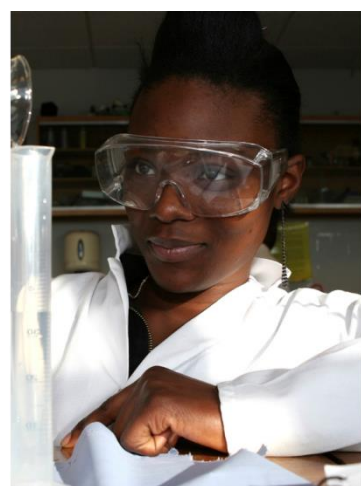


# Sharing Their Experiences

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# Message from IWA president

## IWA Young Water Professionals, a great opportunity for both

**Y**WPs in IWA was launched at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century as it was recognised that we will face several important challenges in the near and mid-term future in the water industry. In order to meet the ambitious and necessary goals for water supply and sanitation during the next decades and to avoid severe shortcomings of services due to poor water management a main inhibiting factor for progress will be the lack of well-educated water professionals and especially highly qualified leaders. We also have identified that the existing professional structures do not fully comply with the increasing complexity in knowledge and experience required by the water professionals in the future. As a consequence the YWP programme of activities within IWA is of vital importance on a local, regional and global scale. It concentrates on 4 main areas without any priority.

- **Network and team building over the generations:** IWA aims at the development of an international network of 3 generations: the students and starting professionals (YWPs) who learn and get experience for their future professional development; the professionals actually responsible for all functions in the water industry; and older experts having gathered knowledge and experience over their professional life and reaching the age of retirement. IWA has the goal to attract leading personalities from all relevant stakeholder segments with emphasis on urban water systems and river basin management. YWPs are encouraged to become members and drivers of the global network provided by IWA enabling them to share global knowledge, experience and to network in international, inter- and trans-disciplinary teams.
- **Professional and Leadership development:** Beyond professional education and experience leadership is necessary to make things happen and to solve problems at all levels. Leadership requires special human capabilities which have to be trained in practice in teams. IWA helps to develop leadership qualifications and close contact with leaders.

IWA also takes care of an effective quality control for all its programmes and activities in order to protect the most relevant constituents of its reputation: competence and confidence.

- **Recognition of leadership:** YWPs contributing to the water sector, the association and showing leadership capability are recognised within and beyond the network.
- **Communication between local and global:** IWA YWPs has a basic structure of national chapters where IWA tries to encourage the national professionals and professional associations to support the human and qualified development of their young professionals across all the stakeholder segments. A major task of national chapters is to overcome the language barriers at least for all non-English speaking nations. Successful water management can only be achieved by a common native professional language based on native languages while international cooperation is based on English.



**Helmut Kroiss**

Young water professionals willing to develop their personal and professional career by taking responsibility for local, regional and global progress in water management will be rewarded in IWA by being integrated into a human network of global relevance.

# From goodbye to hello – YWP chairs

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The last two years has certainly flown by but I cannot help smiling when I think off everything all the YWPs worldwide have accomplished. I want to use this last communication to reflect and share my personal experiences as an YWP in a variety of roles and positions over the last few years. We always say you should use the YWP and IWA networks and opportunities to your advantage, but what does that actually mean? Starting in 2008, when I first joined the IWA YWP family, I have been privileged to learn from YWPs and senior professionals alike, enhancing my skills set with every activity. Where else can you learn to organise national and international conferences, arrange and facilitate workshops, be a rapporteur, chair conference sessions and gain valuable experience by serving on a wide variety of committees before the age of 35! This might sound unbelievable but is in everyone's reach if you use your networks and opportunities presented to you. I have learned that our voice as YWPs count since we live and shape the current world and better understand what we and the future youth want. We all come from different backgrounds and countries with different needs and challenges that we deal with it on a daily basis. Never be shy or ashamed to voice your opinion, it might change the way people think and approach problems and solutions.

None of this would have been possible without the constant support of some truly amazing people. I need to thank my employer, Prof Andre Swart at the University of Johannesburg. He realized the need and advantages of getting involved with the IWA YWP and allowed me to take time to participate in all these events. I also need to thank all the South African YWPs, who are no longer just colleagues but friends. I need to say a special thank you to Jo Burgess, Henry Roman and Inga Jacobs for their wise words, guidance and friendship. Thank you to all the past and present IWA YWP committees and members, it was a privilege to meet you all and work together with you. Especially thank you to the current committee members for all your hard work and for making this a memorable two years. A special thank you to the IWA Head Office staff and Board of Directors who made taking on challenges and activities a pleasure through your help and assistance! Everything the YWPs have achieved was a team effort that you all contributed to! Although I am

stepping down this is not good bye. I have learned from amazing people over the years that being an YWP is not defined by your age but is a mind-set. I wish to congratulate Yati and her new committee on being elected to their new roles and wish them all of the best for the future. I have full confidence that you will make us proud and cannot wait to see where you take the YWPs. With that I want to introduce your new IWA YWP committee chair, Dr Norhayati Abdullah.

First and foremost, congratulations to Tobias and senior Steering Committee team for a job well done these past two years. I am relentlessly grateful for being entrusted with the responsibility to lead the IWAYWP Steering Committee for 2014-2016. For a start, this is a unique opportunity that meant a lot for my country Malaysia as well as for Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM). I began to ask myself now as to how to contemplate that YWPs are significant within the water sector. That YWP matters! Impactful linkage between academia, the industry and the government is still lacking in which YWPs voices are still not heard and YWPs actions are not fully recognized. This is very important because for YWPs to develop into leaders requires much efforts and funding to capacitate them. YWPs may still be considered as the greatest untapped natural resources in any organization. In the next two years to come, hopefully we would be able to improve visibility and significance of YWPs within the sector.

