

Towards a Global Network of Water Museums

A Common Heritage
for a more Sustainable Future

2nd International Conference
Town Hall, 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands
14-18 May 2018



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Welcome and Institutional Greetings

Blanca Jiménez-Cisneros

*Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of UNESCO-IHP
(International Hydrological Programme)*

Andras Szöllösi-Nagy

Chairman of UNESCO-IHP Intergovernmental Council

Sandra de Vries

Netherlands National IHP-HWRP Committee

Henri Swinkels

Deputy of the Province of North Brabant

Jack Mikkers

Mayor of 's-Hertogenbosch

Huib van Olden

Deputy Mayor of 's-Hertogenbosch

Yvonne Moerman

President of Kring Vrienden van 's-Hertogenbosch

Francesco Vallerani

Head of Waterscape Research Unit, Ca' Foscari University of Venice





DAY 1 - Monday, May 14th

- 9.00 - 9.45 **Registration** in the Reception hall of 's-Hertogenbosch's Town Hall (entrance 'Achter Het Stadhuis')
- 10.00 - 12.30 **Field visit - 's-Hertogenbosch: the historic town and its canals.** Exploring Dutch Water Museums.
- 12.30 - 14.00 **Lunch** break in the Reception Hall
- 14.00 - 16.00 **Seminar: *The Arts Reflect on Water***
Chair: C. Adams, Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World, UK
S. Spaid, Belgium
B. Irland, New Mexico, USA
E. Mosher and N. Nowacek, New York, USA
Y. Ostendorf, Netherlands
- Video: *Against the Tide* (Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain)
- 16.00 - 17.30 **Board Meeting in Kringhuis**
- 19.00 - 21.00 **Dinner at Bolwerk St. Jan**
Hosted by Kring Vrienden



Day 2 - Tuesday, May 15th

- 8.30 - 9.00 **Registration** in the Reception hall of 's-Hertogenbosch's Town Hall
- 9.00 - 9.30 **Welcome and greetings** (Council Hall)
H. van Olden, Deputy Mayor of 's-Hertogenbosch
H. Swinkels, Deputy of the Province of North Brabant
F. Vallerani, Waterscape Research Unit, University of Venice
Presentation of the book '*Four Centuries of Water for Defence*'
- 9.30 - 11.00 **Presentations and Round table 1** (Council hall)
Draft Resolution for next IHP Council.
Links with IHP and National IHP Committees.
Proposal of new UNESCO Chair at Venice University for future coordination of the Global Network.
Presentation of the new website of the Global Network of Water Museums: www.watermuseums.net
Chair: I. Kerr-Wilson. Moderator: V.L. Croitoru. Presentation: F. Visentin. Facilitator: E. Eulisse.
- 11.00 - 11.15 **Coffee break** (Reception hall)
- 11.15 - 14.30 Presentation of *Zuiderwaterlinie*, '*Southern Water Defence Line*', by Province of North-Brabant (Council hall)
Lunch and Field visit - Kilsdonk, historic Wind- and Water-mill.
Introduction by P. van Dijk, "Waterschap Aa en Maas".

- 14.30 - 16.10 **Thematic Session 1: Research** (Council hall)
Chair: F. Vallerani, University of Venice
Z. Zhang, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou
S. Ahmed, Living Water Museum, India
T. Steenhuis and G. Holst-Warhaft, Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell University, USA
T. Ftaita, Université de Nice 'Sophia Antipolis', France
F. Al-Mesnad and M.A. Al-Mohamedi, Kahramaa Awareness Park, Qatar
- 16.10 - 16.30 **Coffee break** (Reception hall)
- 16.30 - 18.10 **Presentations of new Water Museums 1** (Council hall)
Chair: A.S. Yazdi, International Center on Qanats & Historic Hydraulic Structures (UNESCO-ICQHS)
S. Louwerse, Watersnood Museum, Netherlands
T. Ruf, Musée pour la Civilisation de l'Eau au Maroc "Mohamed VI", Morocco
L. Yan and Y. Bangde, The Baiheliang Underwater Museum, China
A. Sharrocks, The Museum of Water, UK/travelling
R. Karels, The Broekerveiling Water Museum, Netherlands
- 19.15 - 22.00 **Welcome Dinner at Zwanenbroedershuis**
Hosted by Kring Vrienden





