



Webinar on Drought Management
Resilience in Action: How Water and Sanitation Cope with Drought
May 15, 2024
9:30-11:00 AM CEST | 3:30-5:00 PM Manila time

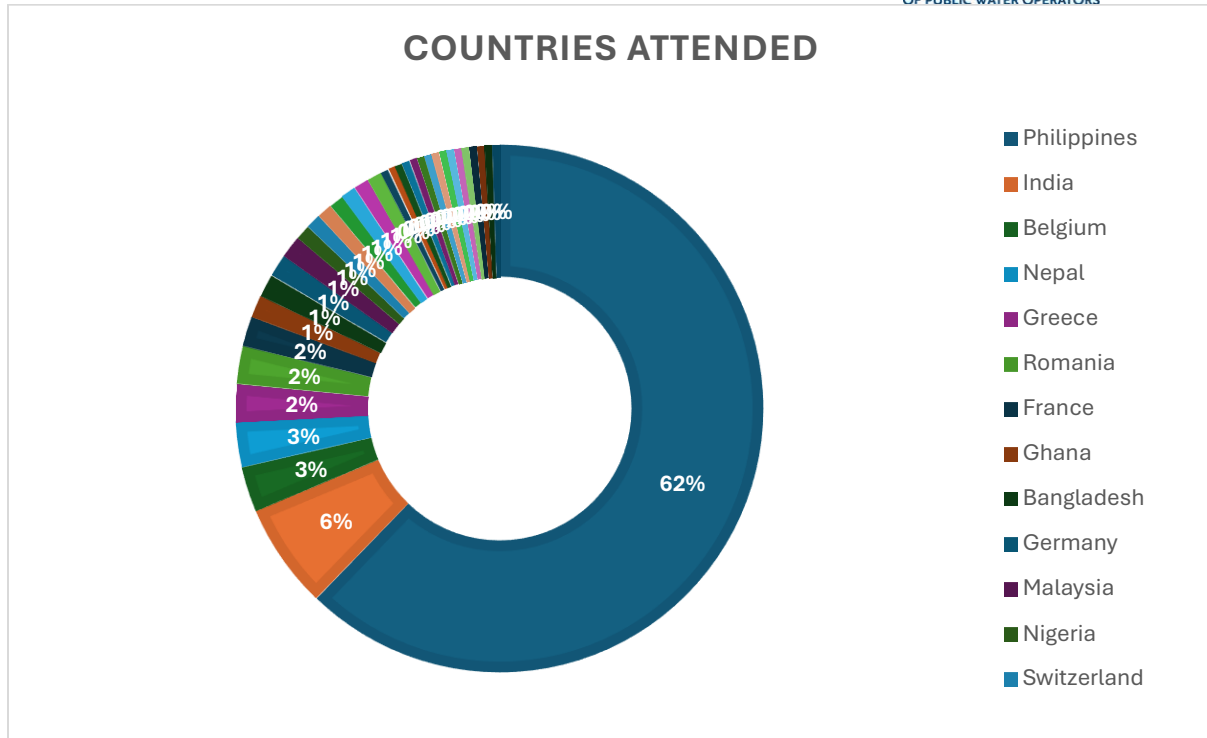
Summary

A total of 219 attended the webinar including three representatives from WaterLinks, two from APE, and the three speakers. Most of the participants were from Asia, followed by participants from Europe, Africa, Latin America, and North America. Participants were quite active with 11 questions fielded from the audience. Most participants also participated in the various polls. 97% said that the webinar either met or exceeded their expectations.

Participants

No. of Participants Registered	No. of Participants Attended	% Attendance Rate
352	219	62

The webinar garnered an attendance rate of 62%. A total of 219 attended the webinar. In terms of country, most participants who attended came from the Philippines, followed by India, and Belgium and Nepal. Attached as **Annex A** is the list of participants.



