



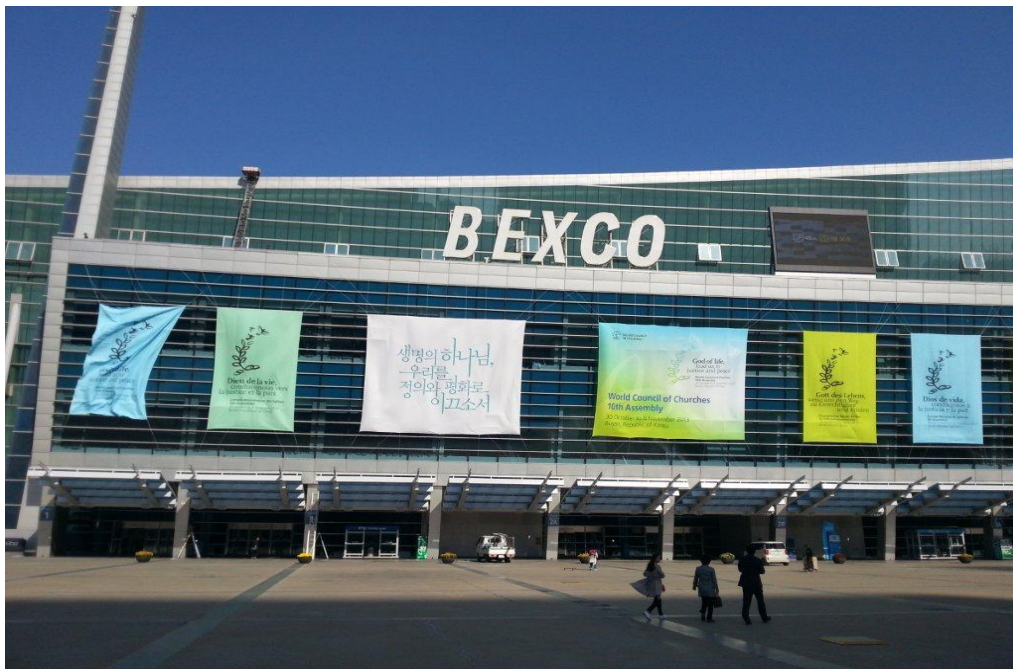
Water and sanitation are human rights!

Ecumenical Water Network at the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches , October 30 – November 8, 2013, Busan, South Korea

A Report

Introduction:

The Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) was emerged from the 9th Assembly of the World Council of Churches (WCC) , held in Porto Alegre in 2006. At the Assembly the churches came together to affirm their commitment to water justice and issued a statement called [“water for life”](#), which became the basis for giving the mandate to WCC and its member churches to officially launch the EWN to respond to the global water crisis in a rights based approach. Since then the EWN Secretariat has been housed in the WCC and now has become a part of the WCC’s project on Eco-justice and care for creation. In the given context, the 10th Assembly of WCC was a significant event in the life journey of the EWN.



The BEXCO – Venue of WCC Assembly, a huge centre of the size of a stadium

The EWN participated in the 10th Assembly of the WCC in Busan, South Korea during October 30-November 8, 2013 Assembly with its network members and participants to share with the Assembly its achievements and struggles in fulfilling the mandate given to it in the previous Assembly in Brazil.

Participants of EWN

The EWN participated in the 10th Assembly with the following members representing the EWN. (Some of them took care of their own expenses, while others were sponsored by the EWN – fully /partially.)

1. Dr Asa Elfstrom, Church of Sweden, EWN IRG member
2. Ms Veronica Flachier, Co-Chair, EWN IRG member and Co-Chair (CLAI)
3. Dr Rommel Linatoc, EWN IRG member (CCA)
4. Mr Alex Abu Ata, NECC-ICC
5. Mr Kasta Dip, Director, India Peace Centre - Madang
6. Mr Mervin Toquero, NCC Philippines, Panellist
7. Street Theatre artist-1, from NCC Philippines (part of the larger troupe)
8. Street Theatre artist-2, from NCC Philippines (part of the larger troupe)
9. Mr Marcelo Leitus - WSCF staff for Photo Exhibition
10. Rev Amos Mushendwa – WSCF staff for photo exhibition
11. Ms Bang, Artist , Busan, Korea
12. Ms Pine, Local Volunteer, Busan, Korea..
13. Dinesh Suna, Coordinator, EWN-WCC

Besides the above team, who helped the EWN have a vibrant presence at the Assembly, we also had many visitors from the partner organisations including the BfdW, ACT Alliance, etc who helped the EWN in many ways in setting up our exhibition booths as well as in organising our events at the WCC Assembly.

