First International (digital) Roundtable of the Young DWA kicks off

In 2016, the young professionals of the DWA (Junge DWA) set out to strengthen their international involvement in the water sector. On the one hand, this is achieved throughout multiple roundtables in Germany which are being held in close cooperation with the International Water Association's (IWA) Young Water Professionals Chapter Germany, as well as IFAT workshops on the other hand (see KA, 2018 (65), No. 4).

The objective is to grow an existing network by involving all Young Water Professionals in Germany (YWP = young experts up to 35 years of age) who are interested in exchange in an international context, but to also spark interest in pursuing a career in the water industry.

A first digital International Roundtable was held in English on July 24th to strengthen collaboration of YWP at the international level even further, and to jointly adhere to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs / Agenda 2030).

With several of the Junge DWA's 23 roundtables already being an integral part in connecting various national initiatives (Junge DWA, IWA YWP Germany, DVGW university groups), these get-togethers offer young professionals and emerging leaders an opportunity to exchange ideas, insights and experiences. Thus, the initiators Jens Jensen (DWA) and Philippe Ader (DWA / IWA) were delighted to welcome over 30 Young DWA and non-DWA members to the kick-off event.

As the first guest speaker of the newly established event series, Ruediger Heidebrecht (Department of International Cooperation and Education, DWA) provided insights on DWA's international activities and his very own experiences. In addition, Ruediger Heidebrecht presented career opportunities for those who are interested in playing a part in worldwide development services.

In addition, an interactive survey was conducted to query the participants' backgrounds and areas of interest, ensuring relevant content will be offered based on direct feedback in the future.

This kick-off event is the beginning of a long-term online event series. Every virtual get-together aims to establish a bilateral dialogue with YWP from other nations and associations engaging on a predetermined topic. Members of the Young DWA, IWA YWP Germany and generally every interested YWP in Germany as well as the YWP of the international partner nation will be given the opportunity to actively participate in the event. YWP are invited to report on a particular topic and experience by introducing a short presentation to the attendees.

With the subject being "Water Reuse/Recycling", the participants can look forward to the upcoming event and yet another exciting topic being discussed with an international partner in the water sector. Details will be announced shortly and published on the Young DWA and DWA channels.

Keen to participate in future events? Would you like to suggest a theme or actively shape an event as guest speaker yourself? Get in touch via email: international@junge-dwa.de

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