

## News Update

### Editorial

#### Exemplary Partnerships

The recent visits to Marseille of two such accomplished individuals as Oktay Tabasaran and Kenzo Hiroki represent the challenge to which our Council must rise.

An eminent environmental expert, Oktay Tabasaran is the Secretary General of the next World Water Forum, which will be held in Istanbul in 2009. Together with Daniel Zimmer, the Executive Director of the Council, he is the backbone for the preparation of this event. For, today, the preparation of the World Water Forum is just as important as the event, itself. Over the next two years, our shared responsibility will be to gather the Water Community together, while providing the freedom to express its geographic and thematic diversities. The next Forum will be, first and foremost, the Forum of continents, the Forum of regions.

Kenzo Hiroki is today the Inter-regional Advisor to the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB). Following the unfortunate demise of Ryutaro Hashimoto, this Board is today chaired by His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange Willem-Alexander, Crown Prince of Holland, whose competence is widely recognized by the entire family of water.

The partnership between the United Nations, its headquarters, its specialised agencies, and the World Water Council, whether concerning relief response to major disasters, finding new answers to sanitation or concretely affirming the right to water, is based on the complementarity of roles.

Together, we have decided to work over the coming years. Together, we will endeavour to make concrete proposals to be brought to the United Nations General Assembly, to the G8, to States and to major donors.

These partnerships, with Turkey as with the United Nations, are exemplary, and it is a great responsibility for the World Water Council to bring forth its contribution.

Loïc FAUCHON



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### Rendez-vous

#### ■ Wind in the sails of “Water and Youth” initiatives

As the contents of this edition of our monthly newsletter show, the water community is multiplying initiatives for mobilising youth and raising awareness for the importance of water and sanitation.

Young people are now finding their place within Parliaments, fora and international conferences, and more and more awareness-raising activities for children are being offered through “water for schools” programmes.

The preparation of the 5th World Water Forum will offer the opportunity to work together for better coordination and amplification of these actions. To assist us in our work, please send us information on projects in this realm that you are working on. A special section will soon be inaugurated on the Council's website to present and connect all these initiatives.

Water education is essential because today's young people are tomorrow's leaders, and the future of the planet is already in their hands.

## This month's focus: Water & Youth

### Children and young people add enthusiasm and impact toward MDG 7, Target 10

By Donna L. Goodman, UN Children's Fund, UNICEF

The impact of the Second Children's World Water Forum (CWWF)\* on the 107 young participants from 29 countries at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City was both significant and meaningful. Over a period of four days, children gathered to present their local actions and to talk about the critical need to provide safe drinking water and sanitation facilities for all as well as to address the importance of taking seriously children's opinions and needs as key partners in development. (...\*)

Today's children are tomorrow's leaders. Adults need to understand that building the capacities of children and young people as the next generation of water stewards who are fully aware of safe hygiene practices, environmental sanitation and local governance is critical to meeting the Millennium Development Goals in water and sanitation in a sustainable way.

As we look toward the Third Children's World Water Forum in Istanbul, in 2009, adult leaders in the water and sanitation sector are called to mobilize policies from rhetoric to action. Let us not bring another 110+ children to "Call for our Action", rather, let us bring 110+ children to Istanbul who will report on the effects of our answer to the call, sharing best practices and lessons learned from intergenerational cooperation and accelerated action creating sustainable access to water, sanitation and healthy environments in their communities, countries and regions in the past three years.

The time to act is now!

\*Read full article :

[www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=1982](http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=1982)

#### \*Children's World Water Forum

UNICEF, Japan Water Forum, IMTA and Project WET hosted the 2nd Children's World Water Forum, a component of the event "Children, Water, and Education," which brought together more than 100 children from 29 countries to discuss local action projects implemented by the children themselves.



