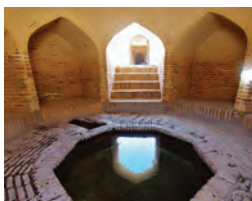


Towards a Global Network of Water Museums

A Common Heritage for a Sustainable Future

*International Workshop
Palazzo Zorzi, Venice. 2-4 May 2017*



Organized by:



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Water, precious and irreplaceable source of life

Despite unprecedented technological progress - or perhaps, rather, because of this - water today is increasingly threatened by climate change, pollution, waste, quality degradation, and even indifference.

In this context, the Global Network of Water Museums is an initiative addressed to authorities and citizens who believe wholeheartedly in preserving water, whether surface or underground, together with its cultural and historical dimensions, which still evocatively narrate the special and unique relationship of humanity with this most precious source of life.

The need to reinterpret our inherited and multiple “water worlds” is extremely challenging. For this reason, the creation of a Global Network of Water Museums could give a valuable impetus to the emergence of truly new perspectives concerning water sustainability, connecting past and present water uses and management practices with future needs; that is, paving the way for a paradigm change in water management, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Water Museums represent a unique repository of the different Water Civilizations that have developed around the world historically. Indeed, every civilization has transmitted to its later generations an invaluable knowledge related to water.

Today, Water Museums exhibit and interpret an outstanding water heritage, both tangible and intangible, made of artefacts, techniques, and oral knowledge passed down from generation to generation.

Such a common heritage of humanity is in danger of disappearing: from terraced fields and oases, to waterways and traditional boats for inland navigation; from ancient aqueducts, fountains and rain harvesting artefacts, to water mills, and other proto-industrial and archaeological sites.

It is heritage in danger of disappearing under the homogenizing effects of globalization and technocratic approaches, led by the dominant simplistic perceptions of what “water” is and means. New technologies help us in many ways, but simultaneously make water more and more invisible, that is, far from people’s awareness. As a result, water today is more vulnerable than ever.

The emergence of a New Paradigm of water management requires an ideal combination of new technologies and best practices inherited from the past, with the view of securing more sustainable water uses for future generations.

Welcome

Ana Luiza M. Thompson-Flores

Director, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice

Blanca Jimenez Cisneros

*Secretary, UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP)
Director, UNESCO Water Sciences*

Luigi Brugnarò

Mayor, Venice Municipality

Tiziana Lippiello

Pro-rector, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Graeme Maxton

Secretary-General, The Club of Rome





DAY 1 - Tuesday, May 2nd 2017

Chairman: P. Pypaert, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice

8:30 - 9:00 Registration of speakers

9:00 - 9:30 **Welcome and institutional greetings**

9:30 - 10:45 **Water Museums presentation (session 1)**

G. Boxer, National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port and Gloucester, England

Z. Zhang, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou

M. Castro-Henriques, Lisbon Water Museum, Lisboa, Portugal

M. Javadian, Yazd Water Museum, Yazd, Iran

R.H. Garciadiego, "Agua Para Siempre", Museo del Agua, Tehuacán, Puebla, Mexico

10:45 - 11:00 Questions & Answers

11:00 - 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 - 12:15 **Water Museums presentation (session 2)**

E. Eulisse, Water Museum of Venice, Italy

H. Saidi, Institut du Patrimoine Culturel, Université du Quebec, Laval, Canada

S. Alassane, Musee de L'Eau, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

V. Dauge, UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and Role in Society

12:15 - 12:30 Discussion

12:30 - 13:15 **SWOT analysis results.** Presentation by E.Eulisse

13:15 - 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 - 14:30 **Public reading - Preamble “Global Network of Water Museums”** by M. Ruiz Ortega, President of the Tribunal of Waters, Valencia, Spain

14:30 - 22:00 **Field visit - Exploring the Water Museum of Venice**

- Northern Venice Lagoon
- Burano and Torcello islands





DAY 2 - Wednesday, May 3rd 2017

Chairman: F.Vallerani, Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Civiltà dell'Acqua International Centre

8:45 - 9:00 Warming up

9:00 - 10:15 **Water Museums presentation (session 3)**

X. Zheng, Yunnan Water Museum project, and coordinator of China's Water Museums

L.A. Palma Lopez, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua, Quito, Ecuador

L.P. Martinez (Generalitat Valenciana), Tribunal de las Aigues de la Vega de Valencia, Spain

A. De Capoa, Associazione Amici Vie d'Acqua sotterranee, Bologna, Italia

C. Adams, Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World, Totnes, United Kingdom of Great Britain

10:15 - 10:30 Discussion

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee break

10:45 - 11:45 **Water Museums presentation (session 4)**

S. Ahmed, Living Waters Museum, India

E. Bricchetti, Ecomuseum of Martesana, Milano, Italy

S. Manfio, H2Ooooh! project, Alconi, Treviso, Italy

B. Romdhane, Hydraulic Complex of Zaghouan, Tunisia

11:45 - 12:00 Discussion

12:00 - 13:15 **Round table - Global Network of Water Museums: future common actions.** Moderator: P. Pypaert

13:15 - 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 - 22:30 **Field visit - Exploring the Water Museum of Venice**

- Santa Margherita Water Pump Museum, Codevigo

- Museum of River Navigation, Battaglia Terme

- Villa Barbarigo's Baroque Garden, Valsanzibio



DAY 3 - Thursday, May 4th 2017

Chairman: X. Zheng, Water Museums of China

9:00 - 10:30 **Water Museums presentation (session 5)**

I.A. Kerr-Wilson, Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology, Canada

