



AIDIS

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PRESIDENT MESSAGE



Dear AIDIS members:

The first half of 2026 has been a period of great intensity and satisfaction for AIDIS. We proudly celebrate the success of important events that reflect the vitality and reach of our regional network.

We extend our congratulations to the Honduras Chapter and all Central American chapters for the successful XXXIV Central American Congress of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS), held from May 20 to 23 in Tegucigalpa,

at the facilities of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH). Under the theme “Central America facing climate change: resilience in water, sanitation, and waste,” the congress brought together professionals, academics, researchers, students, and decision-makers from across the subregion, addressing critical challenges such as access to drinking water, sanitation, solid waste management, and adaptation to climate change. I had the honor of participating with the lecture “The Challenges of Sanitary Engineering in Today’s World,” reaffirming AIDIS’ commitment to regional technical leadership.

We also congratulate the Argentine Chapter for the excellent organization of the XXIII Argentine Congress of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering, held in the city of Córdoba, which established itself as the country’s largest gathering on water, sanitation, and the environment. With more than 1,650 registered participants, 3 keynote conferences, 22 roundtables, 66 in-person technical papers, 14 corporate presentations, 32 booths at the International Environmental Technology Fair (FITMA), 2 technical visits to model sanitation projects, and more than 90 speakers and moderators, this congress is an achievement of which the entire Inter-American network can be proud.

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

We also highlight the successful Brazil Water Week 2026 (BWW 2026), organized by the Brazilian Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (ABES) and held online from May 25 to 29. In its 4th edition, under the theme “Connecting Solutions: water, climate, and sustainable development,” this event has established itself as the most important international forum for discussions on water and sanitation held in Brazil, bringing together professionals from around the world with the Brazilian academic and technical community. AIDIS’ participation in this space reaffirms our commitment to technical cooperation and our active presence in the debates shaping the global water agenda.

I am pleased to announce that we have completed the Agreement with the GSGS (Global Sanitation Graduate School) of IHE Delft, Netherlands, and we will begin the online courses during July. There will be a total of four courses, and participants who successfully complete them will be eligible to receive a Diploma in Wastewater Treatment. Additionally, prior to the 40th Congress, a three-day in-person course will be held in both Guatemala and Costa Rica, free of charge for those registered for the Congress (selection based on registration order). We are very pleased with this agreement, as it will allow us to provide our members with training of the highest level.

These milestones, together with the intense agenda of seminars and activities organized by our technical divisions and chapters throughout the continent, confirm that AIDIS begins the second half of the year with renewed energy and a stronger network than ever.

During this second semester, we will focus on one of the most important milestones in our recent history: the 40th Inter-American Congress of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering – AIDIS 2026, which will take place from November 22 to 25 in Guatemala City, under the theme “Equity, Resilience, and Innovation.” I invite you to register, submit your papers, and actively participate in this event that will mark a new chapter in the history of our association.

Let us continue moving forward together, with purpose, passion, and the certainty that our work transforms lives and contributes to building a fairer, more resilient, and sustainable region.

Dr. Rolando Cham

NEWS

34th Central American Congress of AIDIS was a success in Tegucigalpa

From May 20 to 23, 2026, the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, hosted the XXXIV Central American Congress of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering, an important regional event that brought together professionals, researchers, academics, students, authorities, companies, and institutions committed to the sustainable development of the water, sanitation, and environmental sector.



Organized by AIDIS Honduras in coordination with the Faculty of Engineering of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) and the Municipal Drinking Water and Sanitation Unit (UMAPS), the congress was held under the theme “Central America facing climate change: resilience in water, sanitation, and waste,” establishing itself as a high-level space for technical, scientific, and professional exchange.

Throughout the event, keynote conferences, specialized panels, technical paper presentations, and dialogue sessions were held, aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and promoting innovative solutions to the challenges faced by Central America in the areas of drinking water, sanitation, solid waste management, climate change, and risk management.

Participants shared experiences, research, and successful case studies related to topics such as circular economy, protection of water resources, urban resilience, new technologies for water treatment, energy efficiency, decarbonization, and sustainability of public services.

The opening ceremony marked the beginning of an intense agenda of activities and was characterized by an atmosphere of integration, reunion, and regional commitment.

