As time goes by ...

When I was a little girl, my mother used to say “the older you get, the faster time goes by”.

She was absolutely right.

On 24th November 2017, WAREM celebrated the 20th anniversary. It was a great event and an amazing meeting. Many alumni from the past 20 years attended, some of them have not been here for a very long time. A WAREM review regarding the last 20 years given by the former Course Directors Jürgen Braun, and Matthias Schneider and the present one AnneWeiss, showed clearly that the assertion by Heraclitus more than 2,500 years ago “Nothing is more consistent as the change” has never been truer.

There are obvious changes in the Campus environment: The one-storey, wooden WAREM building has disappeared and given way to the 5-storey, concrete “Haus der Studierenden”. But there are also changes which are not visible at first sight: The administration processes starting from application to deregistration have been centralized, and are digitally supervised and thus, far away from the former coziness. And of course there is a financial change in form of study fees. 1500 Euro per semester.

However, one thing did not change over the years:

The dedication of all students, belonging to the former and the present WAREM generations: the incredible helpfulness! Many of them supported the event in preparing the place, in providing food, and cleaning up the place at the end. All of them contributed to make this day a wonderful day that we will never forget.

Thank you!

Anne Weiß
The International Association for Hydro-Environmental Engineering and Research (IAHR) is an organization that focuses its effort in the fields of hydro environmental sciences, Water Resources Management, Hydroinformatics and Eco-hydraulics and their practical application in real situations. Any engineer and water specialist worldwide is able to be part of IAHR as an active member, having the opportunity to be included in several activities such as working groups, research, special conferences, short courses, access to journals and World Congresses. This last mentioned activity is one of the most recognized events which takes place every two years in different cities of the world. The last event took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia this August 2017.

During this 6-day event, tens of experts exposed their outcomes in their recent research projects, boosting the interest of hundreds more involved in the field of water science and hydraulics. However, that is not the only benefit of an IAHR World Congress. Another important aspect is widening the connection between water specialists and also experiencing from current or past situations lived by the host country and the applied solutions to overcome them and manage water efficiently.

During the 37th IAHR World Congress called “Managing Water for Sustainable Development – Learning from the Past to the Future” researchers presented the obtained results from diverse projects. The daily technical sessions were oriented to a wide range of topics from River and Sediment Management, Water Resources and Flood Management to Hydro-Informatics, Computational and Experimental methods. One of the most compelling talks in the field of Instrumentation and Experimental methods was given by Dr. Markus Noack from the University of Stuttgart, presenting the outcome obtained from the project “Structure from Motion in Hydraulic Laboratories: Topographical surveys using Submerged Image Acquisition”, which demonstrated that the quality of Submerged Image Acquisition is sufficient to generate detailed DEMs (Digital Elevation Models) of sediment surfaces. In fact, these technical sessions are the opportunity for many young professionals to expand their knowledge and apply these results in real situations in their field of action.
Furthermore, the IAHR World Congress is a great opportunity to expand connections between the professionals within a specific discipline. The congress in Malaysia congregated more than 1000 professionals and experts from all over the world who during the pauses and coffee breaks were able to communicate and share experiences. Since there are several academic institutions and research fellows, young professionals have the unbeatable chance to get interested in any topic and get into a closer relation with the author of any scientific paper. In addition, the master students could have a closer view of innovative ideas to apply in their master thesis or why not finding an extra motivation to pursue their doctoral studies. Indeed, this constitutes a platform to any student, scientific, professional, researcher to expand their horizons and learn from the others’ experiences to implement in their current situations.

Finally, one of the major benefits that an IAHR World Congress has is the ability to expose typical problems or aspects regarding the water science field through interesting technical visits. During the last congress, the technical visits focused on showing the assistants how Kuala Lumpur has overcome the difficulties for example from flood events with impressive structures such as the Smart Tunnel and on the other hand how the advancing technology and instrumentation implemented in the NAHRIM Hydraulic lab can be used as a tool to model natural processes for the better of the city and research.

In reality, the opportunity to learn from another country and get the best experience from other professionals are the strongest motivations to assist to upcoming IAHR World Congresses.

In conclusion, an IAHR World Congress is a great experience that a specialist within the water field should live at least once in his or her life. The technical sessions, technical visits or just having a brief conversation with your favorite researcher might make the difference on how passionate or curious you could be in the hydraulic and research fields. The world needs innovative ideas, research and connections and from our side, the water sciences, could make a lot by absorbing the best from this type of World Congress.
Back in 2010, a few months after I finished my bachelors I was already considering studying a masters, but I was not sure in which field I wanted to go. Somehow, I had an idea that it ought to be either in construction or in a water-related topic, since I was working on these fields for a few years. It was then that a Sunday afternoon my father came to me with a quite unusual headline he had heard on the news: application calls being opened for various German Universities. Being completely honest, I did not feel thrilled by the idea of pursuing a masters in Germany or in Europe at all. I had never considered it and at the same time it sounded like an unreachable objective; a goal way too high. However, it neither sounded like a crazy idea nor something I would not consider after that and, yet filled with self-doubt, I started my search for a suitable program. “An experience abroad will surely be beneficial to my future”, I told myself. I found three options being offered in English in Hannover, Dresden, and Stuttgart. The programs in Dresden and Hannover seemed largely research-oriented; whereas the WAREM program in Stuttgart offered a more balanced profile regarding research and practical courses. Precisely, the Hydraulic Engineering and River Basin Management specialization. Unequivocally, it caught my attention.

