ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK | MASDAR | SIEF 中外企业家联合会 SINO-INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS FEDERATION

BLUE FORUM

January 15, 2026, 10:00am-12:30pm
Abu Dhabi, ADNEC, Hall 10

How capital, technology, and policy can help build a resilient global water economy

Mobilizing global investment to build a resilient water economy

Water and oceans underpin climate resilience, economic stability, food systems, trade, and energy. Yet today, water systems are fragmented, underfinanced, and under strain from drought, sea-level rise, ecosystem loss, and aging infrastructure.

Meeting rising climate and economic pressures will require at least USD 100 billion in global investment by 2030.

ADSW's Blue Forum takes a source-to-sea approach, treating rivers, aquifers, coasts, ports, fisheries, and oceans as one connected system. From AI-enabled water management to blue carbon, sustainable shipping, and next-generation desalination, the Forum reframes water challenges as investment and growth opportunities, not isolated risks.

A unified agenda for the world's water and ocean future

The Forum convenes **ministers, financiers, technology leaders, researchers, and water and maritime industries** to advance a unified global strategy connecting freshwater, coasts, and oceans as one resilient, innovative, and economically vital system. Focused on action, the event identifies opportunities, reduces risk, and mobilizes capital to drive system-wide transformation.

A catalyst for system-level action, the Blue Forum will address three critical questions:

The Forum will zero in on the practical drivers of progress: what is proving viable, where market opportunity is emerging, and which mechanisms can unlock deployment at speed. The agenda will highlight the essential components that can move projects from potential to delivery.

Financing source-to-sea resilience and scaling global investment

With mounting climate risks and rising demand for water, food, and maritime trade, how do we unlock the $100 billion required for water and ocean systems by 2030? Which blended-finance models, risk-mitigation tools, and regulatory frameworks can accelerate investment into freshwater infrastructure, coastal protection, blue carbon, and ocean-based industries?

Technology and innovation for an integrated water economy

As digital tools reshape the global water economy, how do we deploy AI, automation, remote sensing, and advanced desalination at scale? Where can technology drive efficiency, reduce operational risk, strengthen monitoring and verification, and improve climate resilience from watershed to shoreline?

Building sustainable growth across water, coastal, and marine economies

As climate pressures intensify and demand grows across the global water system, how can we mobilize capital at the scale required to support resilient freshwater, coastal, and ocean economies? What are the mechanisms, spanning blended finance, guarantees, concessional capital, and de-risking instruments, that can lower barriers to entry, improve project bankability, and accelerate deployment across water infrastructure, coastal resilience, and marine-based industries?