On another note, as most YWPs are already a budding expert in water, I would also like to concentrate on improving and building our leadership skills. YWPs having a set of strong leadership abilities will ensure a successful and sustainable future of the water sector. In this regards, we should all embrace the opportunity to learn from IWA's great leaders who are also experts in their respective field. With this goal in mind, at the end of two years, hopefully we would have some key qualities that every good leader should possess.

Finally as a team, we would continue doing what we've always been doing. Communicate, collaborate and cooperate at numerous IWA events worldwide. Network and nurture social and professional relationships within the water sector. Gather, and lastly go home to IWA which according to many... is the home of the young water professionals. Let us together look forward to a productive year ahead! Thank you.

**Tobias Barnard & Norhayati Binti Abdullah**

# News from North America

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## Goodbye and hello – who represents North American YWPs



I am, **Arash Zamyadi the outgoing North American representative** from Canada. I hold a Ph.D. degree in civil engineering from École Polytechnique, Montreal, Canada. I feel immensely privileged to be involved with IWA Young Water Professional

(YWP) committee. I have been involved as liaison between IWA Specialist Groups (SGs) and the YWP committee, which led to publication of (1) the guideline for integration of the YWPs into SGs, and (2) the 1<sup>st</sup> IWA YWP newsletter on SGs activities. Collaborating with other IWA members to organise YWP activities during Montreal (2010) and Busan (2012) World Water Congresses and Kuala Lumpur (2011) Development Congress has been one of the most rewarding activities of my professional career. In 2013, I embarked on an exciting journey to establish the IWA YWP North America Chapter in collaboration with an enthusiastic group of colleagues from Canada and USA including the future North American representative, Randolph Webb. Notably, I met my current supervisor Dr. Rita Henderson (the winner of 2010 YWP Award during the IWA YWP Conference in Sydney, Australia, in July 2010).

In North America, we have smart, hardworking, enthusiastic and creative YWPs working in water industry and related academic fields. The success of local YWP organizations is the evidence of their immense capacity. However, their voice is not heard to its full potential within the international water community. Bridging between existing local NA YWP organizations and enhancing their interaction with the international YWP activities should be the focus of the new NA representative and the NA YWP chapter. The NA YWP Chapter would provide them with the opportunity to add their forces to the global effort of providing clean water and sanitation for all.

I will continue to support the new representative, Randolph, where necessary in this process. In addition to this, due to my move to Sydney, Australia, to hold the position of senior research associate at the University of New South Wales, I will mentor the enthusiastic Australian YWPs to enhance their involvement with the international YWP steering committee and establish a strong committed group as the World Water Congress will move from Lisbon (2014) to Brisbane (2016). Also, I will continue to collaborate with

the publication workgroup within the new YWP Committee, who will write articles on YWPs involvement and engagement in IWA. Having said that, I am happy to introduce the new NA regional representative William Randolph Webb



I am **Wm. Randolph Webb** and I am very excited to continue building on Arash's great work as the North America representative of the IWA Steering Committee! For those who don't know me, I am a Consultant at Accenture where I focus on helping public and private sector clients understand and act on the

water challenges they face at the operational, local, and global levels. My responsibilities last week for example were: being on-site leading a project with a US client on defining a cross-basin water management strategy in shale gas operations, supporting a team in Australia on evaluating a water treatment market entry strategy for a high tech firm, and helping an NGO in Haiti explore technology solutions for monitoring remote water sources.

Since 2013, I have worked with the IWA YWP team on the formation of the IWA YWP North America Chapter, which I currently Co-Chair with a great Management Committee. Throughout this process I have personally enjoyed the increased exposure to the latest thinking on global water challenges and the ambitious professionals tackling these challenges – these are the two experiences that I want other YWP's – US-based and abroad – to be exposed to. In my new role on the IWA Steering Committee, I look forward to making measurable progress on this goal through a combination of (1) expanding YWP presence at conferences, (2) encouraging YWP involvement and engagement with IWA, and (3) empowering YWPs to have their voice heard, so North American YWPs feel free to contact me.

I truly believe that the major water challenges of today will be solved by the water professionals of tomorrow and I want to do what I can to ensure that we as YWPs have the tools and exposure needed to be successful! Please reach out to [IWA.YWP.NA@gmail.com](mailto:IWA.YWP.NA@gmail.com) if you ever have any questions at all.

# Updates from Latin America and the Caribbean

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## Goodbye – Hello Changes in the Latin American Region

**My name is Maria Alejandra Caicedo** and I am a lecturer in the field of Hydraulics and Water Resources at La Salle University and also at other academic institutions in Colombia. Over the last two years I had the privilege to be as IWA YWP Latin-American representative, and reflecting back about this time I am really



**Maria Caicedo**

grateful for all professional and personal experiences, such as travel to the other side of the world to participate in the IWA Development Congress held in Kenya in 2013. The event was a delicacy of knowledge, and a great opportunity to network with other young professionals, professor's and professionals with high degree of knowledge

Since February 2013, I am the Latin American representative of the Young Water Professionals steering committee of IWA. My main motivation was to create the Colombian YWP chapter because I strongly feel that research in Colombia and Latin America has to be improved. It is necessary to open debates and motivate young professionals to take leadership, because it is us who have the ability to inspire change. There are a number of Latin-American YWPs within IWA but IWA's YWP network is still relatively small in this region. In order to enhance the networking and collaboration, there is a need to further develop the network in Latin America. I truly believe that this is essential to solve water and environmental problems.

