

Mr. Minister Jacob Ellemann-Jensen, president Diane, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all I wish to thank the minister and the Ministry for Environment and Food for the engaged support to the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 2020 in Copenhagen and their support to this congress in Tokyo. I also wish to thank IWA for giving Denmark the trust to be the host in 2020. Last time we had this honor was the International Water Supply Congress 27 years ago - before the creation of IWA through the merger between IWSA and IAWQ.

Next I wish to thank all the Danish companies, utilities, associations and institutions which are here in the Danish pavilion, all the Danes who have send in abstracts and proposals for workshops to this congress and the teams from State of Green, Danish Confederation of industries, Danish Export Association, Wonderful Copenhagen and DANVA as well as the entire Danish delegation for their support to make Tokyo 2018 a great success to be followed up in Copenhagen 2020.

Finally I wish to express my admiration for our Japanese hosts here in Tokyo for all your efforts to make Tokyo 2018 the best ever IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition.

I hope for huge interests for the Danish Pavilion and the Danish presentations during this week from the delegates from all over the World. I also hope the delegates will find way to the Nordic Pavilion and meet our friends from Sweden, Norway and Iceland. And I look forward to experiencing the Danish delegates making new international friends and realizing that even though we think that Denmark is one of the frontrunners in water and environmental technology and – solutions, there might be something to learn here and there from international colleges.

I do that because I believe that the only way forward to push the innovation within our field is though international cooperation. And the enormous challenges in the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development calls innovation and international cooperation between cities, utilities, universities and companies in the coming years. UN gave us 15 years to reach the goals. In 2020 we can make a 5 years status – and believe me – we will be behind

I wish you all a fruitful conference giving you new and strong experiences during the next 4 days – and hope to meet all of you again in Copenhagen 2020.

Thank you.