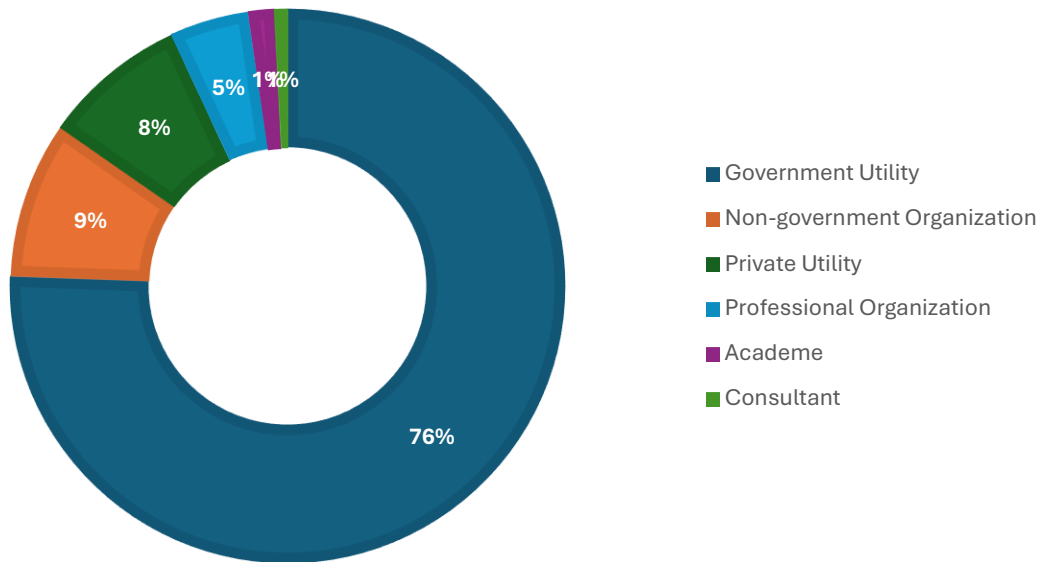
Polling

There were two polls that were conducted during the webinar. Participation in the polls varied from question to question; not all attendees participated in the polls. The first poll was held before the start of the webinar and covered audience background. The second poll, conducted at the end of the webinar, assessed whether participants' expectations were met and solicited topics for future webinars.

First Poll

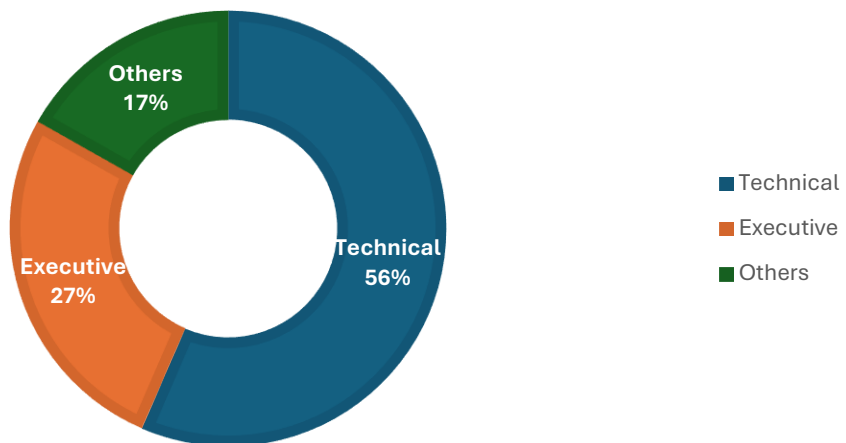
The first set of questions aimed to assess and identify the participants, helping speakers tailor their presentations to the participants' interests, levels of understanding, and expectations. The initial question asked about the type of organizations the participants represented. Most participants were from government utilities, followed by NGOs, private utilities, professional organizations, and academic institutions.

TYPE OF ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED



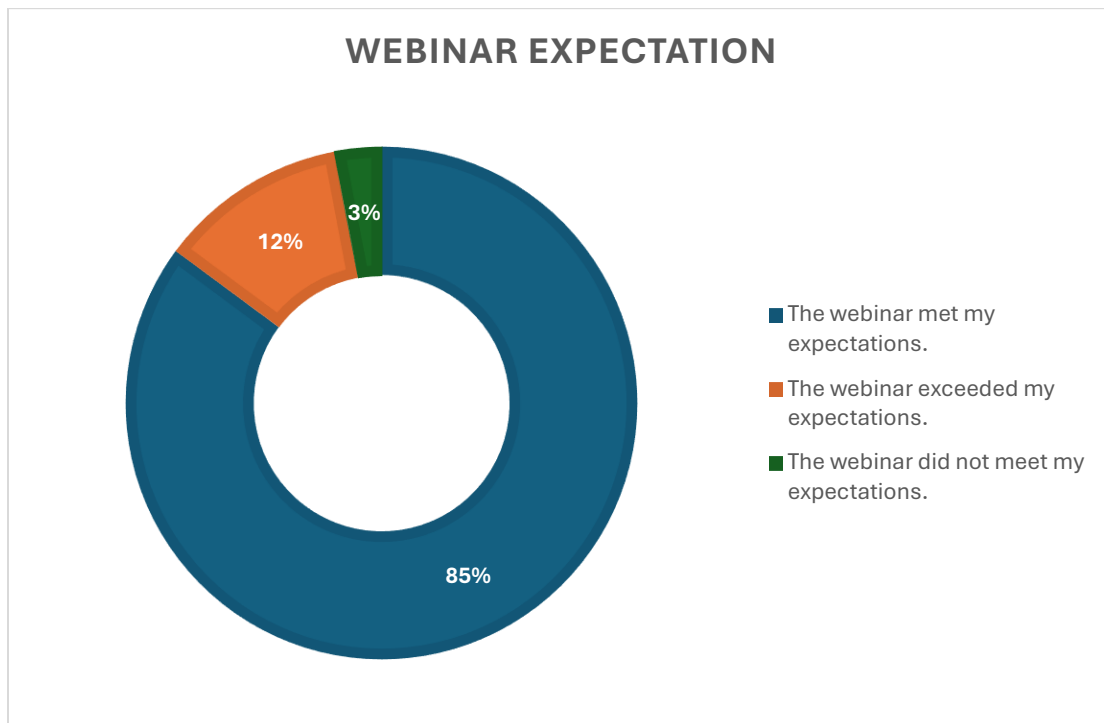
The second question inquired about the participants' positions within their companies. More than half of the participants are technical staff followed by executives.