Day 3 - Wednesday, May 16th

- 9.00 - 9.20 Welcome to delegates of IHP-HWRP Committee, Region Group 1 (Council hall)
B. Jiménez-Cisneros (Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of UNESCO-IHP)
S. de Vries (Netherlands National IHP-HWRP Committee)
- 9.20 - 10.00 **Key note speech “Water and its Civilizations”** (Council hall)
A. Szöllösi-Nagy, Chairman of IHP Intergovernmental Council
- 10.00 - 10.40 **Presentations and Round table 2** (Council hall)
Criteria for admission, business plan and annual fees.
Planning of future WAMU.NET activities based on RES inputs (Research, Education, SDGs) from internal working groups.
Chair: H. Groeneveld. Moderator: P.L. Martinez. Facilitator: E. Eulisse. Presentation: P. Banens.
- 10.40 - 11.00 **Coffee break** (Reception hall)
- 11.00 - 12.40 **Thematic Session 2: SDGs** (Council hall)
Chair: M. Scoullas, MIO-ECSDE
R. Hernandez and G. Herrera, “Agua Para Siempre” Water Museum, Mexico
F. Visentin, Water Museum of Venice, Italy
B. Gumiero and M. Lanzinger, University of Bologna and MUSE Science Museum of Trento, Italy
K. Wundsam, Danube Water Adventure, Austria and Germany
P.L. Martinez and J. Sanchez, Tribunal de les Aigües de Valencia, Spain

- 12.40 - 15.00 **Lunch and Field visit - *Waterschap De Dommel***
Introduction to the historic system of Dutch Water Boards & Watermanagement by P. Glas, “Waterschap De Dommel”
- 15.00 - 16.20 **Presentations of new Water Museums 2** (Council hall)
Chair: M. Castro, Lisbon Water Museum, Portugal
P. van Beek, Biesbosch Museum Eiland, Netherlands
J. Marbaix, Musée de l’Eau et de la Fontaine, Belgium
J. Mpoy Kayembe, Musée de l’Eau “Arche de l’Alliance”, Congo
E. van Melis, Haarlemmermeer Museum “De Cruquius”, Netherlands
- 16.20 - 16.40 **Coffee break** (Reception hall)
- 16.40 - 18.00 **Presentations of new Water Museums 3** (Council hall)
Chair: S.S. Yazdi, International Center on Qanats & Historic Hydraulic Structures (UNESCO-ICQHS)
K. Kamp, Waterlinie Museum, Netherlands
E. Damon, Keepers of the Waters, USA
H. De Laet, Hidrodoe, Belgium
M. Leone, LandLabPA, Italy
- 18.00 - 19.00 **Board Meeting** in Kringhuis
- Individual dinner**





Day 4 - Thursday, May 17th

- 9.00 - 10.40 **Thematic Session 3: Education** (Council hall)
Chair: S. Ahmed, India
S. de Vries, University of Delft, Netherlands
P. Jauregui, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua, Ecuador
E. Bricchetti, Ecomuseo della Martesana, Italy
M.A. Traore, Musée de l'Eau de Ouagadogou, Burkina Phaso
G. La Spada, "We Are Drops" and CNR-ISMAR (National Research Centre on Marine Sciences), Italy
- 10.40 - 11.00 **Coffee break** (Reception hall)
- 11.00 - 13.00 **Conclusions and Round Table 3** (Council hall)
Approval of final Resolution for next IHP Council and involvement of new National IHP Committees.
Rapporteurs of the 3 working groups on RES.
Election of RES leaders and Steering Board.
Next activities coordinated by UNESCO Chair in Venice.
Candidatures to host the 3rd Conference in 2019.
Chair: S. de Vries. Moderator: K. Wundsam. Facilitator: E. Eulisse.
- 13.00 - 18.00 **Lunch and Field visit - *The Biesbosch Museum Island***
Exploring Dutch Water Museums
- 19.30 - 21.00 **Farewell Dinner at Jheronimus Bosch Art Center**
Hosted by Kring Vrienden



Day 5 - Friday, May 18th 2018

9.00 – 14.00 **Field visit - *The Watersnood Museum***
Exploring Dutch Water Museums

14.00 – 14.30 **Light lunch**
Hosted by Kring Vrienden

14.30 – 15.00 **Board Meeting**
(UNESCO Chair coordinator and working group leaders only)



AIMS OF THE 2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The purpose of the 2nd International Conference is to consolidate the coordination and the future activities of the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET). It foresees the presentation and discussion of common strategic projects, the institutional mechanisms for internal coordination, and the establishment of a Steering Board. Round tables focusing on these topics will be combined with new theoretical perspectives on Research, Education, and SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), as well as with presentations of new water museums interested to become Network's partners.

The Conference is held in 's-Hertogenbosch (NL), and is supported by the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO and by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (Venice), and is organized by Kring Vrienden van 's-Hertogenbosch (Netherlands), Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Civiltà dell'Acqua International Centre (Italy), with the endorsement of the Netherlands National IHP-HWRP Committee.

The Agenda of the 2nd Conference foresees:

1. Plenary sessions and round tables to discuss what specific projects related to Education, Research and SDGs will be adopted by the Network;
2. Presentations of new water museums in dedicated sessions (approx. 30 new water museums have shown interest to join the Network);
3. Presentation and launch of the new web site of the Global Network of Water Museums: www.watermuseums.net ;
4. Nomination of three working groups on Education, Research and SDGs aimed to strengthen management and communication capacities of the Network;
5. Exchange of experience concerning projects related to implementation of SDG n.6 (Water and Sanitation), with specific reference to programs related to Water and Education aimed at promoting the Network's visibility;
6. Internal meetings focusing on coordination aspects, admission criteria, future relations with IHP and IHP National Committees, etc.