NEWS




Delegations from different countries reaffirmed the importance of continuing to strengthen technical collaboration and knowledge exchange to address the environmental challenges of the region.

The congress also stood out for the broad participation of universities, public institutions, companies from the sector, and international organizations, creating opportunities for the development of strategic partnerships and the strengthening of professional capacities.

With this successful edition, AIDIS Honduras reaffirms its commitment to promoting sanitary and environmental engineering in the Americas, fostering spaces that contribute to sustainable development, innovation, and the building of more resilient communities in response to the challenges of the present and the future.



As part of the complementary activities, participants also took part in networking opportunities, institutional exchanges, and technical visits, strengthening the development of partnerships and regional cooperation. These initiatives made it possible to learn about successful experiences and promote knowledge transfer among professionals, public institutions, companies, and research centers, contributing to the development of concrete solutions for the environmental and sanitation challenges faced by Central America.

For further information, please click [here](#) 

NEWS

Córdoba hosted the XXIII Congress of AIDIS Argentina

With an outstanding attendance of more than 1,650 participants, the city of Córdoba hosted the XXIII Argentine Congress of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering on May 18 and 19, 2026, consolidating itself as the country's most important technical event in the fields of water, sanitation, and the environment, promoting the exchange of knowledge, innovative experiences, and the strengthening of cooperation among professionals and institutions in the sector.




Organized by AIDIS Argentina together with academic institutions and public organizations, the event brought together specialists, researchers, companies, students, and authorities from different regions of the country to share experiences, discuss current challenges, and promote innovative solutions aimed at sustainable development.

Under the theme of innovation and equity, the congress featured keynote conferences, roundtables, technical presentations, discussion sessions, and interdisciplinary exchange spaces focused on strategic topics such as water management, sanitation, energy transition, circular economy, and environmental sustainability. The program included technical visits and FITMA 2026, the International Environmental Technology Fair, strengthening the connection between knowledge, innovation, and solutions for the sector.



During the event, a special recognition was given to Eng. Luis Urbano Jáuregui, former president of AIDIS Argentina and AIDIS Interamericana, for his outstanding career and contribution to sanitary and environmental engineering.

Further information on the congress, click [here](#) 

NEWS

Brazil Water Week 2026: global dialogue on water and sustainability



Brazil Water Week (BWW) 2026, an event organized by the Brazilian Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (ABES), was held this year in a fully online format, bringing together specialists, authorities, institutions, companies, and representatives from different countries in a major international space for the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

With participants from various countries, the event promoted a global dialogue aimed at transforming reflections into concrete actions, addressing strategic topics such as water security, climate change adaptation, universal access to sanitation, technological innovation, and new solutions for the sustainable management of water resources. Throughout its program, Brazil Water Week featured conferences, technical panels, and discussion spaces with the participation of renowned national and international experts, strengthening cooperation among governments, academia, the private sector, and organizations linked to water, sanitation, and the environment.

The event highlighted the importance of addressing the impacts of climate change as one of the sector's major current challenges, where planning, resilience, and international cooperation are essential to advancing sustainable solutions and ensuring more efficient and inclusive services.

With this successful edition, ABES reaffirms its regional leadership and commitment to knowledge generation, innovation, and collaboration among countries, contributing to the strengthening of sanitary and environmental engineering in Brazil, the Americas, and beyond.

For more information, click [here](#)

NEWS



AIDIS

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Inscrito ▾

Discover the AIDIS Interamericana YouTube Channel and access webinars, technical content, and the latest updates for professional development from across the Americas.

A space to stay up to date with trends and solutions in water, sanitation, and the environment.

Watch our most visited online events:



EVENTS AND TRAINING

40th Inter-American Congress extends deadline for technical papers

The Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS) announces that the deadline for submitting technical papers for the 40th Inter-American Congress of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering has been extended, providing a new opportunity for professionals, researchers, academics, and students to be part of this important international event.

The extension of the submission period responds to the great interest shown by the technical and scientific community of the Americas, allowing more specialists to present their research, experiences, projects, and innovations related to the main challenges of the water, sanitation, waste management, climate change, and environmental sustainability sectors.

