Looking to new horizons?

"A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step." (Lao Tse)

An idea, a wish, a desire!

The Idea: founding a WAREM ALUMNI network

The Wish: a profound exchange of ideas and activities between Alumni and current WAREM students

The Desire: building dialogs, create connections, show new perspectives

Step 1: Creating a newsletter

Even though you are now in your worlds enjoying more sun than you probably did in Germany, I hope you have fond memories of the time you spent here at WAREM, in Stuttgart. And we want to bring a smile to your face through reading these essays, these observations, these remarks, stirring in you memories of a person, of a day in Spring, of an exam …:-)

The World is becoming smaller and smaller, and casual, coincidental meetings increase. However, why not create encounters intentionally?

Thus, I address myself to all of you: the ones who were here, the ones who are here, the ones who will be here one day. Time is relative. And even though is space. This was Mr Einstein’s Theory. Maybe we could prove and experience it to a certain extent.

We would like to publish this newsletter twice a year and would be happy to receive your contributions, telling us what you are doing now, what has happened for you since leaving WAREM, and under which sun you are living, working, and experiencing Life.

But I also want to encourage you, the actual generations to contribute to this brochure, to talk about surprises, events, experiences during your stay and study in Germany.

The first step is always a small one, as we don’t always know where we will be going. But I hope we, our spirits, our thoughts, will meet once more, out there, on this ocean of common minds.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Anne Weiss,
Course Director,
WAREM,
University of Stuttgart
Located about 50 kilometres to the south of Stuttgart, Wanderheim is a home to one of Germany’s most beautiful and celebrated castles, Castle Burg Teck. With its altitude of over 2,500 feet above sea level, the access to the castle itself is a spectacular hiking experience.

The Castle was founded over a thousand years ago by the princes and princesses of Teck and later, the Dukes and Duchesses of Teck the most famous of whom is considered to be Mary of Teck (1867 – 1953) Queen consort of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Empress consort of India.

Having been the very first excursion bringing the students of WAREM 2014–2016 batch together, the one-day event was a great opportunity for the classmates to better getting to know each other.

The planners opted for using public transportation which proved to be a remarkable choice. While climbing uphill to where the Castle is located was quite a bit of a physical exercise, the sceneries witnessed crossing natural forests and fruits plantations were unthinkably beautiful.

At the Castle, the students were able to learn about its history being a landmark in the region of Baden-Württemberg. With the provision of insightful explanation in the company of Mrs. Weiss, the Course Director, the students were able to learn about the geology of the Swabian Alps where the high altitude provides an excellent view of the mountain range. Following an adventurous exploration of the Castle, the students discovered some of the natural caves in the surrounding area.

On their way back downhill, the students followed a different route which led them through wonderful hiking trails and open green spaces. The challenge they faced was not much to reaching the station before sunset as it was to leave the wonderful nature behind.

Finally, when the day came to an end, it is surely felt that all of the students will recall that excursion with the greatest pleasure and that the activities of the day have left a happy and enduring impression as the excursion itself, has undoubtedly, sur-

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The joyful day of our Graduation

Dunja Tanaskovic, WAREM Graduate, 2012 Generation

The time has come to celebrate! To celebrate the knowledge, success, friendship and youth. It was the time to dress up and be proud. It was the time to feel.

On December 5th, 2014 our international WAREM family from the generation 2012 accompanied with our friends and junior colleagues has gathered on the campus Vaihingen to attend the long anticipated graduation ceremony. We were welcomed by warm words and a touching song performed by our Course Director and a friend Mrs. Anne Weiss. A meaningful speech and sincere wishes came from Prof. Silke Wieprecht, the Course Coordinator. Inspired by impressions of all of us, our colleague Juliana looked back on our first days in Germany, first German words, first exams, first time being sick far from home, first excursion and all the way to a present day when we gathered as one family caring about each other and being proud of each other. Although the speech was made of our own words, it left all of us speechless and with tears in our eyes. The biggest surprise was yet to come with our colleague Hossein singing a song in German what was awarded by a thunderous applause. Finally, as an expression of our gratitude and in the name of the WAREM 2012 generation, Mrs. Anne Weiss, Prof. Wieprecht and Mr. Schneider have received small gifts for all the support and dedication they gave us and that made our studies and life in Germany much more simple and pleasant.

In the informal part of the event, we enjoyed a fabulous buffet and a glass of “sekt” prepared by our dear junior colleagues. This gave us some more time to chat and make some memorable photos together to remind us on this joyful day of our graduation.
Patrick Bracken, WAREM 1999, University of Stuttgart

My WAREM years ran from 1999 until the end of 2001. Four years previously I had completed a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at Queens University of Belfast, in Ireland, and had since been working mainly as site engineer in Guinea-Conakry, West Africa. These were pre-internet days, but somehow I found out about the Water Resources Engineering and Management (WAREM) master’s degree course at the University of Stuttgart, which appealed to me immediately, and I began my studies there in the winter semester of 1999.

