

WORLD YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR WATER



**3 years of youth involvement in the World Youth
Parliament for water**

WORD FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR WATER

Since the first Youth Parliament for Water held in Espalion, France in 1999, the International Secretariat for Water and Solidarity Water Europe have been working to make the voice of youth heard whether in the field, locally or within international bodies.

For the past 15 years, our organisations have been informing young people about integrated water resource management, encouraging them to get involved, teaching them about their civic duties and bringing them into contact with other young people from around the world.

In 2012, ISW, SWE and the Artois-Picardie Water Agency and their partners decided to share the lessons learned from the many “youth” projects carried out over the past few years by organising the 2nd World Youth Parliament for Water (or WYPW). The energy and commitment shown by the 85 young people, combined with their cultural diversity, made this international meeting an unforgettable adventure.

Three years on, we are proud to see that the flame burns on as bright as ever. The young people are still upholding the commitments they made in Marseille with the support of the Youth Teams at ISW and SWE who support them in their efforts. Their enthusiasm speaks louder than words and we are delighted to see these young participants blossoming and taking action.

We are eager to build the action plan that will set the course for the WYPW’s activities for the next three years with the new parliamentarians in Korea.

THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR WATER

1990 in the context of the Decade for Water and Sanitation based in Montreal. Since the beginning, the ISW was mobilized about the right to water as a fundamental human rights. From this main axis we have developed with our partners abroad an action programs of which the keywords are: Action, Advocacy, Support and Help.

From “local” to “international” allows us to mobilize all the stakeholders in the water sector including users and to define a new type of governance involving all generations such as the young people.

In 1992, during a flight of the hot-air balloon “Drop of Hope” in the gardens of the United Nations in New York, the ISW has invited young people to submit to the former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali a poem titled “Together we are building a world” and which is ended with “the future is preparing drop by drop”.

Young people account for 20% of the world population and should be part in water governance and management. Young people are among the most vulnerable to suffering from water scarcity, caused by either poor access or pollution or both. But they can also be key players in changing this situation.

It is essential that young people highlight their commitment to water, develop an understanding of water issues, and also contribute water related public debates with solutions based on their initiatives and their projects.

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, TEACHING THEM ABOUT CIVIC DUTY AND DEMOCRACY AND BRINGING THEM INTO CONTACT WITH OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD. THIS IS THE EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE THAT ISW DRAWS ON TO COORDINATE THE WYPW.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE WYPW

2012-2015

I have just experienced the three most beautiful years of my life. Three years which have not simply changed me, but which have determined my identity, my future. I will never forget what a group of young people can achieve. If they believe in themselves, if they know what they want and if they work together.

The World Youth Parliament for Water has made a difference in this world. As members of the WYPW we can say that our actions have made the world a better place today than it was three years ago. Because today we live in a world where youth can increasingly take action for water, where young people are beginning to find the conditions they need to be able to develop their potential, as stakeholders who bring solutions through concrete actions.

We are now living in a world where young people have an internationally recognised place in the water sector, in a world where youth can enter into dialogue with decision-makers.

Dear young friends, ladies and gentlemen, nothing is more beautiful than water. Nothing is more worthy than making a commitment to the cause of water. And the fact that we share this commitment shows that we need everyone, each with their own skills; that things will not change because of the individual action of one young person, but that the real results are achieved by different people working together.

The responsibility incumbent upon us all is that of talking about water, of mobilising the public and decision-makers to take action for water. And if you ever doubt your ability to change things, then think about the example of the youth of the WYPW. This example will remind you that everyone can change the world and you are not alone in wanting to do so.