After a long period of finalizing other projects back at home, I finally started WAREM in October 2014. Besides the mandatory courses, I completed my credits with lectures from the aforementioned specialization. The description of the vast majority of the modules matched greatly with my work experience and interests, and I was sure I wanted to deepen my knowledge in this field. My master thesis was about hydromorphology of rivers and it was a new topic for me from which I wanted to learn as well.

It has been about a year since I finished WAREM during which, I was not only able to learn the courses at the University but also about myself. It helped me to grow in my self-knowledge and to become much more aware of my own strengths and weaknesses, and at the same time to meet people from many different backgrounds, interests, and ideas. Thanks to this diversity, I was able to learn from other cultures and points of view. Of course, not everything was nice and easy and many challenges had to be faced, and when these arose, I had to devise new ways to overcome them. It has been surely a life-enriching experience and the people I have met and the places I have visited are memories that I will always treasure. Now I am about to start a new job where I can apply what I have learned and I am also looking at the future with high hopes and optimism. It is my wish that the coming generations of WAREM can also share their stories with satisfaction and thankfulness as we alumni do.
Making the decision of studying abroad is not easy one, as it includes a lot previous research, organization, determination and courage; however, I would qualify it as the best choice I have done in my life so far. Having the chance to change your "conventional" life for two years and being able to dedicate this time to you, and to your personal and professional self improvement but moreover, to rethink and define your future goals is by far the best reward of the whole studying abroad experience.

In Panama, as in many other countries in the world, problems related to insufficient water distribution, sanitation and pollution are becoming increasingly important; therefore, since my bachelors studies I knew that I wanted to especialized in that field. I remember that when I started to search for studying programs, WAREM was on the top of my list because I felt that it included a wide range of topics from the areas of groundwater, sanitary engineering and hydraulics. I would say that every semester WAREM impressed me with something. The first semester, of course everything was new and I tried to adapt myself to it. The second semester, we had an awesome excursion to Munich and Austria and a short course with a guest professor from Malaysia. The following semester, there was an open invitation for students to go to Malaysia for a course on flood control. WAREM has a lot to offer and it will be whatever each one wants it to be. You can pick your area of especialization, travel and share your time with amazing classmates from all over the world, what else can you ask for in a Masters program?

I always like to think that a trully successful professional is the one that shares his/her knowledge in pro of their community. Let’s dare us to be really successful, I guarantee that WAREM is the perfect start!
As a student of WAREM generation of 2016, I am privileged to have the opportunity to be in one of the most diverse group that WAREM had. This year as WAREM turned 20, to be able to celebrate its anniversary, was an experience itself.

Ms. Anne Weiss, our course director, put so much time and effort to make this celebration happen.

Professors, students and guests from 1997 to 2017 gathered from all over the world to celebrate this event, creating such a diverse atmosphere and enriching their experiences during WAREM and after that was quite memorable.

As the evening began all were excited to know who was coming, whom they were going to meet, which professors are still at WAREM and which new ones have joined after such a long period. It is worth mentioning that Professor Wolfgang Nowak, who was one of the students from the first generation of WAREM, is now teaching WAREM students at the University of Stuttgart.
The rapid technological advancement in the past years made borders less effective in the 21st century. Even though many WAREM alumni are now far away from Stuttgart, they could still join us in this jubilee, through video calls, as they talked to us sharing their experiences about their time in WAREM, telling us how that still effects their personal and professional lives.

Some will say that this kind of meeting will be only listening to more presentations, have a nice cup of coffee and that’s it, and to be honest I was one of them, but, I was proved completely wrong.

Meeting and listening to Prof. Helmut Kobus, the founder of WAREM was such an honor. In addition to that, it was an utmost pleasure to listen to how WAREM developed during these 20 years. Furthermore, we were touched by some personal stories from current and previous WAREM students, where some of which faced some difficulties while others engaged in a love story that was crowned by marriage.

We also had the chance to listen to the different stories from the successive course directors since WAREM was established until now, have done a great job organizing all the necessary formalities.

During the breaks and the Meet & Greet, we had the chance to have some small conversations with the guests, enjoy some coffee with them and build new networks, which will definitely help us to start our professional career.

Being an international group, we could not ignore the different cuisines that our different cultures offer. Having the chance to serve different kinds of food from different countries that in one event, was one of the great experiences that this anniversary provided.

Finally, we can all agree that WAREM adds an unforgettable experience that enriches the students’ lives and technical skills. For that, and much more, one can only thank WAREM and its family and wish to always be part of such wonderful anniversaries.
The module Hydrogeological Investigations is offered every summer semester its a great opportunity to get hands-on-experiences on the most common methods of field investigations used in groundwater, and also to gain knowledge in the basic theories to analyze pumping tests.

A course with FIELD-LAB-COMPUTERS is just a perfect balance, in engineering learning.

The course is taught by
Dr. rer. nat. Johannes Riegger
Dr. rer. nat. Jochen Seidel
Dr. Jürgen Braun
Dipl.-Ing.(FH) Oliver Trötschler
DID YOU LIKE READING ? YOUR THOUGHTS! ON THE NEWSLETTER.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all our authors for their articles. We, highly appreciate the effort and time you spent to make this happen.

Reaping on the previous efforts to build strong communication across WAREM generations, we wish to feature more voices in the future editions from our yesteryear WAREM students. Hence, request one-and-all to review and share your comments, on our efforts.

As always said, if you want to publish something, see a new section, have any idea about developing WAREM Alumni. Write to
warem.alumni@gmail.com

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