

Hi all,

It is time for our summer newsletter (which you can also find on our [website](#)).

## Recap of WWN Committee Meeting at the 2017 EWRI Congress

We would like to thank all our members that participated in the WWN session during the EWRI 2017 conference. We had excellent presentations and discussion. We also had 11 new members join the group!

Special thanks to Laurel Saito and Heidi Gough for chairing an excellent session where we had five interesting presentations:

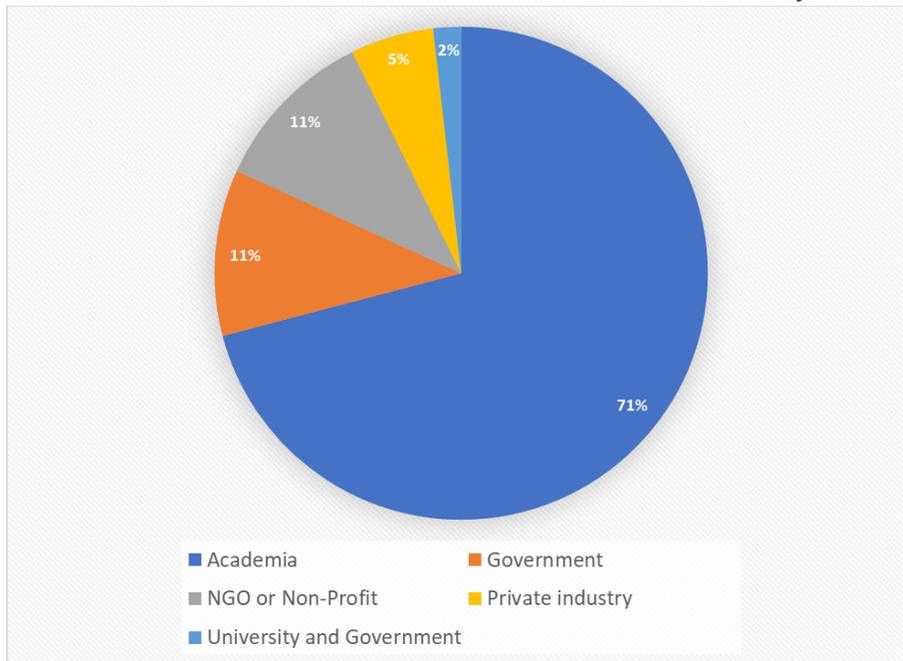
- *Empowerment of Women in Improved Water Resources Management in Central Asia and Afghanistan* - Ingrid Verstraeten and Laurel Saito
- *Women Water Nexus for Sustainable Global Water Resources* - Vinka Craver, Aline Cotel, Laurel Saito
- *The Effects of a Water-Focused Study Abroad Program on Engineering Students' Intercultural Communication Competence* - Audra Merfeld-Langston and Andrew Curtis Elmore
- *From Study Abroad to International Research: Using Teaching Experiences to Stimulate Intellectual Exchange* - Heidi Gough and Muna Abu Dalo
- *Wastewater Treatment in a Syrian Refugee Camp - Studying Response to a Global Crisis Through International Academic Collaboration* - Heta Kosonen, Christopher Callahan, Muna Abu Dalo, Heidi Gough, Amy Kim

Also, during the [EWRI Congress](#), the Women-Water Nexus hosted a very successful committee meeting. We have posted the meeting minutes [online](#).

## Member Recruitment Campaign

We are trying to expand our network! We are actively sending out membership recruitment emails to various organizations. So far, we have added 62 members through this effort! If you are interested in reaching out and recruiting other potential members, feel free to use our [invitation letter](#) as a template.

A look into who are new members are and what they offer:



#### Suggestions for WWN:

- *Mentoring early career scientists and students during a time when science and the environment are under threat from the government should be the top priority. We need to reach out to women to help research and create solutions for global water issues and stay in STEM fields.*
- *Women from developing countries should be on the leadership team (if they aren't already), and also women from the United States from underserved, minority communities.*
- *Consider on-campus & regional representatives*
- *Info-graphics are the best way to share information*

Again, welcome new members!

