

Youth regional meeting on Water Central Asia

Astana, Kazakhstan
June 16 - 20, 2017



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Direction du développement
et de la coopération DDC



Involving youth in the water sector



Today, more than ever, water is recognized as a fundamental aspect to ensure a sustainable future; in particular its access for all, but also its good management which is intended to be integrated and at the hydrographic scale of the watersheds. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and a goal dedicated to water access and good governance, the United Nations recognized the need for a sustainable future at their General Assembly in New York in September 2015.

The International Secretariat for Water is convinced that it is imperative for an effective implementation of this agenda to combine the local and international levels. From the "local" to the "international" we can mobilize all stakeholders in the water sector including young people.

Youth is a vector of change. It seems essential for the ISW that young people can put forward their commitments to water, participate in developing new responses to water issues and also contribute to reflections for better water management based on their innovative initiatives and projects.

It is with these convictions that we wish to organize a Centrale Asia regional meeting.

ISW Youth Approach

- From local to international ;
- Meetings of citizens from all around the world ;
- Capacity building;
- Programs by and for youth;
- Provide opportunities for young people to acquire early experiences in the field of water;
- Intergenerational Exchanges



Sensibilisation
Awareness



Actions locales
Local actions



Plaidoyer
Advocacy

A youth regional meeting in Central Asia



One of the expertise that the ISW has developed is to offer young people between the ages of 18 and 30 an opportunity to contribute to the required changes aimed at better territorial and integrated water management.

This type of process can be divided into 5 phases:

- 1- Involvement of committed young people;
- 2- The deepening and acquisition of knowledge and skills;
- 3- The pooling of knowledge and experience to improve practices and to develop concrete actions;
- 4- Implementation of actions;
- 5- Dissemination results in the form of advocacy.

This is what the International Secretariat for Water wishes to strengthen with the organization of the Regional meeting in Cental Asia.

Context

The Youth Regional Meeting for Central Asia will be organised in Astana, Khazakstan, June 16-20, 2017 in the framework of the Universal Exhibition.

It will be hosted by the Swiss government on the Swiss Pavillon.

The Youth Regional Meeting for Water in Central Asia is also organised as a side event of Blue Peace Central Asia: Dialogue for 2030 - Water Security and Inclusive Growth (18 – 20 June 2017).

This regional meeting will also help to feed the international and regional youth involvement in the water sector, especially to prepare them for the next World Water Forum, to be held in Brasilia in March 2018. This regional meeting is organized in synergy with WYPW efforts and the CAYFWater.



The International Secretariat for Water



Le Secrétariat international de l'eau
The International Secretariat for Water
El Secretariado internacional del agua

The International Secretariat for Water (ISW), based in Montreal, brings together people and organizations committed to supporting the cause of water in the world. From all walks of life, they are either volunteers, consultants or employees and their common mission is to ensure the Montreal Charter for universal access to water and sanitation (1990).

Based on the development of knowledge, of innovative partnerships and on creativity, the ISW-SWE movement develops initiatives that mobilize those in favour of universal access to water and sanitation and who are working to preserve water resources. ISW initiatives use watersheds as a frame of reference.

Our 3 lines of action are :

- Field projects
- Advocacy & awareness raising
- Youth

For the past 20 years, ISW has been raising young people's awareness about integrated water management and the environment, encouraging them to get actively involved and bringing them into contact with other young people from around the world. Acting primarily with young adults (ages 18 to 27), ISW is convinced that young people are a key players in water management, that they can bring new ideas and innovative solutions.



Theme



The Youth Central Asia regional meeting will be held under the theme **‘Innovative solutions to water issues in Central Asia: challenges and contributions of young people’**.

While policy makers in all countries have committed themselves to putting the necessary efforts in place to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, it is clear that action alone by governments will not be enough to achieve this. Cities, private companies and, of course, representatives of civil society will also have to help. That is why young people must be part of the challenges of water now by being forces of innovative solutions.

Whether it is through their ability to use technologies effectively and differently or by their new way of bringing issues together with water, youth can improve ways of doing things. This new vision is necessary to find solutions adapted to the local realities and the challenges of the future, in particular, that of climate change. It is these strengths of youth that we wish to solidify and to put forward during the preparatory meeting by the pooling of their ideas, the acquisition of tools and knowledge to channel these innovative visions.

In the global context of the SDG's and especially, the Goal 6: Ensuring everyone's access to water and sanitation and ensuring the sustainable management of water resources the program will focus on 3 main issues for the region:

- 1- Access to water and Sanitation for all
- 2- Shared benefits related to Waters
- 3- Impact of Climate change on Water-Energy-Agriculture (Nexus)

Each issue will be presented by exploring a specific case from the region. From the discussion with experts, the preparation done locally, and their experiences, the youth will be led to develop their own vision and solutions for Water in Central Asia.

Objectives

Valorize the local actions of youth active for water

- By creating a sharing space for the active youth concerning issues related to water;
- By sharing their ideas with the leaders and deciders.