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### Water and Youth 1st International Meeting

By Marie Lagier\*

Nearly 400 young people from all over the world met together in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 12 to 14 April 2007 to participate in the Water and Youth 1st International Meeting, Affirming the Right to Water, the Right to Life! The meeting aimed to promote a new dialogue between youth and the representatives of public authorities at the local and international levels. Through a great number of projects, many young people are, in fact, leading their communities to guarantee the right to water, to promote integrated management of river basins or to transmit a new culture of water. The meeting enabled participants to exchange experiences and develop strategies for ensuring better involvement and representation of youth in the decision-making process locally and internationally. Representatives of several UN agencies, such as FAO and UNICEF, were present in addition to WWC member organisations like the International Secretariat for Water and the National Water Agency of Brazil. A second meeting is planned for next year during the International Expo in Zaragoza in Spain in 2008.

For more information: [www.waterandyouth.org](http://www.waterandyouth.org)

\*Marie Lagier was a speaker at the meeting. She is a former employee of the WWC and is now working at Stratégies Saint-Laurent, a Quebec-based NGO involved in community-based management of the St. Lawrence River (see: [www.strategiessl.qc.ca](http://www.strategiessl.qc.ca)).



## When students make the difference

Students at Monelison Middle School in Madison Heights, Virginia, USA, are becoming more aware of their place in the world and of their ability to make a difference for people in need of clean water. Beginning with viewing "Ryan's Well," the story of Ryan Hreljac's work to build a well in Africa starting when he was just six years old, and hearing daily announcements about water resources, students have developed a growing awareness of the world water crisis.

In response to Ryan's story, social studies classes and the Student Council Association have initiated various coin drives to fund clean water projects and, on March 22, the entire school celebrated World Water Day. Through readings, demonstrations, and experiments, Monelison's 686 students learned about the water cycle, water quality monitoring, and the dangers of groundwater contamination. They also examined their personal water consumption and developed advertisements to promote water conservation.

Since World Water Day, the students' passion for clean water has continued to grow. One class in particular has initiated five different fund-raisers, motivating their peers to contribute additional funds. The school's efforts, currently totaling over \$2,000.00, will help both a local family and a distant community to obtain clean water.

The Monelison Middle School web address is

<http://www.iwinet.com/amcomms/index.htm>

Click on "Visit MMS Waterworks" for pages specific to this article.

## The Ryan's well story

In January 1998, 6-year-old Ryan Hreljac listened intently when his grade one teacher talked about the plight of people in Africa who had to walk many kilometers every day just to fetch water, the most basic element for human survival. Ryan was shocked and decided he needed to build a well for a village in Africa. He ran home from school and begged his parents for \$70 - the amount he thought was needed to drill a well. They eventually agreed to let him do extra chores to earn the money. Four months later, Ryan's completed the task, but that was just the beginning of the journey... Read More:

[http://www.ryanswell.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=54](http://www.ryanswell.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22&Itemid=54)



## Useful links on water education tools

- Project WET (Global) : [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org)
- PoWER Partnership for Water Education and research (Global) <http://www.unesco-ihe.org/power/do.htm>
- UNICEF Voices of Youth: <http://www.unicef.org/voy/>
- UNESCO (Global) [Http://www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)
- Water Use it wisely (USA) <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/toolsLinks/index.shtml>
- Universities Council on Water Ressources (Global): <http://www.ucowr.siu.edu/>
- US Geological surveys (USA) <http://water.usgs.gov/education.html>
- U.S Environmental protection agency (USA) <http://www.epa.gov/water/kids/watered2.html>
- Women International Coalition organisation (Africa): <http://www.wicohome.org/educationalcenterinafr.htm>
- Melbourne Water (Australia): <http://education.melbournewater.com.au/>
- Children Water Education Council (Canada): <http://www.cwec.ca/>
- University of Wisconsin (USA): <http://wri.wisc.edu/library/WaterCurricula/>
- International Secretariat for Water (Global): <http://www.i-s-w.org/fr/parlement.html>
- eau vive (France / Africa): [www.eau-vive.org](http://www.eau-vive.org)
- Japan for sustainability (Japan): <http://www.japanfs.org/en/public/education01.html>
- Colorado Foundation for Water Education: <http://cfwe.org/SchoolPrograms/glossary.asp>

Has your organisation also developed water education tools? Please let us know and we will add it to our useful links.



