



Annual Report 2014/15

“Diversity is our strength, difference is our goal, youth is our mojo, happiness is our purpose, and sustainability is our path“

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 @worldsenet

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NEW WSEN Structure (by Wladyslaw Senn)

Since September 2013, the International Committee of the WSEN has worked to develop a more institutional structure with clearer roles and interactions in order to give the organisation a formal presence and legitimate decision-making power after several years of informal leadership by committed volunteers.

At the 1st ever General Assembly of the WSEN on 2nd July 2014 in Stellenbosch University, the following structure was adopted formally by the former student delegates to previous WSEN Summits and 2014 student participants.

The new structure divides the WSEN into the “WSEN International Committee”, the “General Assembly” (GA), the “Advisory Board” and the “Alumni network”. The central annual event is the “WSEN Global Summit.” The network consists of all current and past Summit delegates, organisers and volunteers.

The International Committee is the centrepiece for keeping the network alive. It contains

- the WSEN Executive Board – the core executive or operational body of the WSEN, elected every year with experienced members of the organisation,
- the General Assembly (GA) Representatives – elected by delegates every year to support the Executive Board and develop the network
- representation of the next WSEN Global Summit organisation team,
- student representation of Doshisha University (Kyoto, Japan) where the 1st Summit was held in 2008.

The International Committee does

- Direct support to the Global Summit organisation
- Future Summit host selection
- General communication
- Website management
- New projects development
- Formal decisions are taken by the Executive Board and the General Assembly.

Elected International Committee members 2014/15 (by Klara J. Winkler)

During the WSEN Global Summit in Stellenbosch, South Africa, the first General Assembly (GA) of the WSEN elected the Executive Board and six GA Representative for the period between the WSEN Global Summit 2014 and the WSEN Global Summit 2015. The elected International Committee members were supported in their work by a number of volunteers, student represent of Doshisha University and representatives of the WSEN Global Summit 2015 organising team.

Below, we list the elected persons ordered by first name.

Executive Board 2014/15

- Christopher Luederitz (Germany/ Canada)
- Elise Steyaert (until winter 2014) (Belgium)
- Giorgina King (South Africa/ Kenya)
- Joseph Grainger Gasser (USA/ Switzerland)
- Klara Johanna Winkler (Germany)
- Martin Bosak (Germany/ Netherlands)
- Melissa Ingaruca Moreno (Peru)

- Wladyslaw Senn (Switzerland/ Scotland)

GA Representatives 2014/15

- Anatasha Petronella Dirorimwe (Botswana)
- Azadeh Zarekar (Iran)
- Devon Ronald Dublin (Guyana/ Japan)
- Emanoel Alfred (Tanzania)
- Jelioth Muthoni (Kenya)
- Julian Sprick (Germany)

Finance (by Martin Bosak)

As a result of becoming an international NGO (official description: *Unincorporated Association* under British law, hosted by the National Union of Students in London, UK) the WSEN has now its own bank account

Currently the account is administrated by National Union of Students (NUS) in the UK due to some formal issues

For the first time in its history, the WSEN has its own association's funds of 3.538,79 EUR. This amount has been saved at the WSEN Global Summit 2013 as a risk reserve and can be now used by the International Committee of the WSEN

How the money is used, is one of the topics the new elected WSEN Executive Board will address

Alumni (by Azadeh Zarekar)

Hosting on average 60 to 80 students annually, the WSEN Global Summits provide a unique opportunity to learn, share and spread ideas on how to promote sustainability on and off campus. To facilitate keeping the network connected, the Alumni working group launched two platforms in 2014/15:


WSEN Alumni Network

Dear former participants of WSEN Global Summits!

You are invited to participate in our survey on assessing the implementation/ progress of your proposed sustainability project. The results help us to examine the influence of the summit on your motivation to take the first steps of making the change at your university. Your responses will remain confidential and used only in the purpose of improving our student network.

Thank you for your time and support in advance.

