (CTAE), the Steering Committee of the Mining Sector Governance Support Project (PAGSEM), as well as the National IWRM/Guinea Coordination Unit.

He is the focal point of the United Nations Commission – European Union of the Convention on the Protection of Transboundary Waters.

He has been involved in various publications, including the 2019 World Bank report on the Promotion of Commercial Agriculture, the 2020 National Report on SDG Indicator 6.5.2, the Roadmap for the transition to IWRM, as well as the report of the Environmental and Social Strategic Study (ESES) on the reform of the mining sector in the Republic of Guinea in 2016.

## Dr. Adel AbouJaoudé

**Director of Operations,  
Saudi Arabia at Jacobs**



Dr. Adel AbouJaoudé is the Director of Operations, of Saudi Arabia at Jacobs. In 30 years of professional activity, his career has spanned from applied research in water engineering, mathematical modeling and software development, to diversified experience in the design and management of major water engineering and infrastructure projects. Dr. AbouJaoudé also has academic experience with over 25 years of teaching Groundwater Hydraulics and Geographical Information Systems for graduate and undergraduate engineering students in Lebanon, USA and Italy. Dr. AbouJaoudé sits on the Water Supply, Treatment and Distribution Engineering Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers and is a former member of the Scientific Committee of the French National Research Agency (ANR) for the Technology of the Environment. In 2015, he was awarded the title Diplome Water Resources Engineer by the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers (AAWRE).

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## Jiri Frantisek Potuznik

**Ambassador and Commissioner General  
for the Czech Republic at Expo 2020 Dubai**



Mr. Jiri Frantisek Potuznik studied journalism at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Charles University. From 1993 he worked at the foreign desk of the Czech Television, and from 2002 as a foreign correspondent in Brussels. In November 2008, he became the Spokesman for the Presidency of the Czech Republic of the Council of the EU. In June 2009, he became the Spokesman of the Czech participation at the EXPO in Shanghai in 2010. In December 2012, he won the tender for the General Commissioner of National Participation at the EXPO in Milan in 2015, where the Czech Pavilion won the silver medal for architecture and innovation; in 2017, he also won the tender for the EXPO 2020 in Dubai with the concept Czech Spring.



## **Annemieke Nijhof**

**Managing Director,  
Deltares,  
Netherlands**



Annemieke Nijhof has been working on different aspects of the sustainable living environment for almost 30 years. She has working experience in both business and government. Furthermore, she is supervisor and advisor to knowledge institutes, the government, NGOs and the financial sector. She was Top Woman of the Year in 2015 because of her tenacious dedication to diversity and inclusivity in organisations.

After her study of chemical engineering at the University of Twente, she started out as engineer in Innovative Soil Remediation at Tauw bv. Then she became Head of Water and Spatial Planning. In that same period, she finished an MBA at the TSM Business School. Next, she joined the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science as the Coordinator of Technical Sciences, to subsequently transfer to the Ministry of Public Health, Spatial Planning and Environment. First in the position of Head of the Foresight and Policy Evaluation department, later as Vice Director of External Safety at the same Ministry. In 2005, she became Principal Advisor to Prime Minister Balkenende at the Ministry of General Affairs. Three years later she was appointed Director General of Water at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. In 2012, she became the CEO of Tauw Group bv, responsible for all (inter)national business units of Tauw Group. In 2019, Annemieke became figurehead of Topsector Water and Maritime and Chair of the Board of the Netherlands Water Partnership. She is also Co-Director of The Springtij Foundation.

Annemieke is the Managing Director of Deltares since 1 October 2020.

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## **Dr. Mohamed Dawoud**

**Manager, Water  
Resources Department,  
Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi**



Dr. Mohamed Dawoud is the Manager of the Water Resources Department, in the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, UAE. He has graduated in Civil Engineering with an honours degree and got his master's and Ph.D. from Ain Shams University. Since 1991, Dr. Dawoud has maintained an active programme of research and consulting activities, with particular emphasis on groundwater, numerical modelling, artificial recharge, strategic water reserve, and water resources management. His current research includes analysis of water supply and demand issues, groundwater management, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), and numerical simulations in many countries such as Egypt, Nigeria, Kenya, Mali, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. He got the 2009 Abu Dhabi Excellence Award and, in 2011, the H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan Award. In 2011, he was awarded by the National Academies in the USA as one of four best young Arab water scientists during the first Arab-American Frontiers of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine programme.

