

Side-Event: Young Water Champions for a Green, Prosperous, and Peaceful Sahel

Web Link: <https://iahs2025.com/SEYWCG>

Date: Wednesday, October 08, 2025

Time: 17:30-19:00

Room: Room No. APJ AKB-003

Moderator: Moctar Dembele

Agenda (1 hour 15 min)

Duration	Activity	Responsible
05	Welcome remarks	Moderator
40	Presentation • Introduction to the SYWC initiative + Challenges and opportunities in water resources management in the Sahel (Ibrahim) • Role of youth in the science for solutions HELPING decade (Adeyemi) • WMO youth action plan and potential for the Sahel (Rokhaya) • Lessons from youth engagement in water management in India (Abinesh)	Invited speakers
25	Q&A (panel format)	All participants
05	Closing remarks	Moderator

*SYWC: Sahel Young Water Champions

Speaker 1	Mr. Ibrahim Abakar
Affiliation	<i>SME HYDROGENIE</i>
Bio (100 words)	<i>As a Hydraulic Engineer and the CEO of HYDROGENIE, I am passionate about water resource management and security, a critical issue at the heart of our societies. With extensive experience in the field of drinking water supply, my career has allowed me to develop comprehensive expertise, from infrastructure design to on-the-ground implementation.</i> <i>My current role involves leading complex projects, coordinating multidisciplinary teams to deliver innovative and sustainable technical solutions. I am committed to ensuring that every project whether it involves water catchment, treatment, or distribution is not only technically efficient but also environmentally friendly and tailored to the specific needs of its users.</i> <i>What motivates me daily is making a tangible contribution to providing quality water for all, by tackling the technical and environmental challenges of our time.</i>
Presentation title	<i>Sahel Young Water Champions. A movement transforming the Sahel through water, youth and innovation</i>
Presentation description (max 300 words)	<i>The Sahel Young Water Champions (SYWC) initiative is a pan-African, apolitical, and entrepreneurial movement of young Sahelians committed to transforming the Sahel through water, youth, and innovation. Born in the spring of 2025 following the journey of young Sahelians across the Fouta-Djalou massif – the water tower of West Africa and the Sahel – the movement embodies the hope of a creative, active, responsible, and united youth in the face of the climatic and water-related challenges threatening the region.</i> <i>The Sahel Young Water Champions (SYWC) network is inclusive, multidisciplinary, and intergenerational; its motto is “one for all, all for one.” It is active in six Sahelian countries — Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Chad — as well as in Guinea, the water tower of the region.</i> <i>It brings together young leaders from the Sahel and its diaspora (entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers, farmers, economists, military</i>

	<i>officers, lawyers, etc.), alongside elders and mentors who guide, motivate, and inspire them — all united by shared values of commitment and transformation: leadership, integrity, regional solidarity, resilience, and sustainability.</i> <i>These young leaders aim to embody a long-term process looking ahead to 2050, transcending the short and unpredictable political and financial cycles that are insufficient to deliver lasting change. Their vision is of a green, resilient, productive, and peaceful Sahel, capable of becoming a true breadbasket for the entire African continent, where water serves as a driver of jobs, prosperity, peace, and unity.</i>
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Speaker 2	Prof. Adeyemi Olusola
Affiliation	York University
Bio (100 words)	I am a river catchment scientist driven by a deep passion for understanding the complex dynamics of rivers and their vulnerability to human influences. My research journey began with a focus on headwater streams and smaller catchments, but it has since expanded to encompass the study of larger river systems, particularly emphasizing the River Niger. My work is unraveling the intricate interplay between natural processes and the resulting geomorphological formations. I leverage a powerful combination of field-based measurements, Earth observations, and state-of-the-art machine learning algorithms to predict and analyze river behaviour to achieve this.
Session Title	<i>Role of youth in the science for solutions HELPING decade</i>
Session description	Through education, advocacy, and collaboration, the youth bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and real-world application,

(max 300 words)	turning ideas into impactful solutions. By embracing evidence-based thinking and global cooperation, they help build a more resilient and sustainable future. In this decade dedicated to ... <i>Engaging Local People In one Global world</i> , empowering youth means investing in the power of innovation, empathy, and action to create meaningful change for people and the planet.
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Speaker 3	Ms. Rokhaya Ba
Affiliation	<i>World Meteorological Organization (WMO)</i>
Bio (100 words)	<i>Rokhaya Ba is an Associate Scientific Officer at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva. She works for the Global Hydrometry Support Facility (WMO HydroHub), a project dedicated to improving water monitoring systems worldwide. Prior to this role, Rokhaya managed projects focused on flood forecasting at WMO. Rokhaya graduated with a master's degree in environmental Geoscience from the University of Lausanne.</i> <i>Passions: painting, salsa, african design</i>
Presentation title	<i>WMO youth action plan and potential for the Sahel</i>
Presentation description (max 300 words)	<i>The World Meteorological Organization has developed its first ever Youth Action plan, aiming at concretizing the Organization's commitment to engaging young people in the fields of meteorology, hydrology and climate services.</i> <i>The WMO Youth Action Plan maps how specific activities – grounded in governance, capacity development, human</i>

	<i>resources, communications and partnerships – will lead to measurable outcomes that empower youth.-</i>
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Speaker 5	Mr. Abinesh Ganapathy
Affiliation	<i>Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee</i>
Bio (100 words)	<i>Mr. Abinesh Ganapathy is a research scholar at the Department of Hydrology, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee. His research expertise includes hydro-climatology, hydrological modelling (statistical & deterministic), and hydro-climatological extremes under climate change. He is a Secretary of the Young Hydrologic Society (YHS) India, a national chapter of YHS.</i>
Presentation title	<i>Lessons from youth engagement in water management in India</i>
Presentation description (max 300 words)	<i>Young Hydrologic Society (YHS) India has a goal to establish a platform that unifies young hydrologists in India and promotes their active participation on larger platforms, thereby enhancing the representation of the Global South in the field of hydrology.</i>
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