Following the 1st International Conference held in Venice (May 2017), and the endorsement of UNESCO-IHP Bureau (55th Session, June 2017), also the next UNESCO Resolution on the Global Network (to be discussed by the next Intergovernmental Council of IHP in June 2018) will be presented. The related strategy aimed at involving also IHP National Committees will be outlined to show the potential opportunities to all participants.

WHY A GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS?

Our hydraulic heritage and the water management models inherited from the past are today exhibited in a number of “water museums” around the world. These museums interpret and exhibit a unique and outstanding liquid heritage, both tangible and intangible, made not only by artefacts, works and techniques passed down from generation to generation, but also by new technologies and strategies aimed to face water scarcity, pollution and climate change.

Ancient solutions linked to water management have the advantage to show how traditional knowledge and techniques adopted in the past have been successful, or not, in making societies highly resilient and adaptive to change. What is more, in addition to specific techniques and functionalities adopted for specific environments, our past hydraulic heritage has been often shaped with special attention to aesthetic impacts on the landscape. Ancient knowledge, if successfully integrated with new technology, can be a unique source of inspiration to better cope with the world water crisis.

Indeed “water museums” (including in such a category a vast range of science, archaeological, historical, digital and open-air museums) are often adopting inter-disciplinary and holistic approaches to face the world water crisis: from growing water scarcity and desertification, to aquatic ecosystems’ pollution, hydraulic risk and conflict situations.

The liquid heritage of mankind is today in danger of disappearing under the homogenizing effects of globalization and technocratic approaches, when only simple perceptions of what water is and means prevail. A new paradigm of sustainability implies the need to reverse present-day myopic misuses of water as an “un-limited resource”, as well as misconceptions towards the “miraculous application” of most sophisticated technologies to solve all water problems. In view of securing more sustainable water uses, the emergence of a new paradigm of water management requires a more far-sighted combination of innovative technologies with the management models inherited from the past.

Today water museums are called to take a more active role to promote at world scale a major water awareness, together with their unique liquid heritage. The repository of water knowledge they preserve should be better known and promoted as a source of inspiration for innovative approaches related to SDGs, and in particular SDG n.6 (Water and Sanitation),

In this context, the Global Network of Water Museums may act as innovative “agent of transformation” in the global water debate, for its potential to communicate the present water challenges and related SDGs to very large audiences (a potential audience of approx. 4 million visitors / year can be reached by the Global Network through its partnering museums).



PREAMBLE OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WATER MUSEUMS

In the last decades, water has been conceived and used mainly as a means to afford unprecedented economic development at a global level. Simultaneously, however, water has been made more and more invisible, and far from people's awareness, a condition which makes water much more vulnerable than ever.

Despite extraordinary technological progress - or rather, because of it - today's water resources are increasingly threatened by waste, quantity and quality degradation, but also indifference of humanity towards such a precious and irreplaceable source of life and inspiration.

In this context, it seems essential to reinstate a new relationship between humanity and water, a new sense of civilization which helps us to reconnect people and water in all its dimensions including social, cultural, artistic and spiritual.

The main challenge for the Global Network of Water Museums is to tackle this new sense of water civilization. This initiative undertakes to call upon authorities and citizens who believe in preserving all bodies of water with their unique cultural and historical dimensions: those dimensions which may still evocatively narrate the unique relationship between humanity and this precious source of life.

Water Museums currently exhibit and interpret outstanding tangible and intangible water heritage made up of artefacts, techniques, and oral knowledge passed down from generation to generation. However this heritage is in danger of disappearing under the homogenizing effects of globalization and technocratic approaches, led by the dominant simplistic perceptions of what "water" is and means: from terraced fields and oases to waterways and traditional boats for inland navigation; from ancient aqueducts, fountains and rain harvesting artefacts to water mills, and other proto-industrial and archaeological sites.

Water Museums represent, in this sense, a unique repository which displays and questions the different water civilizations that have developed around the world historically. Certainly, every civilization has transmitted through generations an invaluable knowledge related to water, including management techniques but also perceptions, attitudes and behaviors.

The need to reinterpret our multiple inherited “water worlds” for a new vision concerning water management is extremely challenging. In this frame, the creation of a Global Network of Water Museums is aimed at providing a valuable impetus to the emergence of truly new perspectives concerning water sustainability, connecting past and present water uses and management practices with future needs; that is, paving the way for a paradigm change in water management which is in line with United Nations’ SDGs.

Technocratic approaches alone seem to be an insufficient solution to the challenge of growing water scarcity, exhaustion of resources, water pollution, desertification, melting glaciers and recurrent floods due to climate change, along with the consequent dramatic reduction of biological and cultural diversity, and the exodus of entire populations.

Through the Global Network of Water Museums, new water perceptions and behaviors, ethical visions related to water justice, and more sustainable water management models are promoted as a source of creative inspiration for the emergence of a new water civilization, calling on people and institutions to implement urgent actions to repair our deteriorated relationship with water-source of all life.