## Dr. Rashid Yahya Hamdan Al Abri

**Assistant Director General for Water Resources Assessment at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources of the Sultanate of Oman**



Dr. Al Abri graduated as a geologist from Sultan Qaboos University in 1992, and he pursued his master's and PhD studies in the field of Hydrogeology. He has a good experience in water exploration projects gained upon joining the Ministry of Water Resources in the period in 1992, and until 1996. He held many administrative and technical positions as a director of some regional offices of water resources and as a municipality director before assuming his current duties as Assistant Director General for Water Resources Assessment at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishers Wealth and Water Resources. He has been a board member of the Water and Sciences and Technology Association in GCC since 2011, and a board member of the Oman Water Society. He acts as a focal point between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources and both ESCWA (Water Resources Committee) and the regional Centre for Urban Water Management (UNESCO). He actively participated in forming the Arab G-Wadi network which is based in Muscat under the auspices of UNESCO.

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## Bianca Nijhof

**Managing Director,  
Netherlands Water  
Partnership (NWP)  
Moderator**



With a background in landscape ecology and environmental biology, Bianca Nijhof has ample experience in sustainability and water with an extensive network across business, governmental organisations and NGOs. She is an experienced communicator and natural collaborator with experience working with many parties and in many cultures. She has a passion for making a difference and the expertise to contribute to high-value outcomes across sustainability, diversity and inclusion, natural capital, the water-energy-food nexus, Sustainable Development Goals, capacity-building, programme management and stakeholder engagement. Since January 2019, she has been the Managing Director for the Netherlands Water Partnership, where she works to bring together different stakeholders in the Dutch water sector to jointly work on sustainable water solutions for people, planet and profit worldwide.

## Mr. Peter Kovács

**Head of the River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary**



Peter Kovács is the Head of the River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary.

He graduated as a civil engineer, started his professional career at a Regional Water Management Directorate/Environmental Authority as a staff engineer.

In 1997, he started to work for ministries in different positions, responsible for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and water quality management.

He is a former State Secretary for Water, and currently is Head of Delegation to the ICPDR, EU Water Director, Vice-Chair of the UNECE Water Convention, a governmental plenipotentiary for six transboundary water commissions with neighbouring countries, and chair of several bilateral working groups on water management.

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## Daniel Muschett Ibarra

**Vice President for Water Resources Management, Panama**



Mr. Daniel M. Muschett Ibarra has a degree in Chemistry from the University of Panama, and a master's degree in Science and Environmental Technology from the International Institute for Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering in Delft, Holland. He also holds an Associate Diploma in Environment, Safety and Health, from government institutes in Washington.

He has worked in the Panama Canal for more than 20 years, holding various positions. Starting in 2003, he was responsible for coordinating the team that prepared the environmental studies for the Panama Canal Expansion Programme.

In 2013, he was appointed Executive Manager for the Environmental Division, responsible for the management of policies, strategies, plans, programmes and initiatives for the environmental management and sustainable development of the Panama Canal Watershed.

In February 2016, he was appointed Administrator of the Office of Water Capacity, responsible for carrying out, with national and international organisations, the activities, studies, evaluation, and projects necessary to increase the water supply in the country and reduce vulnerability to the effects of climatic changes. He also had an important role in the creation of the National Water Council and the elaboration of the National Water Safety Plan 2005-2050.

In 2019, he was appointed Interim Vice President for Water and Environment, to manage the water resources of the Panama Canal Watershed for human consumption and the waterway's operation, as well as the protection and conservation of the Panama Canal Watershed. He also manages the watershed's water quality and the levels of the Canal lakes, plans, and implements the Panama Canal's Green Route programme, which includes the measurement and reduction of the carbon footprint, and coordinates the Panama Canal Watershed Interinstitutional Commission (CICH).

## Helena Vieira

**Director General of Maritime Policy,  
Ministry of the Sea, Portugal**



Helena Vieira is currently the Director General of Maritime Policy under the Minister of the Sea, in Portugal. She has over 20 years of professional experience in academic, industry and political roles at EU and international settings, in the fields of life and ocean sciences, and bioeconomy. She has a Harvard Business School Executive Grad and a PhD in Molecular Biosciences from the Imperial College of London.