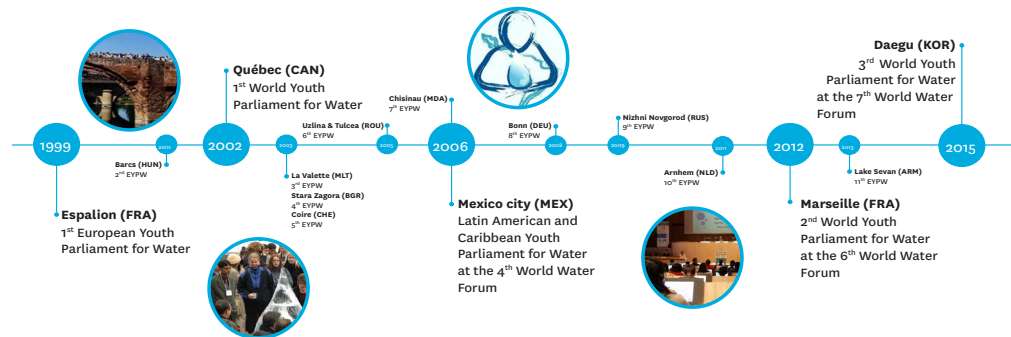
BART DEVOS



THE WORLD YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR WATER

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.

YOUTH PARLIAMENTS KEY FIGURES



THEY ARE ACTING IN FIVE STRATEGIC AXES:



**AWARENESS
RAISING**



**LOCAL
ACTIONS**



NETWORKING



ADVOCACY



COMMUNICATION

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.



2-RALLYING 2014

During 2014, the youth have been mobilized in different regions through a preparatory meeting process that allowed the formation of regional delegations. Each meeting will be linked with an official event in the region.

MAY 2014

Great Lakes St-Lawrence and Gulf Gathering in Québec 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

3 YEARS WITH THE WYPW!

1- ACTION 2012-2015

- > Implementation of youth activities (see the five axes of action)
- > Identification and mobilisation of young people for the 3rd general assembly of the WYPW
- > Launch of the international campaign “Youth water messenger“ collection of messages for water

3-PREPARATION 3RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WYPW (5 TO 11 OF APRIL)

- > Presents the first results of the WYPW actions: regional commitments and local projects (2012-2015)
- > Shares ideas regarding water issues and interact with other youth initiatives, policy makers and experts

- > Prepares and debates the WYPW message via the redaction of a common Declaration
- > Elaborates a new strategy for 2015-2018.

4-DISSEMINATION DURING THE 7TH WORLD WATER FORUM (12 TO 17 OF APRIL)

- > Participation in formal sessions
- > Diffusion of the “Youth water messages” and the action Plan
- > Youth Stand in collaboration with other youth initiatives.



YOUTH MOBILISED FOR WATER



In March 2012, the World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW) came together for its second General Assembly in Marseille, just before the 6th World Water Forum. At that time youth participation in the World Water Forum programme was brand new. The position and the role of youth was yet to be defined. In three years, this situation has changed considerably and we are proud today to note that:

- > Young people are now recognised by international and national institutions as a key partner and that they are offered a place and a role to play
- > Major international conferences integrate, across the five continents, arenas for discussion dedicated to youth and run by them.
- > Young people are invited to participate in and coordinate preparatory and consultative processes for major global issues such as the definition of the sustainable development goals
- > International institutes and networks as well as ministerial councils have drawn up youth strategies
- > Different youth networks communicate, meet, organise themselves and carry out joint activities.
- > Young people are building their experience and credibility daily by getting involved in local projects.
- > New friendships are created and today constitute the spirit of cooperation and solidarity of the future water managers.

BETWEEN 2012 AND 2015, THE ROLE OF YOUTH HAS CHANGED FROM A PHASE WHERE INITIATIVES WERE DEVELOPED FOR YOUTH, TO A PHASE WHERE THEY ARE DEVELOPED WITH YOUTH.

As an international youth network in the water sector, the WYPW has influenced and contributed to this paradigm shift. The strategy of the WYPW organised around five themes enables each member to express themselves and take action depending on their aspirations and their talents at local or international level to advance the cause of water.

Young people now benefit from a definite recognition in the water sector. The third WYPW General Assembly in South Korea in April 2015 provides the opportunity to lay the groundwork for the future efforts of youth for water.

We are pleased to present to you today a summary of these activities according to the five WYPW action themes.



THREE YEARS OF YOUTH ACTIONS!



ENCOURAGING ACTION FOR WATER

There is no age limit for raising awareness about water and sanitation issues. Whether in primary school classrooms, in university lecture theatres or with our elders, everyone can still learn about these fundamental issues in order to change their behaviour and in turn, take action for water.