## Bridging the 4th Forum to the 5th



### ActionEducation™ Facilitates Local Actions to Address Global Challenges

In celebration of the 4th World Water Forum's theme, Project WET announced its new initiative, ActionEducation™, which consists of both education and action projects designed together to help solve local problems. Over the next few years, ActionEducation™ modules will be integrated into Project WET's curriculum as a way of addressing global water challenges at the local level.

### Water Education as an Important Tool for Addressing Global Water Challenges

To foster dialogue and involvement in water education, Project WET\*, established the first Global Water Education Village (GWEV) at the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006 in partnership with IMTA (Mexican Institute of Water Technology) and supported by Nestlé Waters Management and Technology (MT) and Valerie Gates.

The GWEV showcased local action projects from 27 water education programs undertaken in 18 countries and provided interaction opportunities between organizations conducting those programs and the water leaders and policy makers attending the 4th World Water forum.

In conjunction with the GWEV, Project WET implemented the Water School, where hands-on, interactive and entertaining activities were organized. The School was attended by eight hundred students from Mexico City's schools, scout groups, and the 2nd Children's World Water Forum.

Over the course of five days, more than 20,000 adults visited the GWEV and gained an understanding of the value of hands-on activities as a method of teaching about water resources management. Project WET met organizations from 40 countries interested in implementing Project WET programs in their country, thus, raising awareness for education as an important tool for addressing global water challenges.

For more information about Project WET, visit [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org)

\* Project WET is a global water education leader with 23 years of experience and leading programs in 24 countries.



### Children share their views on water with ministers

*Children's Letters to Ministers* is the result of work by the Water Network of the Mexican Academy of Sciences, developed in partnership with UNESCO. The Network organized talks at grammar schools in Central Mexico and the children responded by either writing letters or sending drawings or paintings, conveying their messages of hope, suggestions, and frustrations.

The objective was to share the children's views on water with the Ministers participating in the 4th World Water Forum (Mexico, March 2006). The letters, compiled and translated in the publication *Children's Letters to Ministers*, are now available online, as is *Children's Letters to Scientists*, which was published in 2005.

**Children's Letters to Ministers** [PDF format - 5.45 MB, in English and Spanish]

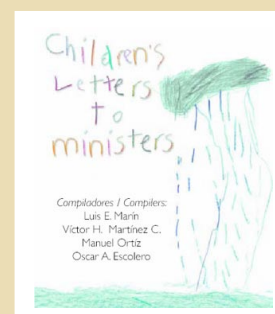
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001492/149219M.pdf>

**Children's Letters to Scientists** [PDF format – 2.76 MB, in English and Spanish]

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001492/149216M.pdf>

Source: UNESCO Water Portal

[http://www.unesco.org/water/news/archives/semestre2\\_06.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/water/news/archives/semestre2_06.shtml)



## On the members' side



### Water For Schools

The premise is simple: Clean water keeps children healthy. Providing clean water and adequate sanitation in schools improves community health standards overall and enables children, especially girls, to attend classes instead of walking long hours searching for water. IUCN's Water for Schools programme, thus, delivers a powerful combination of supplying water and education to ensure that healthy children live with healthy rivers.

IUCN's Water for Schools Campaign aims to bring together a network of organizations and partners that deliver safe water and sanitation to schools and assist in bringing basic water and hygiene education to teachers. Its target is to provide all schools with safe drinking water by 2015 as part of helping to reach the UN Millennium Development Goals.