The Assembly

The assembly is the highest governing body of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and meets every seven years. It is a moment when the fellowship of member churches comes together as a whole in prayer and celebration.

The assembly has the mandate to review programmes, to issue public statements and determine the overall policies of the WCC, as well as to elect presidents and a Central Committee that oversees the council's work until the next assembly.

Along with the WCC member churches, partner organizations and other churches have a strong presence at the event. This makes an assembly of the WCC the most diverse Christian gathering of its size in the world. It is a unique opportunity for the churches to deepen their commitment to visible unity and common witness so that world may believe.

Sharing from the diverse spiritual experiences of churches around the world is a powerful expression of unity shared in Christ. The spiritual life of each assembly – worship, Bible study and prayer – is a particular highlight.

The WCC was established at its 1st Assembly in Amsterdam, Netherlands (1948). Since then assemblies have been held in Evanston, United States (1954); New Delhi, India (1961); Uppsala, Sweden (1968); Nairobi, Kenya (1975); Vancouver, Canada (1983); Canberra, Australia (1991); Harare, Zimbabwe (1998); and Porto Alegre, Brazil (2006).

The 10th Assembly met under the theme **God of life, lead us to justice and peace**. This theme was inspired by the diversity of Asian contexts and by a growing sense of urgency to care for life and seek justice. The following Presidents are elected by the 10th Assembly of WCC:

Africa: Rev. Dr Mary Anne Plaatjies Van Huffel, Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa

Asia: Rev. Prof. Dr Sang Chang, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea

Europe: Archbishop Anders Wejryd, Church of Sweden

Latin America and Caribbean: Rev. Gloria Nohemy Ulloa Alvarado, Presbyterian Church in Colombia

North America: Bishop Mark MacDonald, Anglican Church of Canada

Pacific: Rev. Dr Mele'ana Puloka, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

Eastern Orthodox: H.B. John X Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and All the East

Oriental Orthodox: H.H. Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians

The 150 member Central Committee, the highest governing body of the World Council of Churches, made history by electing their first ever woman Moderator in **Dr Agnes Abuom** of Nairobi, Kenya. For more details please [click here](#).

The Madang

Madang is a Korean term that describes a courtyard in a traditional Korean home. During the Assembly the *Madang* served as a space for encounter and sharing, celebration and fellowship, greeting a visitor and welcoming a stranger. The WCC assembly had in a spirit of *Madang*, inviting participants into a common space of discussion and celebration. The madang was open to all and not just for the delegates. Participants/visitors/observers, who did not have a voice in the official proceedings of the Assembly, could participate in over 80 workshops at the *Madang* on various issues around the theme and can visit, interact with the organisers of over 100 exhibition booths. This is how some of the participants of the assembly have described their experience of *Madang*. As we can see from the following quotes, , that the EWN's Oasis at the *Madang* hall seems to have touched many participants.



(The theatre group going on a procession in Madang hall with EWN banners)

*“One of the liveliest venues...is a room called **Madang**. This is no mere exhibit hall. Rather, the opportunities in this space are organized around five interrelated themes, which also run throughout the assembly: **koinonia** (fellowship), **martyria** (mission and witness), **diakonia** (service), ecumenical formation and interfaith dialogue. They include workshops, booths, theatre, areas set up for conversation, a bookstore, a coffee shop, concerts and more. I have seen tears shared among reuniting friends; deep discussion about beliefs and behaviors...it is a place for encounter and blessing.”*

-Nathan Day Wilson – Accredited media*

*“The Madang space is an incredible mingling space for all of the participants where you can learn about projects being done by churches and religious organizations all over the world or simply be in the space watching performances and engaging with new friends and old friends alike. They have an **oasis**, a labyrinth, a fair trade cafe, a Japanese tea ceremony room, an interfaith engagement gallery and more. In the span of about an hour I ran into six people I know from four different countries and had conversations people from Jakarta, Venezuela, Poland, China and I am not even sure where else.”*

**-Rev Daryn Hewson, United Methodist Church
– Assembly participant***

**(These quote are taken from Tara Tautari’s report on the Assembly)*

Activities and Achievements of EWN at the Assembly

The EWN participated in the Assembly with its representatives through the Madang. It organised many activities /events in the Assembly to highlight the issues of water and sanitation. The EWN organised 2 Workshops at the Madang during the WCC Assembly.