#### 2018 EWRI Congress – Session Proposal

Upon the success of our session during this year's Congress, we decided to submit another session proposal to EWRI for the 2018 EWRI Congress, that is going to be held in Minneapolis, MN from June 4-8, 2018. Abstract submission is open until October 9th ([EWRI abstract submission HERE](#)). Our session is part of the International Issues track, if you are interested to participate in the session please contact [Vinka.craver@gmail.com](mailto:Vinka.craver@gmail.com) or [laura.schifman@gmail.com](mailto:laura.schifman@gmail.com), to make sure your submission will be placed in the session. The session description is as follows:

#### International Issues:

## Leadership of Women in International Collaboration for Achieving Global Water Goals

This session sponsored by the Women-Water Nexus Committee and addresses collaborations across countries between women in leadership positions and activities for achieving global water goals. This session invites interdisciplinary presentations on public-private partnerships, education, field case studies, or other data-driven examples that address these challenges and present options on how to overcome the barriers identified here.

Please consider submitting an abstract to this session once the site is open in the fall (we will send another reminder then as well).

## Conference Presentations

Any member can present a poster or oral presentation about the Women-Water Nexus effort to share our initiative and recruit more members. If you are interested please contact us, we will be able to help you with materials for your presentation ([Vinka.craver@gmail.com](mailto:Vinka.craver@gmail.com), [Laura.schifman@gmail.com](mailto:Laura.schifman@gmail.com)).

We submitted a poster presentation to the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting in New Orleans, LA (Dec 11 -15, 2017) about the Women-Water Nexus. If you are also going to AGU it would be great to meet in person, please reach out to me ([laura.schifman@gmail.com](mailto:laura.schifman@gmail.com)). The session we submitted our abstract to is:

**Pathways for increasing and advancing diversity and gender parity in the next generation of geoscientists** *There are many opportunities for enhancing diversity and gender parity in the geosciences. With these opportunities in mind, this session is focused on addressing effective and practical methods/strategies to improve these matters. Geoscience addresses critical components of the natural environment that is shared by all communities. An expanded D&I footprint creates opportunities for a more vested interest in the environment among all communities and stakeholders. Subtopics of the session include broadening participation across underrepresented groups including faculty and students, tactics for recruiting diverse applicants in the geoscience workforce, reducing implicit bias, strengths and weaknesses of pipeline programs, increasing gender parity, and the impacts of affinity/employee resource groups on broadening participation and increasing recruitment and retention. The target audience includes hiring/program managers, supervisors, heads/chairs, and all others interested in a more inclusive and diverse earth science community. The session will be convened by NOAA's Diversity and Professional Advancement Working Group.*

## Proposal submitted for Mentoring Initiative “Untapping the Power of Women in Water”

If you know of an agency that may be interested to fund activities related to the WWN mission and vision ([link](#)) please contact us, we are actively looking for funding for our planning activities.

We recently submitted a proposal to the Eileen Fisher Activating Leadership Initiative to fund our proposed activity, “Untapping the Power of Women in Water,”. This activity will focus on the countries in which we already have support from WWN members (U.S., Turkey,

Afghanistan, Jordan, and Kazakhstan), with the goal to expand our reach to other countries. The proposed activity seeks to empower female scientists and engineers through a peer-to-peer mentoring service, which will be coordinated among WWN members and held at academic and government institutions in their respective countries. We choose to host both in-person and online-based workshops to give participants a strong network that introduces them to other scientists and engineers within their own home country or region; and to ensure that the program is not geographically limiting to participants. During this stage of the proposed mentoring program, we will provide an opportunity for women at all career stages to participate, however we expect to extend this program to many additional countries in the future.

## Interested in serving on the board of the Women Empowerment Conference in Central Asia?

A meeting of the new Steering Committee and External Advisory Committee meeting on women empowerment to sustain the Women and Water in CAA network was held on July 12-13, 2017, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. At the meeting, each country covered by this network including Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan was represented by at least one woman-leader working on issues pertaining to water resources sustainability, climate change adaptation, or women empowerment. The session was organized by the Socio-Ecological Fund in Almaty, with the support from the US Embassy in Kazakhstan, U.S. Geological Survey, and TCO - the partners of the host organization, which supported the initial meeting of the network in June 2016 in Almaty.

The main objectives of the meeting were to discuss the organization of this network, such as bylaws for the organization, development of mission and scope and creation of an outline for plan of action for the year(s) ahead.

The steering committee agreed that the purpose of the network is to engage and empower women scientists, engineers, managers, and decision makers in the discussion and decision-making process of critical issues regarding access to water and enhancing career opportunities for women and thereby enhance inter-governmental and trans-boundary collaboration.

The steering committee members adopted a mission statement and by-laws, as well as developed priority actions for the first year. A secretariat also was established to carry out day-to-day functions.

