

# Planet Budapest

## Future of Water – Innovative Solutions for Global Challenges International Conference

27 February 2026 | Budapest  
Hungarian Railway Museum

# DETAILED AGENDA

## 9:00 - WELCOME WORDS

**János Áder - Former President of Hungary, Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Blue Planet Foundation**

From the Budapest Water Summits to the Present: African Developments of the Hungarian Water Industry

**François Olivier Gosso - African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA), Executive Director**

Strengthening ties with the Hungarian Water Industry

**Dr Károly Kovács - Hungarian Water Partnership, President**

Challenge – Solution – Experience: The Hungarian Water Industry's Success Stories

## 9:30 – 11:00 - INTRODUCTION OF THE HUNGARIAN WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR- FROM RISK MITIGATION TO VALUE-BOOSTING SOLUTIONS

**Dr András Szöllősi-Nagy - Doctor of Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Chairholder of the UNESCO Chair on Water Conflict Management, Secretary General of the Paris based UNESCO International Hydrological Programme, Rector of the UNESCO-IHE Institute of Water Education, Delft, the Netherlands (To be confirmed)**

**Dr Károly Kovács - Hungarian Water Association (HWA), President**

Hungarian Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Developments

**Bálint Horváth - Hungarian Water Partnership, Secretary-General**

Hungarian Water Sector Innovations Beyond Borders

**Péter Kovács - Water Director of Hungary**

Hungarian General Directorate of Water Management

## 11:00 - 11:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK

## 11:30 – 13:00 – SESSION 1: GLOBAL WATER CHALLENGES

Keynote speech 1: **Dr Csaba Kőrösi** – Blue Planet Climate Protection Foundation, Strategic Director and former UN General Assembly President

Is Water Secure World a Realistic Goal in the Midst of Accelerating Climate Change?

Keynote speech 2: **Katalin Bihari** – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Deputy State Secretary

Hungarian contributions to solving global water challenges

Panel 1 – Discussion on global water challenges

Moderator: **Dr Károly Kovács** – Hungarian Water Partnership, President

**Harsha Ratnaweera** – European Water Association (EWA), President

**François Olivier Gosso** – African Water and Sanitation Association (AfWASA), Executive Director

**Dr Rose Kagwa** – African Water and Sanitation Academy (AWASA), Director

**Géza Csörnyei** – Global Water Operators Partnership (GWOPA), Steering Committee Member

**Zhang Rui** – ASEM Water, Deputy Director

## 13:00 – 14:00 – BUSINESS LUNCH AND NETWORKING

## 14:00 – 16:00 SESSION 2: FINANCING SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WATER CHALLENGES

Keynote speech 1: **Winston Yu** – World Bank Practice Manager for Water

Keynote speech 2: **Dr Joseph Siaw Agyepong** – Jospong Group of Companies, Chairman

Panel 2 – Funding for projects supporting SDG 6 – discussion on traditional and emerging private capital project financing models

Moderator: **Bálint Horváth** – Hungarian Water Partnership, Secretary-General

**Ádám Csécsei** – EXIM Bank Deputy Director, ESG & Sustainable Finance Centre

**Levente Sipos-Tompa** – Hungarian National Bank, Vice President responsible for financial institution supervision and consumer protection

**Stefania Ciraolo** – European Investment Bank, Head of the EIB Group Office in Hungary

**Winston Yu** – World Bank, Practice Manager for Water

**Dr Joseph Siaw Agyepong** – Chairman, Jospong Group of Companies, Ghana

Panel 3 – Funding opportunities - best practices and lessons learned by national and regional associations and their case studies - messages for the post-2030 development framework

Moderator: **Faustina Boachie** - Ghana Water Company, Chief Manager for LICSU, AfWASA Finance and Investments Specialist Group, Chairwoman (To be confirmed)

Vietnam Water Supply and Sewerage Association

**Dr Myungsoo Yoo** - Korean Water and Wastewater Association (KWWA), Vice-President

**Dr Ing Nicoleta Sanda Brisan** - ECO-Innovation Cluster for SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT (CLEMS), President

**Teodor Popa** - International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area (IAWD), Vice-President

**Péter Kovács** - Hungary Helps Agency, Director General

16:10

CEREMONIAL SIGNING OF COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

16:30

GUIDED VISIT OF THE PLANET BUDAPEST 2026

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