Workshop- I : Troubled waters: Accompanying communities in conflict situations

Water has been a source of conflict for the very reasons of its life sustaining ability and that it is a scarce natural resource. People always wanted to live by the water and that is why we have ancient civilisations grew by the rivers. That is why people fight over water. In the Bible, a "quarrel" between the ancient Israelites and the Philistines (Genesis 26: 12–22) is mentioned. Today, conflicts over water, land, and other natural resources are increasing because of population growth, changing lifestyles, and climate change. It is the poorest and most vulnerable whose lives and livelihoods are most at risk when their sources of water run dry, become polluted, or turn into sources of conflict and objects of competition. Yet water is also a uniting force, and water conflicts can be turned into signs of hope, if non-violent solutions are sought. The workshop will explore different kinds of conflicts and what churches can do to promote just peace in these situations.

To discuss this issue, a workshop was organised at the WCC Madang on the 4th November 2013.

Ms Joy Kennedy from the Canadian Council of Churches and an ardent supporter of the EWN moderated the workshop. There were three situation analysis presented, representing the Africa region, Latin America region and that of Palestine .



Malcom Damon is sharing the problems of Africa region related to water and sanitation.

Africa Region:

Mr Isaiah Toroitich, Advocacy officer of ACT Alliance talked how climate change is affecting issues of water, particularly in Africa. Mr Malcom Damon from Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA. He spoke on issues related to failure of government's service delivery on water issues. He also spoke on the issues of water meters in Lesotho, where prepaid water tokens are sold to people to access drinking water from these water meters. These are privatisation of water at the community level in the villages. Due to the protest of the communities now the water meters are done away with. Rev. Amos Mushandwa from WSCF-Africa region spoke among other issues on issues of mining and other extractive industries and how it affects the water in contaminating it and making it undrinkable in Africa.

Latin American Region:

Lic. Elias Crisostomo ABRAMIDES, Ecumenical Patriarchate from Argentina spoke about his engagement in the previous assembly of WCC in issuing the "Water for Life" statement. He emphasised on issues of excessive mining being done in Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina and Ecuador. He also highlighted about the notorious method of Hydraulic Fracturing or commonly know as "fracking" to extract oil from the shale formations, which abuses precious water rendering them unusable for the local communities.

He also gave many examples of churches standing by the communities in their struggle for water justice. One such example was that of the "Glacier Protection Law" passed in Argentina due to the demands of the CSOs including the Church.

We also had a small video message from Marcos Corona Soto, Inter Religion Network Peace Education, Chile

Middle East:

Alexendar Abu Ata, a young WASH activist (eWASH Advocacy Task Force Officer) of West Bank, representing the NECC-ICC, a member of the EWN made a presentation on the "water apartheid" in Palestine at the hands of the Israelis. He highlighted stark discrimination between the water consumption by the Israeli settlers in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip and that of a Palestinian. When the Palestinians do not have basic water and sanitation facilities, the Israeli settlers have swimming pools. The state of river Jordan when it reaches the Palestine territories, it remains a sewer as majority of the water is used up by Israelis. There have been hundreds of water tanks and cisterns of Palestine region are destroyed by the Israeli authorities on a daily basis. He also highlighted the [Thirst for Justice campaign](#), which he is actively engaged in bringing water to Palestinians.



(The organising team of EWN for the Workshop-I)

After these presentation, there were some questions asked by participants. Kasta Dip from India Peace Centre, India talked about the struggles of Dalits in India how they are deprived of access to water. Over 200 million Dalits in India are deprived of adequate access to water and sanitation. Due to lack of time, many could not get an opportunity to intervene.

Since there were many workshops happening simultaneously and participants did not have to sign up for any workshops and they had to voluntarily attend these workshops, we were worried about the attendance. However, much to our delight as many as 40 participants attended our workshop and it was a very good opportunity to sensitise the participants of the Assembly on issues of water justice and accompanying communities in their water struggles.



