

N°6 - Saturday, 17 March, 2012

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> The Grassroots and Citizenship in figures

- **199** projects obtained the Grassroots and Citizenship Commission label
- **77** projects presented in Marseille during the World Water Forum
- More than **2,000** young professionals involved
- More than **700** children attended
- More than **20** films and documentaries
- **14** photo exhibitions
- **7** technical visits
- **33** conferences on women and water; indigenous people, culture and ethics

Editorial

All mobilised!

The 6th World Water Forum, a great echoing opportunity to raise higher the cause of water on the international agenda, has highlighted the important role of civil society, notably through the succeeding statements of different personalities during the opening ceremony. Thus, everyone must take responsibility, the public power, the managing authorities, the experts, but also civil society.

Many associations, NGOs, neighborhood committees, schools, and voluntary citizens mobilised at the 6th Forum in Marseille and around the world through various initiatives: humanitarian, academic, technical, educational, cultural, artistic and otherwise. Artists, filmmakers, youth and women have also made their voices heard on water issues, in their own ways, with their own solutions and with their own commitments. ●



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Martine Vassal,

President of the Roots and Citizenship Commission
of the 6th World Water Forum



11% of European Union inhabitants suffer from the lack of access to safe drinking water

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Solidarity Water Europe have presented the book "No one left behind: Good practices to ensure equitable access to water and sanitation in the pan-european region". This document highlights geographical, economic and social issues of this access, which is lacking for most vulnerable peoples. According to Kristalina Georgieva, European Commissioner for international cooperation, humanitarian aid and crisis response, "11% of European Union inhabitants suffer from the lack of access to drinking water". Speakers insisted on the importance of Public-Private partnerships, the concrete application of the Water Framework Directive, and women awareness on water management.

The volunteer, spokesman of the forum and ambassador of the territory

All citizens of Marseille and its region, 600 volunteers have played in fine style the dual role of the Forum spokespersons and ambassadors of their territory. The event's success is also due to their availability, their qualities and their dedication to all participants, visitors and stakeholders from the entire world. Specialised in tourism and events in Marseille, Ecole Tunon, even closed its doors during the week to put 40 of its pupils available to the Forum. A first for the establishment!

Towards the integrated improvement of hygiene and health

The World Health Organisation organised a summary session on improving hygiene and health through water and sanitation. Financial tools for promoting hygiene, change of behaviours and a better coordination in the countries affected by cholera are part of the undertaken measures.



©Photo ©Photo Caroline Garcia

Hygiene is at the heart of international concerns.

«**T**he right to water and sanitation ensures everyone the right to access safe drinking water in sufficient and acceptable quantities, physically accessible and affordable as well as sanitation", stated Corinne Schuster-Wallace, Programme Officer for Water Nexus Health, during the session organised by WHO on the subject. "Each country develops its own strategy on sanitation. It is necessary to integrate policies at a regional level and in research. This also includes field work, analysis and results."

Since 1990, 1.8 billion people have had access to improved sanitation facilities. But 2.5 billion people still lack sanitation. 1.1 billion human beings, or 15% of the world's population practice open defecation. China and India account for nearly half of global progress in sanitation. Sub-Saharan Africa represents more than 40% of the world's population that lacks the access to supplying resources of improved drinking water (which protects up to a satisfactory level the water from outside contamination, especially from faeces). This is one of the main tools for the

fight against diseases, especially cholera. For Thierry Vandeveld, from Veolia Foundation, an improved coordination of projects in the countries affected by cholera, and the joint development of strategic plans could help eradicate this horrible disease, with Africa having 80% of the cases.

Change of mentalities

Another direction, indicated by Piers Cross, from the Water and Sanitation for All organisation, is the cooperation between education and the health sector. In all cases, the sanitation problems can be solved by "a regional and global cooperation". Margaret Montgomery, expert in water sanitation, hygiene and health at the WHO, offered details on the functioning of health centers in Kenya. "We provide them with money to buy the required material for promoting hygiene measures among the patients of the center", she mentioned. "Behavioral changes in hygiene should be promoted starting from the base." ●

Make way for women!

The room was full at the high level session on women's leadership in the water sector at the 6th World Water Forum, on 14 March. High level speakers and participants agree: women are the key to solving issues linked with water and sanitation.



Like the other speakers, Maria Mutagamba, Minister for Environment and Water of Uganda, calls for gender-sensitive policies.

« In Africa, the water issue belongs to women: they go to get water and bring it back in a bucket” says Courtès Ketcha, mayor of Bangangté, Cameroon. In France, water is immediately available but “social and economic problems to access to water have recently emerged, affecting particularly single-parent families and especially women” adds Odile Gauthier, Director for Water and Biodiversity at the Ministry of Ecology of France. Indeed, women are still underrepresented in decision-making bodies, although they have been identified as one of the nine “Major Groups” of Agenda 21 at the Rio Summit in 1992.