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## Maren Hersleth Holsen

**State Secretary, Ministry of  
Climate and Environment,  
Norway**



Ms. Holsen, born June 20<sup>th</sup> 1976, resides in Hærland in the rural municipality of Indre Østfold, in Norway. She is an educated landscape architect and former Deputy Mayor of the Eidsberg municipality in the Viken Region of Norway. She had earlier worked as a political advisor to the Norwegian Minister of Agriculture.



## Emily Penn

**Ocean Advocate, and  
Co-Founder and Director  
of eXXpedition, UK**



Emily Penn is an ocean advocate and skipper who has spent the last decade exploring plastic pollution from the tropics to the Arctic. She is the Co-Founder of eXXpedition, a series of all-female sailing voyages investigating the causes of and solutions to plastic pollution. Back on land, Emily recently launched the SHiFT Platform, helping people navigate hundreds of impactful solutions to ocean plastic pollution to find the ones that are best for them.

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## Dr. La Daana Kanhai

**Plastic Pollution Expert,  
Marine Scientist at The University of  
the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago**



Dr. La Daana Kanhai is an early career marine scientist who is currently based at the Department of Life Sciences, at The University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad.

From 2015 onwards, La Daana's research has focused on the issue of plastic pollution in the Atlantic Ocean, Arctic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

## Eirik Lindebjerg

**Global Plastics Policy Lead,  
World Wide Fund for Nature,  
Norway**



Eirik Lindebjerg leads the global policy work of WWF's global No Plastic in Nature Initiative. Together with WWF national organisations from all across the globe, Lindebjerg is developing and advocating for international policy solutions to stop the accelerating environmental threat of plastic pollution.

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## Catharina Frostad

**CSO, Clean Sea Solutions,  
Norway**



Catharina H. Frostad is the Co-Founder of Clean Sea Solutions, a Norwegian company developing innovative solutions to reduce and prevent the inflow of marine plastic waste into the oceans, and clean the waterways. She is both an explorer and sailor with a big passion for our ocean, and a curiosity for how we can use technology to develop sustainability.

## Erik Solheim

**President, Belt and Road  
Green Development Institute,  
Beijing; Chairman of the Board,  
Afroz Shah Foundation, Mumbai  
Moderator**



Erik Solheim is the CEO of the Plastic REVolution Foundation, Chairman of the Board of the Afroz Shah Foundation, Senior Advisor at the World Resource Institute and President of the Belt and Road Green Development Institute. A well-known global leader on environment and development, he has served as the Norwegian Minister of Environment and International Development, Chair of the OECD DAC, and Executive Director of UN Environment.

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## Sue Ryan

**Visual Artist**



Sue Ryan is a North Queensland-based artist and arts worker who works in a range of mediums including painting, printmaking and sculpture. Over the years, Sue has worked intensively with indigenous artists from the Cape York region, helping to develop and promote their art nationally and internationally.

After her time with the Lockhart River Art Centre as Art Centre Manager from 2001 to 2007, she was appointed to write a scoping study for Arts Queensland and GhostNets Australia on the prospects of ghost nets being used as the basis for art in the indigenous communities where it was being collected. Her report was a blueprint for the development of what was to become ghost net art. After submitting her report, Sue took on the position of Director of the Ghost Net Art Project. Assuming this role in 2009, Sue organised workshops in remote communities of the Torres Strait, Cape York, Northern Territory and South Australia as well as events throughout Australia. Works produced as a result of these workshops have been purchased and exhibited by national and international institutions. Along with being successful in promoting the art from these remote communities, the work also tells a broader story about the terrible damage ghost nets inflict on our marine life.

Sue continues to work with indigenous and non-indigenous artists to facilitate environmental community arts projects.

## Ahmed Al Enezi

**Senior Manager of Arts and Culture, Expo 2020 Dubai**



Ahmed is Senior Manager of Arts and Culture at Expo 2020 Dubai, responsible for ensuring the development and delivery of compelling and robust cultural content. This includes overseeing contemporary art installations on site, as well as ideating and leading on the community art project “Hammour House”.

Ahmed’s previous roles include Assistant Scientist and Policy Analyst in Marine Biodiversity at the Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, where he supported the development of marine conservation policy and ran a number of awareness campaigns. He was co-curator of the exhibition “Secret Life of Date Palm” at the UAE Pavilion in Expo Milan 2015.

He is a cultural practitioner and visual artist who graduated from the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation’s Cultural Excellence Fellowship with distinction, and was selected to represent the UAE youth Cohort in the Edinburgh Culture Festival.

