

WEBINAR COVID-19 and the WATER SECTOR

📅 Thursday, 16 June 2022

🕒 17:00 – 18:30 hrs. (Bangkok time) GMT+7



The COVID-19 pandemic for over two years now, is continuing to impact human health, weaken the global economy, and increase environmental pollution. There has hardly been any sector that did not bear the brunt of the pandemic. The water sector is no exception.

COVID-19 put the entire water sector – drinking water supply, hygiene and sanitation, and wastewater management – to a stress test with surprising implications on water infrastructure, health and safety of water and wastewater utility workforce, and other issues concerning water quality.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been working to address water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems. UNEP collaborated with the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the water sector. AIT experts prepared the assessment report that explored interconnections between the COVID-19 pandemic and water systems.

It is important to share this report with the governments, industry, and the general public to ensure that no one is left behind. All of us must be aware of the current situation in the water sector and be equipped with knowledge to build back better, together. UNEP and AIT are jointly organizing this webinar to present some of the highlights in the assessment report and get feedback from various experts as well as the audience.



PLEASE REGISTER TO JOIN

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CONTACT

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PROGRAM

17:00 – 17:05 **Welcome & Introduction to the Webinar**
Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon
Regional Coordinator for Chemicals and Pollution Action Subprogramme, UNEP Asia and the Pacific Office

17:05 – 17:10 **Welcome Remarks**
Ms. Tessa Gaverse
Head, Pollution-Free Ecosystems Units, UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi, Kenya

17:10 – 17:30 **COVID-19 and the Water Sector Presentation of the Highlights of the Assessment Report**
Prof. C. Visvanathan
Professor, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

17:30 – 17:45 **Review Comments on the COVID-19 and the Water Sector Assessment Report & Experience of the Sri Lankan Water Sector coping with COVID-19 impacts**
Dr. S.K. Weragoda
National Water Supply and Drainage Board, Sri Lanka

Review comments on the COVID-19 and the Water Sector Assessment Report & Experience of wastewater surveillance study in Thailand
Dr. Surapong Rattanakul
King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand

17:45 – 18:25 **Panel Discussion**
Moderator:
Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon
1. Assoc. Prof. Bilge Alpaslan Kocamemi
Turkish Water Institute (SUEN)
Marmara University, Environmental Engineering Department, Istanbul, Turkey
2. Dr. Sudhir Pillay
Co-Chair, International Water Association, Covid-19 Task force, Water Research Commission, South Africa
3. Ms. Ismahane Remonnay
RI Partnerships & Financing Director, Global Regulatory Affairs Director of VEOLIA
4. Mr. Riccardo Zennaro
Programme Management Officer, Pollution-Free Ecosystems Unit, Ecosystems Division

18:25 – 18:30 **Wrap up & Closing Remarks**
Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Memon



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