Wednesday's session began with a parade of women and men carrying white signs on which important issues and feminist perspectives on the relation of women and water were presented. Then, experts and high-level female political officials supported these messages by providing concrete answers

based on real-world contexts. Education appeared to be the main focus, but speakers also called for an integrated approach at the local level.

“We’ve argued the case; now is the time to act!”

Kenza Kaouakib Robinson,
UN-Water Secretary

At the end of the session, attendees agreed it was time for action. According to the Women for Water Partnership, governments should be made responsible for promoting women's leadership, namely at the local level. Three months ahead of the Rio+20 conference, one of the signs read “get involved with us to accelerate and achieve the millennium development goals”—a reference to the 2015 deadline. Further exchanges will continue on the Women for Water Partnership website.



World water problems : the answer will come from women

Interview with Famke Janssen, Ambassador for Green Cross International Water for Life and Peace Programme.

- What is your main message concerning women and water?

Women and children are the most vulnerable persons to water issues. Because of limited water and the absence of hygiene facilities many young girls have to drop out of school when they reach puberty. At the same time, women are supplying water and walk an average of fifteen kilometers a day, spending eight hours collecting water that is not always safe to drink.

- What is the solution you would like to promote to the readers of the “Forum Gazette”?

I think it is important to build and support projects for water and sanitation for all. The Green Cross initiative “Smart Water for Green Schools” helps to improve the lives of populations in Bolivia by implementing rainwater harvesting systems and providing educational programmes related to hygiene, sanitation and environmental awareness. 400 000 persons benefited from these initiatives in Bolivia so far.

- What do you hope will be achieved at the end of the 6th World Water Forum?

In conditions of water scarcity, some players such as big corporations could possibly take over to make profits at a stage where this could hamper the community. To avoid this, co-operation is needed as well as spreading the message of local communities. I hope that this Forum will help more women getting access to decision-making because they are the most efficient when it comes to bringing sustainable solutions to the issues linked with water. Women face the problem daily and know best what needs to be done.

Portfolio



Photo 6th World Water Forum - Forum L Johnson

Xavier Leflaive, OECD, presents the "Environmental Outlook to 2050: the consequence of Inaction" and "Meeting the Water Reform Challenge" at the 6th World Water Forum.



Photo 6th World Water Forum - Laurene Ghiglia

Jean-Michel Compere and Bernard Michaux, from CILE company in Belgium present their solution for emergency containers.



Photo 6th World Water Forum - Li Ning

"In time of crisis, put your money where your mouth is" was one of the messages conveyed by women NGOs to water experts.



Photo 6th World Water Forum - Christophe Tannourte

Water & Spiritualities concert, with all "The minstrels", after the Water & Ethic conference.

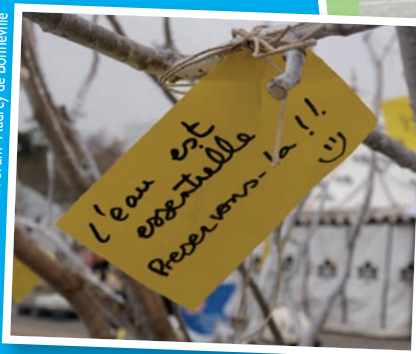


Photo 6th World Water Forum - Audrey de Bonneville

Trees of life carry the commitments of children. May these wishes come true !



Photo 6th World Water Forum - Christophe Tannourte

A young boy hangs his message about water on the Tree of Life.



Photo 6th World Water Forum - Christophe Tannourte

School children of Marseille discover life in Dry Lands and Oasis.



Photo DK

On the World Water Forum website, institutional and civil society representatives present their projects, positions and solutions to improve water supply and governance.

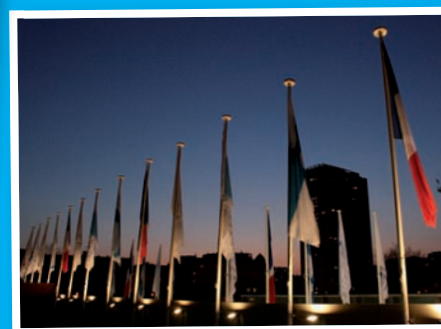


Photo 6th World Water Forum - T. Taleda

Close to 180 countries in Marseille for the 6th World Water Forum.



Photo 6th World Water Forum - T. Taleda

"Water Blues" illumination show on the façade of Town Hall in Old Port, Marseille.

©Photo 6th World Water Forum - T.Takeda



Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi
(Deputy Minister, Ministry of Water
and Environmental Affairs, South Africa),
for African Youth and Gender Solutions
on Water and Sanitation.

