



World Youth Parliament for Water
3rd General Assembly
Gyeongju, South Korea 2015



From 5 to 17 April 2015, the 3rd General Assembly of the World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW) was held in Gyeongju in South Korea. The aim of this meeting was to renew the active parliament members and to develop an action strategy for the next three years.

The World Youth Parliament for Water is a youth network acting for water around the world since 2002. This network of young people acts for water at all levels : from local communities, where they implement concrete actions to the United Nations General Assembly, where they advocate for youth participation in the water sector. The WYPW was initiated and is coordinated by the International Secretariat for Water.

The World Youth Parliament For Water mission is :

- to coordinate youth actions and advocacy for water, at a local, watershed and international level.
- to ensure youth recognition as a key stakeholder in the water sector.
- to raise youth awareness about water issues.
- to strengthen youth capacities to act for water.

Every three years, during the World Water Forum, a General Assembly is organised to identify new parliamentarians and develop an action strategy for the following three years.

The 3rd General Assembly of the WYPW: a two-week programme

FROM 5 TO 11 APRIL

An initial week to enable the parliamentarians to analyse the specific water-related issues, to share their initiatives with experts and to present their vision and their commitments for water by drawing up a declaration and a 2015-2018 Action Plan.

FROM 12 TO 17 APRIL

A second week to promote the results of this gathering and the commitments made by the parliamentarians within the World Water Forum.

Preparatory activities

A year's preparation in the four corners of the world!

In 2014, in each region of the world youth events have been organised to identify and mobilise young parliamentarians for the 3rd General Assembly of the WYPW in Gyeongju. Each gathering has been linked to an international event.

- May 2014 - Great Lakes St-Lawrence and Gulf Gathering in Quebec City, Canada
- June 2014 - Africa Water – The Youth Event in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
- October 2014 - Mobilisation of the Young Basiners of the Mekong in Vientiane, Laos
- December 2014 - European Youth Parliament for Water in Douai, France

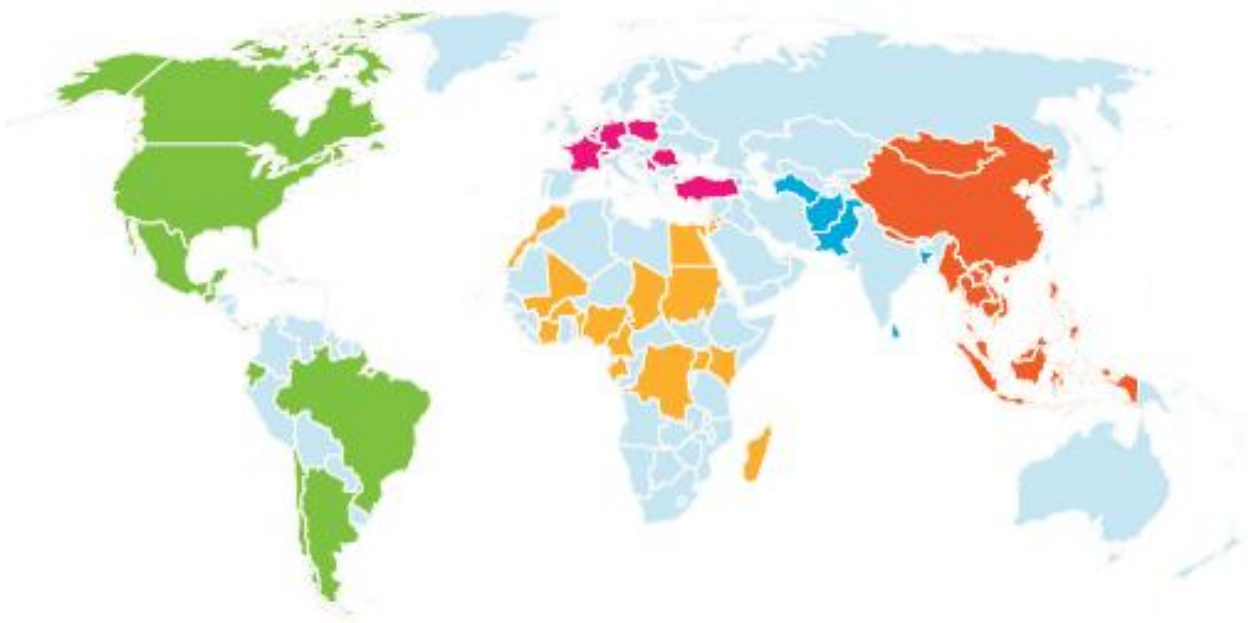
Selection of participants

The selection of participants was made according to the following criteria:

- Being aged between 18 and 25 years
- Geographical distribution
- Gender equity

The selection have been made firstly during the preparatory meeting. Other youth were selected during an international selection process and have been involved in the same way as the others in order to get ready for this Assembly.

70 participants from 55 different countries took part of the WYPW's General Assembly.



Preparation of the participants

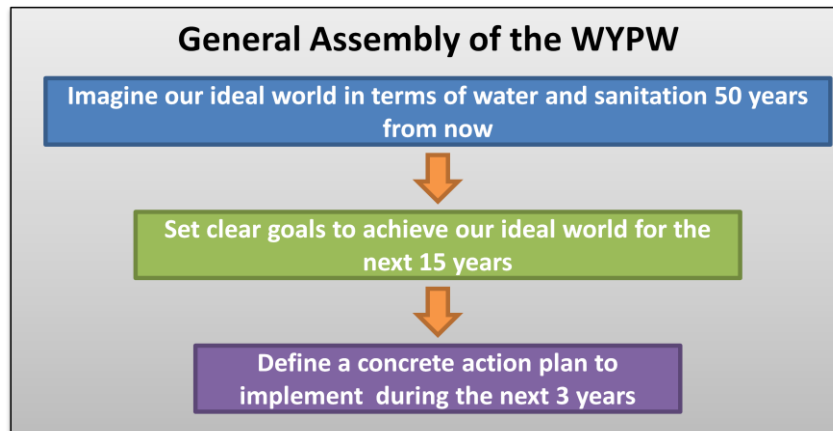
In order to prepare for the discussions and workshops during the meeting, the young participants carried out various preparatory activities:

- A- They carried out **national surveys** to better understand the national and local issues, identify stakeholders, and seek potential solutions and prospects for the future. They were able to draw on this information throughout the week's work, in particular during the presentations on water and sanitation issues for each continent.
- B- In order to involve the young people in the week's organisation and to generate enthusiasm, **work committees** were set up. Each committee was responsible for imagining and setting up activities to help meet their objectives. The committees were: communication and newsletter, statement/toolbox, social life and leisure activities, Water Messengers, election and artistic.
- C- **Photo and project contests** were held to motivate the participants to present water issues from home visually and to encourage the instigation of concrete local actions.



Week of 5 to 11 April

WYPW Meeting: Define a 2015-2018 Action strategy

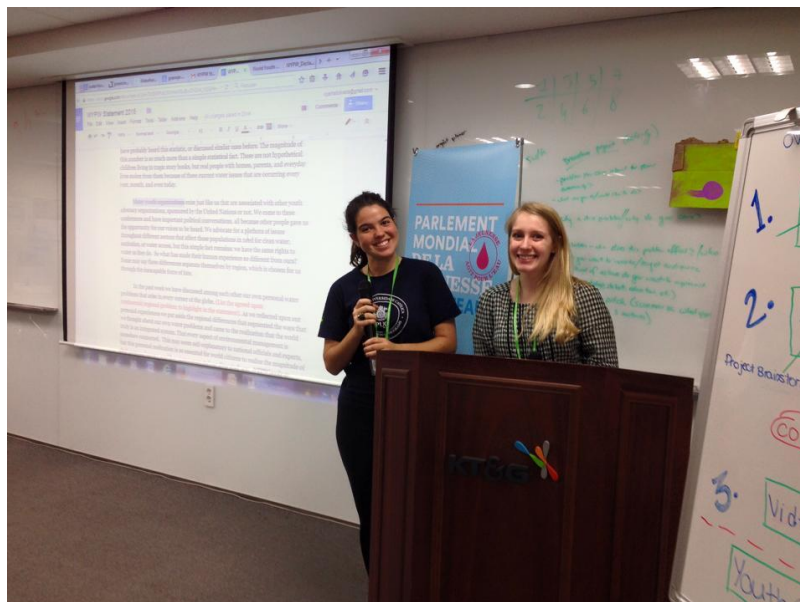


Workshops on an ideal future and how to develop concrete actions today.