* Required



**World Student
Environmental Network**

1. Personal Information *
Name, Surname; Nationality (e.g. Azadeh Zarekar, Iranian)

2. Summit, you have participated in and the representing university. *
(e.g. 2014, University of Tehran)

Survey

Delegates at WSEN Global Summits are required to propose a sustainability projects at campus level. To support and monitor the proposed ideas, the Alumni working group has launched an online survey in 2014 through which former delegates are asked about the status of implementing their project, the challenges they face and the support they need from their university or the WSEN. The results also help the WSEN International Committee to improve their work. The output of the survey will be published as a report to the public.

Linkedin page

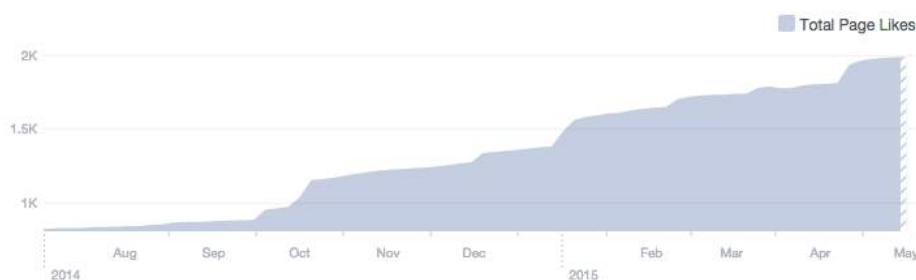
WSEN Global Summit organisers and delegates are kindly invited to join the “Alumni Group” of the WSEN on LinkedIn to start professional discussions, share their experiences and keep the network active and alive. The group has 67 members by April 2015, 25% of which are in environment and related fields. Members of this group will also be kept updated about WSEN internal programs and news.



External communication (by Klara J. Winkler)

facebook

The WSEN has a facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/wstudentenet>) which has been organically growing since the last WSEN Global Summit. By 4 May, the page had 1,991 likes (+244% since July 2014).



The facebook page informs about actions of the International Committee, the upcoming WSEN Global Summits, but also informs about events related to sustainability at universities around the world.

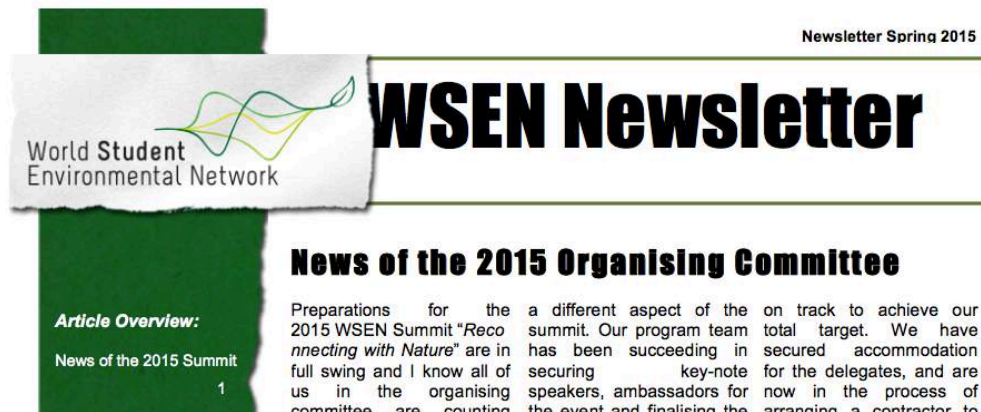
General information e-mail address: info@wsen.org

The WSEN International Committee answers to general inquiries posed to info@wsen.org. Since the last WSEN Global Summit 2014, there were 24 e-mails that were sent to the WSEN International Committee of which most members of the WSEN International Committee could answer.

Newsletter

Since December 2014, there is a regular WSEN newsletter. So far, two newsletters have been published. They can be downloaded from: <http://wsen.org/?q=newsletter> where it is also to subscribe to it. Since the second newsletter, chimpmail is used to distribute the newsletter. The newsletter has 531 subscribers (05/04/2015).

Content of the newsletter are information about the WSEN International Committee, it's members, articles about student sustainability projects, and also information about former or upcoming WSEN Global Summits.



