

WATENV Newsletter

No. 10 — August 2019

10 YEARS WATENV - Anniversary Edition - 2009-2019

10 years ago, WATENV started its first semester with only 9 students. As of today, students from 53 different countries graduated as Master of Science in Water Resources and Environmental Management. We would like to celebrate this anniversary with students, alumni and

staff in September (see last page), and in this newsletter, feature some of our very first student to see what they are doing now.

We are looking forward to meeting many of you in September in Hannover!



Fig. 1: All 53 home countries of WATENV students located on a world map

WATENV batches throughout the years



Photo 1: batch 2010-12



Photo 2: batch 2011-13



Photo 3: batch 2012-14



Photo 4: batch 2013-15

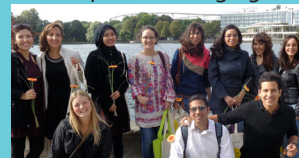


Photo 5: batch 2014-16



Photo 6: batch 2015-17



Photo 7: batch 2016-18

Alumni Portraits
Special anniversary edition
First WATENV graduates 2011



Photo 8: First WATENV batch 2009-2011

These are our first
WATENV graduates in 2011:

Damaris Kerubo (Kenya)

Sylvester Darko (Ghana)

Carlos Guevara (Honduras)

Miriam Tsiboe (Ghana)

Eugenia Hirthe (Argentina)

Alemtsehay Tesfay (Ethiopia)

"Being a WATENV student has offered a lot of opportunities!"
- Eugenia Hirthe

"During this period of studies I gained exposure to various cultures and it was a good international exposure. I also learned how to speak and write in Deutsch, that was one great experience. When I went back to Kenya I found the course so marketable in that I was spoilt for choice of job as many organizations recognized the skills and knowledge gained from the course."

- Damaris Kerubo

I cannot imagine how time really runs fast. It has been already 10 years. I must say I am proud of being part of WATENV. Especially in being part of the first ones, who kicked it off and made it possible for the afterward students. It was an amazing experience and WATENV has definitely changed my life. I will never forget the incredible time I had in Germany.

- Felipe Teixeira

Eugenia Hirthe

Eugenia from Argentina has finished the WATENV master program 10 years ago and since then a lot has happened! After finishing her studies, she did a PhD at the institute of Fluid Mechanics and Environmental Physics at Leibniz University Hannover, got married to Markus (who did his PhD at the institute of Hydrology and Water Resources Management) and has two children: Mateo and Noah. Now she's working for Continental Tires, an international company located in Hannover, in development and research.



Photo 9: Eugenia Hirthe and her kids



Photo 10: Damaris during a field visit at the equator, as she was showing her students how to design water supply units and mapping with the aid of civil works, remote sensing and ArcGIS.

Damaris Kerubo

Damaris from Kenya went back to her home country after graduating in 2011.

"I would like to thank all the staff and students for WATENV years 2009-2011 - the knowledge I got was immeasurably and the networking I gained was great. The research skills I gained during my studies have to this day assisted me in my day to day activities. All the courses I took are relevant to my duties and sometimes I wish they had incorporated more units so as to gain more knowledge. This is one course that actually made me gain confidence on design of water and wastewater structures as the hands on skill gained in the laboratory and field excursions enhanced my theory. After the course I was able to comfortably register as a civil engineer in my home country and I am now a fully registered and practicing Engineer in Kenya. My zeal for research was rekindled during my studies here at WATENV, and this shows how great the professors and lecturers involved in the course are. The administration staff were also great, thus making me settle down in Hannover with ease, thanks for your unrivalled hospitality. I would like to thank all the Staff for their dedication. Asanteni sana."

Damaris' job at the University nowadays entails lecturing and evaluating students on Fluid Mechanics, Environmental Science and Public Health Engineering in the School of Engineering, Department of civil Engineering, University of Nairobi. She is also conducting research that will lead to the award of her doctoral degree, as well as taking students for excursions related to the units she teaches.

Felipe Teixeira

At present, I live in Sao Paulo, Brazil (my hometown) together with my wife, who I met in WATENV, and our 1-year-old daughter. As said before, WATENV has unquestionably changed my life.

After successfully completing WATENV, I started a PhD at ISAH institute. Then, after one year, in 2013, as part of the project, I went to Spain to perform as a researcher engineer in a local company, which deals with wastewater treatment from winery waste. In 2014, for personal reasons, I went back to my home country. Since then, I have been working at Ford Motor Company for 5 years, as homologation engineer. My role is to certify and guarantee that the vehicles for all export markets comply with all safety and environmental legal concerns.



Photo 11: Felipe Teixeira and his family

New Student Team



Photo 12: The new Student Team 2019

Our new student team including James from Nigeria, Tsegai from Eritrea, Pedro and Lorena from Brazil and Estefania from Ecuador, is happy to help our new students during the orientation weeks and this year quite busy supporting our anniversary meeting and graduation.

Module about Sustainable Development Goals

During winter semester 2018/2019, a new module was tested in cooperation with the Department of Geography Education within the state initiative "Global Change in the Context of Education for Sustainable Development" as sub-project "Communicating Sustainable Development Goals with digital media" (funded by Engagement Global gGmbH with means of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)).

Together with prospective geography teachers, our students learned about using creative and reflective methods for communicating the SDG's, and finally produced videos in small groups with a focus on a specific SDG.

For example, a group of Nepalese students draws attention to an integral part of the cultural and traditional water supply system, the stone waterspouts (Hiti) (SDG 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities). Another two groups focussed on SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation.

The project description as well as the final videos are provided at:

www.sdg-education.net

New DAAD Students



Photo 13: Our new DAAD scholars of 2019 arrived

We welcome our first new students of batch 2019-2021: Edwin from Colombia, Maysaa from Sudan, Santiago from Colombia, Karen from Ecuador and Nelson from Kenya.

