

New York – Trento, Italy

March 22, 2025

[For Immediate Release](#)

Let's Talk About Water and the **Global Network of Water Museums** are proud to announce the **2025 Water Film Prize** competition!



BACK TO OUR FUTURE

*Short Film Competition on Arid Lands
and Ancient Hydro-Technologies (AHTs)*

The competition seeks short films that look to the past in search of solutions for the future.

Ancient Hydro-Technologies (AHTs) are time-tested water management solutions that did not just sustain civilizations for millennia, they created harmony between communities and their environments, preserved biodiversity, and fostered social bonds, particularly in the world's most arid regions.

The 2025 edition of the **Water Film Prize**, themed “**Back to Our Future**”, celebrates these ingenious water management technologies our ancestors developed over millennia.

Ancient Hydro-Technologies have played distinct roles throughout history:

Water Transportation: Qanats (Iran and North Africa), Karez System (China), Roman Aqueducts

Water Collection: Stepwells (India), Phoenician Cisterns (Malta)

Water Harvesting: Terraced irrigation systems (Peru), the Acequia Systems (New Mexico)

Water Retention: Johad (India), Sand Dams (East Africa)

Water Extraction: Sahduf (Sudan/Egypt) Persian Wheel (Pakistan India)

Water Film Prize 2025: a call for stories about Ancient Water Solutions for Present Climate Crisis

Submissions should provide a portrait of local geographies and address themes such as water conservation, climate resilience, biodiversity preservation, and/or social cohesion. Ideally, submitted films will also highlight their potential to inspire modern solutions.

By making short films one can inspire, inform, and promote action around water issues and solutions. The **Water Film Prize** challenges students, filmmakers, scientists and policy makers to explore these ancient water management methods not as historical artifacts, but as blueprints for tomorrow's innovations. Arid regions face mounting pressures from climate change, migration, and the abandonment of traditionally managed landscapes.

Submissions will be seen by a panel of film and water experts and stand a chance to win cash prizes! Students, filmmakers, artists, activists, hydrologists, ecologists, geographers, or social scientists can grab their cameras and share their water story with a global audience. Films can be **fiction, documentaries, or animation.**

PRIZE CATEGORIES

1st Prize	USD\$ 3,000
2nd Prize	USD\$ 2,000
3rd Prize	USD\$ 1,000
Youth Prize (Under 18)	USD\$ 1,000
Student Prize (Over 18)	USD\$ 1,000
GCC Prize	USD\$ 1,000 (Best film from Gulf Cooperation Council countries)
Back to our Future Prize	USD\$1,000 (Best film about AHTs inspiring modern solutions)

ALL INFORMATION

All about the prize can be found at <https://letstalkaboutwater.org/film-prize-25/>
And feel free to contact us at info@letstalkaboutwater.org
Follow us on Instagram: [@lets.talk.about.water](https://www.instagram.com/lets.talk.about.water)

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



Let's Talk about Water (LTAW) is a global platform that for 20 years has used the power of film to bridge the gap between scientists, policy makers and the public, creating vital dialogue about water challenges and solutions across the globe. The **Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET)** is a flagship initiative of UNESCO-IHP dedicated to water conservation and education with over 100 members across 44 countries.

Our Sponsors



Our Partners

