Financing Water Investments for Water Professionals

Our new 4-day course provides vital understanding of the many facets of, and perspectives on, water financing. Led by experts with decades of experience across the water sector and the World Bank, the course reviews the criteria for ‘bankable’ projects, and introduces the basics of project finance. Participants will learn how to identify which sources of financing can be used for water (infrastructure) projects, as well as how to explore how partial public finance, risk mitigation instruments and smarter regulation can remove barriers to private investment. The course focuses on applying knowledge gained over the four days to real-world examples, and ends with an opportunity to dialogue and share knowledge with a panel of experts.

Participant profile
The course is designed for professionals, managers and executives of government agencies or NGOs, who want to acquire a better understanding of the complex world of financing water infrastructure. Participants typically see this as an opportunity to influence and inspire others to bridge the gap between the finance and water sectors to meet the water challenges in their countries.

Learning objectives
- Describe how multilateral financial institutions (e.g. Asian Development Bank, World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development), international funds (e.g. Green Climate Fund Climate Investor One, Netherlands Development Finance Company/FMO), private capital markets, institutional investors (e.g. Dutch pension funds PGGM and APG), auditors and regulators operate and can play a key role in expanding water services and securing water.
- Discuss how to improve the creditworthiness of a water agency through better governance, risk mitigation, secured liquidity & earnings and appropriate accounting standards;
- Learn how to ensure that specific investments become ‘bankable’ through better design, safeguards and governance, stronger relationships with stakeholders, and secured income;
- Get familiar with project valuation methods including Rate of Return, Net Present Value;
- Gain operational insight into financing instruments and vehicles such as long and short tenure debt, equity, bonds, blended finance & guarantees, and Public-Private Partnerships;
- Have insight into key legal and contracting issues relevant to establishing robust financial partnerships.

DAY 1
Introduction
- What are the financial demands & challenges in the water sector to meet SDG 6?
- How to value water?
- Who are the stakeholders?

Case study assignment in teams*
Define the challenges and opportunities.

DAY 2
Understand how the financial sector operates
- What drives the private capital markets?
- Public-Private Partnerships in water infrastructure.

Case study assignment in teams*
Identify stakeholders, solutions and financial arrangements.

DAY 3
Essential features of bankable projects
- What are the financial models used?
- How to assess risks, identify & capture all values?

Case study assignment in teams*
Apply concepts and methods. Develop road map towards a bankable project.

DAY 4
Engage the business and investment community
- How to bring people together to plan and execute a bankable project?

Case study assignment in teams*
Presentation road map & discussion with panel of experts.

*work on a real world problem  ** consist of finance strategy experts from public & private sector

Understanding Water Finance
With respect to achieving SDG 6, the Sustainable Development Goal focused on water security and climate adaptation, accessing the capital required to expand the water agenda poses a significant challenge. In emerging markets and developing economies, the finance required to meet the SDGs are 2-4 times higher than existing (predominantly public) flows. This is exacerbated by the fact that of current climate financing, less than a quarter is allocated to adaptation; and less than 5% is destined for developing economies. Commercial finance will be necessary to fill this gap, but is in itself constrained by the high-risk profiles and small size of water investment projects. Although access to finance may be difficult, blended finance, local capital markets and better use of intermediary financial institutions can facilitate expanding these capital flows. This will require additional knowledge and skills within water agencies to develop ‘bankable’ proposals that can attract financial flows from the private sector.

This 4-day course comprises a series of lectures, discussions, workshops focusing on real-world problems and networking with professionals from other water agencies.

The programme is divided into:
- Morning: taught sessions
- Afternoon: team assignment
- Closing session: dialogue with expert panel
IHE Delft Institute for Water Education is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world and is based in Delft, The Netherlands. The Institute confers fully accredited MSc and PhD degrees in collaboration with partner universities, alongside a wide range of professional development courses both on-campus and online.

The Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) is a network of 181 internationally oriented Dutch organizations working in the water sector. Its members include private companies, NGOs, governmental organizations and knowledge institutes.

**LECTURERS**

**Guy Alaerts** has led lending operations for the water sector at the World Bank for 20 years across Asia and Europe. He is emeritus professor at IHE for knowledge and capacity development.

**Chris Zevenbergen** is professor of urban flood risk management at IHE Delft and TuDelft. From 2000 to 2015 he served as Director Business Development at Dura Vermeer Group NV, one of the largest construction companies in The Netherlands.

**Yong Jiang** is a water and environmental economist at IHE Delft. He has previously worked as senior researcher, assistant professor, and consultant at VU University Amsterdam, Michigan State University and the World Bank.

**Programme fee**

Two types of fee: €1000 for online delivery, €2000 for on-campus face-to-face delivery. The programme fee covers tuition, course materials, and, in the case of face-to-face course, also lunches as well as a closing dinner. Not included are the costs of hotel, visa and travel. VAT is not included in the programme fee.

**Application procedure**

The maximum number of participants is 20. The Admissions Committee may review all applications, taking into account applicants’ experience, motivation and the diversity of the class. Participants should have good command of English.

**Contact us**

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www.un-ihe.org/financing-water-investments-water-professionals