WATENV student at World Water Summit

Jimie from Eritrea is a member of a technology without borders group, who helped in organizing welcoming the participants at the 11th World Water Summit of Rotary International and WASRAG in Hamburg, in which different technologies of WASH programs worldwide were presented and the meetings of Rotarians were taking place in parallel.

He and his group were also presenting some in sights of a joint water project in Eritrea, which is funded partially by Rotary.



Photo 14: Jimie M. Mahmud

Internship at Asian Development Bank

by Preeti Koirala

As soon as I was done with all my exams for third semester, I left for Manila the very next day. I had received an internship opportunity at Asian Development Bank headquarters. The topic of my assignment was "flood and environmental risk management: an evolving approach". ADB is a multi-lateral financial institution working towards social and economic development in Asia and Pacific region. I was based in East Asia Department within ADB, where I reviewed the best practices of flood and environmental risk management (FERM) approaches in two ongoing projects in People's Republic of China. I learned how nature-based solutions are being promoted within FERM in these projects. With the aim of incorporating the knowledge I gained from the internship, for my master thesis I chose to work on nature-based solutions for flood risk management in the Lahn Catchment, Germany.

Apart from learning about the new approaches in FERM, during my two months internship at ADB I had the opportunity to work in dynamic working environment where people from different culture, background and nationality come together to work under same roof. I had the platform to meet and learn from specialists and experts from various fields. Although I was based in East Asia Department, I also had the chance to learn about ongoing and pipeline projects in other Asia and Pacific regions especially my home country Nepal. I learned about ADB Youth for Asia team who are working to increase youth participation in development projects; this internship was a stepping stone towards my professional career. Even though the duration of my stay was short, I got to experience and learn about the Filipino history and the vibrant culture of the country. I encourage nationals of the member countries of ADB to apply for the internship as it would be a great learning curve in addition to the WATENV programme. I enjoyed my two months in ADB and The Philippines.



Photo 15: Preeti Koirala

INTERNATIONAL DAY

This year the 4th International Day took place. Countries from all over the world presented their culture with traditional food, dance shows and other performances. As last time the Master programm WATENV had its own booth. With the help of many WATENV students, we offered water, some snacks and also a little quiz for the visitors.



Photo 16, 17 and 18: WATENV students volunteering at our WATENV booth

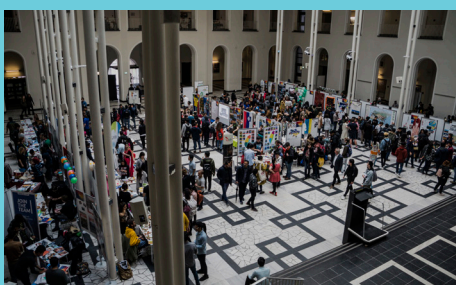


Photo 19, 20 and 21: Impressions of the event, cultural performance by some of our students from Nepal (middle)

RECENT WATENV ACTIVITIES



Photo 22: 8 students joined our hiking trip to Deister

Hiking trip to Deister

During the semester break, the WATENV Office offered together with the WATENV Student Team a hiking trip. The destination was Deister which is a range of hills near to Hannover. We meet on a Saturday morning to spend the day together in nature and at the end of the day, we have walked 16km!



Photo 23: One of the beautiful trails

10th dex-Summer School 2019: Advanced course on water quality management

by Jimie M. Mahmud

The summer school on water quality management was jointly organized by the Deutscher Expertenrat (dex) and VTA GmbH. The event took place in Rottenbach, Austria between July 1 and July 5, 2019. I have absolutely enjoyed my participation in the dex-summer school and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to WATENV and Deutscher Expertenrat (dex) for giving me the opportunity to attend this amazing event. The objectives of dexsummerschool were, transfer of scientific background, advanced knowledge and actual experience on methodologies and technologies for water quality management. The content of the course includes: advanced scientific background, state-of-the-art technology, experiences and practical aspects for the design and operation of sewer systems, wastewater treatment plants, sludge treatment and energy management.

In addition to lectures, practical and laboratory classes were performed. Labs were conducted separately and by groups of students. Classes were held in the laboratory with modern equipment at the company, VTA, which allows carrying out experiments comfortably and qualitatively. In addition to the lessons, professional excursion on wastewater treatment plant was organized. The excursion was conducted by an operator of wastewater treatment plant and expert professors of dex, who acquainted students with the technology used for wastewater treatment. Moreover there was get together with Austrian specialties as well as cultural excursion to the nearby city, Linz.

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Photo 24: The participants of 2019

- Announcements -

WATENV Alumni and Anniversary Meeting

Leibniz University Hannover

24. + 25. 09.2019

Join us to celebrate 10 years of WATENV!

In September, we'll be welcoming alumni representatives of all WATENV batches! A great opportunity to meet and network with staff, students and alumni.

Program 24.09. :

- Welcome and talks by steering committee and invited speakers
- Talks about career paths by alumni
- Alumni poster session

Program 25.09. :

- Reintegration workshop for students
- Alumni networking workshop
- Graduation event

Information: watenv@iww.uni-hannover.de



Photo 25: Leibniz Haus at Hannover old town

Intercultural and Teambuilding
Workshop for WATENV students

03.-05.10.2019

on the North Sea island Spiekeroog
UNESCO World Heritage Wadden Sea



Photo credits: E. Starke (1-6,8), N.Gerke (7,12,13,16-22,25), E. Hirthe (9), D. Kerubo (10), F. Teixeira (11), J. Mahmud (14,24), P. Koirala (15), P. Olivera (23)

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