

Ecumenical Water Network (EWN)

Summer School on Water 2008

27 July - 5 August 2008

Bossey Ecumenical Institute, Switzerland



Water for all – An ecumenical response to the challenge

Water is the source of life. Yet more than 1 billion people worldwide do not have access to sufficient and clean water. Communities around the world are victims of the pollution and depletion of their water resources. Local eco-systems are collapsing. Increasingly water is being seen as a source of economic profit, to be marketed, bottled, and privatized.

With climate change progressing and global demand rising, competition for the planet's water resources, over-exploitation, as well as profit-oriented use and distribution are further on the rise.

Poor and marginalized communities, already often excluded from development processes, are those who suffer most from lack of water, inequitable access, and environmental degradation. In Nairobi, Kenya, people who live in the Kibera slums spend an average of more than two hours a day waiting for water at standpipes that only function for four or five hours a day, at most. When there is a shortage of water, the water flow to this area is reduced in order to maintain the 24-hours-a-day provision to the more prosperous districts of the city. In Accra, Ghana, the poor pay up to ten times more than the residents of high-income areas.



Drawing by Christian Chavarria, El Salvador, 2007.

Responding to this situation, the Ecumenical Water Network as a network of churches and church-related organizations promotes the preservation, responsible management and equitable distribution of water for all. Participant organizations of the EWN act together based on the understanding that water is a gift of God and a fundamental human right.

Youth together for a just and sustainable future: The EWN Summer School on Water

In 2008, the Ecumenical Water Network will bring together about 20 young people from all over the world in the first EWN Summer School on Water. The regionally and confessionally diverse group of participants will have the opportunity to study the local, regional, and international manifestations and causes of the water crisis. They will examine the situation and challenges from a perspective of faith and ethics, and search together for possible ecumenical responses.

The Summer School on Water aims to motivate and prepare young people to contribute to the work of the churches at the regional and local level on issues related to access to water and to the sustainable and equitable use of water resources.

The program of the Summer School on Water will include:

- Lectures and workshops
- Theological and biblical studies
- Visits to international organizations
- Sharing of local and regional experiences
- Cultural and artistic activities
- Common worship

The Summer School on Water will take place from **27 July to 5 August 2008** at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Switzerland.

Applications

Participants have to be between 18 and 30 years old. English is the working language of the programme and its good knowledge is required from the applicants.

If you wish to apply, please download and fill in the application form which is available at <http://water.oikoumene.org>. Only fully completed application forms can be accepted. All applicants are also asked to enclose a small personal contribution related to the programme of the Summer School on Water. This can be a drawing, a short story (no more than 1 page), or a similar personal and creative contribution.

The deadline for the acceptance of applications is **24 March 2008**. Applications can be sent by e-mail, fax, or post to the address mentioned in the application form.

Participants will be selected by a jury made up of representatives of the ecumenical youth movement, EWN members, and civil society. They will be notified by mid-April. Please note that due to the limited number of participants, not all well-



Concert on water organized by the EWN at the World Social

programme and will provide some pocket money.

Travel costs to and from Geneva are to be covered by the participant, except in cases where a subsidy is granted. Residents of the following regions, if unable to finance their travel, are eligible for a subsidy: Asia, Africa, Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Middle East and Pacific.

qualified applicants can be guaranteed a place in the programme.

Finances

The secretariat of the EWN at the World Council of Churches as well as participant organizations of the EWN will provide for board and lodging expenses during the time of the

All participants who are granted a travel subsidy are expected to make a cash contribution – within their capacity – towards travel expenses. The contribution can be a combination of funds from yourself, your church, parish, organization etc. The purpose of the contribution is to allow more young people to participate in the summer school, to strengthen the commitment of the participants and encourage the ownership of the summer school by the participants and their local churches and organizations.

Please complete the relevant section of the application form concerning travel clearly. If you apply for a travel subsidy you must indicate the amount you are ready to contribute. Specific requests for assistance will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Interested?

Application form available at
<http://water.oikoumene.org>

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24 March 2008