They adopted an organizational structure consisting of a president, secretary/treasurer, communication director, and development and fundraising director as well as two at-large members who will be assigned duties to implement special tasks.

They also established an appointed External Advisory Board that initially includes representatives from the Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), the UNESCO World Water Assessment Program, the German-Kazakh University, UN Women, the U.S. Geological Survey, OSCE, and World Bank.

The involved women are (also in the picture below): Secretary/Treasurer: Rangina Nazrieva (Tajikistan), Interstate Commission for Water Coordination (ICWC), rangina\_n@yahoo.com; Communication Director: Sediqa Hassani (Afghanistan), Ibn-e-Sina University/ Ministry of Energy and Water, sediqa.hassani@gmail.com, Development and Fundraising Director: Kristina Toderich (Uzbekistan), International Center for Biosaline Agriculture

(ICBA), ktoderich@yahoo.com, President: Aigul Akylbekova (Kazakhstan), Institute of Hydrogeology and Geoecology, hydrogeology.kz@mail.ru, At-Large: Yekaterina Sakhvaeva (Kyrgyzstan), Department of water economy and amelioration, tadar51@mail.ru, At-Large: Jemal Durdykova (Turkmenistan), Department of Environment Protection, State Committee on Nature Protection and Land, durdykova@mail.ru (NOT PRESENT )



## Interest in submitting presentations to or being involved in the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum (March 18-23, 2018, Brasila, Brazil)?

We are hoping to be able to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum as a group. We have identified the thematic session entitled “Sharing” with tracks B and C (see below), as being most relevant for the WWN efforts. There are opportunities to participate in this meeting in person or remotely. Register your interest online before 23 August 2017 at <https://sites.google.com/view/tcssessions>.

<p><b>Thematic Track 7: Sharing. b. Involving all: public, private, civil society - women and men - young and old - in bottom up and top down approaches</b></p>	<p><b>Thematic Track 7: Sharing. c. Water, cultural diversity, justice and equity - IR 4.4</b></p>
<p><u>Participatory Platforms during the Decision-Making Process within the Water Sector</u></p>	<p><u>Fostering new cultures of participation</u></p>

<p>Stakeholders come together in an efficient way when platforms allow ideas and concerns to be converged and properly used. This session is meant to present lessons learnt in which decision-making processes within the water sector have worked to involve all. Approaches and results will differ in time and space according to different opportunities and constraints provided by socio-ecological settings. Therefore, the idea is to learn from different regions how to bring greater involvement through increasing different people and organizations knowledge, attitude and skills and how this can end in successful outcomes for decision makers.</p>	<p>The session aims at fostering the cultures and mechanisms of participation by involving and empowering women, youth, indigenous peoples, traditional and local communities, and civil society on an equal basis together with men, legislators and institutions for more efficient water management, and inclusive and fair water governance. It seeks to foster the development of the capacity and leadership of youth and women as a key component to equitable participation in decision-making at project, as well as at policy levels. The new culture of water governance should open space and modalities to utilize the limitless and untapped potential of youth, women and indigenous activists for user-driven design as agents of change in accordance with legislation, national and regional practice and human rights.</p>
<p><u>Implementation of Inclusive Policies with the Participation of All Stakeholders</u></p>	<p><u>Cultures of sharing and the rights of nature</u></p>
<p>Implementation of inclusive policies (such as the freedom of information act, web-based platforms for retrieving public information) allows stakeholders to develop further analysis, to verify that their messages have been taken into consideration, and to rely on the system's transparency. This session is meant to highlight the most promising inclusive policies in the water sector. The need for more government data available online will be highlighted.</p>	<p>Water brings all life together – human and non-human, individuals and communities, ecosystems and environments – creating a collective wealth, responsibility, and promise. In every environment on Earth, people have developed water practices sensitive to present and future needs, to inter-community equity, principles of reciprocity and the indubitable necessities of surrounding species and environment. Sustainable water cultures are still evident within innumerable living indigenous and local traditions. This session invites discussion and case studies of the practices and principles of water-sharing, as they can help us to understand the full significance of the local and global relationships between people and nature.</p>
<p><u>Involving All Through a Stakeholder Driven Process</u></p>	<p><u>From water heritage and to water consciousness</u></p>
<p>The importance of having a stakeholder driven process as part of the development of plans, feasibility studies, and basin assessments is important to solve the issues around efficient water management. However, a key question is to what extent does involving all stakeholders potentially complicate development processes. This session is designed to answer that question via a discussion about the advantages of involving all (including the most vulnerable such as young and old citizens, indigenous people, and minorities) during the entire process and how to mitigate the challenges resulting from participatory approaches.</p>	<p>Water heritage can connect us to traditional values and ethics, while also inspiring new technological and institutional innovations to address contemporary water challenges in ways that also enrich cultural and place-based identities. This session will highlight recent and ongoing best practices, such as integrating indigenous peoples' understandings of rivers into environmental flow policies; designing water-centric cityscapes inspired by nature that go beyond river restoration; using public art to raise awareness about water; and developing participatory water governance institutions linked to the past while aimed at future needs: of sustainability, inter-generational equity, biodiversity, and human well-being.</p>

