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**Water Innovation  
& Research  
Centre**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BATH**



Dear all,

Water was in the news all over Europe last week. With heavy rainfall in The Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and France. The meteo man in the Dutch TV news introduced it with "Welkom in het nieuwe Klimaat" (Welcome to the New Climate). The neighbourhood where I live was also hit by the weather. Look at the small [film](#). It is at the railway station where I pick my train every week to come to Bath. When you see these images, it makes you realise why water research is so important. We can show the world our expertise at or conference in July. Hopefully you can persuade a few more people to register and come.

Jan Hofman  
Director, WIRC @ Bath

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## Spotlight on: The 1st WIRC Water Science and Engineering Conference

**To celebrate the launch of its new Water Innovation & Research Centre (WIRC @ Bath), the University of Bath is hosting its first ever Water Science and Engineering Conference this July.**

The conference, which will bring industry professionals together with leading academics to discuss a range of water-related topics, will be held at the University on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 July.

Hosting the conference reflects the University's own strengths in water research. From working with Wessex Water on turning sewage into fuel, to investigating the [cause of blockages in irrigation piping networks in South Africa](#) with strategic partner Stellenbosch University, water research from Bath is having important impacts locally and internationally.

Bath is also helping to secure the future supply of graduates undertaking water-focussed research through its [Centre for Doctoral Training in Water Informatics: Science & Engineering](#) (WISE CDT), where students carry out PhD-level research in partnership with a number of the water industry's leading companies.

This two-day event which includes an evening dinner reception held in the Pump Room Restaurant at the historic Roman Baths, will be of interest to a number of different audiences including international water industries, policy makers, academics, NGOs, water-focussed engineers, students and strategic partners of [WIRC @ Bath](#).

The conference will address a range of themes through keynote speakers and technical sessions including water resources; water treatment; water management; water and public health; and water environment infrastructure resilience. The full programme can be found [here](#)

A number of internationally renowned speakers have been confirmed, including:

- **Professor Paul Sherlock OBE**, Trustee, RedR UK (UK)

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- **Dr Colin Skellett**, Chief Executive, Wessex Water (UK)
- **Professor Jan Hofman**, WIRC @ Bath Director, University of Bath (UK)
- **Tony Rachwal**, Director, The UK Water Partnership (UK)
- **Professor Alfred Wüest**, Eawag and EPFL (Switzerland)



Looking ahead to the conference, Director of WIRC @ Bath and conference organiser, Professor Jan Hofman said: “The global challenges facing water resource management are wide and complex. Over 50 per cent of the world’s population is situated in large urban ‘megacities’ meaning pollution is inevitable, whilst in other parts of the world there is widespread water scarcity.

“This conference will address these issues and more as we hope to identify innovative and integrated ways at solving many of the world’s water-related issues.”

Chief Executive of Wessex Water, Dr Colin Skellett commented: “We are delighted to be part of the launch of the Water Innovation & Research Centre at Bath. We have had a productive research partnership with the University over the last three years, focusing on ways of applying science and technology to some of the most pressing challenges and opportunities that we face.

“This event will be a meeting of minds, a chance to share practical experience and hopefully a springboard to new collaborations.”

Vice-Rector of Stellenbosch University, Professor Eugene Cloete added: “I would like to congratulate Professor Hofman on organising this conference. As a strategic partner of the University of Bath, I am delighted to be attending the launch of WIRC @ Bath and look forward to continuing our collaborative water research with Bath in the future.”

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## Related Links

- [Conference tickets and information](#)
- [Water Informatics: Science and Engineering \(WISE\) CDT](#)

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## Upcoming Events at Bath

23th June : [Bioprocesses, biopolymers and biosensors: delivering new solutions to environmental problems through and understanding of microbial systems](#) by [Dr Thomas Seviour](#), Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering

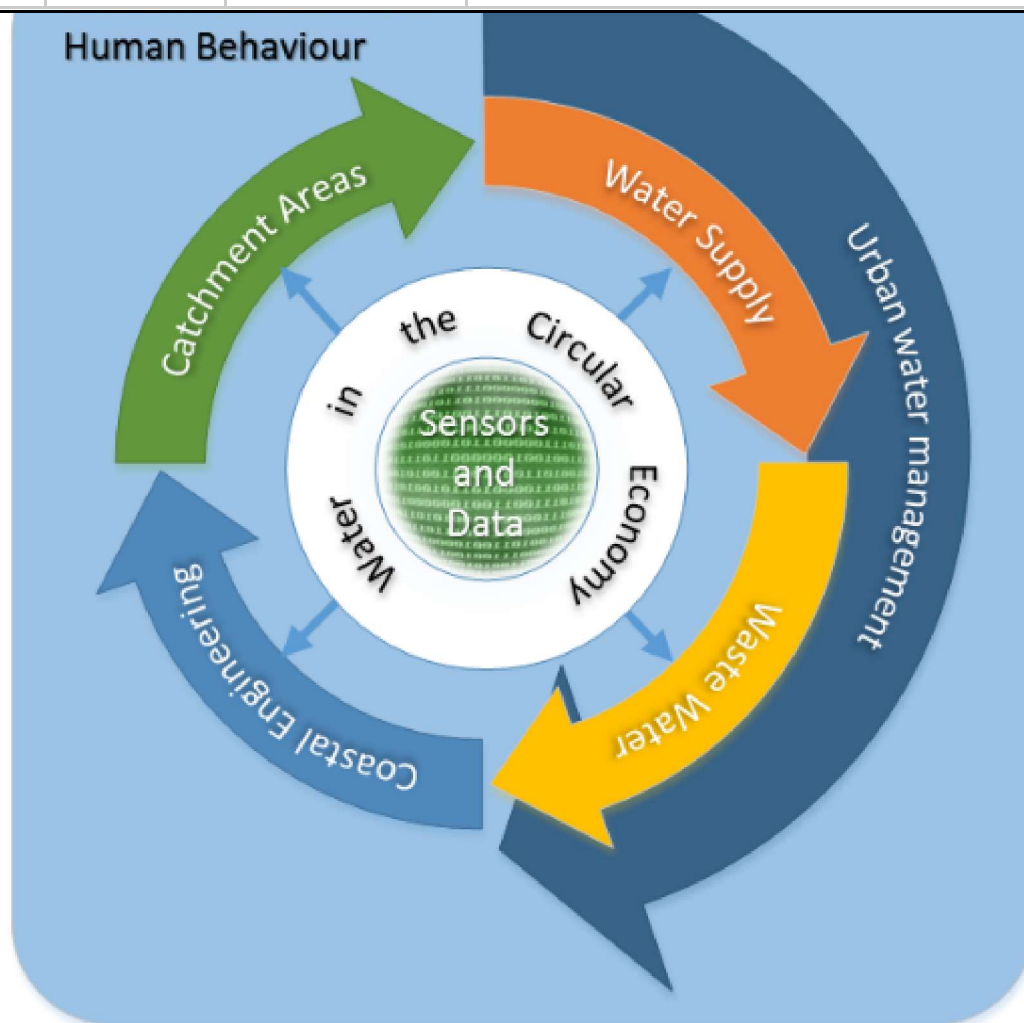
28 July: TBC, [Professor Thorsten Wagener](#), Professor of Water and Environmental Engineering, University of Bristol

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## New research programme WIRC

WIRC is currently restructuring its research programme. The programme will be developed around eight multi-disciplinary topics, that align well with the grand challenges of the water sector. In the figure below you find an overview of the themes and there interconnections.

For each theme two theme leaders were appointed , who are now creating teams that will deliver the more detailed plans for each theme. The plans will be presented to the Strategic Advisory Board of WIRC on 12 July 2016, the day before the WIRC Water Science and Engineering Conference. Once the theme plans are approved, the teams will take them forward and develop the research on these topics in the coming years. In this way WIRC will demonstrate its added value.



## WIRC Colloquium - Speakers Needed

WIRC holds regular talks for researchers and professionals. We would like to use the WIRC Colloquium to get more publicity and give us a bigger profile, also outside of the University. We are looking for renowned speakers in the water sector (academic, industry, regulators, international) that could speak at our colloquium. Of course Bath academics have the opportunity to speak at the colloquium too. If you're interested in speaking at one of our events or know a renowned external speaker who we could invite, please contact Shan at [S.Bradley-Cong@bath.ac.uk](mailto:S.Bradley-Cong@bath.ac.uk).

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From 20 to 24 June, the second WISE CDT Summer School will be run in Eastwood Park near Bristol. It is the University of Bristol's turn to organise the event this year. It will be a great week with many opportunities for informal meeting of WISE CDT staff, Students, and representatives from industry. Students of Cohort 2 will present their research plans and will get feedback. Their new supervisors can attend the meeting. Also the students will work on a Challenge and around that, there will be presentations and a meeting with the advisory board at the poster session. Thursday morning will be free time, to give everyone an opportunity to vote in the EU Referendum.

**WATER INFORMATICS  
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**  
EPSRC CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING

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## Upcoming Conferences

13-16th June: [The 13th IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies](#) Jerez de la Frontera, Spain

27-30th June: [3rd IWA Specialized Conference "Ecotechnologies for Wastewater Treatment"](#) - Cambridge, UK

5-6th July: [3rd PRIMaRE Conference](#) - Bath, UK

10-13th July: [WEF/IWA Nutrient Removal and Recovery Conference 2016](#) - Denver, Colorado, USA

7-9th September: [Water Frontiers: Strategies for 2020 and beyond](#), Coventry, UK

9-13th October: [World Water Congress & Exhibition 2016](#) Brisbane, Australia

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