Ahmed holds a double bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science and Marine Biology from Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand.

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## Chrissant Barbe

**Principal Policy Analyst,  
Department of Blue Economy,  
Seychelles**



Mr. Chrissant Barbe is the Principal Policy Analyst within the Department of Blue Economy. Mr. Barbe is responsible for the analysis of strategic information, consultation with stakeholders, government officials and internal staff, as well as the coordination and implementation of operational policies.

He has played a key role in the coordination of the implementation of the Seychelles Blue Economy Strategic Framework and Roadmap, and has been instrumental in the alignment of the Seychelles Blue Economy Roadmap to policies and frameworks both nationally and regionally.

Mr. Barbe started his career in the environment and health sector in 2001, and in 2010 he moved to the finance and revenue collection sector to further develop his career in the field of policy and public administration. He has excellent skills in project management which involve coordination, monitoring and effective evaluation.

Mr. Barbe holds a master’s degree in Ocean Sustainability, Governance and Management from the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden, and a master’s degree in Public Administration from the Eastern Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI).



## Jo Ruxton

Founder, Ocean Generation,  
UK



Jo Ruxton is a passionate campaigner for the oceans. She started the first marine programme for WWF in Hong Kong, being a key advocate for the establishment of the first marine parks there.

She was a producer in the BBC Natural History Unit, and was a lead member of the BBC's diving team, producing and directing underwater sequences since the first days of filming on Blue Planet in 1997.

Disappointed in the lack of conservation messages in the BBC films she worked on, she left in 2008 to work independently, and when she started to hear about the problem of plastic waste in the oceans, she produced A Plastic Ocean, the multi-award-winning Netflix documentary film that was released in 2017 in more than 70 countries. She founded the charity Ocean Generation to continue the legacy of the film through education and outreach programmes which are now expanding to address wider ocean issues in line with the UN Decade of Ocean Science.

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## Kate Willoughby

Head of Sustainability and  
Impact, DP World, UAE



Kate is the Head of Group Sustainability and Impact at DP World, spearheading the development and delivery of DP World's global sustainability platform "Our World Our Future." She leads the coordination of DP World's key responsible practices and three legacy areas: Education, Oceans and Women Empowerment, unifying DP World's commitment to working sustainably across all of its worldwide business functions.

Additionally, Kate manages DP World's membership of the Logistics Emergency Teams (LET), part of the Logistics Cluster led by the United Nations World Food Programme, United for Wildlife's Transportation Taskforce, and DP World's Global Education Programme.

Kate's wider remit also sees her serve as:

- A member of the Steering Group for Business for Social Impact (B4SI) – the global standard for measuring corporate community investment
- The Regional Voice Lead for IMPACT2030 – a private sector collaboration with the United Nations to activate employee volunteer programmes that advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- A member of the UAE government's Private Sector Advisory Council, which promotes ways for UAE corporates to achieve the SDGs

Kate first started working in Corporate Responsibility whilst doing her Masters in International Business at the University of Auckland, where she researched Triple Bottom Line Reporting practices in New Zealand. Since then she has spent the last 15 years honing her expertise in the CR field at a diverse range of NGOs and large corporate companies in the UK, New Zealand, Tanzania, Mozambique, Spain, Bahrain and now the UAE.

## Professor Michael Depledge CBE

**Emeritus Professor of Environment and Human Health, University of Exeter, UK**



Michael Depledge is the Emeritus Professor of Environment and Human Health at the University of Exeter Medical School in Devon, UK. He is also an Honorary Professor of Public Policy at the University College in London and a Visiting Professor at Chiba University Medical School in Tokyo, Japan. He was formerly a Commissioner of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and Chief Scientific Advisor of the UK Government's Environment Agency. Depledge has conducted both medical and ecotoxicological research in Europe, Asia, South and Central America, Australia and New Zealand, resulting in more than 400 publications in the peer-reviewed international literature. His work has addressed diverse topics within the sphere of environment and human health, ranging from oceans and human health, to the detection of chemical pollution and its effects, climate change impacts, pharmaceuticals in the environment as well as pioneering studies on the use of natural environments to foster improvements in human health and wellbeing. Depledge is an advisor on environment and health issues to various governments, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the European Environment Agency, as well as many other organisations. He is currently a non-executive Director of Eden International and Chief Scientific Advisor of the Eden Project ([www.edenproject.com](http://www.edenproject.com)). He is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Mediterranean Institute for Environmental Transition, at the University of Aix Marseille, France. He was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth II in 2017 for services to environment and human health science.