The 40th Inter-American Congress will bring together experts, institutions, companies, and organizations from across the region in a space for knowledge exchange and cooperation, where technical papers will provide an opportunity to share advances, experiences, and innovative solutions to the sector's current challenges.

AIDIS invites the professional and academic community to take advantage of this new deadline and be part of this important event, contributing to sustainable development and the strengthening of sanitary and environmental engineering throughout the Americas.

For more info about the Congress and submission of papers, click [here.](#)



40° Congreso Interamericano de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ambiental AIDIS 2026

22 al 25
Noviembre 2026

Ciudad de Guatemala

¿Aún trabajando en tu postulación?
¡Tenemos Buenas Noticias!

NUEVO CIERRE DE CONVOCATORIA
TRABAJOS TÉCNICOS

30 de junio

Equidad, Resiliencia e Innovación.

Organiza:

AIDIS AGISA

EVENTS AND TRAINING

Young leadership will be the focus of the 69th International Congress

3, 4 y 5 de Junio
¡INSCRIBETE Y ASÍSTE!

LLEGA EL 4TO ENCUENTRO JÓVENES POR EL AGUA

Aquí las ideas se convierten en conversaciones, las conversaciones en alianzas y las alianzas en soluciones para el presente y futuro del sector agua, saneamiento y ambiente.

Ingresa a nuestra página web
www.congresocacodal.org.co
 317 895 3449 / 311 544 8964

As part of the 69th ACODAL International Congress 2026, which will take place on June 3, 4, and 5 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, the 4th Youth for Water Meeting will be held, a space created to encourage the participation of new generations in shaping the future of the water, sanitation, and environmental sector.

The congress will bring together professionals, specialists, companies, institutions, authorities, researchers, and representatives from different countries, establishing itself as an international platform for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and innovation to address the main challenges related to water management, sanitation, and environmental sustainability.

Within its extensive program, the 4th Youth for Water Meeting will provide a special space for students, young professionals, researchers, and entrepreneurs, promoting new ideas, leadership, collaboration, and the creation of partnerships aimed at building solutions for the present and future of the sector.

This initiative, together with the various academic and technical activities of the 69th ACODAL International Congress, reaffirms the importance of connecting generations, strengthening capacities, and promoting cooperation among all stakeholders involved. An event where knowledge, innovation, and environmental commitment come together to move toward a more sustainable future for the region.

More info and inscriptions click [here.](#)

EVENTS AND TRAINING

XI Paraguayan Congress of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering

The Paraguayan Congress of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering, organized by AIDIS Paraguay, will take place on June 4 and 5, standing out as one of the country's main technical events for professionals, specialists, academics, authorities, students, and private sector representatives committed to sustainable development and environmental protection.

The event will promote a space for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and innovation, addressing the main challenges related to water, sanitation, environmental management, and sustainable urban development. Through conferences, technical panels, and paper presentations, participants will share proposals and solutions aimed at strengthening Paraguay's sanitary and environmental infrastructure.

During its two-day program, the congress will feature the participation of renowned national and international experts, creating opportunities for professional development and dialogue on strategic topics such as drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, circular economy, climate change, resource management efficiency, and new technologies applied to the sector.

In addition to its academic and technical agenda, the event will promote collaboration among public institutions, universities, companies, and professionals, fostering partnerships and the exchange of experiences that contribute to the development of sustainable solutions adapted to current challenges.

Further information click [here.](#) 



XI Congreso Paraguayo de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ambiental
 Asunción, 4 y 5 de Junio de 2026

Desafíos para el Desarrollo Sostenible: Salud Ambiental, Gestión del Agua y Saneamiento Seguros

ORGANIZA:
 AIDIS PARAGUAY

SEDE:

 UPE
 Sede, Asunción
 Universidad Privada del Este
 Sede Asunción

Capítulo Paraguayo de la Asociación Interamericana de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ambiental
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 Trabajos Técnicos: secretariatecnica@aidisparaguay.org.py

#Conferencias Magistrales #Mesas Redondas #Trabajos Técnicos #Visitas Técnicas #Presentaciones Institucionales y Comerciales