In the future, I plan to support the establishment of other IWA YWP Chapters in Latin America. In my field, the university plays an important role in implementation of new projects, like planning events where it is possible to build an excellent team and have networking opportunities. In the upcoming years, I would like to continue helping and encouraging young professionals in their participation and showcasing their researches at

international events (workshops, conferences etc.), as well as, I would like to continue sharing my great experiences as a Young Water Professional.

Now, I have the honour to present Julian Carrillo. Julian was recommended to become a member of the IWA YWP Steering Committee 2014-2016 because he is a very motivated and enthusiastic young water professional. I am sure he will do an excellent job in promoting the YWP network in Latin America and all around the world.



**Julian Carrillo**

**My name is Julian Carrillo Reyes** and I have been working in wastewater treatment and energy subjects in the last 7 years. I also attended the last Mexican YWP Conference in 2013. Nowadays, I'm a postdoctoral fellow at National Mexican University and as member of the steering committee I have several ideas to contribute to IWA Young Water Professionals

My primary goal is to encourage the Latin American participation in the YWP activities, by the creation of country chapters and hopefully regional ones too. At the moment I am looking forward to improve the participation rate at the most important IWA conferences in Latin America in the upcoming years, in order to promote the YWPs; besides the creation of the Mexican YWP chapter. I would also like to contribute to the development of networking opportunities of YWPs in Latin America and to get more involved with common water problems in our region. If you are interested in involvement or have any questions do not hesitate to contact me via [carrillo\\_julian@yahoo.com](mailto:carrillo_julian@yahoo.com).

# Updates from the Asian and the Pacific Region

## Goodbye to hello - Changes in the representation of the Asian YWPs



**Norhayati Binti Abdullah**

IWAYWP is my other family in various countries. This family has made me put myself out there, into the water sector with inspiring potentials; given me treasured motivation and immense assurance that I am relishing my best moments with IWA. Since my engagement in 2002, I learnt to always give my fullest while compromising and improving my imperfections. I recalled our first successful meet-your-mentor-at-lunch-program in Nairobi where enthusiastic YWPs discussed sanitation and faecal management without hesitation at lunch! That was also when we had our first structured rapporteuring activity with support from the local YWPs. The water sector should always be appreciated and nurtured for future generations. If I may say so, IWAYWP is part of my water "DNA" as it defines my fundamental and distinctive "addictions" for YWP activities. As the 2012 Young Water Professional Award holder, I am proud to be the young water ambassador for IWA and also for my country, Malaysia. The prestigious award somehow reflected that within the water sector... YWP matters!

These past two years as the Asian representative, we have organized two of our signature IWA International Publication Workshops at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Johor Bahru in 2012 and 2013, respectively. Both were well attended by young professionals worldwide from different countries representing various water backgrounds. We can't wait for our next scheduled workshop in March 2015 to be held in concurrent with our 2nd IWA Malaysia Young Water Professionals Conference. Moreover, the Malaysia YWP Chapter (My YWP) is finally realized with support from IWA and the Malaysian Water Association (MWA) as the Governing Member. Following that, communication, engagement and networking with neighbouring chapters are actively taking place.

In the Asian region, the YWPs hold the responsibility to not only value but sustain a sustainable future. Various water scarcity issues, water resources depletion and pollution imparted a significant deterioration in water security for the region. Hence, in the coming years, we are hoping to brace ourselves with the necessary instruments to face the water challenges that await us.



**Hiroshi Yamamura**

Taking over my position as the Asian Representative is Dr. Hiroshi Yamamura. Hiroshi is an Assistant Professor at Faculty of Science and Engineering, Chuo University Japan. Hiroshi currently plays an active role managing the publicity of the Japanese YWP Chapter. He joined academia three years ago and his research focuses on the development of water treatment technology including membrane filtration and biofuel algae cultivation. Prior to this, he worked at a private company for several years. It was there where Hiroshi came to realize that innovation has great potentials to improve and sustain the existing water management system. Now, Hiroshi is dreaming to achieve the zero-energy water cycling systems. Via IWAYWP, Hiroshi wishes to expand his network by meeting admirable water professionals who want to share similar dreams in water management systems for the future. Over the following two years, he aims to strengthen the connection between YWP chapters and regions and encourage active YWP participation and engagement in IWA Specialist Groups.

As future Chair of the YWP Steering Committee, I would like to say welcome on board to Hiroshi as well as the rest of the new Steering Committee team! Let's look forward to another two exciting years to come.

# 7th International Young Water Professional Conference

07-11 DECEMBER 2014  
TAIPEI, CHINESE TAIWAN

## JOIN THE YOUNG WATER PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG & SENIOR PROFESSIONALS

Technical sessions will focus on: water treatment & management; wastewater treatment & management; water reuse & desalination; energy saving; nutrient removal & recovery; health related issues; nano-technologies; sludge management & resource recovery; wetland & climate change.

The conference provides learning through career development workshops so you will come back with new/improved skills. The week brings plenty of networking opportunities to meet your peers and increase your professional network, and we appreciate your input into the interactive plenary morning sessions.

