

DISTINGUISHED WATER EXPERT FROM MYANMAR JOINS WATER POLICY GROUP

Water Policy Group has enhanced its collective expertise with Prof Khin NiNi Thein (Prof NiNi) joining the Group.

With over 45 years of leadership in inclusive water governance, integrated water resources management (IWRM), and hydroinformatics, Prof NiNi has contributed to sustainable water management both within Myanmar and globally.

Prof NiNi is also Vice Chair of the Network of Asian River Basin Organisations (NARBO) and the Chair of ASEAN Hydroinformatics Data Centre (AHC). At the national level, she is founder and Chair of the Myanmar Water Academy/Think Tank, Co-Founder of the Transformative Water-Learning Partnership Consortium and is Myanmar Country Chair of the G100 Ecocivilisation Wing.

As a Member of the National Water Resources Committee and Secretary of its Advisory Group (2013-2021), Prof NiNi served as the Lead Drafter of Myanmar's National Water Policy, National Water Framework Directive, and Water Law. She is also a steering committee member of the Myanmar Climate Action Network.

Water Policy Group Global Convenor Mr Tony Slatyer said he was very appreciative of Prof NiNi's willingness to join the Group.

"NiNi brings deep and unique experience, understanding, abilities and character. I am excited that she will be working with us to elevate the importance of water policy everywhere, just as she has done in Myanmar."

Since 2001, Prof NiNi has focused on advanced peacebuilding in water governance, notably through her involvement in UNESCO's "From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential (PCCP): Water for Peace" program. She also contributed to the Vatican Conference (2004), the Spiritual Transformation in Water Resources Management (S9) initiative (2008), the Mekong Dialogue on Water, Happiness, and Conscious Cooperation (2022), and the "Water for Peace and Climate Resilience" 26-seminar series (2024–25).

Prof NiNi said, "Water policy is the stewardship of a life-sustaining resource, guided not only by ecological and economic constraints but by a moral duty to ensure fair and secure access for all."

Prof NiNi joins eleven other Water Policy Group full members: Ms Charafat Afailal, Mr Pablo Bereciartua, Ms Mercedes Castro, Ms Anne Castle, Dr Jane Doolan, Professor Kenzo Hiroki, Ms Felicia Marcus, Mr Dhesigen Naidoo, Mr Tony Slatyer, Mr Tom Soo and Dr Olcay Ünver.

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Water Policy Group (www.waterpolicygroup.com) is a global network of water sector experts who have been decision makers and trusted advisers within governments and international bodies handling water policy and strategy. The members of the group have had direct experience in working with complex water policy issues, and share a common goal that their knowledge, networks and experience can help achieve the sustainable development of water resource to serve the global public interest.