



Highlights of the JCI-endorsed project World Wide Water Awareness in 2002

Focus on Action

The year has been filled with challenges and opportunities for the World Wide Water Awareness project. Taking the 56th JCI World Congress 2001 in Barcelona as starting point for the year, we focussed our energy towards inspiring JCI organisations around the globe to initiate water projects tailored to local water issues. The theme we used for this was “Translating Awareness into Concrete Action”.

Main Activities

- We seized the opportunity to present the World Wide Water Awareness project during the General Assembly meetings in the Area Conferences as well as during the World Congress.
- World Wide Water Awareness was an important subject during the 40th European Conference in Istanbul. During the Water Day a Water Forum was held, which was covered quite extensively by the Turkish press.
- World Wide Water Awareness also seized the opportunity to raise awareness of Water Issues at some of the outstanding Leadership Academies throughout the year, directly or through our ambassadors.
- At the General Assembly meeting of the 57th JCI World Congress in Las Vegas we presented a new truly global water project the “Water Toolkit”. Moreover, we recognized the winner of the first Water Awareness Award to JC Cologne in Germany for their innovative water exhibition project involving different Junior Chamber organisations along the Rhine.
- World Wide Water Awareness also hosted a workshop “How to start a project in your LOM” for 20 participants from 10 countries. The subject of this session was to help JCI members to start a water project in their local organisation.



Local Projects

Using the basic idea: 'Think Global, Act Local', World Wide Water Awareness asked local Junior Chambers to organize water projects in their own country. This inspired local Junior Chamber organizations to develop water projects tailored to local water issues.

Highlights of organized actions and new initiatives in 2002 are:

- The Water Forum during the European Conference 2002 in Istanbul (Turkey);
- 'Water for Life' a fundraise project to provide safe and potable water to 1.000 of the most indigent communities (Philippines Archipelago)
- 'Water Issues in Dialogue' local JC organizations co-operate with businesses to organize an exhibition on a ship showing the importance of water to their local communities (Germany)
- 'Learning project for Citizens' activating citizens and government to preserve rainwater, preventing the depletion of surface- and groundwater (Tunisia)
- Development of a training program 'Unconscious Use of Water, a Vital Threat to Upcoming Generations' (Turkey)

The enthusiasm and cooperation between volunteers in the network of JCI resulted in creative solutions and partnerships with governmental bodies, businesses and non governmental organizations.

Networking

The World Wide Water Awareness team and many of the Jaycees involved in Water Projects are using their networks to build partnerships. We are in touch with a diversity of governmental bodies, businesses, NGOs and institutions to discuss opportunities for partnerships in projects to create positive change. Promising contacts include:

- World Wide Water Awareness got in contact with the organisation of 3rd World Water Forum that will be held in Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga in March 2003.

Our team will be a convener that the Forum and will host a workshop about water and information. In this workshop, Junior Chamber will present some of its projects as an example of public participation in community projects.

- Further, our team met with representatives of Youth World Water Forum, an organisation of young water-professionals, aging 18-30 years. They will organise the 2nd Youth World Water Forum during the official World Water Forum and invited us to participate in their session. We can help them with our skills in training, leadership development and project management.



- World Wide Water Awareness met with representatives of CEO-panel, an organisation of Captains of Industry, who are determined to practice their social responsibility and developed a Water Toolkit for schoolchildren (ages 8 –12).
- We established contact with the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General on poverty reduction, Mrs. Evelien Herfkens. Since the availability and quality of water are of direct influence to the ability to develop people, Junior Chamber has a good angle here for cooperation, which will be elaborated on in 2003.

Accelerating Action

With the preparations for upcoming events in 2003, World Wide Water Awareness will be more active than ever before. We call upon JCI members all over the world to participate in what seems *the* most important global issues of our time. World Wide Water Awareness supports all JCI members with this unique opportunity to make a difference. We assure you that getting involved is fun and will open up a whole new world of opportunities for leadership development, advancement and creating positive change.

Our success in 2002 was possible only through the perseverance of countless highly motivated JCI members and JCI officials around the globe. We want to thank them for their energy and dedication and look forward to work with them again next year!