### REGISTER NOW AND JOIN US IN TAIPEI!

<http://www.iwa-ywp7.org>

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official publication:



## The 2<sup>nd</sup> IWA Malaysia Young Water Professionals Conference 17-20 March 2015 Vivatel Hotel, Kuala Lumpur MALAYSIA

The 2<sup>nd</sup> IWA Malaysia Young Water Professionals conference 2015 (MyYWP15) is the second conference organised by the IWA Malaysia Young Water Professionals Chapter (MyYWP) under the auspices of the International Water Association (IWA) and the Malaysian Water Association (MWA) via collaborations with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

This conference aims to provide an international forum for young researchers and senior professionals in water and wastewater sciences, to present their work and meet their peers in multidisciplinary fields of water for career advancement.

MyYWP15 encourages scientific dialogue, knowledge transfer and mentoring between young and senior water professionals of various backgrounds and expertise.

The conference will also mark the establishment of the Malaysian YWP chapter focusing on creating effective communication network for YWPs. It is also important to recognize the vital contribution of YWPs within the water sector as young professionals are the future of the sector.

The topics that will be discussed include:

- Public, Health, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Water Resources and Supply
- Water and Wastewater Treatment Technologies/ Systems
- Water Reuse and Reclamation
- Point and Non-Point Source of Pollution
- Emerging Contaminants for Water
- Water and Energy Nexus
- Water and Food Security
- Sustainable and Green Technology for Environment
- Water Policies
- Integrated Catchment Management
- Capacity Building
- Data Management and Statistics

YWPs, researchers, policy-makers, academics, students and the broader community active in contributing solutions to the countless of environmental questions that are posed to ensure sustainability, are welcome to meet in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to share their knowledge and visions for the future.

For further information please contact the Malaysian Young Water Professionals Chapter:

E-mail: [mywp@utm.my](mailto:mywp@utm.my)

Website: <http://www.utm.my/ywp15/>



# A new beginning in Australia

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## How to get started? - The birth of a new YWP Chapter

**How did the idea to form a country chapter come about? / What inspired you (or your predecessors) to start a country chapter?**

Through the IWA I (Katryn Silvester) was put in touch with Arash Zamyadi, who shared his experiences working with the IWA, including forming the North American chapter and his involvement in the IWA Young Water Professionals committee. I found his endeavours inspiring and realised I had the opportunity to engage Young Water Professionals down under by following his lead. Arash, along with YWP predecessors Rita Henderson and Michael Storey, have kindly offered their assistance. We are aspiring to form an Australian and New Zealand joint chapter.

**How did you gather enthusiastic people (from utility, universities, government etc.) to form the Steering Committee of your National Chapter?**

Kirsten de Vette is currently putting me in touch with suitable IWA YWP members to assist in forming a new chapter. I am also involved with the Australian Water Association (AWA) and Engineers Without Borders (EWB), so I am able to utilise these existing connections to find individuals who are passionate about the industry and eager to become involved.

**Did you get support from your Governing member?**

The Australian Governing members are supportive of the formation of an YWP chapter as it aligns with the IWA 2014-2018 strategic plan. By creating a joint chapter we are able to: Grow and diversify IWA membership and partnerships in a pro-active manner; Develop and implement tailored regional programmes and initiatives, engaging IWA members and partners; and Co-ordinate regional co-operation amongst water professionals with governing members, water operators, universities and regional partners consulted throughout the process.

**What activities have you done to empower Young Water Professionals through connecting them, providing professional development opportunities, and recognizing them?**

I am currently the New South Wales AWA YWP mentoring representative. Over the past year I have been building a mentoring program that provides professional development opportunities. Listening to feedback from those in the mentoring program has resulted in quarterly mentoring catch up sessions. This not only encourages mentoring pairs to connect more frequently but also provides networking opportunities for those involved. The mentoring community is able to offer advice to one another so that those who are new to mentoring are able to benefit from the more experienced.

**What are your plans for the future?**

Initially, we will organise networking events to coincide with local conferences to engage and connect our members. Rita Henderson is enthusiastic about restarting the Australian National YWP conference and the World Water Congress and Exhibition will be hosted in Brisbane in 2016, which we will organise a corresponding YWP programme.

**How has setting up this chapter enhanced your career development? / That of the country chapter steering committee?**

The journey of forming an Australian and New Zealand joint chapter has only just begun and it has already been beneficial to my career development. Through the IWA I have made connections and have been given the opportunity to work with some inspiring people: Arash Zamyadi, Rita Henderson, Michael Storey, Kirsten de Vette and Norhayati Abdullah. I have also become aware of opportunities that are available to IWA YWPs and will continue to take advantage of these so I can become closer to achieving my career goal of increasing global access to water and sanitation.

# Inspiring change in Eastern Europe

## Goodbye to Hello - Greeting the new Steering Committee member

Reflecting my last 4 years, I represented YWPs from Eastern Europe and CIS countries in the IWA YWP Steering Committee. I am satisfied to say that we organized 6 IWA YWP conferences in countries of Eastern Europe and CIS. More than 600 YWPs had the opportunity to be involved in the work of IWA establishing network between different universities, organizations and individual professionals. Considering these years as very successful, I can say that they definitely influenced not only my life, but also the life of many YWPs who themselves had great opportunities by joining the IWA. IWA offered me, every year, new experiences, knowledge, but moreover new friends- young and motivated people, with a strong belief that collaboration is a basic need to solve environmental issues.