Twitter

The WSEN has a twitter account (@worldsenet) with 258 followers (05-04.2015), which is an increase of +246% since July 2014. The facebook posts are automatically linked to the twitter account.



LinkedIn (by Azadeh Zarekar)

The WSEN as a growing non-profit organization needs to be in contact with its audience via different social media channels. Therefore, in 2014 the LinkedIn page of WSEN (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/world-student-environmental-network-wsen->) was created to keep the network connected to professional business groups. Interested individuals/ institutions that are not eligible to join WSEN Alumni Group on LinkedIn can follow this page to receive latest news and updates. By now (May 2015), the page has 32 followers.



The World Student Environmental Network (WSEN) was established in 2008, as a joint decision of students from around the world at the first World Student Environmental Summit (WSES) in Kyoto, Japan. All participants expressed a need for an international student network that could facilitate information-sharing and cooperation between them for the creation of global solutions to climate change and common efforts towards a sustainable society. The WSEN aims indeed to become a hub of reference for student actions in lobbying universities, local communities, and governance bodies towards sustainable approaches, thus openly overriding the cultural and disciplinary barriers of usual campus-based collaboration. The network consists of all past delegates and all motivated students interested in joining and exchanging their experiences.

Specialties

Sustainability, Youth Empowerment, Student Leadership

Website

Industry

Type

Homepage

The WSEN has its own homepage (www.wsen.org). After a longer shut-down due to unsafe traffic, it has been up again since January 2015. It has been fully updated and shows the latest information about the WSEN, the WSEN Global Summits in the future and the past, and activities of the WSEN International Committee.

World Student Environmental Network

HOME / WSEN / 2015 SUMMIT / WSEN SUMMITS / STUDENT PROJECTS / FRIENDS & PARTNERS / FAQ

WSEN Global Summit 2014 Stellenbosch, South Africa

HOST OF WSEN GLOBAL SUMMIT 2016 TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

Submitted by Klara on Tue, 04/28/2015 - 21:32

We are very happy to announce that the host for the WSEN Global Summit 2016 will soon be announced. After a tough decision between very competitive application for hosting the WSEN Global Summit 2016,

FOLLOW US

You can follow our newsfeed via Facebook, Twitter and RSS:

Internal communication (by Klara J. Winkler)

Skype meetings

The WSEN International Committee has met regularly about every 2-3 weeks since the last WSEN Global Summit 2014. Everyone interested in the work of the WSEN International Committee is invited to join the calls during which current topics, next steps and reports of the upcoming WSEN Global Summit are discussed.

Internal WSEN International Committee facebook page

There is an internal WSEN International Committee facebook page that is used for fast information exchange of members of the WSEN International Committee.

WSEN e-mail addresses

All Executive Board members and GA Representatives gotten an official WSEN e-mail address (name.surname(at)wsen.org) at the beginning of their term.

European Meetings

The European WSEN International Committee members have met twice on their own costs since the last WSEN Global Summit.

In October 2014, seven WSEN International Committee members met in Amsterdam for a weekend to proceed urgent topics of the WSEN.



In April 2015, four WSEN International Committee members met for a weekend in Brussels to mainly work on the preparation of the General Assembly 2015.



WSEN – Doshisha University relationship (by Leila Chakroun, Advisory Board member)

Doshisha University is the founder university of the WSES (now WSEN Global Summit) and the WSEN. It hosted the first summit in 2008 and has offered since then a significant support to the organisational team of every summit.

The term 2014/15 was marked by a clear improvement between the WSEN and Doshisha University. The WSEN International Committee hope to maintain and further improve this relationship.

In September 2014, Leila Chakroun from the Advisory Board met in Japan three people from Doshisha University, including the students Yumika Yoshinaga (delegate at the 2012 WSES in Lausanne, Switzerland), Yuma Nishikawa (delegate at the 2014 WSEN Global Summit in Stellenbosch, South Africa) and the person responsible: Kozo Tanabe. The discussions revolved around the future

of Doshisha University-WSEN relations and ended in the positive conclusion that solid relations would be given prime consideration.