(Veronica Flachier summing up and offering vote of thanks)

Dinesh Suna, Coordinator of EWN-WCC in the beginning of the workshop, welcomed, introduced the subject and gave an introduction of EWN and its IRG members. In the end, Ms Veronica Flachier, Co-Chair of IRG-EWN, summed up and offered vote of thanks to all participants.

Key outcome of the Workshop:

Even though there was not much time left for us to discuss on the plan of action on the basis of the issues discussed, the EWN was encouraged to address the above mentioned issues including the following:

- EWN to continue to accompany communities who are being deprived of their rights and access to water and sanitation, particularly in Africa region.
- To address issues of extractive industries, including mining and “fracking” (hydrolic fracturing) which pollute and deplete the water sources.
- To address issues of “water apartheid” in Palestine by the Israeli government and settlers.
- To address various discriminations based on ethnicity, caste, gender, etc which becomes an impediment in realisation of human right to water.

Workshop-II : Churches for water and human rights: Challenges and opportunities

This workshop was organised on 6th November 2013 by the EWN at the WCC Madang. The objective of this workshop was to engage participants in a discussion on what is our theological basis and inspiration to engage on issues of water justice and human rights advocacy by the churches, highlighting the human right to water.

The workshop highlighted on ecumenical advocacy of EWN in providing a platform for churches and other ecumenical partners to join hands and make their voices heard in support of the international recognition of basic access to drinking water and sanitation as a human right.

Before the Panel discussion begun, **Dinesh Suna**, Coordinator, EWN-WCC welcomed the participants, introduced the panellists and gave an introduction of the EWN, its work and introduced its IRG members.



(Rev. Dr Ofelia Ortega, moderating the panel discussion)

The workshop was moderated by **Rev. Dr Ofelia Ortega, President of WCC** (outgoing), who is a theologian and environmentalist. In her introductory note she gave a background of the UN processes related to human rights to water and challenged the churches to observe the World Water Day on 22nd March. She also highlighted on the UN declaration of the year 2013 as the “International Year of water cooperation” . Before calling the panellists to speak , she challenged the current form of privatisation of water going on rampant in Latin America.

She then talked about a small story of a group of women from her church, supporting over 100 families in a rural area in Cuba who were struggling to get water for their use. She reminded the people about the covenant of God with the creation for its sustenance. Bible Hosea 2: 18

Bishop Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm , Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, Germany gave the theological basis for our engagement on issues of water justice. He dealt with the following three questions:

- Why it is important for the Churches to defend the rights of the poor and marginalised?
- What is the spiritual significance of water in our lives?
- What is the inspiration and theological basis for the churches to get engaged on water justice and human rights for water?



(Bishop Bedford-Strohm was addressing the participants of workshop)

Bishop Bedford-Strohm, reminded all that Water goes beyond the physical need for survival. It has a spiritual aspect to it. In Christianity, water is considered sacred, it is used in Baptism, according to the Orthodox Church tradition, during the Theophany “Great Blessing of Water” is done in the beginning of the year to sanctify by symbolically sprinkling waters on people and items of use.

He also insisted that water should be preserved and cared for and it should not be seen as a mere commodity or to make economic benefits. He gave an example of a struggle of his Church in Bavaria for over 20 years how they had prayed over and protested against tampering with the river Danube in Germany. Finally this year the government gave up on the protest of the people and dropped the plans to deepen the river bed over an area of 70 kilometres, for increase shipment through the river, which would have affected the bio-diversity of the river and would have polluted the water.

Then we showed a video message from **Catarina de Albuquerque, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation**, since she could not come personally. She in the video message introduced what is her mandate, what is the progress so far and what is the road ahead. She also encouraged the CSOs to get engaged in the struggle for water for all. She also focused on :

- Water and sanitation are human rights: a great achievement
- National implementation of water and sanitation as human rights: a great challenge

Mervin Toquero , from **NCC Philippines** , a **Human Rights activist**, gave a First-hand experience of advocating for human rights to water in the Philippines. He said “ The country's many free sources of freshwater are becoming an expensive commodity accessible only to those who can pay. While freshwater is abundant, water services remain scarce and the costs prohibitive as they are privatized by big foreign and private corporations. 4 out of 5 poor Filipinos do not have access to home-piped water” .



(Mervin Toquero addressing the participants of workshop)

As people resist these programs and projects that impede on their rights, the government uses state agents to suppress them. Extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, illegal arrests, among other rights violations are rampant. There are 34 recorded cases of killings of environmental advocates under President Aquino. Many church members are included in the more than a thousand killed since 2001 in similar cases by the government’s oppressive agencies.

