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COURSE BROCHURE

Advanced Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Training Course

5 – 16 April 2027
Vienna

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Registered in the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia

Advanced Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Training Course

Ref: 840_31898 **Date:** 5 – 16 April 2027 **Location:** Vienna **Fees:** 12400 GBP

Water Cooperation and Diplomacy at advanced level is a 2-week training course for water utility leaders, basin authority officials and infrastructure planners who negotiate over shared rivers and aquifers, and who leave with a Cooperative Basin Operating Agreement drafted for a real or model basin. Growing demand, drought and new upstream storage now turn hydrology into a question of trust between riparian parties. Jupiter Prime Training offers this course for leaders who must secure that trust.

Why Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Matter Now

Three forces shape water cooperation and diplomacy today: rising and less predictable demand from cities, farms and industry; climate variability that makes historical flow records a weak guide; and new dams, transfers and well fields that alter what reaches downstream users. Riparian parties that cooperate can share storage, coordinate releases and finance joint works, while those that do not face stranded infrastructure, contested abstractions and costly disputes. The course rests on Integrated Water Resources Management IWRM, the principle of equitable and reasonable utilisation, the obligation not to cause significant harm, and the Mutual Gains Approach MGA to negotiation.

Who Gains Most from Water Cooperation and Diplomacy

- Leaders who represent a utility or authority in negotiations over shared river and aquifer allocations
- Planners who design storage, transfer and abstraction schemes affecting other riparian users
- Officials who run joint basin commissions, technical committees and secretariats
- Hydrologists and modellers who supply flow, quality and groundwater evidence to negotiators
- Legal and policy advisers who draft treaties, protocols and dispute procedures

A basin delegation that sends its negotiators, technical modellers and legal advisers together gains most, because each proposal can then be tested for hydrological realism and legal soundness before it reaches the table.

Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Capabilities

Participants learn to turn hydrological evidence into negotiating positions, design benefit-sharing packages that go beyond volumetric splits, and write operating rules that survive drought years.

- Assess riparian interests, dependencies and power asymmetries across a shared basin — negotiation strategy
- Design benefit-sharing options covering hydropower, irrigation, flood control and ecosystems — joint investment decisions
- Build a joint data-sharing protocol for flow, quality and groundwater levels — basin commission members
- Specify coordinated reservoir release and drought allocation rules — operators on both sides of a border
- Apply staged dispute prevention and resolution procedures — treaty drafters and senior officials
- Communicate cooperative proposals to ministries, utilities and water users — political endorsement

Key Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Terms

- Riparian party — a state, authority or user whose territory borders or overlies a shared river, lake or aquifer.
- Transboundary aquifer — a groundwater body crossing an administrative or national boundary, abstracted by more than one party.
- Benefit sharing — dividing the gains from basin development, such as energy or flood protection, rather than only dividing water volumes.
- Equitable and reasonable utilisation — the principle that each riparian party may use a fair share, judged against factors such as population and existing uses.
- Basin commission — a joint body set up by riparian parties to exchange data, coordinate operations and settle differences.
- Drought allocation rule — a pre-agreed formula reducing each party's share when inflows fall below set triggers.

Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Day by Day

Day 1: Pressures on Shared Water

- Basin Demand and Supply Outlook — Scale of Future Allocation Tension
- Climate Variability Scenarios — Reliability of Historical Flow Records
- Upstream Storage and Transfer Projects — Downstream Exposure and Response
- Water-Energy-Food Nexus Lens — Cross-Sector Trade-Offs in Basin Choices
- Riparian Stakeholder Map — Parties, Users and Hidden Influencers

Day 2: Principles and Legal Foundations

- Equitable and Reasonable Utilisation Factors — Weighing Competing Claims
- No Significant Harm Obligation — Thresholds for Objection and Remedy
- Prior Notification of Planned Measures — Consultation Before Construction
- Treaty and Agreement Typology — Choosing Framework or Specific Instruments
- Groundwater Law Principles — Extending Rules to Shared Aquifers

Day 3: Hydrological Evidence for Negotiators

- Basin Water Balance Model — Defining the Divisible Resource
- Hydrological Scenario Runs — Testing Proposals Against Dry and Wet Years
- Groundwater Level Monitoring Networks — Detecting Cross-Border Drawdown
- Water Quality Indicator Set — Pollution Loads and Downstream Impacts
- Uncertainty Communication Formats — Presenting Ranges to Non-Specialists

