



GIWEH 2018

Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health Biannual Magazine

GIWEH
Partnership



GIWEH Project
& Activities



International
Representation



Capacity
Building



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GIWEH – Partnership

Support from Geneva DETA Minister to GIWEH and Tunisia

On 28th February 2018, Geneva's Minister of Environment, Transport and Agriculture Mr. Luc Barthassat offers full support of his department to GIWEH and the Tunisian Delegation in order to build cooperation and implement projects based on such an inclusive platform.

This technical and scientific exchange aimed at strengthening public policies was a great opportunity to meet with researchers and stakeholders all over Switzerland, share experiences and discuss promising future collaborations.



GIWEH - Kenya Cooperation



On 12th February 2018, following to the meeting between Dr. Nidal Salim from GIWEH and His Excellency, Mr. Eugene Wamalwa (Minister of Water and Sanitation in Kenya), GIWEH was nominated as National Steering Committee member of Sustainable Development Goals 6 (SDG6) in Kenya. Dr. Salim visited the Ministry of Water and Sanitation on 12th February with the advisory Board member Mr. Mbaruko Vyakweli and Kewasnet (kenyan civil society Network) partner to start together a new project of Capacity Building of SDG6 and Data monitoring and Reporting.

Cooperation with Geneva University and Geneva Water Hub

GIWEH was invited by Geneva Water Hub held on 8th January 2018 as a main speaker at “The Challenges of the Implementation of the Concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)”.



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The webinar is organized in the framework of the Distance Learning Course on “International Water Law & the Law of Transboundary Aquifers” offered through the Continuing Education and e-Learning Centre of the University of Geneva.

The objective of this webinar is to examine the significance of the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) both at the national and trans boundary levels.

MOU between GIWEH and SOPHEN, Nepal

GIWEH signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Society of Public Health Engineers – Nepal (SOPHEN) on 12th April 2018.

The MoU was signed during the 2018 Water, Environment and Climate Change conference in Kathmandu and will promote cooperation in fields including the sharing of knowledge and personnel, the joint organisation of events and production of research.



GIWEH and SOPHEN additionally committed cooperation with the Nepalese government in 2019 to address problems raised during the WECC conference related to the lack of data on water and sanitation in Nepal.

GIWEH Project and Activities

United Communities Academia Network - GIWEH initiative at 8th World Water Forum

GIWEH launched an initiative for cooperation that unites and connects organizational communities with academia at the 8th World Water Forum (WWF8) which took place on March 20, 2018, in Brasilia, Brazil. It aims to create a strong and active civil society and academia network which is still lacking behind in the governance process.

This initiative was launched at the Swiss Pavillon at a very special event - during a session on Supporting the 2030 sustainable development agenda through community-based approaches.



It was introduced to a large audience, encompassing the regional representatives of more than 500 NGOs, leaders and coordinators from Africa, Asia, Central Asia, Europe, MENA region and South America. Its goal is to build an inclusive and international network of development actors participating in policy making which supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The 4 main objectives of the alliance are:

- To support research and academic institutions nationally and internationally,
- To provide NGOs with appropriate technologies and tailor-based innovations,
- To build a positive environment conducive to cooperation at local and regional levels, and
- To build a holistic interactive dialogue between academia NGOs, private sector and governments, in order to enhance good governance and to align to the People, Science and Government initiative.

UCAN is open to all NGOs, universities and research institutions, and is looking for active partners to join us in achieving our objectives.

Water for Rural Development – Field work in Tunisia

In 8th to 12th March 2018, GIWEH delegation Dr. Nidal Salim Director General and Ms. Olivia Braud Project Coordinator - arranged a field-trip in Tunisia, in cooperation with UTAP - Union Tunisienne de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche - and the KRC Delegation - composed of Mr. Bang and Mr. Kim. The visit aimed to gather different actors to discuss the feasibility of water-related projects in the Beja governorate and Jendouba governorate. The delegations first attended a meeting with Mr. Abdallah Rabhi, State Secretary for Water Resources, where the discussion involved water-related issues and challenges to development.



The State Secretary emphasized the importance to focus on good governance and good practices, and to develop bottom-up inclusive approaches that best assess and address the needs of local farmers. He reaffirmed the willingness of the Tunisian government to support the implementation of efficient water-related projects.

UTAP effectively assisted the two delegations in providing all the necessary data and information on the two regions, and in connecting with local representatives and GDAs - Groupements de Développement Agricoles.

The delegations, in partnership with local UTAP representatives and the Sidi Neji GDA, visited the Beja region, including the visit of the Sidi Salem dam, farms and water storage stations. They also visited the Jendouba region next to the Algerian border, and met with local farmers from remote areas. The main issue faced by the two regions is an erratic weather which leads to not only flooding, sedimentation and siltation, but also to major droughts, further stressing the already scarce water resources. The regions also face a lack of effective infrastructure to supply water to remote areas for irrigation. It prevents the locals from developing sustainable livelihoods based on agriculture, and creates unemployment, poverty and despair.

This visit is expected to be followed by the effective design and implementation of small and medium-scale water-related projects in Tunisia.

Kenya Project/Coordination of Kenya Mission in Geneva



On the 11th of June 2018, GIWEH Director General met with the Kenyan Ambassador, Dr. Cleopa Mailu, and Mr. William Reidhead from the Global Monitoring Office at UN Water, at the Kenya Mission in Geneva to launch a new project on the monitoring and evaluation of SDG 6 (water and sanitation) in Kenya, in partnership with Kenya's Ministry of Water and Irrigation based in Nairobi. The meeting consisted of a team of approximately 10 experts from GIWEH, UN Water, the Kenya Mission representing the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and our local partner, Kewasnet.

It was agreed to arrange a visit as soon as possible and organize the upcoming official launch of the project at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi.

International Representations

8th World Water Forum

World's biggest water-related event, the 8th World Water Forum, took place for the first time in the Southern Hemisphere in Brasilia, Brazil on 18th to 23rd March 2018 organized by the World Water Council, the event aims to, inter alia, promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all level. Once again, GIWEH was taking a proactive role by focusing specially on the role of civil society on the Sustainable Development Agenda (SDG) and by participating to the different thematic sessions.



According to Dr. Nidal Salim, general director of GIWEH, the 8th WWF offered a unique chance to address the issue of water sustainability. The Citizen Forum held during the event, created a dialogue between different actors and citizens such as experts, refugees and displaced people and will give them the opportunity to discuss action plans, projects implementations and strategies, to best reach the objective 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda.

GIWEH encouraged the CSOs and NGOs of all over the world to bring their voices and messages to the Forum.

37th Human Rights Councils

On 28th February 2018, GIWEH hosted a conference on “Human Rights and Development in the Arab Region” at UNOG. During that conference, which was moderated by Ms. Sarah Cabral from GIWEH, Dr. Nidal Salim emphasized the fact that the “Arab Spring” events have been strongly linked to Human Rights issues, including food and water security, women empowerment and children rights to the education.

Dr. Salim highlighted the importance of the Development agenda in the Region, and the urging need to promote good practices regarding Water and Environment. During the Conference, Mr. Ahmed Jamaa from Soutien Sans Frontières, presented warning numbers about the human rights crisis linked to water scarcity in Somalia. Mr. Adrian Oleszkiewicz from GIWEH also mentioned education as one of the main parameters in the Human Rights crisis. Finally Ms. Olivia Braud from GIWEH emphasized the importance for the Arab region to promote a unique development model, based on its own environmental agenda. GIWEH concluded by stating that the Arab region should focus on combating poverty, in order to address effectively the Human Rights issue.



First Palestine International Water Forum

GIWEH was proud to attend the first ever Palestine International Water Forum held on 25th to 28th June 2018 as a member of its Scientific and organising Committee. Dr Nidal Salim highlighted as a keynote speaker the topic of "Building Independent State from the Water Point of View; Opportunities and Challenge & Water Integrity & Management of Public Private Partnership". The event represents a milestone in the development of Integrated water resources management in Palestine where GIWEH is looking forward to the continuation of the process.



International Conference on WECC, Nepal



On 10th to 12th April 2018, GIWEH General Director Dr. Nidal Salim participated as a speaker on several of the conference's panels and also as part of the Committee to overview innovative research works. GIWEH additionally signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the conference with SOPHEN, the Society of Public Health Engineers – Nepal.

The conference brought together more than 700 professionals, academics, and entrepreneurs to find innovative strategies to tackle water and environmental issues, develop climate resilient policies and to encourage the strengthening of effective partnerships.

3rd Mediterranean Water Forum

GIWEH Participated as moderator on opening session on Round Table Discussion in 3rd Mediterranean Water Forum held on 22nd to 24th January 2018 whereas on closing ceremony at 8th World Water Forum on Regional project. The projects put on discussions were:

- Water Knowledge Platform by EMWIS, IME, IOWATER, MENBO
- "Governance and Finance" in the Mediterranean region by GWP-Med
- Arab Action Plan by Dr. Khaled AbuZeid, Arab Ministerial Council (CEDARE)
- UNESCO science diplomacy initiative "Water Security for All"



Vietnam International Water Week

GIWEH participated as a special envoy to the 9th world water forum for Vietnam Water Week held on 4th to 7th March as a chair and session moderator. The event was hosted by the Vietnam water Cooperation Initiative (VACI), an organisation with a particular emphasis on tropical water issues.



Asia Water Council

GIWEH participated at the 6th Board of governance meeting of Asia Water Council (AWC), which was held on Bangkok, in Thailand, from 2nd to 3rd March 2018.



Elimination of Racial Discrimination



Every person is entitled to human rights without discrimination. Yet, racism and intolerance are widespread, with an alarming rise in hate crimes, dividing ideologies and discourses, violence against minorities, people of African descent and Muslims, and human rights violations targeting migrants and refugees. At GIWEH, we strongly believe that it is our diversity that makes us stronger. As 2018 marks the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, let's make it true that "we are all born free and equal" with inspiring individuals such as Sadiq Khan, let's say no to discrimination that divides us!

Altogether, let's stand up for Human Rights

Capacity Building

Graduate Institute - Geneva

On 8th February 2018, GIWEH received a group of the Environment professional of the DPP 2017-2018 Graduate Institute's Development Policies and Practice Master Programme, from South-East, central Asia and Africa to know more about GIWEH and discuss the SDG and Environment Governance.

The Participants and the academic coordinator of the DPP specific program, Dr. Nguyen Huong Thuy Phan, were received by the GIWEH team (Dr. Nidal Salim,

Ms. Olivia Braud and Ms. Sara Cabral) who introduced the Institute, its mandate and vision, and its role in fostering cooperation to achieve water sustainability and security.

Dr. Salim highlighted the importance of diplomacy, cooperation and positive thinking that should lead all stages of the negotiation process.



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