**Maryna Feierabend (right)**

The water sector is the biggest challenge in the region. There are emerging opportunities in the Eastern European Region that can help accelerate the transformation of the sector into viable prospects where the Young Water Professionals can play a vital role. IWA creates opportunities for YWPs, who have a unique insight into the challenges that affect their communities, to team up with local and world leaders, to develop creative and sustainable solutions needed. It will be my advice for the future representative of this region to create this link between the YWPs in the region and IWA as the biggest World Water Association.

Saying this, during the last years I was honored to work with the very motivated and enthusiastic Organizing Committee of IWA YWP Eastern European

Conferences. Arlinda is a member of the Organizing Committee for 3 years. She was involved with organization of the events in Saint Petersburg, Kiev and Istanbul.

Chairing the Committee of Young Water Professionals (YWP) of Albania since 2012, was her main role to design



**Arlinda Ibrahimllari (second from the right)**

and oversee the development and implementation of a programme built by Young Water Professionals in Albania. Moreover, she represents the YWPs of Albania in the Governing Board of the Water Supply and Sewerage Association of Albania (SHUKAIB) speaking for the first time for young water professionals of the country to the Association's governing body. In parallel to YWPs, she is a full time employee as the Manager at Korça Join Stock Company (UKKO), where she manages the Waste Water Services Department. Since completing her Msc at the Polytechnic University of Tirana in 2008 she has worked full time as an Environmental Engineer in different Infrastructure projects. Over the following two years, her key objectives is to significantly increase the number of formalized IWA YWP Country Chapters in order to raise the profile of the YWPs and increase the recruitment and retention of YWP members to the organization.

Personally, I am planning to continue to support IWA YWPs and particularly YWPs of Eastern European region and Of course I am happy to help advice and share my experiences with Arlinda and all new members of the Steering Committee. In this place I would not say "from goodbye to hello", but "see you soon!"

# Introducing the Danish National Chapter

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## The first steps of a newly established chapter

### How did the idea to form a Country chapter come about? What inspired you to start a country chapter?

I (Trine Stausgaard Munk) participated in a conference in Århus, which gave me an insight into the challenges faced in the water sector when trying to work across organizations within the sector. Through work, I had experienced these challenges as well and I realized that today's challenges in Denmark, was not sustainable solutions within the sector as much as sustainable management and processes. Many of us newbies have been taught to love Interdisciplinarity. I figured out, that a network for newcomers in the water sector would be the best place to try and overcome these cross-organisational and academic challenges limiting the water management today.



### How did you gather enthusiastic people to form the Steering Committee of your national chapter?

I firstly made a flyer holding information about YWP in general and the need for a YWP in Denmark. Then I used my network and LinkedIn to distribute the flyer and to

have all possible members and committee members contact me. Quickly, we were three hard working and enthusiastic people using our network to spread the idea. This developed in ten interested people for the committee spread across the country (though most in the capital area), organizations and academic backgrounds. There was and still is an overweight of engineers and university and consultancy representatives. We are trying hard to reach out to utility companies, NGO's and interest organizations working within the water sector.

### How did you formalize the establishment of the chapter?

The establishment of the network was formalized through the general assembly. Our network is supported and partly funded by the Danish interest organization for water utility companies (DANVA). With the help from DANVA and our governing member, we organized the general assembly

within a few months and had a show-up of about 25 people, which was more than anticipated. We had a country chapter steering committee (CCSC) elected of 10 members. The committee includes three officers (a chair, treasurer and secretary), five active members with each individual responsibility (event, volunteers, PR, etc.) and two alternates.

### What activities have you done to empower young water professionals through connecting them, providing professional development opportunities and recognising them?

When we had our general assembly, held after a yearly meeting at DANVA, we offered our members to attend the general assembly also to attend the morning sessions of the DANVA meeting.

We are currently planning our next activity, which will be a summer event in collaboration with the state-funded initiative State of Green, working to promote Danish water solutions internationally. We are still just in the idea phase, but the event will probably begin with a water-focused guided bike-ride through interesting areas of Copenhagen followed by a visit to State of Green to hear about the international water market today and end with snacks and drinks and networking.

Our goal is not to have any costs when we have our events, thus we are dependent on sponsorship. We are optimistic and do not believe, that the economic aspect will be our limiting factor.

It is our impression, that YWPDK should first and foremost be a basis for networking. A facilitator of connecting young water professionals across academic backgrounds and organizations, as they are very scattered today. Subsequently, YWPDK should try to bridge the gap between consultancies, utilities and universities in the water sector and help create a dialogue of a common future for water management.

# YWP for life - Reflections

## Enrique Cabrera engagement as a former YWP

In the following article the Chairman of the Board of Directors of IWA Publishing and member of the Board of Directors, describes impressively the path of his professional way, starting as a Young Water Professional, up to his current position as the Chair of the Specialist Group on Benchmarking and Performance Assessment of Urban Water Services. I cannot imagine what my professional career would have been like without my involvement in IWA. I am certain that I would not have worked with the best professionals in my field, would not have acquired the wide international perspective that I now have or grow professionally as quickly as I did.