In March 2015, Joseph Grainger Gasser from the Executive Board met also several people from Doshisha University in Japan, including Yumika Yoshinaga. After the meeting, Doshisha University selected the students in charge of communication with the WSEN, among those Erina Wanaka. Students representing Doshisha University are given access to the internal WSEN International Committee facebook page and to all other information sharing platforms, as well as invited to the regular Skype calls.

The year 2015 will serve to clarify and officialise the relation between Doshisha University and the WSEN team.

Future host (by Azadeh Zarekar)

Selecting the host of WSEN Global Summits falls under the framework of this working group. The procedure in 2014/15 started with the "*call for interest*", followed by information campaign for interested universities. During the "*call for application*", complementary information and the application form were dispatched. Receiving the filled forms, the internal working group rated applications according to WSEN values on a consensus-based basis. We are excited to declare that a British team applying was selected as the host of 2016 WSEN Global Summit which will be co-organized by Keele University and University of Sussex.

2015 Summit organization mentoring (by Christopher Luederitz and Rhys Gustafsson, WSEN2015 organiser)

The organisation of the yearly WSEN Global Summit is a long-term planning process. As every year the organisers of the WSEN Global Summit 2015 and the International Committee of the WSEN worked closely together to make this year's WSEN Global Summit an inspiring, memorable and long-lasting event. Over the course of the last year the International Committee assisted the 2015 WSEN organisation committee by providing contacts to university of the WSEN network, templates for official letters and process management as well as access to the knowledge base of organising seven WSEN Global Summits. Since the members of the International Committee are distribute all over the world the biweekly Skype meetings were crucial for sharing information and planning the next steps in preparation of the WSEN Global Summit 2015 at Murdoch University, Perth, Australia.

The two members of the 2015 WSEN organising committee that were in correspondence with the WSEN International Committee both feel that the level of support offered was excellent. Everyone responded quickly and thoroughly to our questions which was really appreciated.

It was also appreciated that the International Committee did not strongly impose their ideas for the WSEN Global Summit, in an attempt to not intervene and influence the ideas of the 2015 WSEN organising committee. In future I would welcome more input/opinion/ideas when discussing progress in organising the WSEN Global Summit.

The summit organising guidelines were very useful, especially when beginning the organising process, as it allows you to visualise what kind of items are to be organised and when. Also the provision of contact details for people who have had experience in certain aspects of the organising process is a good idea. I think the experience and knowledge held by the International Committee was underutilised at times by the 2015 WSEN organising committee. This issue I think could be easily resolved by more communication from the party requiring assistance.

Additional information material for future delegates (by Martin Bosak)

The WSEN International Committee has established several new documents in the past year in order to increase the transparency regarding:

The WSEN in general:

A handbook of the WSEN has been established, including everything one needs to know about the purpose and organisational structure of the network

The voting procedures during the GA:

this document is providing all the information the Delegates need to know about the elections taking place at the annual WSEN Global Summit

Newsletter

Since September 2014 the WSEN is regularly informing about its work with a newsletter. For more information, read the newsletter section.

Preparation of the General Assembly 2015 (by Christopher Luederitz)

The working group General Assembly organised and prepared the voting of the new International Committee. The first International Committee of the WSEN was elected at Stellenbosch University in 2014 and served the WSEN for the one-year period it had been elected for. The new International Committee will be elected at Murdoch University in 2015 and will continue to work on WSEN related issues for the coming year – until the next WSEN Global Summit in 2016.

In particular the working group General Assembly worked on

- Amended the legal statutes of the WSEN
- Revised the DNA of the WSEN
- Scheduled the communication with the 2015 delegates
- Organised the online voting procedure for the WSEN delegates and alumni
- Prepared the General Assembly session during the WSEN Global Summit 2015 at Murdoch University

Outlook (by Martin Bosak)

New roles in the Executive Board

In the upcoming year the WSEN Executive Board will be restructured and for the first time the main body will consist of a President, a Vice-President and a Treasurer. This is necessary due to the new legal entity the network was transformed to at the GA 2014 during the WSEN Global Summit 2014 in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

Utilising the Association's funding

As mentioned in the finance section, the WSEN possesses over a considerable amount of funds. An important task for the upcoming year is how this money can be used.