## Nadia Christidi

**PhD Candidate in History,  
Anthropology, and Science,  
Technology, and Society, MIT**



Nadia Christidi is a PhD candidate in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society at MIT, and an independent arts practitioner. Her dissertation explores how cities that face water supply challenges, which are expected to intensify with climate change, are imagining, planning, and preparing for the future of water. The cities she focuses on are Los Angeles, Dubai, and Cape Town. Nadia's research has been supported by the Jameel Arts Centre in Dubai, the Abdul Latif Jameel Food and Water Systems Lab and Centre for International Studies at MIT, and TBA21-Academy/Ocean Space in Venice. Nadia works at the intersection of art, science, and policy and is invested in developing communication and collaboration across them. Her projects and public programming have been presented at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, Kunsthaus Hamburg, Open Set (Amsterdam), SALT Galata (Istanbul), SALT Ulus (Ankara), and Beirut Art Centre, among others. In 2019-2020, as a research and writing resident with the Jameel Arts Centre, Nadia developed public programmes on Dubai's water resources and water management cultures; she is currently producing a commissioned publication for the centre drawing from this work (forthcoming). Nadia holds an MA in Historical Studies from the New School for Social Research in New York, and a BA in History of Art from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

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## Nasser Moh'd Hussain Bin Lootah

**Executive Vice President,  
Generation, Dubai Electricity and  
Water Authority (DEWA), UAE**



Nasser Moh'd Hussain Bin Lootah is the Executive Vice President of Generation (Power and Water), and is in charge of projects and engineering, operation, maintenance and commissioning activities of the DEWA Jebel Ali Power Station (JAPS) complex consisting of Plant – 1 (D, E and G Stations), Plant 2 (K, L and M Stations), Plant 3 (H Stations and Palaces).

He obtained both his bachelor's (1988) master's (1991) degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering with high scholarship from Oregon State University, in the USA. He followed it with post-masters study and research in System Control for three years, at the Arizona State University, USA.

He began his career in 1988 with UAE University as a teaching assistant for seven years before joining DEWA in 1996. In 1998, he was assigned as the Deputy Station Manager of JAPS. Since July 2004, he was elevated to the position of EVP, of Generation (Power and Water).

He contributes to Dubai as the Chairman of the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy's Advisory Committee, Chairman of IWPP Board Technical Committees, and as an EMPOWER Board member.

He has achieved world-class results in production efficiency improvement, reliability, availability and safety.

## Richard Dean

**Presenter, Business Breakfast,  
103.8 Dubai Eye, UAE  
Moderator**



Richard is a journalist and broadcaster. He's best known as host of The Business Breakfast – a daily radio show heard across the UAE on Dubai Eye 103.8FM.

In total, he has two decades of experience reporting for the likes of Reuters, The Economist, The Financial Times and Bloomberg, in Dubai and London.

Richard's first book, Sink or Swim (2010), reflects his work as a business journalist, analysing Dubai's boom-to-bust-to-boom economy of the late 2000s. His second, published in 2019, is Crowdpleaser: The 100 Greatest Public Speaking Tips of All Time from Socrates to Steve Jobs. It draws on Richard's work as an acclaimed public speaker, sharing a microphone with a string of A-list global speakers from the worlds of business (H.H. Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed al Maktoum), politics (Tony Blair) the arts (Sir Ben Kingsley), and sport (Sachin Tendulkar).

Richard is the Non-Executive Director of Roar, an award-winning interior design firm based in Dubai Design District, which he owns with his architect wife, Pallavi.

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## Cha Wan Young

**CEO, Marine Innovation,  
South Korea**



When Wan Young first talked about plastic pollution, when his idea to start came after seeing a problem that he wanted to address, no one really cared about the future of the environment. It was not easy to begin addressing the plastic issues because consumers say eco-friendly products are generally too pricey compared to conventional ones.

"Do you know you're eating microplastics every day and we are getting closer to death?" People started to agree. They began to listen to him. In the beginning, he tried to find alternatives that not only came at reasonable prices, but also were good for the environment.

Wan Young wants to save this planet for future generations. He has one single goal – to come with eco-friendly seaweed-based products by letting the world know that Marine Innovation is an environmental social venture that produces products which are ecofriendly, sustainable, free of toxins and chemicals, for all living beings on Earth.



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