Despite these threatening situation, the CSOs are continuing their struggle. Mervin represents NCCP in the Water for the People Network (WPN). The WPN seeks to put forward a "People's Water Code." This is an alternative paradigm that promotes people’s inalienable right to water and their collective right to manage this precious resource.

This is a good model for the churches to get engaged in defending the rights of the oppressed, including water rights.

Finally we also showed a video on “**global privatisation of water, an obstacle for human rights to water**”. The video showcased the former CEO of Nestlé , Peter Barbeck, who in a video interview said that access to water should NOT be a human right! Nestlé is the largest bottled water manufacturer in the world.

In the end the workshop was summed up by Dr Asa Elfström, IRG member of EWN and Policy and Advocacy Adviser, Water and Development, Church of Sweden summed up the workshop. She reiterated that privatisation and human dignity to

access to water have come out very strongly from this workshop. She also noted that this workshop was one of the largest participated workshop, even though organised during the last days of the Assembly, when many participants had started to return to their countries. Around 50 participants attend the workshop. In the end she, offered vote of thanks to the participants.

Key outcome of the workshop:

Once again, due to lack of time, a detailed plan of action was could not be evolved . However, some issues were highlighted and the EWN of the WCC was encouraged address the following issues.

- Privatisation of water sources must be stopped, as this becomes an obstacle in realisation of human right to water. Depending on the local scenario service delivery may or may not be privatised.
- Economic profit should not determine our actions, which will endanger the eco-system including the water bodies .
- Dignity of human being must be upheld and access to water must be done in a dignified manner for all people.
- Churches must extend solidarity to the victims of activism for water justice and do everything in its capacity to stop state oppression, extra judicial killing of the activists.
- There are many success stories of churches standing for the human right to water and we need to identify and highlight them.

The Blue Pavilion:

- The EWN had a large exhibition space (12 x 12 meters), called the **Blue Pavilion to showcase the work of the EWN**. Ours was one of the only 4 such large exhibition spaces of that size. The rest around 100 exhibition spaces in the Madang were either 3 x 3 mtrs or 6 x 6 Mtrs. The exhibition had the following display materials:
 - Large photographs on hard board , related to water issues by the BfdW
 - Around 10 Roll up banners of BfdW, NCA,EWN and others.
 - Large photographs on water issues in Palestine by a MCC photo journalist and by NECC-ICC, sent by Ramzi Zananiri.
 - Books and publications of EWN and our partners, including brochures, pamphlets, etc .
 - Video films on water and sanitation playing throughout on a large screen.
 - Selected paintings and artworks of children from Ecuador on water issues, organised by CLAI.
 - A large cloth was used as a flow of water into a well (painting). (BfdW)
 - A large painting by Ugandan artist Stephen Kasumba (BfdW)



○ (Dr Guillermo Kerber, WCC at the Blue Pavilion of EWN)

○ [The Virtual water cube](#) - a glass cube (showcase) showing the water footprints of various food products and cloths, etc.



(The Virtual Water Cube)

○ The biggest crowd puller was the paintings by the visitors on their understanding on water issues , water justice and water footprints, etc. We had hired a local artist Ms. Bang, to guide the participants in the paintings. The paintings grew gradually from day one till the final day. On the final day we took out a procession with the paintings (four canvases). We also featured on the Madang news with a vibrant photograph of the paintings alongside a piece on EWN

<http://wcc2013.info/en/news-media/newspaper/madang-nov-8/view> (on 2nd page). We have shipped the four canvases back to Geneva.



○ (Participants engaged in the paintings on canvas)

- We also printed 300 T-shirts in blue with the EWN and WCC logo on it. We distributed it for free, if they wore it right there in our blue pavilion. This gave us a greater visibility.



• (Toilets provided by the NCA)

- The NCA arranged to send us a model toilet primarily to be used in emergency situation (low cost, easy to fix, mobile) from their suppliers in China. This toilet can be despatched like the IKEA furniture, packed in a cardboard box. Even though it was a hassle to release it from the customs and to fix it on

our own, it drew a lot of interest. People were curious to see a real toilet showcased in an exhibition hall and we could engage the visitors on discussion on the importance of toilets and other sanitation related issues.