LEVEL OF POSITION IN THE COMPANY



Second Poll

The second set of questions aimed to assess whether the webinar met participants' expectations and to identify topics for future webinars. 97% of participants indicated that the webinar either met or surpassed their expectations. Notably, a large number of participants expressed interest in Non-Revenue Water (NRW), followed by building climate-resilient utilities, sanitation, digitalization, and regulation.



Summary of Presentations

The first presentation was on “Climate Change and Development in Asia and the Pacific,” presented by Naeeda Crisna Morgado, Senior Infrastructure Specialist from the Asian Development Bank. She provided an overview of the climate outlook for Asia and its potential impacts on the water and sanitation sector. She emphasized that climate change is not a future problem, especially for Asia as its impacts are already being felt. As such early action is critical in addressing these impacts instead of waiting until these impacts become more severe, outweighing the mitigation costs especially in Asia’s low-income vulnerable countries.

Annex B is a copy of Ms. Morgado’s presentation.

The second presentation was on “VIVAQUA’s Water Quantity Plan,” delivered by Dr. Tanguy Robert, Hydrogeologist from VIVAQUA in Brussels, Belgium. He explained the consequences of

drought in their operations and outlined viable solutions that VIVAQUA has been doing to anticipate and manage drought conditions such as optimizing catchments rehabilitating old and abandoned catchments, and prospect new catchments.

Annex C is a copy of Dr. Robert's presentation.

The third presentation was on "Integrated Urban Water Cycle in a Changing Climate: Water Crisis Management" presented by Dr. Elisa Brussolo, Researcher from Societa Metropolitana Acque Torino S.p.A. (SMAT) in Turin, Italy. She underscored the need for improved drought monitoring, forecasting, and assessment to enhance preparedness and management practices. SMAT presented a proposed combined index to create an early warning system for water utilities and concerned stakeholders. During her presentation, the development of early warning systems is identified as a long-term drought mitigation measure that is a key element for the implementation of drought contingency plans.

Annex D is a copy of Dr. Brussolo's presentation.

Question and Answer

During the discussion, a total of 11 questions were raised by the participants. While most of these questions were addressed directly by the speakers, time constraints prevented all of them from being answered live. To ensure all queries were covered, the remaining questions were addressed through the Q&A box function available during the webinar.

For instance, one participant asked, "Are there programs funded by ADB available for government utility offices to help combat climate change particularly on the water sector?" Ms. Morgado responded that ADB has funded programs supporting the water sector to combat climate change, with water and urban development as key priorities. ADB's funding is typically channeled through national governments, with agreed-upon programs that may focus on specific cities, the water sector, or water utilities.

Another participant inquired, "Do you have a program to protect water sector assets from impacts of drought and flooding?" Dr. Robert and Dr. Brussolo both responded, highlighting that VIVAQUA and SMAT have completed their climate change adaptation strategies and emergency plans to protect their assets from drought and heavy precipitation. Dr. Robert explained that VIVAQUA addresses flooding by collaborating with public administration to create temporary flooding zones before catchments to buffer large amounts of rainwater. Additionally, to improve water quality in drainage galleries, they plan to install UV disinfection alongside chlorination. Dr. Brussolo detailed that SMAT has several measures in place, including operational plans, green infrastructure, and the interconnection of water supply resources between municipalities. Their



development plan also includes options for dams and green infrastructure to address droughts, as well as soft, nature-based solutions.

Annex E contains a copy of the questions and answers from the webinar.

Conclusion

The webinar concluded with several key points as delivered by Milo Fiasconaro, the Executive Director of APE. Climate change is a real and present issue, impacting both the economy and society, particularly in Asia. The discussions emphasized the significant effect of climate change on water resources. Presenters highlighted drought and water management plans from regions like Belgium and Italy, traditionally rich in water, now facing drought conditions. This webinar was timely due to the persistent drought wave in Asia and reflects a global trend.

Water utilities must enhance their resilience through mapping and monitoring water resources, developing predictive tools, and creating drought risk scenarios. Measures include preventive, mitigation, and adaptation strategies on both the demand and supply sides. Examples from Brussels and Turin demonstrate practical approaches. The responsibility of water operators to prepare for climate impacts was underscored, along with the necessity for coordination with public administrations and other sectors.