Day 4: Interests, Power and Positions

- Hydro-Hegemony Framework — Reading Power Asymmetries Between Riparians
- Interest-Based Analysis — Separating Positions From Underlying Needs
- BATNA Assessment — Each Party's Walk-Away Alternatives
- Coalition Mapping Across Ministries — Internal Alignment Before External Talks
- Negotiating Mandate Drafting — Limits and Flexibility for Delegations

Day 5: Benefit-Sharing Design

- Benefit Typology: River, Basin, Political and Economic — Widening the Bargaining Space
- Hydropower and Irrigation Trade Packages — Seasonal Release Exchanges
- Joint Infrastructure Cost Allocation — Financing Shared Dams and Transfers
- Ecosystem Flow Requirements — Environmental Share in Allocation Formulas
- Compensation and Side-Payment Mechanisms — Balancing Uneven Gains

Day 6: Negotiation in Practice

- Mutual Gains Approach Stages — Preparing, Creating and Distributing Value
- Joint Fact-Finding Process — Agreeing the Evidence Before the Allocation
- Single-Text Negotiation Method — Converging on One Draft
- Track Two and Technical Dialogue Channels — Building Trust Below Ministerial Level
- Multi-Party Negotiation Simulation — Upstream, Midstream and Downstream Roles

Day 7: Joint Basin Operations

- Coordinated Reservoir Operating Rules — Release Schedules Across Borders
- Flood Early Warning Exchange — Timing and Format of Alerts
- Drought Trigger and Curtailment Tables — Sharing Shortfall Fairly
- Joint Monitoring Stations — Siting, Calibration and Access Rights
- Basin Commission Secretariat Functions — Mandate, Staffing and Budget

Day 8: Data Sharing and Transparency

- Data-Sharing Protocol Clauses — Parameters, Frequency and Formats
- Shared Basin Information System — Platform Choice and Hosting Arrangements
- Satellite and Remote Sensing Products — Independent Verification of Abstractions
- Confidentiality and Security Provisions — Sensitive Infrastructure Information
- Joint Annual Basin Report — Building a Common Evidence Record

Day 9: Preventing and Resolving Disputes

- Dispute Escalation Ladder — From Technical Committee to Ministerial Level
- Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commissions — Neutral Assessment of Claims
- Mediation by Third Parties — Selecting Facilitators and Agreeing Process
- Arbitration and Adjudication Options — When Binding Settlement Fits
- Grievance Mechanisms for Water Users — Handling Local Cross-Border Complaints

Day 10: Practising the Cooperative Basin Operating Agreement

- Allocation and Benefit Package Drafting — Applying Principles and Benefit Typology
- Operating Rules Annex — Applying Reservoir, Flood and Drought Provisions
- Data and Monitoring Annex — Applying Protocol and Information System Choices
- Mock Ratification Hearing — Defending the Draft to Ministries and Users
- Cooperative Basin Operating Agreement — Final Clauses, Institutions and Review Cycle

Applying Water Cooperation and Diplomacy After the Course

- Lead a riparian stakeholder and interest mapping session for one shared basin and brief the negotiating delegation on its findings.
- Propose a first data-sharing protocol to a counterpart utility covering flow, groundwater level and quality parameters.

Water Cooperation and Diplomacy Questions FAQ

What is advanced water cooperation and diplomacy and why does it matter now?

It is the practice of negotiating, operating and resolving disputes over shared rivers and aquifers. It matters now because demand growth, drought and new upstream works are straining allocations that earlier agreements assumed would hold, for agriculture and power generation alike.

Which roles gain most from water cooperation and diplomacy training?

Water utility leaders, basin authority officials and infrastructure planners gain most. Hydrological modellers and legal advisers who support negotiating delegations also benefit, particularly when they attend with the officials who carry positions to the table.

How does this water cooperation and diplomacy course differ from a general water resources management course?

It concentrates on relations between riparian parties rather than on managing water within one jurisdiction. A resources management course covers planning and demand inside a single system, while this course covers negotiation, joint operations, data exchange and dispute procedures across boundaries.

What do you bring back from water cooperation and diplomacy training?

You bring back a drafted operating agreement for a shared basin. It contains allocation and benefit-sharing provisions, operating and drought rules, a data-sharing annex and a dispute ladder, ready for discussion with your counterparts and ministries.

Water Cooperation and Diplomacy: The Way Forward

The Cooperative Basin Operating Agreement first informs what a delegation proposes at its next technical meeting with counterparts. Negotiators use its allocation clauses, operators use its release and drought rules, and modellers use its data annex. After the first dry season under the draft rules, revisit the drought triggers, since real shortfalls reveal whether the agreed curtailment shares feel fair to every party.