



asersa

# Opening Address of Rafael Mujeriego

## ASERSA Open Webinar Series

18 November 2020

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to all of you. Thank you for joining us from such a large number of countries in the world. Welcome to the fourth session of the ASERSA Open Webinar Series.

It is a great pleasure to be here, for the fourth time, together with numerous long-time friends and colleagues from so many parts of the world.



We are greatly honored by the presence of two distinguished guest speakers that have offered to SHARE with us decades of knowledge and experience

on how “water reclamation and reuse” becomes an “everyday reality”, while operating under the most diverse social, economic and environmental conditions.

Our warmest appreciation to both of them for the time and effort they have devoted to preparing and presenting their work in this Webinar session.



asersa

They will be SHARING with us the knowledge and the experience gained during several decades of intense innovation, continued work and real leadership in advancing water reuse practice:

from the most traditional applications of agricultural and landscape irrigation to the newer and leading edge applications of potable reuse, by surface water augmentation and industrial reuse.



asersa

We trust that by SHARING those ongoing, leading, large scale and highly innovative water reuse projects, we will motivate others interested in water reuse to join the successful saga of leaders, visionaries and innovators that have contributed, over more than four decades,

to make water reclamation and reuse an essential component of integrated water resources management, particularly in areas with water scarcity and unreliable water supplies.



Our previous three Webinars have confirmed the availability of a considerable amount of scientific and technical knowledge about reclaimed water quality, of a large diversity of technological solutions for reliably producing reclaimed water of the highest quality possible, and of numerous economic, financial and management models to make possible the practical implementation of the most diverse water reuse projects.



Public perception and acceptance are essentially dependent on regional and national regulations capable of assuring the protection of public health and environmental quality.

Right now, public perception and acceptance together with regional or national regulations on the safety of water reuse are the two basic determining factors of the success of water reuse initiatives in most parts of the world.

The experience that our speakers will be SHARING with us, on the advancement and adaptation of those two essential requirements, will be extremely useful to all of us.



We are permanently exposed to the fashionable and popular expressions of “circular economy”, “green economy”, “resource recovery”, “nature-based solutions” and “sustainable management of water resources”.

However, to accomplish the success of that type of initiatives, we still need well-coordinated proposals that encompass well-proven scientific knowledge, effective technological systems, available economic, financial and management models, and specially widely accepted regulations able to protect public health and the environment.



Finally, all those that have participated in organizing this Open Webinar Series trust that the presentations that our speakers are going to SHARE with us today will contribute effectively to crystalize those four basic factors into successful water reclamation and reuse projects.





## **Introducing Dr. Olivier Lefebvre**

Let me introduce to you now our longtime friend and good colleague Dr. Olivier Lefebvre, native from France and currently established in Singapore.

Dr Olivier Lefebvre is Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the National University of Singapore. His research work is in electrochemical technologies and advanced oxidation processes for industrial wastewater treatment and reuse. He is also an adjunct Professor at the Research Institute of Mines and Environment of the University of Quebec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT).



Olivier is an editor of the Journal of Water Science & Technology and has recently been distinguished with the honorary award of IWA Fellow 2020, a high honour for which I want to congratulate him publically now, wishing him a great success.

He is also administrator, newsletter editor and webmaster for the Specialist Group on Water Reuse of the International Water Association (IWA). In summary the “life keeper” of the Specialist Group communication branch.



asersa

An agronomic engineer by education, Olivier obtained his Ph.D. from Supagro Montpellier in 2005, on a collaborative work between the Narbonne laboratory of the French National Research Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and the Anna University in Chennai, India, the venue for the next IWA International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse that will take place from 16 to 20 January 2021.

Olivier, welcome to the ASERSA Webinar #4. It is a pleasure to have you here today, live from your home office in Singapore, almost in our antipodes. You have the floor, please.



## **Introducing Mr. Jordi Molist**

Let me introduce to you now our longtime friend and colleague, Mr. Jordi Molist, Director of the Water Supply Division of the Catalan Water Agency, serving 7 million people.

Jordi Molist received his degree of Civil Engineer from the Politechnical University of Catalunya. He has devoted more than 20 years of his professional career to water management tasks in public agencies. He is currently in charge of regional water supply at the Catalan Water Agency, including among others the planning and management of water resources within the Catalan region, as well as the promotion of new infrastructures for water supply and water reuse.



On a more personal note, let me say it is a great pleasure to introduce to you one of the most brilliant, capable and hard-worker of my former students. Let me add that all those merits are directly attributable to him; the real pleasure for me has been to have been able to enjoy his company first as a student and now as a successful professional.

Jordi, welcome to the ASERSA Webinar #4. It is a pleasure to have you here today. You have the floor, please.