



THE OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF THE 3RD WORLD YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR WATER

WYPW Ideas for the Future

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Gyeongju, South Korea

4,000 children die every day as a result of water related diseases. Many of you have probably heard this statistic, or discussed similar ones before. These are not hypothetical children living in tragic story books, but real people with homes, parents, and everyday lives. They are the tired children in Mali that walk for too long, hot hours to get their water from the Niger river, they are the thirsty children in Haiti that drink water from wells that are contaminated by human waste, they are children suffering from hepatitis due to polluted water in Pakistan and there are even more. These 4,000 children have their youthful potential stolen from them because of these global water issues.

Although their youthful voices are silenced because of this disparity, at the 7th World Water Forum we were given the opportunity for our voices to be heard. Through our connection we have decided to advocate, like many others do, for a plethora of water issues throughout different sectors that affect those populations in need for clean water, sanitation, or water access. We plan to strive in the next three years to implement projects to raise awareness among youth and governing bodies and further our technological knowledge through furthered schooling. But most importantly, we will strive to be the future facilitators between knowledge holders who have isolated themselves from others who hold perspectives that may lead to more holistic solutions to the world's water access and sanitation problems.

During our weeks at the World Water Forum we gathered together from all over the globe to discuss our own personal water problems. A common theme showing itself outside of international

borders regional suffering from water scarcity stemming from poor water distribution management and transboundary rivers problems. Developing regions often trade their water scarcity for over-polluted river systems. The water cycle has been affected in many other ways usually connecting in some way to climate change, air contamination and deforestation. A lack of education creates a disconnection from turning off the tap and actual water management. In reality water conservation should be considered throughout every molecule of modern life through conservation of water resources and virtual water used in production.

As we reflected upon our personal experiences, we put aside regional differences that segmented the ways that we thought about our own water problems and came to the realization that the world truly is an integrated system, similar to the system we established in our parliaments. Every aspect of environmental management is somehow connected and this connection should exist between youth and higher water officials as well. This may seem self-explanatory to these national officials and experts, but this personal realization is so essential for world citizens to realize the magnitude of their personal agency and how interconnected our lives truly are.

The 3rd World Youth Parliament for Water, that occurred from April 6th-17th, we strived to harness our youthful passions within a realistic context. We mainly strived to provide and construct a template for showing youth how to realistically construct solutions and network our collective capabilities with government officials, parliamentarians, and regional experts into productive solutions for the future. In the past week and a half we have gathered together to build and discuss our own youthful potential. The organizers lead us in activities that focused on our own personal vision for what the next 15-50 years will be in terms of water, earth, education, and the environment and so on. We took these ideas and applied them to the ideology of what will happen for us in the future and for our own potential with our own projects. Our projects follow our own personal vision for what the future holds for us. Our projects and visions are not solely for our own benefit, but to improve our personal worlds and start becoming leaders through project innovation starting while we are still considered 'youth'.

We acknowledge that the water problems our countries face can be difficult for youth to solve and achieve. But, we can take initial action toward achieving these solutions. We see the first step toward achieving these goals is to increase awareness among youth and adults in our communities about water issues. As youth, we will be focusing on educating and raising awareness about water problems and their solutions under the purview of the identified targets. We will be working on youth clubs which will carry out activities such as conducting workshops and dialogue sessions with community people especially women and youth to educate them about sustainable water management. We will also commit to write articles that detail the problem of flooding in our cities or countries and highlight some solutions our governments can take to fix these problems.

Our main focuses rely on educating other youth, our governments, and knowledgeable scientists and water officials about the important intersections that a youthful perspective can include. We can help facilitate these conversations that need to happen between all of these stakeholders. We will work

to our future goals by ensuring that the environment and women have an important stakeholder presence in our projects and future action. These groups, although underrepresented at the World Water Forum, will be a core important part of the World Youth Parliament for Water's next 3 years. Our key leadership positions are held by three dynamic women who showcase what it means to be a youth leader.

Younger generations are often seen as the striving leaders of the future. But what about now? What are we now? Through the implementation of projects and collectivization of knowledge, we will be able to reach our goals. We really can harness our passion into leadership and action today. And we will keep doing it for the next 15 or 50 years, always being sure that we are not only improving the world for us, but also guaranteeing it for future generations. We will improve our current world, but will also strive for more, in order to create the collective future that we all have been envisioning.

As youth, we may have strong will and spry determination, but facilitation and support from established water officials will provide the inspiration and support that we need. We challenge you to envision your own humble beginnings in the water sector; and then to concretely identify the last thing you have done for youth. As we have heard many times in this conference, we are the future. It is time that influential water leaders, as well as ordinary citizens, step up and help make this undefinable future a present reality.

If you would like to learn more about WYPWs current action or work with our global Parliamentarians please contact our President and Vice Presidents:

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