The week was divided into two main parts.

The first part of the week focused on the future and **imagining what the future might look like in 50 and 15 years**. These two workshops were organised by experts from Goodplanet and Protos, to elicit a vision of the ideal world in 50 years' time and, in order to achieve this vision, to identify what would firstly need to be done in the next 15 years.

A statement was drafted on the basis of discussions and debate. It is appended to this report.



The second part of the week was dedicated to discussions on **implementing concrete projects and actions over the next three years**. Inspired by the presentations of projects by certain participants (project carousel), the young people developed individual and collective projects they would like to implement during the three years they are involved in the parliament. These projects were presented to an expert committee for comments and suggestions. Each project (16 in total) was presented in the form of a short film (Toolbox).

Obstacles that may hinder the implementation of these projects were identified. For each obstacle, strategies and advice for overcoming them were identified and grouped to be used as advice sheets for participants (Toolbox).



Fun and unusual learning activities

The WYPW Assembly is also a learning exercise for the participants. Many fun and different activities were organised aimed at learning more about water and sanitation. Eschewing the traditional form of presentations by experts, the young people were invited to participate in numerous educational activities.

1- Quiz on water and sanitation

2- Informative lunches on water and sanitation-related themes: 3 lunches were organised. The first on water governance, the second on the WYPW and its mission and the third on rainwater harvesting.

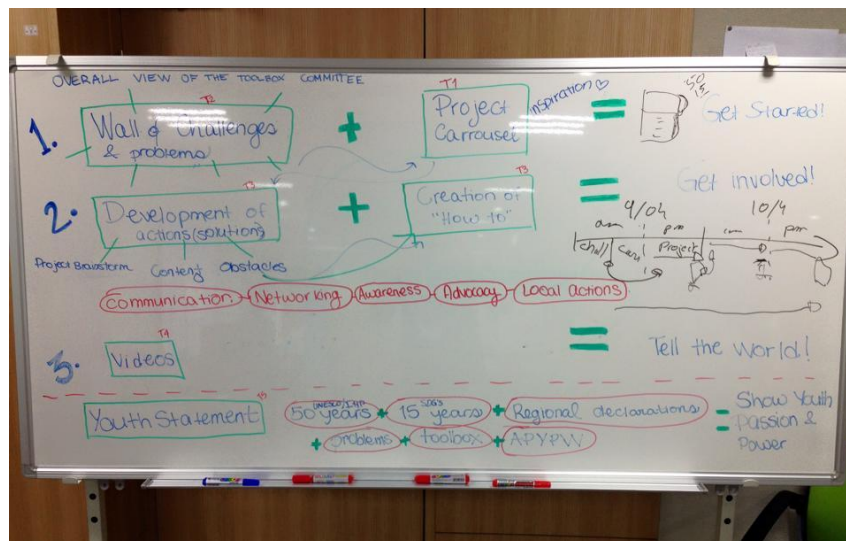
3- A word bank was established. The participants could register a technical word they did not understand and that they would like to learn more about. Every day a few words were explained.

4- An introduction exercise set in the context of an international conference. Introducing yourself in 30 seconds and capturing the attention of someone who may be more important than you is not always easy.

A week by and for young people

The WYPW is a network that aims to apply a youth approach – implemented by and for youth. Supported by a secretariat, the young people are at the heart of the decision making process and its implementation. During the meeting, the young parliamentarians took part in different ways in both the content and the organisation of the activities.

They were divided into committees dedicated to one aspect of the event: communication and newsletter, statement/toolbox, social life and leisure activities, Water Messengers, election and artistic.



The young people also participated in the content. Their experiences and activities provide an important source of learning for other participants. They had the opportunity to officially present their projects and involvement during the Project Carrousel, and they were able to present the issues from their own regions by making presentations on their national surveys.



Cultural Discovery

The WYPW Assembly is also a time for cultural discovery.