La fecha límite para el registro de trabajos técnicos: 10 de abril de 2026

EJES TEMÁTICOS

# Salud Ambiental y Desarrollo Sostenible	# Regulación de Servicios Sanitarios
# Gestión del Agua Segura y Saneamiento Resilientes al Clima	# Políticas Públicas y Legislación Ambiental
# Calidad de Aire y Gestión de Riesgos ante el Cambio Climático	# Educación Ambiental y Participación Ciudadana
# GIRs Urbanos, Industriales, Patológicos. Economía Circular	

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EVENTS AND TRAINING

Online courses on Biological Wastewater Treatment

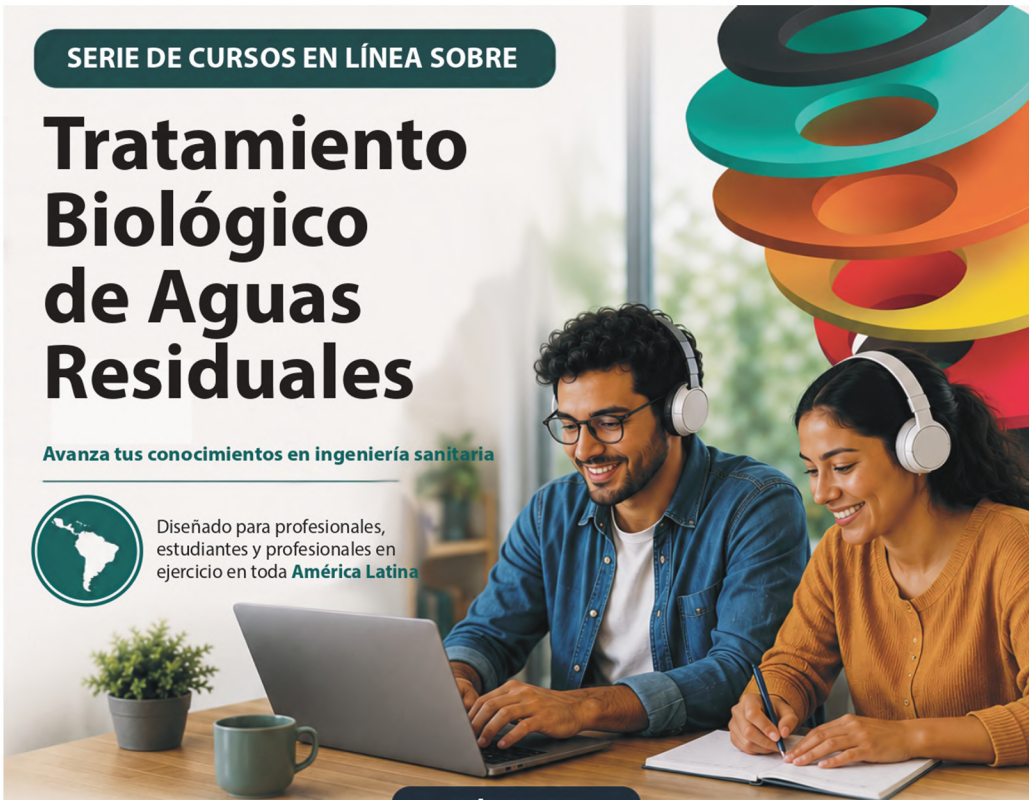
SERIE DE CURSOS EN LÍNEA SOBRE

Tratamiento Biológico de Aguas Residuales

Avanza tus conocimientos en ingeniería sanitaria



Diseñado para profesionales, estudiantes y profesionales en ejercicio en toda **América Latina**



4 cursos

1	W	Caracterización de Aguas Residuales	Inicia 1 de julio de 2026
2	C	Remoción de Materia Orgánica	Inicia 1 de agosto de 2026
3	N	Remoción de Nitrógeno	Inicia 1 de septiembre de 2026
4	P	Remoción de Fósforo	Inicia 1 de octubre de 2026

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 Examen y certificado: **Incluido**



Asociación Interamericana de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ambiental (AIDIS) en asociación con el Centro Regional para América Latina de la Escuela de Graduados en Saneamiento Global (Global Sanitation Graduate School Regional Hub Latin America).



The Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS), within the framework of its agreement with the Global Sanitation Graduate School (GSGS), announces the launch of a Series of Online Courses on Biological Wastewater Treatment, which will be delivered by the Regional Center of the Global Sanitation Graduate School (GSGS).

