

Ein Service der Bundesanstalt für Wasserbau

Article, Published Version

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IAHR-BW YPN's Event

Hydrolink

Verfügbar unter/Available at: https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11970/109272

Vorgeschlagene Zitierweise/Suggested citation:

Fenrich, Eva (2015): IAHR-BW YPN's Event. In: Hydrolink 2015/1. Madrid: International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR). S. 29-30. https://iahr.oss-accelerate.aliyuncs.com/library/HydroLink/HydroLink2015\_01\_Sacramento\_San\_Joaquin\_River\_Delta.pdf.

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## **IAHR-BW YPN'S EVENT**

# ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM "TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: WATER, FOOD, ENERGY"

BY EVA FENRICH

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 more than 80 students and young professionals from nine universities in the German state of Baden-Württemberg and beyond gathered, meeting both senior and young professionals from consulting firms for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium "Towards a sustainable future: water, food, energy" organised by the IAHR- Baden-Württemberg YPN.



IAHR-BW YPN with the guest speakers of the colloquium

The IAHR-BW YPN was very honoured to have IAHR President Roger Falconer as a guest and speaker at the colloquium.

The Colloquium started off with the "Young Scientists' Forum" in the morning where students presented their work on topics ranging from energy related topics like hydropower and biogas to water management and hydroponic agriculture. With seven fabulous presentations the "Young Scientist's Prize" competition was a very close run.

After the lunch break the session was opened by IAHR-BW YPN President Arslan Tahir.

IAHR President Professor Roger Falconer gave a welcoming speech emphasising IAHR's commitment to the young professionals within the organisation.

In his presentation on global water security he gave the audience a broad overview of the pressures on water supplies, internal and external water footprints and how the virtual

water content of different products could be used to influence consumer decisions.

Professor Jörn Birkmann Head of the Institute of Regional Development Planning at the

University of Stuttgart shared insights into the changing and emerging risk profiles in the Mekong Delta and their implications for the water-food nexus reminding the young water professionals that it is necessary to work with

#### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS NETWORK LOGO

This logo will give an identity to the YPN and will help to target the activities related to the Young Professionals Network in the next World Congress and other YPN events. It has been also created with the objective of promoting the YPN in Social Media under the IAHR umbrella. This logo looks dynamic and young but keeping the essence of IAHR!



### Young Professionals Network

Supported by Spain Water and IWHR, China

the local communities to take changes in land use into account when planning flood protection and other measures.

Next Gareth Whealan from the SWaFA project introduced an innovative approach to distribute safe water in communities in developing countries. Currently the system is designed in London. With this approach basic water needs are fulfilled before bringing excess water to the market.

Dr. Ines Dombrowsky, Head of Department Environmental Policy and Natural Resources Management at the German Development Institute described the challenges of hydropower projects in shared river basins. These projects in the WEF-Nexus are a chance as well as a challenge for all parties involved.

From a Nigerian point of view Olusola Matthew Adeoye from the Institute of African Studies,

University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria gave everyone an understanding how changing water policies can have a major influence on sustainable solutions.

A broad range of research projects and opportunities within the research training group "Water - People –Agriculture" was presented by Dr. Marcus Giese from the University of Hohenheim, where the students were informed of the possible scholarships that the University of Hohenheim is offering in the subject area for PhD and research.

IAHR Council member Prof. Silke Wieprecht, Director of the Institute for Modelling Water and Environmental Systems at the University of Stuttgart, advisor of the IAHR-BW YPN summed up this varied and exciting afternoon and prizes were awarded to two of the Young Scientist's who best presented in the young professionals forum.



In the evening everyone had the opportunity for fruitful discussions at the Meet and Greet party and to visit the hydraulic laboratory.

This successful event was made possible by all

This successful event was made possible by a the speakers who provided their time and expertise and team of more than 20 highly enthusiastic and efficient volunteers of the IAHR-BW-YPN.