A cultural evening was organised where each participant was able to share their traditions and culture. Food, traditional costumes, music and dancing: a great party bringing together 55 countries



The youth were also able to discover the culture of their host country, South Korea. A visit of the temple of Bulguksa, a UNESCO cultural heritage site, was organised for the participants. The young Koreans had prepared for their compatriots from around the globe, a presentation of Korean history and legends, basic Korean lessons etc. Finally, a cultural visit of Gyeongju by bike was organised with the support of the Korean company, HIU Ingenering.



Civic Participation

In order to steep the young people in action, a river bank clean-up activity along the Namcheun River in Gyeongju was organised in collaboration with the local volunteer organisation, Green Gyeongju 21. Although the banks looked pretty clean, the young people were able to gather many bags of waste, including dangerous materials that were able to be properly processed.

A discussion on the importance and the impact of such actions was held with the young people and the partner organisation Green Gyeongju 21.



United network

One of the objectives of the WYPW is also to enable the young people to meet and build friendships that will enable them to stay in contact throughout the three years of their commitment.

This unification is achieved by the work that they carry out together and through the election of representatives for the next three years. The election results were as follows:

Presidency:

President: **Asma Bachikh** (Morocco)

Vice-President: **Susanne Reitsma** (Netherlands)

Global Vice-President: **Antonella Vagliente** (Argentina)

Continental representatives

Africa: **Flamay Ahiafor Yaovi** (Togo) and **Hassan Aboelnga** (Egypt)

Europe: **Fanny Souillot** (France) and **Abigail Fellay** (Switzerland)

North America: **Alfredo Santiago de Parra** (Mexico) and **Anne-Sophie Ste-Marie** (Canada)

South America: **Agatha Lopez Tommassi** (Brazil) and **Jimmy Fenelon** (Haiti)

Asia: **Dhabhisara Budhakooncharoen** (Thailand) and **Haneul Oh** (South Korea)



Week of 12 to 17 April

World Water Forum: Sharing the Results from the WYPW

The week of 12 to 17 April was dedicated to youth involvement in the 7th World Water Forum. They were able to take this opportunity to share the results of the WYPW General Assembly, to meet potential partners and to intervene during official Forum sessions.

7th World Water Forum

- Promote our action plan
- Meet partners
- Attend to the sessions

Presentations, moderation and coordination of sessions – the WYPW was involved in the following sessions:

- Transboundary water management: In search of excellence in Europe, Africa and the Arab region / Successful experience of European International Basin Organizations for better managing transboundary rivers, lakes and aquifers in Europe - **Monday 13 April**
- Development project, let's learn from our mistakes at the French Pavilion - **Monday 13 April**
- Youth shaping the futur for Water and Sanitation at the UNESCO Pavilion - **Monday 13 April**
- Day of debate on French-speaking youth involvement in the COP 21 - **Monday 13 April**
- Putting the water-energy nexus into practice. Economic and policy incentives - **Tuesday 14 April**
- Three years of youth involvement in the water sector ? Lessons learned and way forward - **Tuesday 14 April**
- Captivating the attention of the global population on water issues with innovative tools - **Wednesday 15 April**
- Parliamentarian Process - Shaping a solid national water law: A multi-stakeholder dialog - **Wednesday 15 April**
- “Water Education for Leaders” on safe water and environment - **Thursday 16 April**



- Citizen Forum – Future Water Leaders Forum - **Thursday 16 April**
- Water Education and Capacity Building: Key for Water Security and Sustainable Development - **Thursday 16 April**
- Improving river basin management planning in Asia: the example of cooperation projects with the French water agencies on integrated water resource management. - **Thursday 16 April**
- Concluding session for Enhancing Education and Capacity Building - **Friday 17 April**



World Youth Parliament for Water: Closing Ceremony

The WYPW closing ceremony was held in Gyeongju (Hico), on Thursday 16 April 2015 and was broadcast by the official media services of the Forum. This was the opportunity for the young people to:

- 1- Present the results and the conclusions of the actions carried out since the 2nd General Assembly which was held in Marseille in 2012.
- 2- Officially present the new delegations for each continent and the new WYPW committee.
- 4- Officially present and adopt the statement and the actions included in the WYPW toolbox.





An initiative of **SIE-ISW-SIA**

International Secretariat for water

Implementing partners



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