The Oasis of silence:

- The EWN also had a space called **the Oasis of silence** , inviting participants to a place for rest and meditation on issues of water, its spiritual significance, its ability to quench our thirst, its sign of hope and the ability of water to build peace. Inspired by the Oasis , set up during the Kirchentag in Germany in 2010, we set up an Oasis at the WCC Assembly in the Madang, next to our Blue Pavilion. The Oasis looked real.... very professionally done, even though the local host committee's quotation for this was rather high. It was a popular place for people to seat inside, read the books placed there, meditate, reflect or simply seat, relax and have some food. We had kept a drinking water dispenser in it for the visitors. An Oasis, literally quenching thirst of the people. You can have a look at it, as a video of the "Madang live" – the official video blogs of WCC Assembly, featured us, as the first exhibition booth.



(The Oasis of Silence)

- Unfortunately, we were not present at the exhibition that time and a steward took the liberty to explain what the Oasis all about... here is the link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpz5thGMcsE> (EWN features from 3:20 mins onwards)

The Water Bottles:

- EWN was the official sponsor of the **Water bottles /tumblers** of the WCC Assembly. In order to discourage the participants of the Assembly buying water bottles, (which underlines privatisation of water) the EWN sponsored the official water bottles and supplied

around 3000 tumblers (a thermo-flask) to all the participants of the Assembly through the organisers.

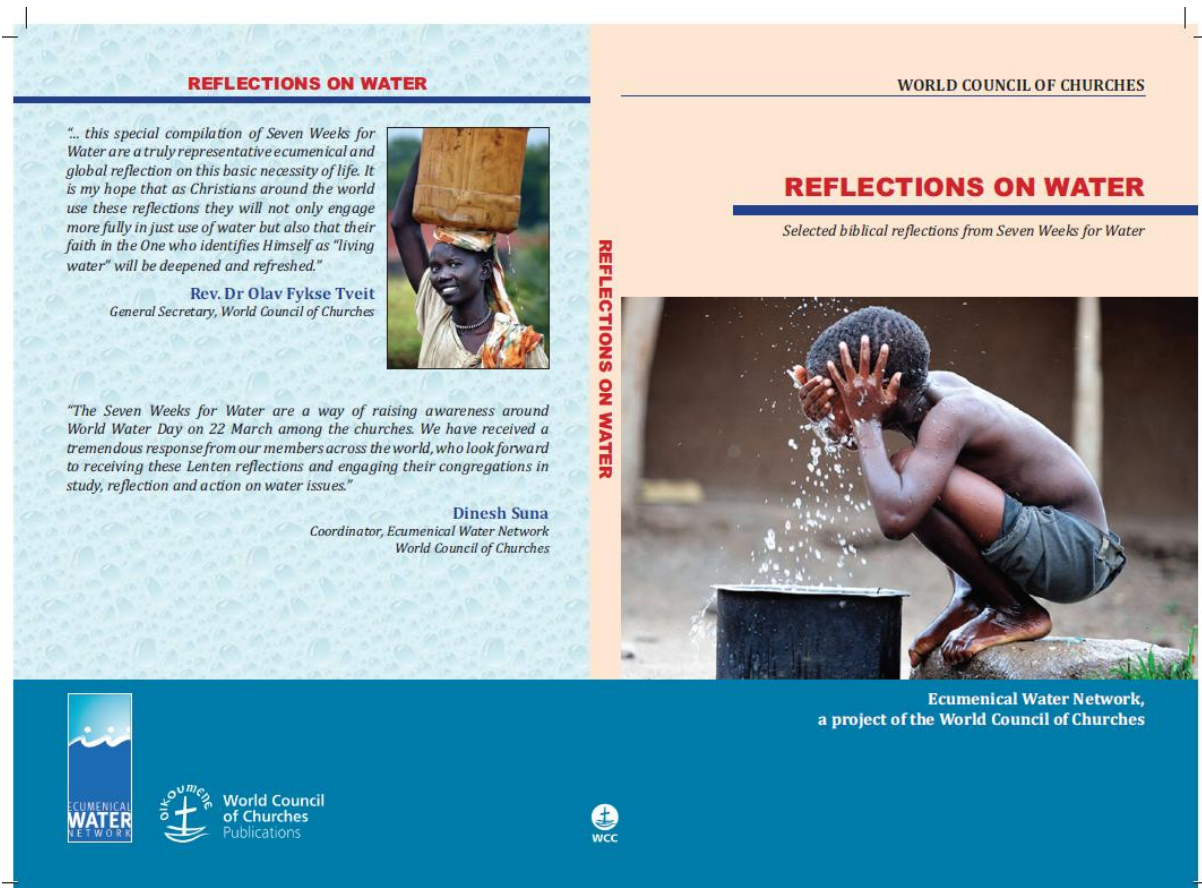


(WCC Assembly Water tumbler with the pamphlet on EWN)