For more information, visit: [www.waterforschools.net](http://www.waterforschools.net)



### IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

Boasting of nearly 600 members, CEC champions the strategic use of communication and education to empower and educate stakeholders for the sustainable use of natural resources. Three working groups are offered to CEC members:

- World Conservation Learning Network

- Education for Sustainable Development
- Strategic Communication

For more information: [www.iucn.org/cec/](http://www.iucn.org/cec/)



### Youth Parliaments for Water

For ten years, the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) and Solidarité Eau Europe (SEE) have, together, organised Youth Parliaments in several regions around the world (Americas, Europe, Central Asia) and a World Parliament in Quebec (Canada). About 3,000 young people between the ages of 10 and 20, representing around 100 schools and NGOs throughout the world, were involved in this process. Youth Parliaments for Water seek to promote the participation of young people in water politics, both to raise awareness for the stakes of water management and to enhance civic and democratic education.

Youth Parliaments for Water are the conclusion of a preparatory process lasting several months, during which youth, accompanied by professors and experts, learn, understand and become involved in water management projects in their own surroundings. A meeting lasting a few days then enables youth participants from all countries to combine their ideas and experiences and to develop concrete projects for international decentralised cooperation. In the framework of each Parliament, representatives are elected and texts expressing collective commitments are adopted.



For more information on Youth Parliaments for Water:  
In Europe: Nicole Crochet,  
Solidarité Eau Europe - [www.s-e-e.org](http://www.s-e-e.org)  
Other regions: Marianne Strauss,  
International Secretariat for Water - [www.sie-isw.org](http://www.sie-isw.org)

*"We, the youth, do not have the experience of adults. We do, however, have the desire to learn and to do better than those who have gone before us. We all have the ambition of making the world a better place and of doing something to better our surroundings."*  
Andrei Mehedintu, 19 years old, President of the 6th European Youth Parliament for Water (2006).

### ARI Movement: a new WWC member working for youth awareness

ARI Movement is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that strives primarily to foster participatory democracy by encouraging Turkey's youth to actively engage in political processes. They integrate sustainable human and environmental development into its set of core values and work to merge its awareness of impending environmental issues with its youth outreach and democratization initiatives.

Through its decade-long effort to promote youth participation, ARI has implemented 8 different projects, involving young representatives from throughout Turkey through seminars, workshops and also through its official website promoting information-sharing and idea-generation on leadership, local development, and social change.

The movement bears the conviction that local, regional, national, and international problems of all proportions can be resolved with whole-hearted and equal participants of all constituents. ARI Movement will continue to promote the active participation of Turkish youth in tackling national and global water-related problems.

For more information about ARI Movement's projects, visit [www.ari.org.tr](http://www.ari.org.tr).

## Blue News

### Threats to Water Sustainability in Africa: The Role of Youth

By Rosemary Enie, Women's International Coalition Organisation

African countries continue to experience rapid urbanisation, large population growth and face the challenge of providing clean/safe water and adequate sanitation. Large parts of the continent already face severe water stress. Rural/urban centres urgently need to put in place effective water demand management strategies that could use limited water resources effectively without wastage and widen service coverage, particularly in low-income urban settlements. Major environmental crises loom across the continent with ever-increasing discharge of waste into freshwater bodies, threatening water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

Several African countries share one or two international river basins, which present a special challenge in managing

water resources in the basins so as to avoid future conflicts. There is a need to undertake an innovative approach to better managing Africa's threatened water resources, which are clearly linked to the future.

To address these issues the Project WET Foundation, WICO Africa and their partners have set up the Project WET Africa Resource Centre (ARC). The mission of ARC is to reach children, parents, educators and communities across Africa through water education. The goal is to facilitate/promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge, stewardship of water resources through the development/dissemination of classroom-ready, localised teaching aids/resources.



#### Stockholm Junior Water Prize

The international Stockholm Junior Water Prize contest, which is held during World Water Week in Stockholm every August, encourages young people's interest in water and the environment. Administered by the Stockholm International Water

Institute (SIWI), the award is given annually for an outstanding water project

presented by a young person or a small group of young people. The competition seeks to inspire young people to continue their commitment to water and the environment. The finalists at the international Stockholm Junior Water Prize are the winners of national SJWP contests.