Interesting articles and other tidbits that are relevant to our group

Why Women Aren't C.E.O.s, According to Women Who Almost Were <https://nyti.ms/2tLA05y>

Without Women the Global Goals won't see the light of day <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/sustainable/without-women-the-global-goals-wont-see-the-light-of-day.html>

Patricia Figueiredo, Patricia E. Perkins, **Women and water management in times of climate change: participatory and inclusive processes**, Journal of Cleaner Production, Volume 60, 2013, Pages 188-194, ISSN 0959-6526, [link](#)

## Opportunities

### PhD position in urban water at Colorado State University

I am seeking a PhD student to pursue research on the fate of urban landscape irrigation in the Colorado Front Range and the contribution of lawn irrigation return flow to stream base flow. I anticipate the work to involve a combination of field data collection at the plot and small watershed scale, integrated hydrologic modeling, and remote sensing analysis.

The applicant should have completed a MS degree and have a background in Civil and Environmental Engineering or a related field. The graduate admissions deadline for priority consideration of available funding is 1 September 2017 in order to start in Spring 2018. For more information on the graduate application process for the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Colorado State University, see <http://www.engr.colostate.edu/ce/applicationinfo.shtml>. See my webpage (<http://www.engr.colostate.edu/~abhaskar/>) for more about my previous research.

Those interested are encouraged to contact me via email at [aditi.bhaskar@colostate.edu](mailto:aditi.bhaskar@colostate.edu) with your CV, an unofficial transcript, a description of your research background including experience in performing numerical modeling, remote sensing, and field data collection, as well as a description of your research interests.

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Colorado State University is recognized both nationally and internationally as a leader in water resources research, education, and service and outreach programs. There are 22 tenured and tenure-track water resources related faculty in the department. Colorado State University, with an enrollment of approximately 33,000 students, is located in Fort Collins, Colorado, a community of approximately 156,000 people located at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains about 65 miles (105 km) north of Denver. Fort Collins is routinely recognized as one of the most desirable places to live in the USA; residents enjoy an expansive park and natural area program with extensive biking, hiking and walking trails, and over 300 sunny days a year.

## Member Highlight

Nur H. Orak is a Postdoctoral Associate at The U.S. National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Pittsburgh, PA. She earned her Ph.D. (2016) under supervision of [Prof. Mitchell J. Small](#) at Carnegie Mellon University. Orak is an environmental engineer with a multi-disciplinary research background. Her research interests include statistical modeling, environmental risk assessment, air quality, life cycle assessment, and environmental policy. Orak's work at Geological and Environmental Systems Division of NETL includes investigating air quality impacts of unconventional shale gas well pad development and production. This is the first study to identify the potential source categories of pollutants from baseline through production activities. Orak's work at CMU focuses on examining the effect of chronic stressor exposures on the associations between nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter and birth outcomes in New York City. It is a collaboration with Prof. Jane Clougherty at Drexel University. The potential outcomes of this comprehensive study would be of profound public health and policy relevance. Orak works on a range of different topics, but her focus is developing statistical models for different sizes of data sets and maximizing the learned information from theory and experiment by formulating the causal relationships behind the scenario.

Orak has a long history of leadership positions with several technical and non-technical NGOs in Turkey and the U.S.A. She is the chair of [the American Society of Civil Engineers-Environmental Water Resources Institute Pittsburgh Chapter](#). She is a member of the [Student Council Initiative](#) in the ASCE-EWRI National Society. She is the former vice-president of the Turkish Harp Association. She joined Women-Water Nexus in 2017 to be a part of a strong community to support global progress by supporting women professionals all around the world.

More info: [nurorak.com](http://nurorak.com)

Best,  
WWN leadership

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<https://sites.google.com/site/womenwaternexus>