Expand the knowledge of the youth on water related issues and give them proper tools to be better actors for water

- Through the participation of experts,
- Organization of field activities,
- Creation of a synergy between the youth and the deciders/leaders.

Create ties between the different youth initiatives and allow new, concrete actions to emerge

- Easing the communication between the youth to encourage exchanges;
- Allow mutual inspiration to multiply the number of actions for water.

Define a vision to contribute to the international agenda of the water sector

- Stating their position through a common vision to share with the other youth in the Water Sector
- Establishing a permanent dialogue with the global youth movement in the Water Sector so their actions and vision can be taken into account in a global movement and the agenda 2030 ;
- Presenting the results at the gathering during the major international conferences, especially for the next World Water Forum

Activities



PREPARATORIES ACTIVITIES

Identification of young participants

- Selection criteria : 18-30 years old, involvement in water or sanitation, gender balance, capacity to relay information, geographical distribution;
- Number of participants 20 to 30.

Local preparation of young participants

- Collections of information and testimonies around a problem specific to the region;
- Identification of the various youth initiatives existing in the countries;
- Identification of opportunities for post-meeting actions.
- Local preparation will be supported by a preparation guide.

DURING THE EVENT

Participation in the regional meeting

- 5 days of activities;
- Active learning activities and exchange with renowned experts;
- Practical workshops in the field (case studies, role plays, etc.) with experts and local communities;
- Creative workshops to develop projects and create learning tools for other youth;
- Development of a youth project implementation strategy;
- Exchange and development of a Vision for Central Asia for the international agenda and the development of Agenda 2030 action;
- A presentation of the Youth Visions to Officials

Activities

POST EVENT ACTIVITIES

Implementation of actions by young people

- Implementation of the projects developed during the regional meeting (Monitoring, partnership development, implementation, evaluation, scaling up);

Dissemination of the vision on the international scene and connect with the Global Youth Movement

- Establishment of a permanent dialogue with the global youth movement in the Water Sector so their actions and vision can be taken into account as a contribution for the agenda 2030 ;
- Presentation of the results at the gathering during the major international conferences.



Event's provisional program

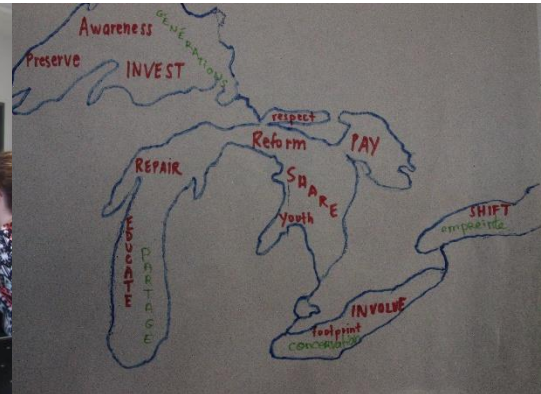
	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19*	June 20*	
AM	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
	Arrivals/Universal Exhibition Visits	Global SDG /Water issues / specificities for Central Asia (Pio Wennubst, ice-Director, Head of the Global Cooperation Department, SDC) <i>Participatory activity on the Global Youth vision for Central Asia linked with SDG</i>	9h00-10h30: Climate change impacts - impact on WATER-FOOD-ENERGY (To be confirmed) <i>Each session will include a participatory activity on the Global Youth vision for Central Asia linked with the topic</i> 11h-12h30: Water Quizz	Final elaboration of the Youth Vision by the 4 working teams (SDG/WASH/Climate Change/Shared Waters)	Universal Exhibition Visits	
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	D é p a r t u r e s
PM	Arrivals/Universal Exhibition Visits	14h-15h30: Access to water and Sanitation - Ferghana Valley (ISW team in Central Asia) 16h-17h30: Shared Benefits related to Water (To be confirmed) <i>Each session will include a participatory activity on the Global Youth vision for Central Asia linked with the topic</i>	Meeting with Swiss Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter (time to be confirmed) The Youth contribution for SDG's Youth initiatives carroussel (Leed by the youth facilitators)	Final preparation of the presentation and the vision in big group	Presentation of the Youth Vision to the participants of the Blue Peace Conference	
	Welcome diner	Diner	Diner	Diner	Diner	
Evening	Introduction of the Week/Program	How to improve the attractiveness of the Water Sector (UNESCO)	REFEKT Cirque du Soleil	Film Night and discussion Aral, the lost sea (25 min) and Goodbye party	Free evening	

* For the 19 and 20 of June, a part of the participants will be focusing on the finalisation of the vision and it's presentation while the other part will be dedicated to the reporting of the conference.

Expected results

The expected results of this continental meeting are:

- Increased youth involvement for water and sanitation in Central Asia;
- Exchange of experience and knowledge with experts and other young people;
- A common commitment of young people centered on regional priorities and the international agenda, in particular that for the Sustainable Development Goals;
- A Vision for the implementation of projects carried out by young people;



Partners



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