

Draft Programme

Working title: Reclaiming Public Water Network Global Strategy Seminar
Proposed date: 1-3 February 2010

Organised by RPW network, hosted by CEO, TNI, EPSU, PSI, Cevi, Blue Planet project, Focus on Global South and others.

Cooperation with African Water Network, La Red VIDA (Vigilancia Interamericana para la Defensa y Derecho al Agua), Our Water Commons

Place: Brussels (Mundo-B building - www.mundo-b.org)
Rue d'Edimbourg 26 1050 Bruxelles

Number of participants: 50-60

Participants: water activists, CSOs, water operators, trade unions, academics

Languages: English and Spanish

Short description of the seminar: In early 2010, the Reclaiming Public Water (RPW) Network will organise an international seminar on global water challenges and people-centered solutions (February 1st to the 3rd 2010, in Brussels). The focus of the RPW network is to promote people-centred democratic public management in order to make the human right to water a practical reality for everyone. The seminar will discuss people-centered, democratic responses to the global water crisis to secure safe and affordable water and sanitation services for all. Participants will bring their knowledge and experiences about how to improve water provision with the active participation of citizens in water management. In addition to diverse forms of democratisation of water management, we will also discuss concrete solutions such as partnerships between public water companies as a way to increase local institutional capacity for effective water management (public-public partnerships or PuPs).

The seminar (the first global assembly since autumn 2005) will be a space for campaigners, community water activists, public water operators and unionists to learn from each other and strategise on research, campaigning and other joint work, enabling them to link up with each other and with allies both in the South and in the North. The outcomes of the conference will be disseminated for reference and outreach purposes internationally.

Day1 (1st February): sharing progress, perspectives, and lessons

8:45- 9:30 Registration
Welcome

Morning session (9:30-12:30)

Opening speech: Eva Joly (t.b.c) MEP, Chair of the Committee on Development

9:45- 11:00 Plenary session : Progress on advancing, emerging trends on alternatives in each region. What are achievements, new political realities, and challenges? how new political realities affect conditions of alternatives, a general context of the region to contextualize these alternatives how and why it has worked.

One speaker from each region (15 mins each). Presentation is prepared in each rejoin collectively

- Americas: development on the Platform for Public-Community Partnerships (Plataforma de Acuerdos Público Comunitarios) and others. What are challenges?
- Asia: follow ups of the Chennai seminar including the workers participation in benchmarking on public water utilities in the Philippines, mapping alternatives, lessons from the Municipal Services Project exercise
- Africa: how to protect and reverse public water against commercialisation and liberalisation. Lessons

from water privatization in Morocco and elsewhere. Collective learning collaboration between trade unions to push for PUPs.

- Europe: exemplary cases of progressive water management, citizen initiative to demand EU to realise human right to water and protect public water

11:00-11:20 Converge these regional developments into a vibrant global dynamics. Make global political alignment analysis of new challenges and new trends. Look at new perspectives including analysis and relevance of climate crisis and global commons perspective.

By Maude Barlow (t.b.c)

11: 30- 11:50 Water privatisation threats today? What does the global water discourse look like?

By David Hall (t.b.c)

12:00-12:30 Discussion

12:30- 14:00 Lunch

Afternoon session (14:00-18:00)

14:00-15:00 Short presentations on workshops: inspirations and lessons from emerging alternatives.

Workshops on: democratisation, Public-Public Partnerships, remunicipalisation, human rights to water, Global Commons, new privatisation trends. The goal of these workshops is to achieve a common understanding of developments and challenges in these areas.

15:00- 17:00 Workshops (cross-cutting themes: gender awareness, community ownership, sanitation, sustainability and equality, citizen participation, capacity-building of social movements)

each workshop identify discussion starter(s), facilitator, reporter

1. Democratisation: new approaches towards democratization and lessons-learned from these?
2. Public Public Partnerships: emerging new PuPs in Indonesia, Peru, Brazil, Egypt, Uruguay, Bolivia, Argentina and elsewhere.
3. Remunicipalisation: Paris, Grenoble - what we can learn from this experience? Is remunicipalisation a global trend? What are the obstacles?
4. Human rights to water: constitutional referendum and legal changes in favor of public water in Colombia, Europe elsewhere. Success and challenge to implement human rights to water
5. Global commons: how can campaigns practically advance the vision of water as global commons; legal challenges towards recognizing water as global commons at global level, the role of communities in reclaiming water as commons;
6. New privatisation and commercialisation trends: ways in which privatisation is pushed in Indonesia, India, the Philippines, Mexico and elsewhere. What is PPPP(Participatory Public Private Partnerships)?

17:00-18:00 Report back plenary

Dinner

Day 2 (2nd February): developing strategies

Morning session (9:00-12:00)

9:00-10:30 Plenary discussion: Wrap up discussion of Day 1 - evaluation and analysis on progress, trends, and the political situation we are in.

10:30-12:30 Workshop round 1 (goal of these workshops is to develop strategies and concrete work plans)

1. Developing national and regional platforms of PuPs: South America, Argentina, India and elsewhere: Is this a good strategy to advance PuPs at national and regional levels? What kind of ground work is needed? Who should be on board? How to obtain institutional support?
2. PuP knowledge clearinghouse: facilitate information, experiences and lessons so that public water operators can find each other to develop PuPs. What are important features? How to contribute to such a clearinghouse? Can this effort be expanded to establishing training centers?
3. Human right to water : how is the human right to water implemented in communities? Where to engage? How to monitor implementation? (Is the Latin American Water tribunal an institutional mechanism for governments in recognizing their obligations to assure human rights to water? A guide book style publication on what are implications of right to water as a tool. How to make use of the 'International Charter on Water Access' ?)
4. Mapping of emerging alternatives and other collective learning; outreach and advocacy to promote democratic water management; next phase of RPW activities in this field; cooperation with Municipal Services Project (MSP) and other networks

12:30-14:00 Lunch

Afternoon session (13:30-18:00)

14:00- 16:00 Workshop round 2

1. Institutional support for public water: funding for Public water – the positive developments around the EU water facility, how to enlarge this approach? What are other windows of opportunity for supporting public water?
2. Strategy regarding the Global Water Operators Partnerships (GWOAP): safeguarding GWOPA from profit making projects - can the RPWN keep engaging in the GWOPA? What are strategies and constructive contributions? How to approach the regional WOPs processes? Can we realistically engage in regional processes?
3. Virtual course on water management and governance: educational programme for water professionals within water as global commons and democratisation of public services is being developed in India. Can this be replicated in other regions?
4. The rural water crisis and water resources struggles; broadening the focus of the RPW network

16:00- 18:00 Plenary: Report back and discussions - what are our common strategies?

How to cooperate and intervene more practically and effectively in the organizational field of water and sanitation, how to further promote RPW-discourses and values at sector professionals, sector institutions and thereby impact directly in the mind-set of the global water sector

Dinner

Day3 (3rd February): finalise common strategies; find ways to organise ourselves better.

Morning plenary session (9:00-12:30)

Wrap up discussions of Day 2

Concretise collective work plans

Proposals from the *network taskforce* on facilitation of the RPW network and new statement of the RPW network

Clarification of link of RPW network to regional networks as well as other global networks, clarification of representational character of RPW network (especially towards GWOPA)