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Christmas message from Jan Hofman, Director of WIRC

Dear WIRC-colleagues and students

It is almost the end of the year again. Semester 1 is over and it is now time to slow down a bit. I'm already at home now and using the time and quietness for working on the final bits of a new project proposal, which I will try to submit soon. With my daughter playing the piano and singing songs in the background...

Looking back at the year, it was again a year to be proud of for what we have achieved as a Centre. The Centre now counts over 50 academics and roughly 50 PhD students on campus. It was great to see all the output you have achieved by bringing it together in our annual report. It was also great to see many of you active at our poster session, at the Water Colloquium and contributing to the Water Security Alliance. The success of the WIRC was recently confirmed by the Faculty of Engineering and Design Research Committee in our first official Centre Evaluation.

The evaluation came of course also with recommendations for improvement, mainly on our governance structure, further increase in collaboration and –last but not least– creating opportunities for large grants. Early January we will develop a plan, which will then be implemented in the coming months, creating an even more exciting Centre, ready for the future.

A few more hours now, and the Christmas break will be really starting. I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Exciting New Year! Enjoy the time together with your family and friends. [See you all back at the WIRC New Year drinks reception on 7 January in the Wessex Restaurant.](#)

Merry Christmas!

Upcoming events

7 January: [WIRC New Year drinks reception](#), The Wessex Restaurant

25 February 2020: [Joint WIRC/ChemEng seminar](#) by [Professor Maria Kennedy](#) from [IHE Delft Institute for Water Education](#)

19 March 2020: '[From research to practice: innovation pathways for water technologies](#)' by [Dr Jo Burgess](#) from [Isle Utilities](#)

Please note that all these events are free and open to all.

News

[WIRC New Year drinks reception](#)

All welcome - join us for drinks on the 7th of January to celebrate the New Year and the return from the festive break. Catch up with old colleagues, and meet some new ones!

[Register here](#)

[Enter the GW4 Water Security Alliance \(WSA\) photo competition](#)

WSA has launched its first photo competition, where the best photo representing WSA research will be awarded with a prize! To qualify, the photos must have been taken by yourself and should illustrate elements of water security.

Please include a short description of the picture(s) (1-2 sentences), and with your consent, the best pictures will be used for GW4 WSA communications purposes. Send your photo(s) to a.schofield@gw4.ac.uk by **Friday 17 January**.



[Deadline for abstracts extended for WatefCon2020](#)

The abstract submission deadline for Watef Network Conference 2020 has been extended to **20 January 2020**. The bi-annual conference of the Water Efficiency network aims to foster knowledge exchange and transfer between academia, researchers and industry practitioners. The conference will feature the special session: *Responding to resilience rhetoric: where are we now?*

Research

[Water Security Project - International Water Resources Association](#)

The International Water Resources Association has started a new project on Water Security in collaboration with the UNESCO i-WSSM, for which an international Task Force was created. Jan Hofman is one of the panellists on the Task Force. The project will deliver a series of publications as part of the Global Water Security Issues Paper Series, documenting relevant research on Water Security. This year's theme will be *Water Reuse in a Circular Economy Context*.

See [the project website](#) for more information

[IWA Specialist Group "Assessment and Control of Hazardous Substances in Water"](#)

Recently Jan Hofman was elected as member of the management committee of the Specialist Group on "Assessment and Control of Hazardous Substances in Water" of the International Water Association (IWA). The SG is a platform for exchange of experience and knowledge in the field. The group focuses on all natural and anthropogenic substances and their transformation products including nano particles that have negative impacts on human or environmental health. This includes analytical methods, water treatment, risk assessment and regulatory issues.

See [the specialist group page](#) for more information.

Blog



[FRESH CDT Training Course in Bath](#)

Cohort 2 of FRESH CDT visited us in early December for a Core Skills training course. The week involved a visit to the advanced analytical lab, a site visit to Wessex Water Salford Sewage Treatment works, lectures on emerging pollutants, environmental risk assessment, sensors and groundwater, among other topics, and socialising. [Read a blog post from Tomo Homan, a Bath-based Cohort 2 student, on the week.](#)



[Polar express: The bear and the 'Maiden Fair'](#)

On the IPR blog, Dr Philippe Blondel from the Department of Physics and the [Centre for Space, Atmosphere and Ocean Science](#) discusses climate change, scientific evidence and the need for dynamic policies in the Arctic.

Recent publications

- [Areal models for spatially coherent trend detection: the case of British peak river flows](#). Prodocimi I, Dupont E, Augustin N, Kjeldsen T, Simpson D & Smith T, 2019.
- [Numerical investigation of wave propagation and transformation over a submerged reef](#). Li J, Zang J, Liu S, Jia W & Chen Q, 2019.
- [Multi-residue ultra-performance liquid chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry method for comprehensive multi-class anthropogenic compounds of emerging concern analysis in a catchment-based exposure-driven study](#). Proctor K, Petrie B, Barden R, Arnot T & Kasprzyk-Hordern B, 2019.

Upcoming conferences

[2020](#)

15 - 17 April 2020: Cardiff University, UK, [21st IWA UK Young Water Professionals Conference](#)

27 - 30 April 2020: Bilbao, Spain, [Digital Water Summit](#)

You can find all IWA events on their [website](#).



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