©Photo 6th World Water Forum - T.Takeda



International Youth meeting :
Japanese children - Yuriko Kobayashi, Sota Tsukurimichi,
and Rie Matsuzaki -at the Forum.

©Photo Helena Gonçalves



A Little Ms. Sea postcard to support the
tsunami-hit region of Japan.

©Photo : 6th Water World Forum - Christophe Taamourre



The team of the Forum Gazette,
journalists and young professionals
from the Projection Network.

©Photo 6th Water World Forum - Christophe Taamourre



Commitment from the Water Sentinel,
Marseille highschool

©Photo 6th Water World Forum - Christophe Taamourre



Financial commitments for water in Africa, presented by
Mr. Bai-Mass Taal, African Ministers Council on Water

©Photo 6th Water World Forum - Christophe Taamourre



Commitments for water appraised by the international Forum
community.

©Photo 6th World Water Forum - T.Takeda



Discussion regarding water careers
in basic services by Réseau Projection

©Photo 6th Water World Forum - Christophe Taamourre



Bart Devos, President of the World Youth Parliament for Water, E.K. Park,
President of the Forum regional commission, Loïc Fauchon, President of the World
Water Council, Ben Braga, President of the 6th World Water Forum,
Henri de Raincourt, French Minister in charge of Cooperation,
and Martine Vassal, Vice Mayor of Marseille.

©Photo 6th World Water Forum - NBC



Turker Kurtas, Isotope Hydrologist at the Atomic Energy Agency
explains: "The CO2 lowers the pH of the oceans".
In 2100, the pH should increase from 8.1 to 7.8 impacting
shellfish and habitat.

Distinguishing between "land use rights" and "people's rights" in informal areas

Juridical and political barriers, together with land laws, are more serious than financial barriers when it gets to connecting slums to urban spaces, according to the participants of the conference (Re)sources « What if cities were taking on water ? » on 14 March. The distinction "land use rights" and "people's rights" is seen as a necessary precursor to water and sanitation access for informal areas' inhabitants : people's access to these basic services should not depend on the ownership or the legality of their housing.

"Water should flood the lobby in favor of decentralisation"

" Territorial bodies and communities must increasingly play essential roles in urban governance. Water must continue to fuel advocacy in favor of decentralisation in developing countries", said Charles Josselin, former French Minister of Co-operation and Vice-President of the Advisor General of Côtes-d'Armor.

At the (Re)sources conference on the 14 March, Mr. Josselin gave a lecture "And if the City Took Water?", where he emphasised the many solutions presented at the 6th World Water Forum and the importance of reinforcement capacities in neighborhood committees.

Levi - Virtual water used to compensate natural hydraulic inequalities

In the context of diminishing water resources due to global population growth and climate change, quantifying previously hidden water within consumer goods sheds new light on our lifestyle. The virtual water concept also serves as a tool for countries experiencing hydraulic stress.

Although not visible to the human eye, be it the production of a car, a Tee-shirt, a loaf of bread or any other product or service, water is consumed.

Agricultural production uses by far the greatest amount of water, consuming 70% of the world's reserves.

For example, it is estimated that to produce one kilo of chicken requires 3,900 liters of water and one kilo of grain on average requires 1,300 liters.

This "double pyramid" developed by the Centre of Food and Nutrition in Barilla, Italy, that takes into consideration the relationship between water and foodstuffs, demonstrates the minimum impact of the Mediterranean diet on water resources.

On the industrial side, it is estimated that a kilo of cotton requires 5,260 liters and a kilo of paper consumes 2,000 liters of water.

Looking at the average goods consumed, it is possible to evaluate the average quantity of virtual water consumed per capita and country; for example 1,400 liters/person in Asia and 4,000 liters/person in Europe and North America, according to the FAO. Virtual water thus presents a tool to

measure lifestyle impacts on water resources. Maurice Bernard, Director of the Department of Sustainable Development for AFD indicated that, "on the one hand, the population is growing; on the other hand, our lifestyles are consuming more water."

Opportunities to overcome unequal geographic water repartition

Beyond the numbers, revealing this hidden water contained in consumer products allows to compensate for geographical imbalances of water repartition around the globe.

Analyzing the "import/export" balance of virtual water helps countries in hydraulic stress to limit exportation of products that

consume large amounts of water for production.

Exporting goods from countries with more prevalent water resources to those in water stress favors a positive exchange of virtual water.

At the local level, the implication can potentially change our daily consumption decisions encouraging, for example, local products with a low "water added-value."



Blue gold for green growth

A policy framework supported by twenty-six case studies introducing best practices in terms of green growth are unveiled by a group of international experts. This presentation is the beginning of the work of this group which unites high level actors on the place of water in this new form of development.