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT?

- > Organisation of conferences,
- > Participation in symposiums, presentations of the WYPW and its activities,
- > Workshops in schools,
- > Practical activities,
- > Interventions in the media, radio and TV programmes,
- > Artistic interventions: photo and drawing competitions, film screenings, dances,
- > Field trips,
- > Visio-chats with schools,
- > Educational platform.

IN A FEW FIGURES

Screening of the film **A Thirsty World** in

7 COUNTRIES

during World Water Day

720 PARTICIPANTS

in the educational platform in Mexico



IMPLEMENTING YOUTH-LED ACTIONS



The development of local actions enables young people to become agents of change, for instance by building new drinking water sources, latrines or rehabilitating the banks of a river. The social and environmental impact of these actions can be measured directly.

WHAT TYPES OF ACTION?

- > People-led activities to rehabilitate and protect the environment,
- > Infrastructure projects for access to water and sanitation,
- > Creation of water management committees for local community participation,
- > Collecting samples to measure the state of rivers and the environment.

IN A FEW FIGURES

2000 YOUNG PEOPLE who have access to safe water again after the rehabilitation of a pump

6 NEW LATRINES and **4 REHABILITATED LATRINES**

1981 METRES: the height of the summit reached by an expedition on climate change



DEVELOPING AND COORDINATING THE YOUTH NETWORK FOR WATER

Working with other organisations and networks, whether youth-focused or not, enables the parliamentarians to collaborate and share ideas with other water sector stakeholders, to build a joint vision and strategy and to share experiences and lessons learned with these other networks.

IN A FEW FIGURES

27 OFFICIAL ASSOCIATIONS with other organisations

Creation of **7 NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS** and **1 REGIONAL PARLIAMENT**

9 EVENTS jointly organised with other youth networks

WHICH NETWORKS?

- > Youth networks working in the water sector and associated sectors such as the environment or climate,
- > International organisations,
- > Institutional networks
- > Partner networks in the field or locally
- > Elected officials and governments.

WHAT TYPE OF PARTNERSHIP?

- > Membership,
- > Organisation of joint events,
- > Representation, focal points,
- > Creation of local or regional networks,
- > Presence as observers.

PROMOTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN WATER GOVERNANCE



Advocacy for youth participation enables the parliamentarians to influence decision-makers and other water sector stakeholders on the importance of involving youth in water governance and implementation.

WHAT TYPE OF ADVOCACY?

- > Speeches and interventions during international conferences,
- > Submission of declarations to local authorities,
- > Meetings with elected officials,
- > Information letters and calls for elected officials to mobilise,
- > Definition of youth strategies,
- > Participation in and coordination of strategic and public consultations,
- > Involvement in the preparatory processes of international events,
- > Deployment of the Blue Passport, a symbol of citizens' commitment to water.

WHAT MESSAGES?

- > Greater involvement of youth in water governance,
- > A Water Goal as one of the sustainable development goals,
- > Inter-generational cooperation,
- > Increased awareness and education in the field of water and sanitation,
- > Water basin-based 'citizenship'

IN A FEW FIGURES

Letter sent to

**72
UN
AMBASSADORS**

**207
BLUE
PASSPORTS**

attributed in

**74 WATER
BASINS**

Participation in conferences
in more than

35 COUNTRIES



COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTING YOUTH ACTIONS

This communication promotes the activities set up by young people to inform the general public and thus reach a greater number of people. It also provides the opportunity to promote the young person concerned.



IN A FEW FIGURES

**270 TWITTER
SUBSCRIBERS**

2335 LIKES
on Facebook

**1500
BROCHURES**
printed and distributed

WHAT MEANS OF COMMUNICATION?

- > Intervention in the media, radio and TV programmes, newspaper articles,
- > Social networks: twitter and Facebook,
- > Internet sites,
- > Newsletters,
- > Videos,
- > Identification of sponsors,
- > Presentations at conferences,
- > Stands at international conferences,
- > Presentation brochures,
- > Visual identity,
- > WYPW logo visibility on our communications materials and those of our partners.



An initiative of SIE-ISW-SIA

International Secretariat for water

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