Science and technology are transforming water management at an unprecedented pace. From advanced instrumentation to remote sensing and big data analytics, innovative tools and techniques provide new insights into our water resources and reduce the cost and complexity of water management. Digital technologies can also enable our citizen scientists, by equipping them with useful but low-cost tools that can make significant contributions to water knowledge and decision making.

The range of exciting opportunities and solutions now available can support sound and confident decision making as we seek to build a more water-secure world under a changing climate. But what can we do to ensure that we get the best value from these innovative leaps?

Join our panel of experts to explore the opportunities that water science and technology offer, and how we can respond to the water challenges facing all members of our communities. We will discuss the value of trusted and timely scientific advice that can be understood by experts and non-experts alike, and how locally-sourced, indigenous knowledge, citizen science and remotely-sourced data can be brought together to inform challenging water decisions at all levels.

Interactive panel promoting science-based water solutions, tools and technology
Moderated by Dr Mohsin Hafeez, Country Representative for Pakistan and Regional Representative for Central Asia, IWMI

14:30 Opening and welcome: Dr Amirzoda Orif Khamid, Director, Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower and Ecology, National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan (TBC)

14:40 Opening and keynote: Dr Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO

KEYNOTE
14:50 Dr Cathy Foley, Australia’s Chief Scientist

PANEL SESSION
Moderated by Dr Anil Mishra, Chief of Section, Hydrological Systems Climate Change and Adaptation, Division of Water Sciences UNESCO

15:00 Hon Jone Usamate, Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources, Fiji

15:05 Mr Fazliddin Mukhitdinov, Head of the Office for the Coordination of Reforms in Agriculture, Stabilization of the Domestic Food Market, Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan

15:10 Dr Yongdeok Cho, Director General, K-Water, and Secretary General Asia Water Council

15:15 Ms Jane Coram, Director Land and Water, CSIRO, Australia’s National Science Agency

15:20 Dr Mark Smith, Director General, IWMI

15:25 Interactive panel discussion Q&A

15:50 Panel outcomes: Dr Mohsin Hafeez, Country Representative for Pakistan and Regional Representative for Central Asia, IWMI

15:55 Closing remarks: Mr Tony Slatyer, Consultant on Water Policy and Governance, Special Adviser on Water to the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade