

World Water Day 2013 – Wings for Water Preparatory Youth Program

EVALUATION REPORT (version 03/04/13)

On behalf of the facilitators: Eva van der Zand and Ayla van Kessel

ANNEX: Program Schedule; List of Participants; Guideline for Water Cooperation



Working on the formulation of the Guideline for Water Cooperation in breakout groups at the ship De Vliegende Hollander

As group of 19 young water advocates, we have focused on water cooperation in three phases. Prior to the physical program, everyone participated in the online dialogue of The Broker, writing personal blogs on stringent global or local water issues. In the same – online – phase, the get-to-know-each-other process started on 20 February in the closed facebook group “Participants Wings for Water”, where we shared information about water-related challenges, opportunities and practical examples. Soon it became clear that the information to be found about water is endless, and that water is a crosscutting theme. Water relates closely to other UN, country and region-specific priorities. And, it is topical in both social and natural science (such as with regard to health, agriculture, society, biodiversity & ecosystems, business & entrepreneurship, climate change, conflict and scarcity, (inter)national policymaking, resource management, WASH). The topics which special attention was paid to by several group members, were the privatization of water and *water wars*, indigenous peoples’ rights, and individual water consumption and *virtual water*.

The second phase started arriving at the sleeping ship 'De Vliegende Hollander' in the Houthaven harbor in Amsterdam. This stimulating sleeping and meeting venue reminded us of the water continuously. Inside the slowly rocking ship, we estimated how much water the group as a whole would use during the 4-day preparatory program (outcome: 7600 liters), cooking and washing. As all water came from a tank, we were asked by the skipper to use water with moderation. The fresh air at the deck energized, and after a full program day, we hoisted a flag to celebrate the output.



Tuesday 19 March, hoisting a flag in the morning after a round of reflections of output and process evaluation of the day before

Fueled by the (Em)power talks, the moments of training and interaction with Welmoed Koekebakker and Ignaz Anderson, arts and dialogue, we defined what *Water Cooperation* entails for us, and proposed principles the global community could adhere to for water cooperation in practice, for good water governance. With our statement ready on recommended priorities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in the context of water cooperation, we headed for The Hague for the last phase.

In The Hague, the group participants actively participated in three events. On 20 March, we have met business and spiritual leaders during the preparatory meeting at VNO-NCW, where Bart Devos – as president of the World Youth Parliament for Water - was invited to speech about the value of youth involvement, after which we witnessed a cross religious gathering in the synagogue and took part in the feather ceremony. On 21 March, in the Peace Palace, we spread around the dialogue tables to contribute to the Wake Up Call based on our personal and group priorities (to be found as annex “Guideline for Water Cooperation”), after which Alexandra (grassroots), Arun (business), Lindar (science), and Patrick (spirituality) presented the Wake Up Call to all attendees and handed it over to Kitty van der Heijden (Dutch ambassador for sustainable development and Director of Environment, Water, Climate and Energy at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

World Water Day 2013 itself was marked by a meeting with Paul Polman (CEO at Unilever) about youth networks and how to strengthen those and empower youth to become more seriously involved in participation in the water community and agenda-setting, and a meeting with Prince El Hassan bin Talal of Jordan, who felt strengthened in his argument for supranational governance for water, and warmly welcomed the exchange of contact details to remain in touch.

Powered by all experiences related to the youth program and the official events, there will be new phase – that of follow-up. Numerous ideas have been discussed amongst each other, of which some have good potential to further develop as a group. On the evening of World Water Day, the group has decided to stick to the name ‘Wings for Water’ and to open a facebook group (currently 98 members) to keep ourselves and other water advocates of all ages inspired. In the upcoming weeks, all participants will independently organize a *Blue Drinks*, an open get-together in a café or home to start a dialogue on a water-related topic. The plans to develop a toolkit for youth participation in policymaking and grassroot initiatives will be described more concretely in a separate document. In this future endeavors, we will be in close contact with existing youth networks and initiatives, and work together with Annerieke Sleurink (Dutch Representative at World Youth Parliament for Water) who organized a youth conference for World Water Day and Ralien Bekkers (Dutch Representative for Sustainable Development) who joined the meetings on 21 and 22 March.

GENERAL AIMS

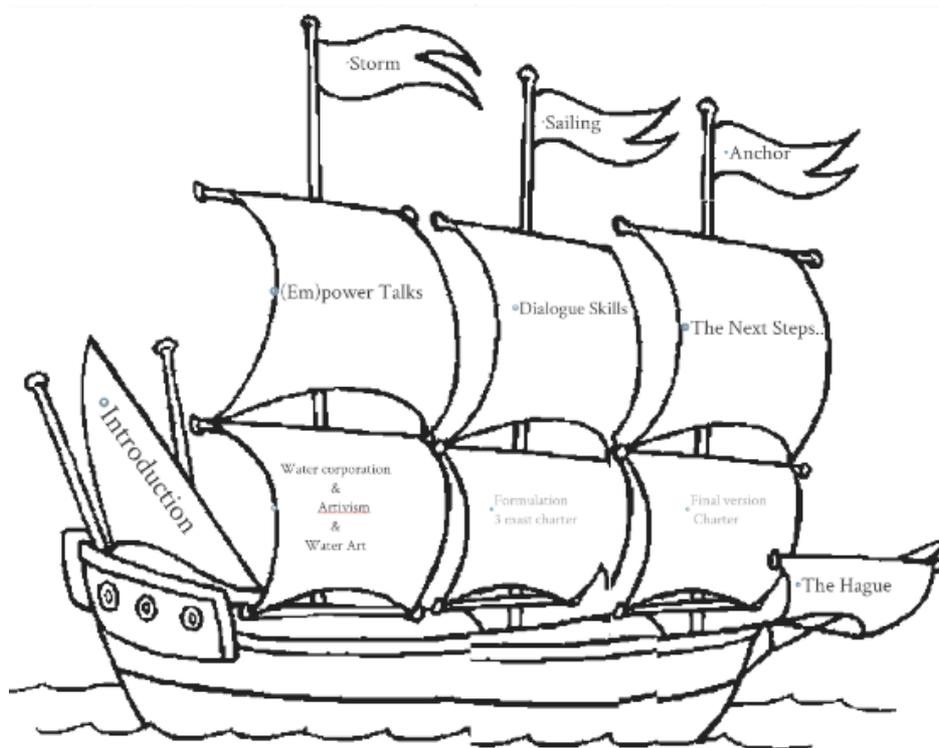
- Youth participation in global agenda setting, as youth is an important stakeholder
- Formulation of a solid and engaging contribution to the UN thematic consultations on water
- Inspiration for young water advocates, and other youngsters interested in joining the water community, understanding the urgency of and interdependency within of water cooperation
- Intercultural experience for transboundary and cross-cultural collaborations and friendships
- Youth empowerment with regard to creativity, dialogue skills, taking leadership and responsibility

METHODOLOGY

- The selection of a diverse, gender-balanced group of water advocates (up to the age of 30), in terms of educational, professional and cultural backgrounds for an interdisciplinary vision on water cooperation
- Create a group ethics of true engagement, starting from home via regular email contact, and daily information and experience sharing in the private facebook group.
- Create an environment of shared responsibilities, in letting the participants divide tasks ranging from cooking and cleaning, to ensuring an ample supply of fresh coffee, to being the group’s “guardian of compassion”.
- Moving from the ‘storm’ of an introductory day of acquaintance, information sharing and brainstorming, the storm is directed into a direction, which is when we start ‘sailing’, moving forward. On the last day at De Vliegende Hollander, the ‘anchor’ was dropped, as the youth recommendation document was finalized, and the participants felt prepared for the multi-stakeholder

dialogues and World Water Day; ready to go ashore. This naming of program subdivisions, seemed to provide the group with a clear compass of what to expect of the several days.

- Clear layout of daily input (starting at breakfast), process, and output: celebrating a hard-working and productive day with a ritual of flag hoisting and music.
- Promotion of the value of individual commitment towards water (cooperation) by emphasis on the Earth Charter slogan "It starts with one".
- Visualizing several possibilities to give an engaging follow-up to the program, by dedicating the last program item
- Seeking the harmony. Open communication. At two moments, evaluation rounds took place, in which the facilitators participated equally.



PROGRAM OUTLINE

Earth Charter Game

Aim:

- To create shared responsibilities.

The participants experienced how to achieve a common goal in saving Earth via various actions during the game. Based on this game the shared responsibilities principle which was used during the whole conference was explained to the participants. The participants chose their own responsibility. For example the guardian of photos, the guardian of compassion, the guardian of humor etc. This created a positive atmosphere and group responsibility.

TED talks

Aim:

- To enlarge the knowledge of the participants by watching inspiring talks related to water issues via the TED conferences.
- To improve the reflecting and dialoguing skills of the participants by having a dialogue after the speeches.

Day 1 (Saturday): Seth Godin, How we lead our tribes.

Day 2 (Sunday): Dan Barber, How I fell in love with a fish

Day 3 (Monday): Ludwick Marishane, A bath without water
Natalie Jeremijenko, The art of the eco-mind shift

Day 4 (Tuesday): Chimamanda Adichie, The danger of a single story

Co-creation of definition on water cooperation

Aim:

- ~ To come up with our own, holistic and innovative definition on water cooperation. The definition can be found as annex in this document.

To reach this goal we used the Open Space Technology. This is a way of creating a "marketplace" with many breakout spaces that participants move freely between, learning and contributing as they "shop" for information and ideas (Harrison Owen).

Art & water

Aim:

- To learn to be thankful and enjoy water and not only focus on the problems.
- To experience fulfillment by sharing visions on a small scale.

1. Artivism

The group created an art piece in the shape of a flag inspired by water. The fingerprints of all the participants are represented on the flag. This art piece was exposed in the World Forum on Friday. The flag was handed over to one of the indigenous grandmothers, Pauline Tangiora, who attended the conference and took it with her to New Zealand as first stop. The flag will continue to flow as a river all around the world as one youth document for water. This is as well part of the follow up of the program. We will keep track of the places where the flag will be.

2. Global interaction platform

At the ship there was a place created for spreading messages to the outside world via writing down a water related quote and to put it directly online. Hereby, we kept the outside world aware of our activities and reached out for people all around the world to read our visions.



Ayla using the global interaction network with the quote “No to water corporation, yes to water cooperation”

3. Art, water & peace building

We visited Welmoed Koekebakker. A human rights researcher, she focuses on women, peace and water. During her session we reflected on her art pieces, inspired by the movements of water. The participants learned to find their own imagination by describing a personal metaphor related to water.

(Em)power talks

Aim:

- To learn from each other by giving a presentation based on the same features as the TED conference speeches.

The participants prepared at home a talk about who they are, what their connection to water is and what kind of background knowledge they have related to water. Due to the speeches the participants gained knowledge by educating each other.

Building Bridges @ REM Island

Aim:

- To understand and experience intercultural learning.

The participants had to build a bridge from waste between two imaginary islands. They both had different cultural behavioural rules, which made it challenging to communicate and working together.

Formulation of “Guideline on water cooperation”

Aim:

- To create our own guideline on water cooperation.

The participants combined their background knowledge into one common document named “Guideline on water cooperation”. The (Em)power talks were used as preparation to have a framework to build on for the formulation of the guideline. The participants used this guideline during the round table dialogues in the Peace Palace.

The guideline represents a common view of the participants. With this document we created an example for other people that it is possible to formulate a common vision in a peaceful way with people from all around the world.

Visit “Febo snackwall”

Aim:

- To give the participants a typical Dutch food experience.

Dialogue training

Aim:

- To prepare the participants for the round table discussions in The Hague via different dialogue techniques.

Ignaz Anderson and Dennis Kerkhoven from the Iona Stichting prepared the participants for a productive dialogue on 21 March, by several dialogue training sessions, based on the group’s water-related *burning questions*.

Dinner at Skek

Aim:

- To let the participants experience Dutch sustainable food and the entrepreneurial spirit behind the project of Skek.

The sustainable-food restaurant is entirely managed by students. Skek is also a platform for starting artists. The restaurant building was linked to the water theme since it is an old VOC building with even a ship room.

Brainstorm about follow up activities

Aim:

- To create a long term impact.
- To reach a bigger amount of people for more awareness raising.

The participants came up with their own ideas about how they could create a future with more awareness about water sustainability. As short-term follow-up action, the participants came up with an action for during the conference. They created cards with products on one side and the amount of water that was necessary on the other side. They asked passengers how much water was necessary for the production process of the particular product to create awareness and have influence on people’s consumption behavior on a small scale. For long term follow-up action, the group developed several ideas. All the participants will organize *Blue Drinks*. This will be a water network event so the participant can share the knowledge they gained during the Wings for Water program in the Netherlands and spread the word about water-related challenges and opportunities. More concrete plans of action will follow soon.

Global night

Aim:

- To get to know the various cultures and give some special attention to the diversity of the group.

During the global night the participants prepared a dish from their own country/culture. Two tables full of delicious food!

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

After coming back from The Netherlands, I was pondering and reflecting on the meaningful and wonderful time I had both at the conference, (...). I have been to many conferences but maybe this was different for me. Not just in terms of the acknowledgement of the issues and suggestions I had made but also in terms of what I learnt from others and got connected and energised by those wonderful, brand of youth, who were seeking and created their own space and spoke of their aspirations of how they could and are willing to contribute towards a better humankind and peaceful society.

I am sure there will be an effort to take forward, the Declaration, the commitments, made and that there will be some ways to be connected and engaged with the process. (source: 29-03-13 email from Nafisa Utthan (key note speaker))

The participants are asked to fill out an (anonymous) online evaluation form (deadline Sunday 7 April) to provide the facilitators of the Wings for Water youth program, and all others involved in the organization and implementation, with feedback. If desired, the results can be shared thereafter. Based on the initial responses from the group in the evaluation rounds, their sadness when saying goodbye, and their commitment for follow-up actions, the participants went back home with new inspiration, knowledge and personal engagement. Based on the multiple positive responses during and after the public events, the youth participation was sufficiently present, both quantitatively as qualitatively. Based on the document output, and without encountering any logistical difficulties, as facilitators we would like to assess the Preparatory Youth Program as successful. Based on the Prince of Orange goodbye speech, we can say "you have not seen the last of us yet!"



Nafisa Utthan (in the middle) at World Forum, together with (f.l.t.r.) Ariel, Ramzi, Kerusha and Zaher

Preparatory youth program Wings for Water 2013, Amsterdam

Time	Seagull Fly in	Storm	Sailing	Anchor	Home Port
	Saturday 16	Sunday 17	Monday 18	Tuesday 19	Wednesday 20
08.00	Arrival Schiphol	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast + Feedback
08.45		Wake up Energizer	Wake up Energizer	Wake up Energizer	Wake up Energizer
09.00		Session 1 - Co-creation of definition on water cooperation & Activism	Session 1 - Formulation of 3 mast charter	Session 1 – Final revisions charter	Travel to the Hague
11.00		Break	Break	Break	
11.15		Session 2 – Water Art @ Traditional Canal House	Session 2 - Writing charter	Session 2 - Wrap up charter	Popcorn in Action!
13.15	Lunch	Art lunch @ Traditional Canal House	Lunch @ FEBO	Lunch @ ferry to NDSM wharf – self made city	
14.00		Session 3 - (Em)power talks	Session 3 - Dialogue skills @ sailors of the round table	Session 3 – The Next Step, 2050 - Creative long term thinking (not sinking ;))	
16.00		Break	Break	Break	
16.15		Session 4 - (Em)power talks	Session 4 - Dialogue skills @ sailors of the round table	Session 4 - Brainstorm about The Water Actions next day	
18.15	Introduction Wings for Water	Break + cooking	Have dinner @ Skek	Everyone cooking= GLOBAL NIGHT!	
19.15	Dinner	Dinner	Have dinner @ Skek	Dinner	
20.15	Earth Charter Game	Building Bridges @ REM Island	Have drinks @ Flower bar	Presenting ideas 2 jury	
22.15	Skipper introduction	Flag Hoisting	Flag Hoisting	Flag Hoisting	
22.30	TED Talk + Popcorn	TED Talk + Popcorn + chill time	TED Talk + Popcorn + chill time	Live music evening	
23.00	Time for sleeping	Time for sleeping	Time for sleeping	Time for sleeping	

ANNEX II - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



Jaime, Ariel, Patrick, Ayla, Danaé, Lindar, Ariel, Johan, Welmoed, Liv, Eva, Kerusha, Ramzi, Pedro, Zaher, Sarah, and Bart fascinated by the water history of the city of Amsterdam, standing at the crossing between a former ditch and a former dike, now streets and canals.

Name	Age (gender)	Email	Specialisation
1. Danaé Espinoza (Mexico)	27 (f)	gandahar.vandeshanti@gmail.com	International Economics/Sustainable Development
2. Zaher Al Salmani (Oman)	28 (m)	Z.alsalmani@gmail.com	Agriculture engineer
3. Jaime Salamanca (Bolivia)	24 (m)	jamessalamanca@gmail.com	Environmental Science
4. Ramsey Fanni (Jordan)	26 (m)	fanniramsey@gmail.com	Biomedical Engineer
5. Arun Raj (India)	23 (m)	arun.raj13@gmail.com	sustainable business
6. Lindar Winnie Otieno (Kenya)	26 (f)	lindarwinnieotieno@gmail	Environmental Science Resource Conservation
7. Ariel Lee (Taiwan)	25 (f)	arieltzuyi@gmail.com	Wastewater treatment

8. Sarah Tiefenauer-Linardon (France)	26 (f)	s.tl@hotmail.com	International Cooperation
9. Pedro Cunha (Brazil)	22 (m)	vivahojeativismo@gmail.com	Individuals' Integration/Interaction with Environment - Wellbeing
10. Patrick Nickisch (Germany)	28 (m)	p.nickisch@gmail.com	Human rights, Sustainable development
11. Kerusha Lutchmiah (South Africa)	28 (f)	kerusha_lutchmiah@hotmail.com	Water Technologist
12. Liv Kaya (Norway / Germany)	22 (f)	livaabye@yahoo.de	International Relations and International Organization
13. Johan Oost (Netherlands)	(m)	oosterschelde@hotmail.com	Coordinator Wetskills
14. Bart Devos (Belgium)	(m)	bart.devos@hotmail.com	President at World Youth Parliament for Water
15. Alexandra Destin Pierre (Haïti)	(f)	pierrealexandra@hotmail.com	Sustainability
16. Daniel Cruz Fuentes (Bolivia)	(m)	377123dc@student.eur.nl	Development Studies
17. Shen Tien (China)	(f)	harry880822@126.com	Water Engineering
18. Eva van der Zand	23 (f)	eva.vd.zand@gmail.com	International Relations
19. Ayla van Kessel	22 (f)	aylavankessel@gmail.com	Sustainable Economics and Development

We as young global citizens, in the spirit of unity and diversity, wish that all people would water cooperate.

Water relates to every being and all life. This makes water a vital agent for trans-disciplinary policy making that affects the wellbeing of all stakeholders, including nature. In inclusive water cooperation, all individuals are considered part of civil society, sharing the universal responsibility for good water governance.

The United Nations has declared 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation. A definition for 'water cooperation' is a good foundation for linking action to this topic. Acknowledging the challenges towards water abundance on Earth, and the sensibility of all steps in this process, the following sentence is suggested as working definition, and is open for change:

WATER COOPERATION =

Gradually perceiving, listening, understanding, communicating, within societies in harmony with nature, and then responding by conscious action and continuous reflections, in an inclusive, equitable/horizontal, and integrated way on a community, national and global level, for good water governance in a progressive manner, aware of all life's water dependency, and inspired by its countless qualities.

