



Regional IWA diffuse pollution conference, Dublin, Ireland 23-27 October 2016, as it happened!

IWA Regional Conference on Diffuse Pollution and Catchment Management took place in Dublin City University from October 23rd to October 27th, 2016 and was hosted by DCU Water Institute in conjunction with the International Water Association (IWA). DCU Water Institute specialises in technological developments across science, engineering and computer science domains with a strong communications focus, as well as policy and business drivers to help solve water-related problems.

As we know, water is a global challenge with traditional pressures still very much on the agenda and emerging issues driving new research topics in the search for solutions. We were delighted to welcome scientific contributions spanning the many traditional areas, as well as new innovative topics addressing diffuse pollution and catchment management.

The main themes addressed in the conference included:

- Diffuse pollution impacts
- Water Finance & Behaviours
- Governance and Policy
- Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement
- Emerging and Innovative Technologies
- Integrated Catchment Management
- Storm Water Management
- Critical Pollution Source Areas
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Ecosystem Health
- Water Food Energy Nexus
- Agriculture in the context of Food Harvest 2020

We are delighted to have had a breadth of expertise and knowledge in our two parallel sessions over three days. Each day was kicked off with stimulating plenary talks - the conference had 6 plenary speakers – Karin Lexen, Director, Stockholm Water Institute, Will Sarni, Managing Director Deloitte, Jean Luc Bertrand, Chairman IWA Specialist Group on Drainage, John H. Matthews, secretariat coordinator and co-founder of the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), Mark Maimone, Philadelphia Water Department and Marion Colonerus, Principal Manager at the European Court of Auditors.

In addition, we had over 20 wonderful keynote presentations comprising national and international perspectives on topics relating to diffuse pollution and related impacts, given by key leaders in the water space from industry, academia, and agency – including Michael Bruen, UCD Director of the UCD Dooge

Centre for Water Resources Research, Dennis Collentine, an environmental economist from Gävle University in Sweden, Matthew Crowe, Director of the EPA, Karen Daly, Research Officer within the Crops Environment and Land Use Department of Teagasc, Justin Dunning, Chelsea Technologies Group Ltd, Dave Foster, Director of Regulatory and Natural Resources Policy, Hugh Henry, Director of Innovation and R&D Teagasc, Eleanor Jennings, Director of the Centre for Freshwater and Environmental Studies, DKIT, Phil Jordan, Professor of Catchment Science, School of Geography and Environmental Sciences, Ulster University, Mary Kelly-Quinn, Associate Professor in University College Dublin, Harry Kolar IBM Distinguished Engineer with IBM Research, Ralf Kunkel, Research Centre Juelich, Anthony McCloy, Managing Director of McCloy Consulting, Bruce Misstear, Associate Professor in the School of Engineering Trinity College Dublin, Alec Rolston, research associate at the Centre for Freshwater and Environmental Studies at Dundalk Institute of Technology, Chris Saint Director at the Centre for Water Management and Reuse, and Dr Patricia Torpey, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM).



We also had the pleasure of offering a wide range of interesting workshops being led by experts who have developed programmes with stimulating ideals for discussion. The workshops included a Water Economics Water Pricing and Behavioural Economics workshop led by John Joyce; we had a workshop on Invasive Alien Species and Managing Biosecurity in the Workplace, a workshop on Integrated constructed wetlands (ICW) hosted by Rory Harrington; A Diffuse Pollution: Land Use & Water Quality workshop, hosted by IWA's Fiona Napier and Brian D'Arcy; An In situ automated high-resolution nutrient monitoring workshop, hosted by Magdalena Bieroza, Phil Jordan, Per-Erik Mellande; and finally the Water Joint Programming Initiative Workshop, hosted by Alice Waemere and Dominique Darmendrail.

The closing ceremony was chaired by Duncan Stewart, a well-known media expert in the area of Environmental issues in Ireland. Duncan oversaw a panel discussion made up of Alice Wemaere, EPA, Chris Saint, University South Australia, Dominique Darmendrail, Agence Recherche France, Brian D'Arcy, IWA, Fiona Napier, IWA, and Dennis Collentine, from Gävle University in Sweden. Closing speeches were made by Fiona Regan, DCU Water Institute and Ray Earle, IWA Conference Chair.

The overriding message of the closing ceremony was "we must value water".

"We need to engage our citizens and incentivise."



It was a pleasure to welcome our 150 delegates from 26 countries. We were heartened by, not only the geographical diversity of the delegates and speakers, but also, by the breadth of knowledge and excellent presentations which provided insightful scientific content on topics in the water space, such as catchment management, new innovations for water treatment, emerging policy issues and stakeholder engagement, ecosystem health and services, and novel approaches.