We ensured with the organisers that the participants are encouraged to use the tumblers to drink water or tea, coffee, etc. There were plenty of water dispensers kept all over the venue. No participants were given tea or coffee during breaks, unless they had the EWN water tumblers with them. By introducing the concept of refilling, reusing the water tumblers, we have successfully reduced the use of plastic bottles/glasses by thousands in number. Without this one can imagine, over 3,000 participants using plastic glasses /bottles to drink water every day 3-4 times for over 10 days during the assembly. We also imprinted a slogan, **“water and sanitation are human rights”** on the tumbler with a logo of the EWN. We also slipped in a small pamphlet in to the tumbler introducing EWN. This gave a huge visibility to the EWN and we were successful in sending across our message on water and sanitation to all the participants of the assembly .

Publications:

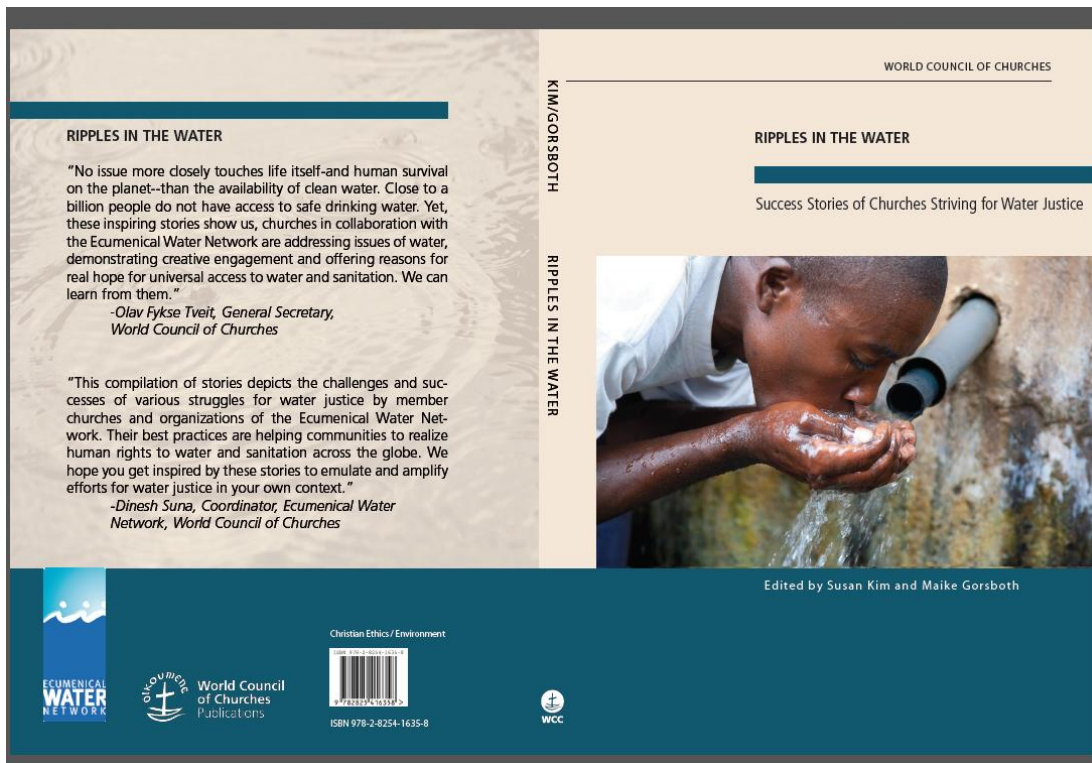
- This year we made a compilation of theological and Biblical reflections on water as a part of our Lenten campaign – the “Seven weeks for water” . Even though they were available online on our website, we had not published them. We managed to get the same published in Busan itself in 4 languages – English, French, German and Spanish (300 copies each).