Enrique Cabrera (left) in Vienna (2008)

My first IWA meeting was still an IWSA meeting, and thinking about it I have to admire how well those big names in my Specialist Group welcomed a 27 year old. It was in 1999, and no programme for young professionals existed (not even the concept) but the newly appointed chair Francisco Cubillo and all the others in the group made me feel at home. Just a few months after, I landed on the first World Water Congress in Paris, with that lost look in my eyes that often newcomers display when they first arrive in our universe

I have always considered Francisco Cubillo not only my mentor in IWA, but a visionary promoting the presence of young water professionals. In 2001 he was already obtaining sponsorship to have young professionals attend our specialist conference. In 2003, I myself caught on the idea and searched for European funds to allow 30 under 35s to attend the PEDS conference in Valencia in what we called GYPSI (Growing and Young Professionals Support Initiative). This would continue until the YWP initiative was extended to the rest of the Association and become the great success story it is today.

I attended as a young water professional 5 different world congresses and at least as many Specialist Conferences, and soon learnt that IWA was the perfect environment for someone eager to exchange experiences, present my ideas, meet colleagues from around the world and benefit from tremendous synergies.

On my 6<sup>th</sup> WWC, I received the IWA's Young Water Professional Award, in what I thought was to a large extent a recognition to all those who helped me along those years and allowed me to enhance my work.

It took me a couple of years to accept I was no longer an YWP. I even miss it today and I apologize in advance to all IWA YWP if they see me trying to act like one. However, I soon realized that it was now my job to return to the Association all that I had received and also to the YWPs, which I obviously consider fundamental for the future IWA. It is of the greatest importance (I repeat this to myself often) to involve the younger members, to let their creativity bring new and fresh air into our Association, to provide them with positions of responsibility and let them deliver all they have to offer. It is fundamental that our young Association remains young.

It is also important for young professionals to understand that often to receive a lot you have to give a lot. I would not dare to count the thousands of hours of voluntary work I devoted to IWA but I do not regret a single one of them. I certainly feel I received more than I gave. My advice is for YWP to actively get involved, to volunteer for all kind of activities, to bring new ideas forward and to demonstrate that despite being young, they are great professionals. In return I am sure that the IWA Secretariat, their colleagues in the Specialist Groups, Programs and Clusters and everyone involved in the different facets of the Association will welcome you with their arms wide open.

Last but not least, I would like to unveil what I believe is one of the best-kept secrets on how to succeed working in IWA. Regardless whether it is the organization of a conference, seminar or workshop, setting up a task group to draft a document or meeting with some colleagues to discuss the state of the art, YWP should not forget to have fun! Young professionals tend to be serious around older IWA colleagues. However, I learnt long ago from Francisco that having fun is a great motivation for all of us in IWA. Do not hesitate to make meetings and work fun, and to step away from work at the end of the day. You will soon discover that this not only makes your work easier, but is also far more enjoyable

# Changes in Western Europe

## Goodbye - Hello Global Steering Committee members from Western Europe

I, Michael Conti Ramsden, was an accidental newcomer to the water industry. Coming out of university my focus was on innovation and business development; a passion that I followed by joining a start-up in a Doctoral level research role. The start-up, Arvia Technology Ltd. had an ambition to bring its new technology into the water market and as a result, so did I.



Many researchers in small groups with a narrow focus will understand the relative isolation such positions can carry for those beginning a career in technology development. They will also know the value in interaction with other researchers in complimentary fields. For me, the greatest transition as a researcher, and now a research leader was the YWP network and I am very proud of having served the YWP community over these past 2 years.

Joining the YWP marked the beginning of my integration into a vibrant, active, forward thinking, international community. As a YWP I learned to network in Australia, discussed career development in Montreal, led an emerging technology & careers seminar in Brazil and took part in a paper writing workshop in Malaysia. These hugely varied and valuable experiences helped shape, and continue to shape, my career in the sector. Joining the team responsible for leading the YWP community as the West European Regional Representative of the YWP Steering Committee developed the connections I had made and taught me what it takes to organise international events and spread a sense of collaboration and community across languages & cultures. In particular the transition from making use of the fantastic opportunities the YWP network offers to supporting decisions on how to apply focus & resource to deliver value to the YWP community was very rewarding. Most rewarding however, has been my continued interaction with the members of the YWP community. As well as supporting initiatives and promoting awareness it was my pleasure to support the IWA's 15<sup>th</sup> National UK YWP conference, to see the work YWPs are doing and to share my own experiences.

With reflection also comes an understanding of the significant amount of work still to do to achieve our goals. In particular empowering YWPs will remain a focus for the Committee well into the next term. Considering the

West European Region the empowerment of YWPs is fundamentally important for the development of the sector which will require experienced and able leaders in future. It is only through empowering YWPs and giving them the experience, skillset and opportunity that we will nurture the leaders that the sector will need. Further, as a leading region in science and innovation there is a responsibility to focus on developing the more practical side of innovation and business development in the network so that future water sector entrepreneurs have the knowledge they need to commercialise the technologies that will help deal with tomorrow's water challenges. My advice to the incoming committee members would be to focus on further developing the YWP network to provide the structure, support and mechanisms for the sharing of knowledge and to put an emphasis on developing the business and entrepreneurial skill set of the community; something I hope to contribute to very actively in my future engagement with the YWP.

Now it is with great pleasure that I introduce Christian Loderer to the YWP community as the incoming YWP Steering Committee member to take on my role. This appointment is a wonderful opportunity for Christian to use his energy and passion to help steer and shape the YWP community in the coming years. Christian is an active and experienced YWP who has been contributing to the YWP network since 2008 organising workshops, conferences and issuing & editing key IWA newsletters.