Y. Liu, Taihu Water Conservation Pavilion, Suzhou, China

V.L. Croitoru, "Leonida Truta" Water Museum, Somes Water Company, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

R.R. Ezabadi, SaadAbad Water Museum, Teheran, Iran

C. Bernini, Archaeological Museum of the Bacchiglione River, Cervares Santa Croce, Italy

K. Wundsam, Danube Water Adventure, Austria/Germany

10:30 - 11:00 Discussion and coffee break

11:00 - 12:30 **Water Museums presentation (session 6)**

M. Scoullos, Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

B. Baldan, Botanic Garden Museum, University of Padua, Italy

H. Groeneveld, Water Museum of "Kring Vrienden van s-Hertogenbosch", Netherlands

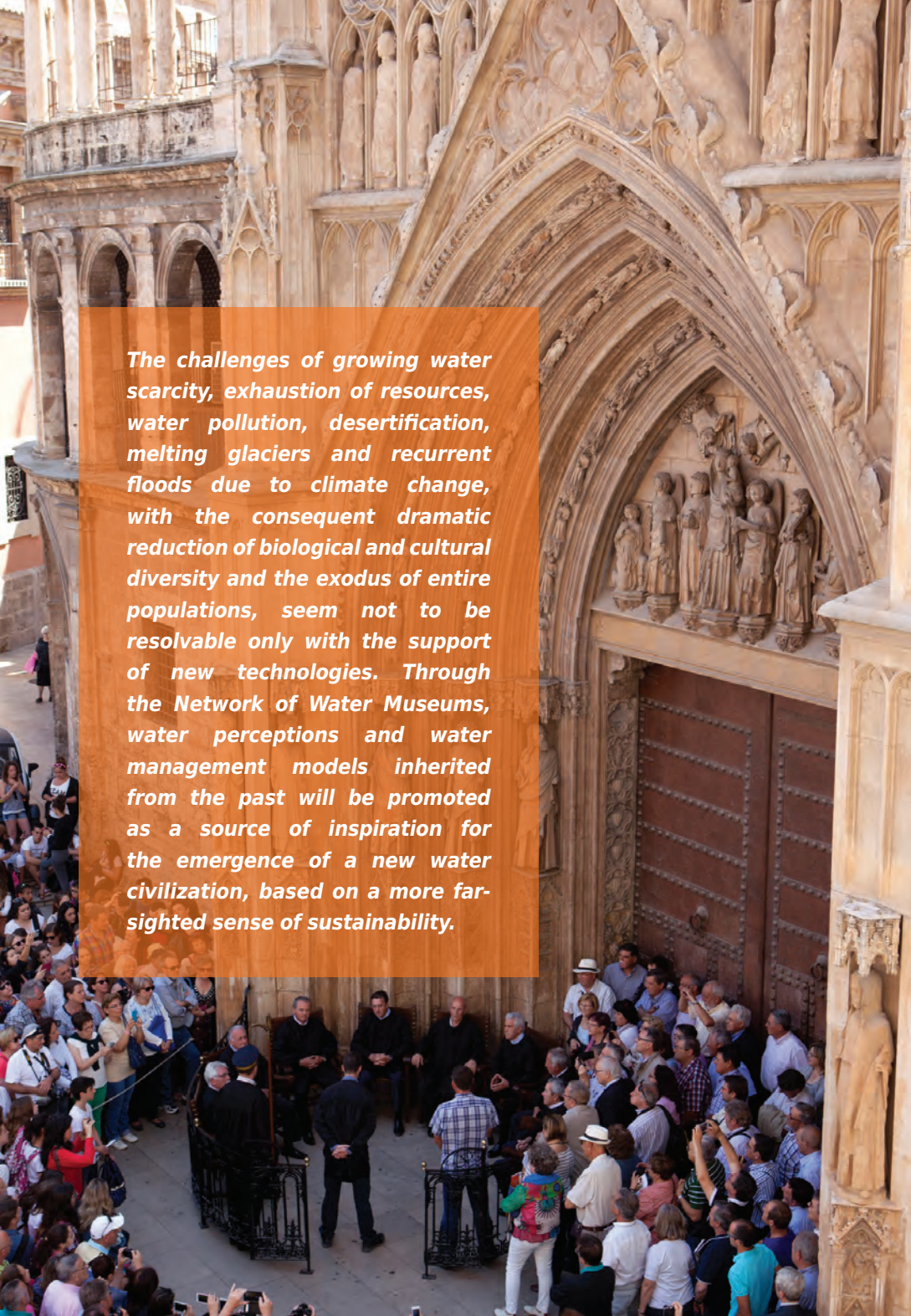
A F. Al-Mesnad, Kahramaa Awareness Park, Doha, Qatar

C. Paisanos, Lemesos Water Museum, Cyprus

N. Llorente-Nosti, Ecomuseum of Valle de Ricote, Murcia, Spain

12:30 - 12:45 Discussion

12:45 - 13:15 **Conclusion - The way forward: towards a formal endorsement of the Global Network of Water Museums by UNESCO IHP** by *P. Pypaert*



The challenges of growing water scarcity, exhaustion of resources, water pollution, desertification, melting glaciers and recurrent floods due to climate change, with the consequent dramatic reduction of biological and cultural diversity and the exodus of entire populations, seem not to be resolvable only with the support of new technologies. Through the Network of Water Museums, water perceptions and water management models inherited from the past will be promoted as a source of inspiration for the emergence of a new water civilization, based on a more far-sighted sense of sustainability.

