



## **Shannon McCarthy**

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1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, International Desalination Association

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Shannon McCarthy is Co-founder and a Partner of United4Water, a consulting firm operating in the nexus of the water, food and energy sectors with a primary focus on water. U4W provides strategic advice and assistance in business development, project planning and management, capacity building, and corporate social responsibility activities.

Ms. McCarthy has over 20 years' experience working with countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including 17 years' experience in the field of non-conventional water resource technologies. She has been a member of IDA for twenty years and is currently the First Vice President of the Board as well as the Chair of its Foundation and Public Outreach Committee.

Prior to U4W, Ms. McCarthy, was the Deputy Center Director (DCD) of the Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC), an international intergovernmental non-profit organization based in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. As a member of the MEDRC start-up team, she participated in developing and implementing programs for cooperation in training, education and research in desalination and water reuse technologies for the MENA region, including Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority. As DCD of MEDRC she had primary responsibility for fundraising and donor relations, program planning and development, project and financial management. She has a strong record of mobilizing resources and bringing together stakeholders from both government and the private sector to support education, scientific research, professional training programs, and specialized technology workshops related to water sustainability.

Ms. McCarthy participated in executive study programs in Public Policy and Management for Infrastructure Development at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and has a Bachelors degree in International Relations, from San Francisco State University.

She has lived and worked abroad for the last twenty years, with special focus on the Middle East and North Africa region. She is originally from Santa Clara, California.