For more information, click



EVENTS AND TRAINING

AIDIS Youth Bolivia will hold its first meeting.

On June 16 at 7:00 p.m., at SIB Santa Cruz, the 1st AIDIS Young Bolivia Meeting will take place, an integration space that will include the presentation of the Board of Directors, projects, volunteer opportunities, and networking activities to strengthen the participation of new generations in the sector.







1er Encuentro AIDIS JOVEN BOLIVIA

¿QUÉ VAMOS A PRESENTAR?

- ✓ Presentación oficial del Directorio AIDIS Joven Bolivia 2026.
- ✓ Presentación de proyectos y oportunidades de voluntariado.
- ✓ Programas de formación y desarrollo profesional.
- ✓ Líneas de investigación e innovación.
- ✓ Espacios de networking con el público.
- ✓ Actividades de integración, sorteos y participación interactiva.

 16 DE
Junio

 19:00
HRS

 SIB SANTA CRUZ
SALON JENECHERU

AIDIS Joven Bolivia no solo busca miembros, busca una comunidad de jóvenes que aprenden, colaboran y crecen juntos.

Para mayor información:



SEMINARIO

GESTIÓN DE CUENCAS Y REÚSO EFICIENTE DE AGUAS TRATADAS:
EXPERIENCIAS Y DESAFÍOS PARA LA SEGURIDAD HÍDRICA



**SANTIAGO
19 DE JUNIO
2026**

División de Recursos Hídricos (DIRHI)
www.aidis.cl

Seminar: Watershed Management and Efficient Reuse of Treated Water

Experiences, challenges, and concrete solutions to ensure water security in Chile. Join industry leaders and discover the value of treated water as a strategic resource.



EVENTS AND TRAINING

Inspection of Sanitation Services - AESABESP

To disseminate the procedures for planning, execution, and control of supervision processes, promoting the improvement of service quality and strengthening ethics and professional conduct.



AESABESP
Associação dos Engenheiros de Saneamento

QUALIFICAÇÃO PROFISSIONAL
AESabesp 2026

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18 e 19 de junho

9h às 13h

Plataforma Zoom

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INSCRIÇÕES GRATUITAS

23 DE JUNHO (TERÇA-FEIRA)

Chamada para seleção de pitches

Participe!

Conhecimento técnico transformando realidades.

Dialogues on Sanitation in São Paulo

ABES-SP will select experiences, research projects, technologies, and innovative solutions to be presented at "Diálogos do Saneamento Paulista," promoting initiatives with impact and application potential in different regions of São Paulo.



EVENTS AND TRAINING

Webinar Relevant changes in ISO 14001-2026

Specialist Ileana García Castrillo will address the general overview of the 4th edition, the requirements of the Environmental Management System, elements of coherence and consistency, as well as strategic conclusions on the evolution of this important international standard.



35th Conference of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association

The (CWWA) will hold its Annual Conference from October 12 to 16, a meeting space for professionals, institutions, and leaders from the water, sanitation, and environmental sector across the Caribbean region.



WHO'S WHO?

Administrative Industrial Engineer and technical consultant in water, sanitation, and the environment, with experience in projects with the IDB, World Bank, and Global Water Partnership, focused on water management, environmental assessment, program monitoring, and project development. She holds master's degrees in Project Formulation and Evaluation and in Water Technology and Management. President of PANAIDIS (2025–2027 and 2011–2013), she has led technical and institutional initiatives aimed at strengthening sanitary and environmental engineering in Panama.



We present his career path through a brief interview.

1. Panama has made significant progress in water and sanitation, but important challenges still remain. What do you consider to be the most urgent priorities for the sector in the coming years?

Panama has abundant water resources; however, significant challenges remain in ensuring quality water in adequate quantities for all users. These issues are largely the result of insufficient water resource management, stemming from a fragmented sector governance model, with responsibilities spread across multiple institutions, overlapping functions, and regulatory gaps.

In urban areas, IDAAN — the main provider of water and sewerage services — faces limitations related to financial autonomy, administrative flexibility, human talent management, and sustainability. In addition, the implementation of water and sanitation projects is distributed among several entities, while sanitation responsibilities are divided, creating inefficiencies and making it difficult to provide a coordinated response to the country's needs.