And so began an intense period of studying and assignments and field trips and lectures and exams. With excellent lecturers from the university and international guest lecturers a broad range of topics were offered, including one of the first course I am aware of on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), which has since become the agreed international paradigm for water resources management. I personally appreciated the freedom to pursue particular topics of interest within the water sector under the guidance of a supervisor. This allowed me to carry out an in depth independent study on a topic that was and still is, of great interest to me – water supply and sanitation in emergency situations.

For me, the time in WAREM was academically stimulating, but even more so, it was a time of making great friends from around the world and sharing unforgettable moments with them. Although I had previously worked in an international context, nothing had quite been like the camaraderie and support I experienced among my friends in WAREM, and although over 10 years have passed, some of us remain in touch. Together we struggled with technical assignments, cultural adaptation and the intricacies of the German language. This bonded us all closely and to this day, the time I spent in WAREM serves me well, and I look back on them very fondly. One of the great bonuses that has proven most useful to me down the years, was the opportunity to learn German whilst studying for my master’s degree. Whilst at the time this required additional effort, a group of us tried our best to master the use of the correct case and the complexities of the structure of seemingly endless sentences (“wohin mit akkusativ” will be stamped on my memory forever!). The efforts to learn German did however pay off, as I went to work for the GIZ, the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation, following my graduation and today work for AHT GROUP AG, a German consultancy company working mainly in water resources management and agriculture in developing countries.

Safa Slama, WAREM 2013, University of Stuttgart

Time went by so fast that I cannot explain my feelings of the last year. Joy, wonder, fatigue, memories, isolation, discoveries, fraternity, fun, fellowship, curiosity, adventure, commitment and happiness are some words that I could use to describe my time here.

As a student at the National Engineering School of Tunis, I decided to leave Tunisia for two years to pursue a Master’s degree in International Water Resources Engineering and Management in Stuttgart a valuable addition to my CV and a “plus”, I graduate in 2015. Thanks to Rotary, I got a scholarship which helped me in financing my trip, stay and to get a room in a student residence.

At first I was still full of fear. The first month seemed very long. I was afraid of the length of stay, and was surely to miss my family. These fears were quickly out of my head as soon as I arrived in Stuttgart. The members of the Rotary Club helped me a lot. I had the opportunity to participate in the meetings of the Rotary Club. At these meetings, they tried to work for peace and provide help for children in developing countries.

I see that my stay in the first place, a new way of teaching is to gain knowledge in the areas of water and the environment and to deepen my knowledge of English. All courses were conducted in English. This was important for me because I want to work internationally later on. Also, I think this experience will have a positive impact on the personal level, because they allow me to open myself to the world and other cultures and learn about them.

Contrary to what many people think, the German language is not so difficult. It is very pleasant to see how the country and its people live and work.

There are many things I came to know about the Germans and history in Germany. The University time in Germany much less stressful than the time at university in Tunisia and the same goes for the teachers. The students feel much freer and also have time to enjoy the good life.

The teaching materials provided I think is very good and like the way the course design, unlike in Tunisia. I can choose my course more freely. The teachers are easily accessible and always ready to answer any questions.

The excursions in the program were a lot of fun, like the excellent “Tour WAREM” and the opportunity to see Switzerland and different cities in Germany.

I learned what it's like to live far away from my friends and family while I was able to integrate successfully. I know now that I will respond very differently if my employer asks me in the future.

To conclude about my stay in Germany, I knew that the decision to come to Stuttgart, has proved to be absolutely right. Germany is a country that has welcomed me whole heartedly and opened up many new perspectives. I realize that I was lucky to see it and experience it. I am convinced that this experience will have a positive impact on my career and personal development in future.
On December 1st, 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 15th Annual Colloquium “Towards a sustainable future: Water, Food, Energy” organised by the IAHR-Baden-Württemberg YPN.

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 seven students presented their fabulous work on topics ranging from energy related topics like hydropower and biogas to water management and hydroponic agriculture.

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.

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.

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 for PhD within the research training group “Water – People – Agriculture” was presented by Dr. Marcus Giese from the University of Hohenheim.

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 the speakers who provided their time and expertise and team of more than 20 highly enthusiastic and efficient volunteers of the IAHR-BW-YPN.
From the 2nd to the 15th of March 2015 I was given the opportunity to visit the IGCS (Indo German Centre for Sustainability) Winter School at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. The Topic of the Winter School was “Sustainable Water Management in Urban Areas” and was attended by 15 Indian and 15 German Master and Phd students. The school included lectures like “Challenges in going for 24x7 water supply from the present situation in Indian Cities”, “Status & Way forward for Domestic and Industrial Waste Water Treatment in India”, “Adapting to climate change in urbanizing watersheds”, “Protecting water sources in a dynamic peri-urban interface” and many more. Additionally we did field trips to the waste water treatment plant in Chennai, the company Daimler to see how they manage to reuse 100% of their water and to the city of Auroville to learn about reforestation with the help of Rainwater Management. Those field trips gave us a great insight into some aspects of water management in India and helped to understand the theoretical topics discussed during the lectures.

