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Place: Singapore

Date: 10.07.2016 – 12.07.2016

Staff: Mukta Akter

List of activities: Young Water Leaders Summit at SIWW, Singapore



The Young Water Leaders Summit (YWLS) was a flagship event of the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) held from 10 to 12 July 2016 respectively at Marina Barrage and Marina Bay Sands. The YWLS was initiated by young professionals in association with organizing team: PUB (Singapore's National Water Agency), Water Youth Network (WYN), International Water Association (IWA), Young Water Professional (YWP) and World Youth Parliament for Water (WYPW). The YWLS brought around 90 participants from over 30 countries. As the youth focal point of GWP South Asia, Ms. Mukta Akter, participated in the entire events of YWLS.

The YWLS designed for young water professionals with the objectives to:

- PROFILE the global water industry as an exciting and innovative sector
- INSPIRE young water professionals with leadership potential to develop their careers in the water industry
- CONNECT young water professionals with established business leaders, who serve as role models

The YWLS provided well structured programs for participants to discuss water solutions and set out a series of sessions throughout the three days to line-up of inspiring speakers, dynamic round-table discussions, and massive networking opportunities with both young and high-level professionals.

The first day included round table discussion, brainstorming & learning from peer sessions and sharing experience with senior professionals. A dialogue towards Water Sustainability also took place at the end of the sessions where Dr. Amy Khor, Senior Minister of State for the Environment and Water Resources of Singapore was invited to shed lights into the water journey the county has been through. Ms. Mukta actively participated in all the sessions and

played her due role during the brainstorming and roundtable discussion.

The day was also the grand opening ceremony of Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) 2016 which was held in the Grand Ballroom at Marina Bay Sands.

The second day was designed with different plenary sessions and conversation session along with pillar events of SIWW. The eminent world leaders were participated from government, international organizations, business and industry participated in the sessions. In their speech and presentations, they mostly focused on water management, infrastructure building and socio-economic development with long term basis including comprehensive strategy on water business. The day was followed by question and answer after every session. As a youth ambassador of GWP-SAS, Ms. Mukta shared the general scenario of water crisis that GWP-South Asia is dealing with and asked the world leaders to know about young professionals' role in water management through partnership and collaborations for a liveable, sustainable and resilient future.

The following two sessions were also conducted at the second half:

- a. Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize & Water Prize Lectures
- b. Hydro Pitch Day

The topic of the lectures covered the challenges and issues associated with cities, water and the environment.

The Hydro Pitch Day session was an industry oriented entrepreneurship programme aimed at accelerating commercialisation and growing a new generation of water entrepreneurs. The session also selected and awarded successful global young water entrepreneurs for their outstanding project actions.

The third day was very hectic which included different sessions and social events. The day commenced with roundtable session which provided a serious look at the future of world's urban water and wastewater management including the security of water supply from the hinterlands beyond 2030. Afterwards, a follow up discussion session was conducted using the sustainable business canvas. During the local to global pathways session, the YWLS participants used the sustainable business model canvas as a tool to work on assigned case studies and provided their ideas to contact the local initiatives to the global movement of change and innovation. In this session, Ms. Mukta actively participated in the brainstorming exercise and delivered the concluding remark.

The closing session was attended by young water professionals and senior water experts from diverse sectors. On behalf of GWP family Ms. Mukta and Ms. Angela klauschen, Senior Network officer participated at the event. The session summarized and focused the most learning points from over last three days with a possible expectation to develop pathways to water sustainability and resilience in cities.

At the end of the day, all young water leaders assembled for social program which included city highlights tour and closing reception.

Outputs/Outcomes/Follow-up

- The YWLS created diverse opportunities for young professionals to build new networks.
- Recognized the best water projects designed by young entrepreneurs.
- Enhanced the ownership strategy and promoted the best practice to share use of water resources.
- Provided platform to embrace career opportunities in water industry.

- Facilitated in accelerating commercialisation and growing a new generation of water entrepreneurs
- Helped young leaders transfer the knowledge in interactive way.
- Introduced holistic framework to discuss and develop innovative ideas on water business, management and governance.
- Promoted to adopt environment friendly, easy accessible and cost effective technology.
- Encouraged on basic management tools to connect service/business and share ideas to scale up environmentally replicate projects on water industry.
- Supported partnership approach for a sustainable water management.
- Promoted affordable strategy to solve the water crisis
- For the possible pragmatic solution the YWLS focused on cultural factor, technology adaptation, good governance and political commitment.

As a youth ambassador, Ms. Mukta expressed her gratitude to GWP for providing the opportunity to participate in the YWLS which helped her scale up her knowledge, develop social networking and inspired to contribute more to her region with innovative ideas.

Photos