Seung Soo Han former South Korea Prime Minister and President of the Global Green Growth Institute is taking part in the panel – first from the right.

©Photo Hyacinthe Sinou

WorldWater Council (WWC) President Loïc Fauchon is convinced that « the enrichment of man shall not be done through the depletion of nature ». To him, green growth should be based on equitable distribution between man and nature and not on plundering. Yet, one thing is certain: "There is no development without water, but there is not enough water for development". Water is actually linked with green growth, according to the Korean ambassador for water resources, Eun-kyung Park. She makes the case that green growth has to be based on efficient water use and on promoting economic tools for development. To do so, emphasis should be given to the social dimension of green growth. In total, 26 case studies providing details on green growth best practices were presented during the first session

of the experts group working on the role of water in green growth. This group, which gathers high level international actors, has planned to meet two to three times throughout 2012.

The south korean case

In Korea, more than 17 billion dollars were invested in rivers restoration, underlined Seung-soo Han, who is the Republic of Korea's former Prime Minister and President of the Global Green Growth Institute. This high level panel is, according to Seung-soo Han – for whom water issues are global – a good start of a global effort to find integrated solutions so that governments recognise the essential role of water in green growth.

Household Water Security for Asia Pacific

The University of Seoul solution, presented by Prof. Moo Yong Han, was recognised "Winning Solution" by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific at the World Water Forum. This innovative, low-cost and socially acceptable solar disinfection technology supplies drinking water from rainwater harvested from the rooftop.

The implementation of this system will improve health, economic growth and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing regions.

Water culture into local governance

The second day of local authorities' processes focused on the cultural dimension of water. Increasingly, local authorities are integrating water in cooperation policies. But in order to be effective, these partnerships should take sociocultural factors into account to ensure that projects are compatible with local contexts. In cooperation with UNESCO, the International Association of Francophone Mayors led activities to raise the awareness of elected officials to these issues. The objective: for local authorities to take the different uses and symbolic representations of water into account.

Water and energy: all players get together for the first time

"This Forum is a milestone concerning the management of water and energy related issues" declares Richard Taylor, Executive Director of the International Hydropower Association (IHA). Indeed, after having previously focused mainly on hydropower, further inter-relations between the two sectors have been explored in Marseille (as impacts of oil and gas abstraction on water, energy needs for desalination of water, reusing residues from waste water treatment to produce heat, etc.). Jacques Labre, Director Institutional Relations and European Affairs at Suez-Environnement adds: "Together with the NGOs, youth representatives, enterprises, the academia etc. a significant number of oil and gas representatives joined the discussions here". At the end of the Forum the target of 20 countries to commit to the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol is expected to be met in the next months. In addition, an international Policy Network on Water and Energy has been created, to enable players to exchange on best practices and spread knowledge.

Eco-construction and Water Management: Possible reconciliation?

On Friday 16 March 2012, the CCI of Marseille-Provence, along with its Greek, Catalanian and Portuguese partners presented the InsMed project and the InsMed Greenbook guide at the World Water Forum in Marseille. This guide is designed to accompany managers, designers and decision-makers in the field and assist them when drafting appropriate questions. It constitutes assistance to the implementation of good practices in the field of eco-management of water: resource limitations, efficient use of equipment and resource substitutions.

Spirituality and Water: Have We Reached the Utopia?

Human Right to Water: "Relatively little water is used to meet basic human needs. Everyone needs water to survive".



Marie-Joséphine Grosjean, Jean Conrad and Murad Bino agree on the importance of water in various religious traditions.

«Marseille Water Ethics» is a new initiative announced on 15 March by Kathryn Kintzele, Co-Chair of the Biosphere Ethics Initiative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. This is a living project designed to enhance sustainable attitudes and ethical issues associated with water resource utilisation and management.

Jean Conrad, from the Catholic International Education Office, started his presentation with "Everyone who drinks this water will become thirsty again, but everybody that drinks the water I give him will never thirst" John 4:13. He then elaborated that when water policies, laws and economics derive from that ethical basis, we are better able to have an authentic debate about the values that the concerned communities look to uphold.

Ethical analysis does not solve problems.

Instead, it lays out the problems in terms to then easily identify solutions. Murad Bino, Executive Director of Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM) explained if water was clean and air was pure, everything would be in harmony with God's plan. Water is life and it is respected for this reason in many cultures and religions. It is necessary for survival and that makes it a key aspect of many cultures. Speakers and attendees of the session agreed that what is needed is to connect the dots to reveal the beautiful design that can become the way societies choose to respond to rivers, lakes, springs, wetlands and aquifers. In a world facing changes and growth, crises and turmoils, emotional and spiritual well-being are not only aspects but the foundations for a healthy and fulfilling life. ●

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