INBO
International Network of Basin Organizations

World Basin Summit 2026
IAHR workshops Report

Workshops **“Integrated Sediment Transport Management in River Basins”** and **“Digital Transformation for River Basins – Road to Bari: 42nd IAHR World Congress”**

June 16th - 19th 2026, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Speakers and moderators

The discussions brought together representatives and experts from international associations, basin organisations, national water institutions and public authorities.
For the **Integrated Sediment Transport Management in River Basins workshop**, contributors and moderators included: Mr. Tom Soo, IAHR; Prof. Tetsuya Sumi, Kyoto University and ICOLD; Mr. Roberto Olivares, RELOC; Mr. Wang, Yellow River, China; Mr. Emilio Real Llanderal, Júcar River Basin Authority; Ms. Astrid Sotomayor Chavez, UNEP; and Dr. Eric Tardieu, INBO.
For the **Digital Transformation for River Basins – Road to Bari workshop**, contributors and moderators included: Mr. Tom Soo, IAHR; Mr. Edouard Boinet, INBO; Mr. Philippe Gourbesville, IAHR; Mr. Carlos Emilio Gutierrez Ulloa, Regional Autonomous Corporation of Cundinamarca, Colombia; Ms. Ariana Rosen, National Water Institute of Argentina; Mr. Wu Chengjun, Yellow River Conservancy Commission; and Mr. Turo Hjerppe, Ministry of the Environment of Finland.

Workshop Report

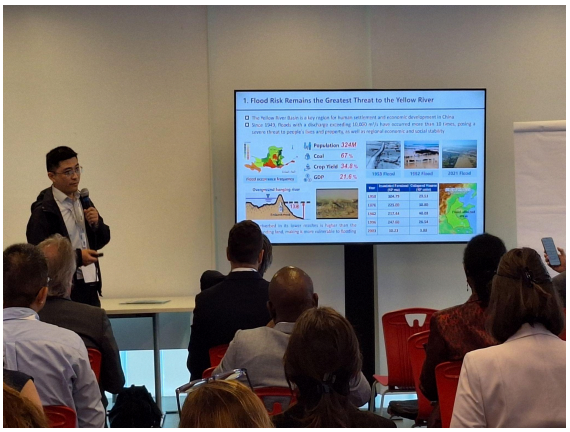
As part of the 13th World Water Basin Summit in Rio de Janeiro, IAHR contributed with two interactive workshops addressing key priorities for integrated and forward-looking river basin governance: sediment transport management and digital transformation.

The **workshop "Integrated Sediment Transport Management in River Basins"**, organised by IAHR, INBO and ICOLD, highlighted the need to position sediment management as a core component of basin governance. Discussions underlined that sediments are not only a technical issue, but a strategic factor shaping river morphology, flood and erosion dynamics, ecosystems and infrastructure resilience. Contributions from basin organisations, international experts and practitioners showed that sediment-related challenges are increasingly affected by dams, land-use change and climate variability, and that more integrated approaches are needed across basin and river-reach scales. The session also supported the ongoing INBO–IAHR–ICOLD collaboration and provided inputs to the forthcoming INBO handbook on sediment transport management at basin scale. A key outcome was the recognition of the need to strengthen the international sediment-management agenda, with an official launch foreseen at the World Water Forum and a follow-up session planned at the IAHR World Congress in Bari in 2027.

The **workshop "Digital Transformation for River Basins – Road to Bari: 42nd IAHR World Congress"** focused on how digital transformation can effectively support decision-making in river basin management. The session addressed the

gap between rapid advances in data, artificial intelligence and digital tools, and their practical integration into operational and institutional decision-making. Participants emphasised the importance of moving from “data-rich but insight-poor” approaches towards digital systems that are human-centred, decision-oriented and embedded in basin governance processes. The workshop contributed to the Road to Bari process by framing digital transformation as a strategic pillar of the IAHR World Congress in Bari 2027, whose theme is “Driving Change Management in the Era of Digital Water and Global Transition”. It also helped clarify the pathway and commitments leading to Bari, while connecting this process to the longer international trajectory towards Kobe 2029.

Across both workshops, the main takeaway was the need to bridge science, policy and practice through practical, scalable and institutionally grounded solutions. Sediment management and digital transformation emerged as complementary dimensions of cooperative basin governance: one addressing the physical functioning and resilience of river systems, the other strengthening the capacity of institutions to use knowledge, data and tools for more effective decisions.



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