Christian's ambitions reflect the YWP Committee's focus on empowerment, and he aims to deliver empowerment to Western European YWPs by giving them visibility for their work through the use of media; by establishing regional workshops and supporting regional Chapters. As an ambitious goal, Christian is hoping to organize a Western Europe Regional IWA-YWP Congress in 2016, an opportunity to further promote dialogue and share ideas in the region. I know Christian is keen to be the voice of the YWP for the region and to be an agent for change and will welcome ideas and initiatives – don't wait until 2016 to meet him! Help him shape the event and these next two years by getting in touch.



With that I leave you under Christian's able stewardship. I look forward to supporting Christian and the YWP Committee in this next phase and I'm sure that the YWP will be a stronger organization when Christian and the new team pass on their responsibilities in 2016

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# YWP at events around the world

## YWPs at the ecoSTP2014 Conference

Verona experienced a “water week” from 23-27 June 2014: the city of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet hosted the 2nd IWA Specialized International Conference *EcoTechnologies for Wastewater Treatment – ecoSTP2014*. The Conference was organized and hosted by the University of Verona and Politecnico di Milano, with the support of other Italian universities, research institutions and local stakeholders that showed strong interest in promotion of the ecoSTP2014 initiative.



The ecoSTP2014 Conference gathered together researchers and practitioners from the water sector from 47 countries that presented progress in wastewater treatment processes and technologies, impelled by water scarcity, climate change and stricter regulations, and highlighted the need for a paradigm shift in wastewater management from treating wastewater for disposal to providing water for re-use and enhanced resource and energy recovery, applying the treatment processes with low environmental footprint and lower operating costs.

The Chairs of ecoSTP2014 encouraged and supported the YWPs to participate actively in the planning and organization of the event. Enthusiastic and friendly environment that our YWP organization team had

created was a real hallmark of the conference. Thanks to the great level of participation and interaction among the YWPs, ecoSTP2014 delegates and guests right from the Opening to the Closing ecoSTP2014 Session, it was not a difficult task at all.

We made all efforts to make the ecoSTP2014 a place where YWPs can build and strengthen connections with our YWP and senior colleagues. For YWPs, ecoSTP2014 started with a workshop, which was an informal, friendly

meeting, accompanied by drinks and snacks with a perfect opportunity to get to know each other. Besides their participation in the conference sessions as presenters, YWPs were also given the opportunity to co-chair the conference sessions together with their senior colleagues and to vote for three best platform presentations done by YWPs.

After the very intensive conference days, we organized some extra events such as watching the games of the football World Cup football, enjoying a blues concert after the Gala dinner and at the YWP ecoSTP2014 farewell dinner, which gave us the opportunity to network and share our work experience in a relaxed environment.

Finally, we think that the ecoSTP2014 was a great success. The feedback from the ecoSTP2014 participants – both YWP and senior - was exceptionally positive, and we will conclude this article with a follow-up comment that makes us feel proud of our team: “Every detail had been previously considered and your enthusiasm was so great that any small problem that could arise was solved immediately”.

# Recognising Excellence

## Introducing Dr Inga Jacobs – Winner of IWA Young Water Professionals Award and YWP Ambassador for 2014-2016

We present to you the 2014 YWP Award winner, *Dr Inga Jacobs* who is recognized for her excellent work in Political Science and her active role in the International Water Association.

Dr Jacobs is the Executive Manager: Business Development, Marketing and Communications at the South African Water Research Commission (WRC) in Pretoria, South Africa, and is a political scientist specialising in international water governance. Her spare time is dedicated to Young Water Professionals activities, a programme she has been involved in for the past 5 years. She has served as the IWA YWP Chair (2010 – 2012), the South African Young Water Professionals Chairperson (2012 – 2014), and has also served on the boards of IWA and WISA as YWP representative. She is particularly proud of the South African Young Water Professional Chapter, one that has grown in strength since its inception in 2007 and one that boasts the largest YWP regional conferences.

**Dr J. E. Burgess** and **Dr T. Barnard** shared some thoughts on why they nominated her:

Dr Burgess concluded her comments by mentioning that: *'Inga is a very special person indeed, and typifies everything the IWA YWP stands for. She has combined disciplines that do not normally go together, and from that created a unique ability for complexity thinking and trans -*

*disciplinarity. Inga is a role model to all young professionals and to everyone in the sector.*

Dr Barnard shared some further characteristics with us: *When I think of Inga I always think of the bubbling, smiling and energetic person ready to take on any challenge, especially when it comes to the YWPs. In the last few years Inga has shown how to apply the principles that IWA YWP segment promote to not only contribute to the water sector, improve her own understanding of the water sector, build a strong network but also to use this in her own career. Her contributions to the YWP includes taking on the role as both the IWA YWP and South Africa YWP committees as well as arranging various YWP events in various countries including the South Africa YWP Regional conference with 420 participants.*



Credit: UPTW

Inga's first reaction to the Award, that will be handed to her during the World Water Congress, was: *"I felt proud that the work we are doing in South Africa has been recognised globally - this award is not only an award for me but for all the South African YWPs that came before me, who built the foundation on which i could grow - and that made me be thankful."*

As the Award winner, she will become the honourable Ambassador IWA Young Water Professionals for the upcoming 2 years, and has dedicated herself to host the first YWP Africa Conference in mid-November 2015 and to grow the YWP Publications Workshop. Moreover, she is helping the Youth in Water Strategy for South Africa and the development of the National Water Challenges as pre-conference preparation.

