



# GIWEH 2015

Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health

Biannual magazine

GIWEH  
International



Conferences  
& Events



Capacity  
Building



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# GIWEH International

## Asia Water Council

In August, GIWEH became a **member of the Asia Water Council (AWC)**. The AWC is a global water organization focused on developing a consensus and sustainable network in order to find solutions to Asia's water problems. Officially launched in April 2015 in Gyeongju, Korea, the AWC is made up of 31 organizations including international organizations, multilateral development banks, Asian governments, public organizations, and research institutes. The AWC's main strategies are to: connect with the SDGs, build a solid network, and enhance water technology.



The AWC is divided between seven Special Committees including: Strategy and Policy, Standardization, Smart Water Management Initiative, Water-Energy-Food Nexus, Water-Aid Program, Water Education, and Knowledge Base and Dissemination. GIWEH was elected to be the **Vice Chairperson of the Knowledge Base and Dissemination Special Committee (KB&D)** this November. Already (timeline?), GIWEH and the KB&D have progressed toward AWC's goals by initiating a dynamic database titled, "Asia Dynamic Hub for Water: the Power of Information." This database aims to reduce the information gap surrounding water-related issues in Asia, and will be available for all Asian member states on free, open-source software.

## 7th General Assembly of the World Water Council



As a member of the **World Water Council (WWC)**, GIWEH participated in the **7th General Assembly**, in Marseille, France, held on November 13th -14th. GIWEH was represented by Dr. Dietrich Bartelt, a member of our Advisory Board, Dr. Nidal Salim, the General Director, and Mr. Adrian Oleszkiewicz, a member of our Steering Committee. The Assembly elected the Board of Governors (to serve for a three-year tenure from 2016-2018), and reinforced the goals of WWC's current agenda: to focus on the implementation of the approved strategy on water security, adaptation, and sustainability.

## OECD Water Governance Initiative

GIWEH has been of member of the OECD Governance Initiative since its inception in 2013. This year, during the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting on June 4th, the OECD created 12 Principles on Water Governance to provide a framework to understand whether water governance systems are performing optimally and help to adjust them where necessary. GIWEH became a signatory to the 12 Principles of Water Governance during the 7th World Water Forum in Korea and continues to partake in the OECD's bi-annual forums.

# Conferences & Events

## International Show of Agriculture, Machinery and Fishing

The International Show of Agriculture, Machinery, and Fishing was held on October 28th - November 1st, in Tunisia. As a partner of l'Union Tunisienne de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche (UTAP), GIWEH attended the event on October 30th. This event was organized in order to provide a platform for international organizations to exchange experiences and create partnerships. GIWEH attended with the main purpose of exchanging ideas with farmers and discussing their basic needs and problems, in order to better understand how to create adequate solutions.



## COP 21



The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) took place from November 30th - December 11th, in Paris, France. GIWEH was represented by Mr. Adrien Oleszkiewicz at COP21, attending as an observer, from December 7th -13th. GIWEH had four main objectives for attending this event: networking, supporting the water agenda within the climate change discussion, enhancing the role of civil society, and exchanging ideas with civil society organizations and other delegations about the future challenges and possible solutions to global environmental problems. GIWEH plans to join the preparation meetings for COP22 in 2016, working on behalf of the connection between climate change and water.

## Swiss Contribution to the SDGs

Dr. Nidal Salim gave a presentation about GIWEH's support for the 2030 Agenda during a panel discussion at the Eawag headquarters on December 1st. Eawag, in collaboration with the Swiss Water Partnership, organized an inspiring debate around the implementation and monitoring of the Water Goal, following the UN's adoption of the SDGs. The panel included speakers from Eawag, SDC, WHO, GEMI, GIWEH, and WaterLex. This event was organized to inform participants about the ongoing development of monitoring infrastructure, the newly adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, address key challenges towards implementation, and present selected initiatives.

# Capacity Building

## Climate-KIC

GIWEH was invited to speak at the Climate-KIC course on Spatial Planning in Urban Water Management, in Budapest, Hungary on November 26th-27th. This two-day program was organized for professionals, aiming to promote sustainable growth and to implement spatial policies at national and international levels. **Climate-KIC is Europe's largest public-private partnership**, working together to address the challenge of climate change through implementation of spatial policies to promote sustainable water management. They drive climate change innovation through creating partnerships between large and small, local and global, and private, public, and academic sectors. GIWEH is proud to provide training to top European officials through such a well-established organization.



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