More information is available on the SIWI website:

<http://www.siwi.org/>

#### World Youth Water Alliance: India's 1st "Water and Life" Photo Contest 2007



WYWA is organizing a photo contest with a special focus on the 2007 UN-Water and World Water Day theme:

"Coping with water scarcity." Photos should be taken between April 2006 and June 2007 and should illustrate a current water-related problem in rural or urban India (e.g., a problem related to the scarcity of drinking water, a polluted water supply, improper sanitation, lack of water for irrigation, miss-use of water, attempts at water harvesting, water conservation, etc.). Closing date for the contest is 15 July 2007.

For more information, visit the website:

<http://www.wateralliance.org/Events.html>

### United Nations Secretary-General calls for unity against climate change and better access to water resources

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a "long-term global response" to deal with climate change, along with unified efforts involving the Security Council, Member States and other international bodies to deal with the problem of scarce resources, warning that countries' lack of access to water, energy and other essentials can lead to conflict.

*Mr. Ban warned that that projected changes in the earth's climate are more than an environmental concern. "They can also have serious social and economic implications." He illustrated his remarks with six possible scenarios showing the danger to world security caused by increasing climate change, coupled with States' lack of access to scarce resources, including limited or threatened access to energy.*

**UN Secretary General's address:** <http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=2524>

**Read Press release:** <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=22242&Cr=climate&Cr1=change>

## Publications

### Tales of Water: A Child's View

During his travels around the world, Dutch photographer Taco Anema listened to the fresh and spontaneous voices of children telling their stories of the importance of water. The result is a stunning and unique photographic work, enlivened with stories, interviews and poems.

Available from

[www.umbragebooks.com](http://www.umbragebooks.com),

[www.cbsd.com](http://www.cbsd.com) or

[www.turnaround-uk.com](http://www.turnaround-uk.com).



## Events

### 6th World Wide Workshop for Young Environmental Scientists - WWW YES 2007

24-27 April 2007

Vitry-sur-Seine, France

Organizers: CEREVER (ENPC, ENGREF, UPVM) France - University Paris 12 - UFMG EHR Brazil - Association H2O Paris - Val-de-Marne County

Information: [www.yes.h2o.net](http://www.yes.h2o.net) or

[www.enpc.fr/cereve/www-yes/](http://www.enpc.fr/cereve/www-yes/)

### Regional Workshop on Optimisation for Sustainable Water Resources Management

28-29 May 2007

Malta

Organizer: Integrated Resources Management (IRM)

Information: <http://www.environmentalmalta.com/News.htm>

### 1st International WASH Practitioners' Marketplace & Fair

26-28 September 2007

Mombasa, Kenya

Deadline for registration: 5 May 2007

For more information contact: [info@streams.net](mailto:info@streams.net)

### 4th IWA Young Water Professionals Conference

16-18 July 2008

Berkeley, California, United States

Organizer: International Water Association (IWA)

Information: [http://www.unesco.org/water/water\\_events/Detailed/1528.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/water/water_events/Detailed/1528.shtml)

## Job Offer

### Communication Manager

The World Water Council Headquarters seeks a Communication Manager for its office in Marseilles, France. He will be in charge of the Council's communication team and overall communication and promotional activities, including those related to the World Water Forum. Native English-speaker, the successful candidate has superior knowledge of and experience in working with international media and has demonstrable hands-on experience with modern communication technologies.

For more information, visit the WWC jobs & trainings web pages:

<http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/index.php?id=528>

### A few acronyms

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

GWEV - Global Water Education Village

FAO - Food and Health Organisation

IUCN - World Conservation Union

ISW / SIE - International Secretariat for Water

IMTA - Mexican Institute of Water Technology

WICO - Women's International Coalition Organisation

WYWA - World Youth Water Alliance

Please feel free to send your press releases, publication & event announcements, etc. to be published in the WWC News Update to:  
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