We are proud of Inga, and would like to express our gratitude for sharing her experiences.

**The Young Water Professionals Award is the highest recognition an individual member (under age of 35) can achieve within the International Water Association. This prestigious award is given biennially to one exceptional YWP since 1999.**

**The holders are recognized water professionals with outstanding career achievements and they have contributed to the Young Water Professionals network significantly. These young people already have an impact on the water industry but their potential to have a more influential role in the future is unquestionable**

# Changes in the African Region

## Looking forward - representatives From Africa

Reflecting back on the last two years as IWA YWP Africa representative I, Tobias Barnard cannot help but smile when I think of all the African chapters and members. The fact that in many ways we still lead the YWP activities is something that I am very proud of. I must give thanks to the South African YWP chapter for always making me proud with your enthusiasm and innovative ways of taking on challenges. A lot of you have become close friends and this certainly is no good bye but merely a see you later.



**Tobias Barnard**

The highlights of the last two years have to include meeting so many YWP's from our continent and seeing the eagerness with which they join the IWA YWP family, start country chapters and arrange events. I will never forget the IWA Development Conference held in Kenya in 2013 where the YWP discussions were so lively that people walked in to see what we were up to. Another memory I will always cherish is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Southern African YWP conference held in 2013 where we took over the streets of Stellenbosch with the "Water Olympics".

Although I am stepping down you will be in good hands with two great African YWP representatives. The first is Yussuf Noor who will look after the Eastern African activities. Yussuf is an executive member of Kenya Young Water Professional and also the Chair of Nairobi City Water & Sewerage Company-YWP which was started 2011. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Procurement and Supplies Management from Moi



**Yussuf Noor Hussein**

University, Kenya and Diploma holder in Purchasing & Supplies Management from Nairobi Institute of Business Studies in Kenya. He is also a certified Integrity Assurance Officer from Ethics and Integrity Institute in Kenya and

recently joined the Caux Round table in Ethics and Integrity.

Yussuf's commitment as a global steering committee member and representative of the region is to increase the region chapters and bring on board the youth in the water sector. He believes that this can be realized in making sure to work with countries that have already formed stable chapters like South Africa. His personal goal is that the next International Young Water Professional event be held in the region which can be subject consultative agreement so that we can increase YWP recognition.



**Nora Hanke**

Nora Hanke will be representing the southern African region in the IWA YWP Steering Committee. She became fascinated with the water sector through her MA thesis on hydro-politics. She currently works at the Stellenbosch University Water Institute (SUWI) as Senior Project Manager with a specific focus on a South Africa-wide needs analysis in the water sector. Prior to that, she previously worked at the AU/NEPAD Southern African Network for Water Centres of Excellence (SANWATCE) Secretariat, also based in Stellenbosch, where she coordinated and promoted water research across Southern Africa.

Nora first got active in the YWP network as Chair of the Organising Committee of 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Southern African YWP Conference, one of the largest YWP conferences in the world. She currently chairs the oldest South African YWP (YWP-ZA) provincial chapter in the Western Cape and have recently been elected to Vice Chairperson of YWP-ZA. As the Vice Chairperson of the Committee, she is responsible for international relations and networks. Over the following two years she aims to achieve greater regional integration of young professional networks, show-case the southern African technical expertise to each other and the world and open avenues for the region's YWPs to international opportunities.

I wish Yussuf and Nora the best of luck for the next two years and I know that they will get the continued support from our members. To the rest of our members you are always welcome to come and say hello at events and chat over a cup of coffee!



# Explore our Social Media Platforms!

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IWA is the home of more than a 1000 Young Water Professionals worldwide from a wide range of professional back- grounds.

Today's presence of IWA YWPs in social media has reached participants of over 6000 Young Water Professionals and practitioners - and it keeps growing exponentially.

We invite you to be part of this network, keep track of our activities, news, posts and different ways to get involved.

**Where can you find IWA YWPs on Social Media?**

**LinkedIn** - Build up your network within our LinkedIn IWA Young Water Professionals Group, participate in discussions, create Sub Groups & start new projects with your peers.

**facebook.** - Join our Young Water Professionals Facebook Group, share your experiences, activities & organise events.



- Follow **@iwaywp** on Twitter to be always up to date with our news post your experiences **#IWAYWP**



### SEND CONTRIBUTIONS

We want to hear from you! Our aim is to provide continued updates on what IWA Young Water Professionals are doing on the IWA YWP web pages [www.iwa-network.org/ywp](http://www.iwa-network.org/ywp). We will also provide important information, such as news and YWP events dates.

Let us know what you are up to and we will edit your story for online publishing. Once a year a selection of the best stories will form this YWP yearly digital update that will be disseminated widely.

Thus, have you been:

- Engaging with Specialist groups and their activities
- Setting up YWP working groups within SGs
- Planning to organize a workshop or an interesting outcome to share
- Forming a YWP country chapter

and you want to:

- Send in your interview
- Share your activities and ideas
- Gain profile on the website
- Attending / organizing YWP events and you want to send in your learning.

We welcome all IWA members' contributions at all times that we will try to publish online as soon as possible. Please send to [ywp@iwahq.org](mailto:ywp@iwahq.org) and our YWP team will contact you.

### SPECIAL THANKS

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