(Cover page of the Book Reflection on water)

The books were endorsed by the General Secretary of WCC Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit on the back cover page. They were widely distributed, free of cost and we almost finished our stock and they were well received.

- The EWN Success stories (Ripples in the Water: Success stories of Churches striving for Water Justice) edited by Susan Kim and Maike Gorsboth (500 copies) , also printed in Busan. This publication has contributions from most of the IRG members of EWN and was also endorsed by the General Secretary of WCC Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit on the back cover page. We managed to distribute all of them. We have sent back a box with few sample copies of the above publications to Geneva



Interfaith Water for Peace ceremony

On the 4th November, the theme of the WCC Assembly was “Water”. To mark this, we also had a joint event on “water for peace” with religious leaders from different faiths, present at the Assembly, along with the General Secretary of WCC. This was organised with the Inter religious dialogue department of the WCC. This was one of the key events of the Assembly and it was featured in the WCC News. Please [click here](#) to read it.

Challenges & Opportunities:

- **Visibility of EWN:**
 - Through the various activities and programmes, including the Exhibition spaces – the Blue Pavilion and Oasis, collective art work at the blue pavilion, workshops, official water bottles of the Assembly, EWN T-shirts, many publications of EWN, water for peace ceremony and many other activities, the EWN was widely visible in the Assembly. The high number of participation in the EWN workshops and the higher footfalls in the exhibition spaces of EWN can vouch for this. This was a very good opportunity for the EWN to be visible and get highlighted.
 - However, one major drawback for us was the location of the EWN exhibition spaces, as our booth was the last one. To make it worse, there was another row of booths in front of ours. That is why, people could not easily locate us. But we were not the only one. There were around 40-50 booths on the 2nd row. All faced the same problem. the Madang organisers should take note of this in future while designing the floor plans and avoid the same.

- The outcome of the Ecumenical Conversations were incorporated into the programme committee’s reports. However, the outcome of the workshops met with a “dead end”. There was no mechanism in place to incorporate the findings of the workshops into the programme committee of the WCC. Many felt that in the absence of this mechanism , the workshops were a futile exercise. Probably it would have been better for the EWN to organise an Ecumenical Conversation and a workshop, instead of only two workshops.
- **Statement of EWN**
 - Unlike last assembly in Porto Alegre in 2006, we did not have a statement this time on water. This was not intended also, as we were advised by the WCC colleagues who were part of the EWN in its inception - like Dr. Rogate, Dr. Guillermo and Dr. Martin Robra that we already had a statement issued by the previous assembly and that is why EWN came into being as an initiative of the churches and was housed in the WCC .
However, at the assembly, there was an “impression” that those programmes /projects of WCC will get a statement issued at the Assembly will get a boost in the programmatic approach of the WCC. And that is why, many programmes/projects of the WCC wanted to get a statement issued by the public issue committee of WCC. There were around 25 statements proposed at the assembly. Only 5 were accepted

Conclusion

Overall, the EWN’s presence at the Assembly has been very strong. EWN’s visibility was much higher, as mentioned above. We have been successful in reinvigorating the interest on water issues in the minds of the church leaders. It was also a good opportunity for us to showcase the work of EWN to our supporters – both members of network as well as our donors. Archbishop of Sweden, Anders Wejryd, the new President of WCC, representing Europe was one of many dignitaries who came to our exhibition booth and assured their support to us.



(Archbishop of Sweden at the Blue Pavilion)

- The EWN Coordinator would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to all the IRG members for their extensive support, even though not all could participate in the Assembly. And particularly to Ms Veronica Flachier for preparing the roll up banners, photos, etc for the Blue Pavillion, Dr Asa Elfström for being there to give an helping hand to the EWN, to Dr Rommel Linatoc for giving the EWN as much visibility possible through the theatre group, Alex Abu Ata (representing Ramzi Zananiri) and Kasta Dip for being present at the exhibition space most of their time, and thanks to all other members mentioned in the beginning for their support, hard work and team effort.
- We also would like to thank the Coordinator of the Assembly, Doug Chial and the Coordinator of the Madang Tara Tautari for their extensive support and encouragement. Without all these the EWN's presence at the 10th Assembly of WCC would not have become a successful one!



(A tired but happy EWN team after setting up the Blue Pavilion and Oasis)

Dinesh Suna
Coordinator, Ecumenical Water Network
World Council of Churches