At the rural level, the situation is critical, as the vast majority of Rural Aqueduct Administrative Boards (JAAR) lack the capacity to properly operate and maintain rural water and sanitation systems.

WHO'S WHO?

On the other hand, in urban areas, although investment resources of approximately US\$2.5 billion for drinking water and US\$1.7 billion for sanitation have been allocated over the past 15 years, the necessary mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the infrastructure built have not been established. In addition, drinking water tariffs have not been updated for 44 years, meaning that IDAAN's revenues are insufficient to guarantee the proper operation and maintenance of its systems. To overcome these challenges, it is necessary to restructure and strengthen governance in the water and sanitation sector as an essential element to address current challenges and ensure the sustainability of Panama's water resources. In the first phase, efforts should focus on improving urban water and sanitation (W&S) service provision through the transformation of IDAAN with a new management model that provides real autonomy.

The next phase should address the organization of sector leadership and regulation, as well as new schemes to support service providers in rural areas. Finally, the last phase will focus on organizing water resource management at the watershed level.

2. Based on your experience working with international organizations, what regional lessons could be successfully replicated in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve water management?

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, there are examples of successful water and sanitation service providers, such as Empresas Públicas de Medellín – Colombia, EPMAPS Agua de Quito – Ecuador, Water and Drainage Services of Monterrey – Mexico, and CAESB in Brazil.

All these companies stand out for being decentralized and having autonomy, making decisions based on technical rather than political criteria, providing integrated water and sanitation services that achieve economies of scale and avoid duplication, while operating under regulatory frameworks.

These lessons learned could be replicated by service providers in other cities across the region, with a focus on infrastructure as a service, enabling the operational and financial sustainability of water and sanitation systems.

WHO'S WHO?

3. Climate change is increasingly impacting the availability and quality of water resources. How should cities and sanitation operators prepare for this scenario?

Our Latin America and Caribbean region is highly vulnerable to extreme hydrometeorological events that threaten the water security of our countries. Operators should focus on providing more resilient water and sanitation services, starting with the integration of climate change risk analysis during the development of investment projects and incorporating resilience measures from the design stage.

In addition, it is essential to have management tools such as monitoring systems, hydroclimatic models, and the use of other technological tools that enable informed decision-making for the planning and operation of sanitation infrastructure.

Furthermore, integrated land-use planning is necessary to address the challenges posed by climate change, considering the strong interconnection between urban growth, related land-use changes, and the capacity to provide water and sanitation services in these territories.

4. The participation of women in engineering and technical leadership has grown in recent decades. How do you view this evolution, and what actions do you consider necessary to continue strengthening female participation in the sector?

Today, there are more women working in the water and sanitation sector across the region; however, it is observed that most of them remain in mid-level technical positions. Therefore, to overcome this gap, it is necessary to promote more women into decision-making roles at executive and managerial levels. In this regard, mentoring programs for women within water and sanitation service providers would be very valuable, aimed at providing tools to support their professional growth.

In addition, generational renewal is needed, making it important to encourage the interest of girls and adolescents in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), particularly in the water sector. To achieve this, it is recommended to organize workshops and scientific activities with water as the central theme.

Finally, it is important to increase the visibility of women's role in the water and sanitation sector. To this end, it is recommended to highlight their participation as technical references by inviting women experts as speakers at forums and congresses, as well as encouraging their participation in media interviews and publications in specialized journals.

WHO'S WHO?



ENG. LENIN VILLALBA
ECUADOR

Civil Engineer, Master's degree holder in Environmental Engineering and Project Management, specialist in Circular Economy and Integrated Solid Waste Management. He has 20 years of experience leading and developing solid waste projects, environmental studies, and environmental sanitation initiatives in both the public and private sectors.

He has worked as a specialist consultant with national and international organizations such as the Ministry of Environment, Development Bank of Ecuador, IDB, CAF, UNDP, FAO, and USAID. He is a founding partner of Asamtech Cía. Ltda. and the Foundation for Environmental Innovation and Research 2IA.

We share his vision and experience in this interview.