Part of the program was also a student project, which was processed by student groups of five. This was a great opportunity for the German and Indian students to exchange their professional knowledge, but also to get to know each other on a personal level and get deeper insights into each other’s culture. For the group work my group assessed the coping mechanisms of the water supply management in an older part of Chennai. Coming from a water rich country (Germany) it was a very valuable experience for me to see how the people in Chennai manage their water supply. With public water supply being only available for 2-3 hours per day and additionally being of poor quality, people need to think of methods to guarantee their supply and of water treatment within their house to use the water for drinking purposes. During the summer months there is no public water supply available due to the water scarcity in the area around Chennai and people need to rely on water tankers or/and often have their private wells, which puts additional stress on the already strained aquifers.

India was an amazing experience, I met lovely people and experienced the exceptional hospitality of Indians, I tasted great new food, saw impressive architecture and historic sites that gave me a feel of the eventful past of India and got to know the impressive driving skills of the Indian auto-rickshaw drivers. But this visit also reminded me of the challenges and tasks that lie ahead us in our chosen field of profession. Let’s stay connected and find solutions together through our exchange of knowledge and experience.

For more information: http://www.igcs-chennai.org/

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**Important Dates on Campus**

Exam Registration on LSF for Summer Semester : 20th May 2015 to 11th June 2015  
WAREM Excursion (Austria/Italy) : 25th May to 30th May 2015  
Straussi2 Sommerfest : 3rd June 2015  
IAHR-BW YPN football Tournament : 13th June 2015  
Uni Stuttgart Tag der Wissensschaft : 20th June 2015  
Bauigelfest Uni Stuttgart (Oldest and Coolest) : 2nd July 2015  
Semester End : 25th July 2015 (Get ready for loads of Submissions)
Semester started with a bang, as WAREM received a funding of 25,000 Euro from the BW Government for producing exceptionally well water engineers who are contributing to betterment of environment and society. On spreading of this news 400 + Warem Alumni decided to have a fund raiser from there side and contribute 50 euro each. This auspicious drive fetched WAREM 20,000 Euro more. WAREM announced that it would give funding to its 10 best students.

Students of the first semester WAREM 2014 generation were found complaining about Environmental Fluid Mechanics, they did not expect such an easy subject to be taught in Masters program but they were satisfied with the difficulty level of Power supply class, and are feeling intelligent after passing its exam.

For the third year in a row, Environmental Informatics emerged as the most loved subject. A student commented, that this course should be continued in summer semester as well, other lamented that she chose to skip it.

This Christmas saw a miracle happening as all international students were granted there wish and now all of them could speak German, as if they were brought up in Germany itself.

Students of 3rd Semester, WAREM 2013 generation have given up on studying as they all speak German and all of them have a found a job/ internships/ PhD offer. A student said “I am blessed to be part of such a strong WAREM community, which helped recruit almost 50 % of the students” another said “I have never been so relieved, I am planning to spend rest of Semester in Amsterdam to relax further”

In February we had the great news, that LSF system for exam registration has been cancelled due to its complicated nature. And the students can do there 90 credits and more if they wish to and still not register for Master Thesis. Our sources on conditions of anonymity revealed that “University realized that learning is more important than earning credits itself and had a good change of heart”. Our Course Director Anne Weiss was the happiest as it makes her life 10 times simpler.

As per our reports the above things were the highlights of the Semester that wasn’t.

DID YOU LIKE READING THE NEWSLETTER??

We hope that you liked the first edition of the newsletter. Sure, it was not perfect and that’s why we expect your valuable feedback. Please let us know what you liked and what you did not like. Both would only motivate us to do better and make this newsletter more reading worthy.

We thank all the authors for their valuable time. It is an initiative which help us keep in touch with WAREM and our friends even after we are done studying. We as a vast international community can be very potent and helpful to each other and the society. Therefore we are making efforts to create a common platform. But it would be not possible without your help. So kindly support this endeavour.

We would like to add many things which can be done with your support. Articles related to technology, studies, opportunities for Jobs/ Internship /PhD. or anything which is related to the field of Water (Social or Scientific) are welcome.

Send your valuable feedback/suggestions at warem.alumni@gmail.com

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THE SEMESTER THAT WASN'T!!

Vinay Sharma,, WAREM Student, 2013 Generation

Summer in Stuttgart

**Events in Stuttgart**

- Frühlingsfest : 18th April 2015 to 10th May 2015
- Stuttgarter Weindorf : 26th Aug. 2015 to 6th Sept. 2015

**Hiking/ Biking in Stuttgart**

- Nebelhohle (Stalagmite & Stalactite caves, Public Transport not good)
- Herrenberg to Tubingen Biking trail through forest
- Uracher Wasserfall , Bad Urach (1.5 hours by train)
- Blauerleben. Go to the famous pond Blautopf & nearby caves