NAVIGATING THE WIND - Respect and care for the community of life

We commit ourselves to speak out our ambitions, to stand up for our ideals, to be open to dialogue at all times, and to build action with sustainable outcomes guided by water cooperation. In our call to the global community, we take responsibility for our part of the solution towards:

- ~ Recognition that all beings are interdependent, and that all living and non-living entities on Earth depend on clean and safe water
- ~ Emphasis that with the use and management of natural water resources comes the responsibility to protect the rights of all beings

- ~ A mind set of *being more* instead of *having more*

SAIL I – Ecological balance and water integrity

- ~ Rule of law including rights to nature, and legal mechanisms to hold accountable the actors responsible of ecocides
- ~ Facilitation of a lifelong learning experience of formal and non-formal education on the inherent value of water: for human use (with regards to household consumption and virtual water); and for the health of ecosystems, understanding that fresh water is a finite resource
- ~ Circular production chains linking different sectors in society, especially businesses and industries, in order to minimize water waste, in the spirit of seeing 'waste as resource', impeding losses in the fresh water life cycle
- ~ Tight monitoring of water quality and quantity within all ecosystems, including cities, as tool for accurate conservation of water basins and catchment areas, seeing biodiversity as vital indication of the health of ecosystems, and a universal regulatory system as only instrument to ensure this conservation and recovery

SAIL II – Social and economic justice

- ~ Sustainable and equitable production and consumption patterns, marked by sufficiency and prosperity for all life
- ~ Open source sharing at a global level of (upcoming) knowledge, technology, best policy and investment practices, and success stories for sustainable solutions, regarding agriculture and irrigation, waste water management, hygiene and sanitation, prevention of and protection against water-born diseases, monitoring of water use and quality, climate change adaptation and mitigation infrastructure, functioning of ecosystems and the water life cycle, urban and industry infrastructure, and other water-related issues
- ~ Sustainable and equitable production and consumption patterns, marked by sufficiency and prosperity for all life

- ~ Continuous increase in capacity throughout all layers of implementation for adequate social and technical solutions in harmony with the cultural, historic, social and economic context, by inter- and intra-generational water education and training
- ~ Empowerment of young individuals to become active change makers in water-related issues, by the creation of *blue jobs*, particularly in wastewater management programs
- ~ Access to safe water for all beings, by the protection of water sources against commodification, private monopolies, and water grabbing, and by implementation of the human right to water through national legislation

SAIL III – Democracy, nonviolence and peace

- ~ Inclusive participation in the implementation of existing legal documents and global agenda priorities (e.g. the MDGs and SDGs), to ensure the eco-justice for Earth and all living beings and the right to life for future generations
- ~ Horizontal cooperation and consultation amongst all stakeholders, in cooperation with governmental and intergovernmental organizations, stressing the role of community-leadership, in framing new legal documents and global priorities
- ~ Accountability in implementation of binding and non-binding agreements, conventions and treaties based on national, international and humanitarian law, by public access to information about local, national, regional, inter- and supranational policies, and transparency and publications on all practices, provided by governments as well as the private sector
- ~ Involvement of youth at the different levels of water governance, research, and policy implementation, acknowledging that young people are the ones who will undergo the consequences of the decisions taken or not taken today
- ~ Integration of traditional practices with modern technology, by the facilitation of intersectoral, intergenerational, and intercultural mutual learning
- ~ Establishment of an effective normative institutional framework, preferably supranational governance, for peaceful trans-boundary cooperation around

international waters - such as catchment areas, river and groundwater basins, and surface waters

- ~ A human rights approach to sustainable development that assures the concepts of dignity and freedom as mentioned in the Human Rights Charter have to be applied on all living beings

ANCHOR

We are here to shape global objectives; moreover we take responsibility to take conscious action in our surroundings, matching our expertise and genius. We are wide-awake.