1.- In Ecuador and many Latin American countries, integrated solid waste management continues to face challenges related to financing and sustainability. What do you consider to be the main barriers today to achieving truly sustainable systems?

Integrated solid waste management in Ecuador and many Latin American countries faces structural barriers that limit its sustainability. One of the most relevant is the lack of political will to prioritize waste management within the municipal agenda. Although general regulatory frameworks exist, the lack of political commitment and continuity in public policies prevents systems from becoming consolidated and sustainable over time.

Another critical aspect is the tariff structure. In 2024, Ecuador had an average municipal subsidy of 54.9% for service provision, meaning that tariffs do not reflect the real costs of integrated waste management, creating a permanent financial deficit. It is necessary to move toward transparent tariff systems, with updated user registries that allow the real service coverage to be identified and ensure that revenues correspond to operating expenses. In addition, reliable collection channels are needed to guarantee effective cost recovery.

WHO'S WHO?

Likewise, it is necessary to move toward income diversification in ISWM. Municipalities cannot rely solely on collection and disposal fees. The incorporation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms, the sale of by-products, the implementation of environmental taxes, and the creation of regional or joint management models would make it possible to take advantage of economies of scale and improve service delivery efficiency.

This entire set of measures must be supported by strong institutional capacity. The sustainability of integrated waste management systems depends on the ability of municipalities to plan, implement, and monitor services comprehensively, ensuring that management is efficient, transparent, and focused on collective well-being.

2. You have worked on projects related to sanitation and environmental management. What role do you believe local governments should assume to improve the efficiency and continuity of services?

Local governments play a central role in the efficiency and continuity of sanitation services. In the case of waste management, their responsibility should not be limited only to waste collection and disposal but should include strategic planning and integrated solid waste management in the medium and long term. To achieve this, they must strengthen their technical, administrative, and operational capacities, ensuring that services are provided regularly and with quality; without a solid institutional structure, services tend to become irregular and unsustainable.

It is essential for municipalities to develop integrated management plans that include clear processes for waste collection, transportation, recovery and valorization, as well as final disposal. These plans must be supported by financing mechanisms that ensure cost coverage. Likewise, local governments must lead education and public awareness processes, encouraging source separation, shared responsibility in waste management, and compliance with tariff obligations.

Another important aspect for local governments to achieve efficiency in service provision is the pursuit of intermunicipal coordination; regional or joint management models make it possible to take advantage of economies of scale and reduce costs, especially in small or rural municipalities.

WHO'S WHO?

3. The circular economy is gaining ground on the regional agenda. Based on your experience, how can Latin American cities move toward more efficient models of waste recovery and valorization?

The circular economy has become established on the regional agenda, with the development of regulatory frameworks that enable the implementation of circular systems through production, consumption, and integrated solid waste management. However, reality shows significant gaps: only between 4% and 5% of the waste generated in Latin America is recovered, less than 1% of organic waste is treated or valorized, and nearly 40% of waste is disposed of in controlled dumps and open dumps. These figures show that waste valorization in the region is still at an early stage.

It is essential for cities in the region to develop waste valorization projects adapted to their local contexts; by applying technical, economic, environmental, and social criteria, it is possible to prioritize strategic waste streams that generate positive impacts. The incorporation of technological innovation and integrated information systems is essential to improve traceability, efficiency, and transparency.

4 What message would you give to the new generations of engineers and environmental professionals who wish to contribute to sustainable development and the strengthening of the sanitation sector in the region?

In the sanitation sector, the challenges facing the region are enormous, but they also represent unique opportunities to transform current systems into more sustainable and inclusive models. New generations of engineers and professionals linked to the environmental sector have the opportunity to become managers of resilient systems, capable of integrating technical solutions with economic feasibility and social acceptance.

Their contribution will be decisive in designing innovative projects that respond to local and regional needs while aligning with sustainability principles.

It is essential for new professionals to drive the transition toward a circular economy by promoting the reduction, reuse, separation, recovery, and valorization of solid waste as fundamental principles of their work. Their leadership can transform current systems into more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable models, ensuring not only environmental conservation but also a better quality of life for communities.

AIDIS JOURNALS

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INGENIERÍA SANITARIA Y AMBIENTAL

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