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**World Student
Environmental Network
(WSEN) – Diversity is our
strength, difference is our
goal, youth is our mojo,
happiness is our purpose,
and sustainability is our
path.**

Finally! The WSEN has its own newsletter!

We are excited to present you the first World Student Environmental Network (WSEN) newsletter. Our goal is to keep you informed on what the WSEN does and give you insights about student projects, upcoming events and more.

Whether you are new to us or a former delegate from Africa, America, Asia, Australia or Europe, our hope is to strengthen our network by presenting you interesting ideas, helpful

information and updates of the WSEN.

For our first newsletter, we have put together some articles about the last and the upcoming WSEN Global Summit, a German student sustainability project and some topics the WSEN International Committee is currently working on.

The newsletter will be regularly sent out. If you have any suggestions on topics the WSEN Newsletter

should cover in the future, feel free to contact us. Also, if you have a great student-lead sustainability project, you would like to present, we would be more than happy to publish an article in our next issue.

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WSEN Global Summit in South Africa was a success!



Delegates of the WSEN Summit 2014 in Stellenbosch, South Africa

We live in a hierarchical world in which our interpretations of democracy have led us to diminish the power of a single vote. The World Student Environmental Network (WSEN) Summit this year did things a little differently right from the start. We decided to keep our team small and made sure that each person on the team had an equal vote. With a total of 10 people with 4 on the core organising

committee, we managed to pull together the summit that took place from the 30 June – 5 July 2014.

Our action packed summit schedule included keynote speakers Gunter Pauli, Edgar Pieterse and Even Anneke. In planning the summit the team made every effort to curate the experience of the theme “Coming Back to Life” for our delegates. This included a transforming Tree of Life

artwork by our volunteer design student – Josh, experiential tours of the Cape Winelands and Stellenbosch region (Spier Biodynamic Farming, the iShack in Enkanini, and more), and interactive sessions with delegates.



The summit included representatives from approximately 35 universities, and over 50 countries. During the summit the delegates developed projects to take back to their home towns and universities. Over 45 projects were developed during this time and we are already receiving positive feedback regarding their success.

The networking, learning and sharing experience of the WSEN Summit allows delegates from across the world to engage in a multi-cultural, inter-disciplinary,

experiential summit in which they are given opportunities to share their experiences with others and learn from their fellow delegates.

More than this, it creates a network of friendships that will last a lifetime. We look forward to extending this network at the next summit in Australia in 2015.

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WSEN Global Summit 2015 in Australia



Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia will be the host of 2015's World Student Environmental Network summit. Murdoch has a strong history in sustainability and environmental science, having the oldest environmental science program in Australia. Murdoch is also the largest campus in Australia and is predominantly vegetated with native species which provide important habitat for endangered animals. This is especially important as the native vegetation Perth surrounds becomes more fragmented.

Organisation of the 2015 summit is already underway and a motivated organising committee has been formed. Some of the major goals



The Organising Committee at Murdoch University, Australia

identified by the organising committee are to deliver a summit that provides a unique Australian experience that is multi-dimensional and diverse, having something to offer delegates from a wide range of backgrounds. We are striving to gather a diverse organising committee with the hope that this will

translate to having diverse content for the summit. A theme has not been decided on yet, an initial idea is "Reconnect to Nature". We do not want to give away too much yet, but it would involve early conference proceedings dealing with Australian Aboriginals and the connectedness they have to

the land and how this relationship is important to keep with us in modern society, so that our decision making can be based off strong value for nature.

Some of the challenges the Murdoch committee faces at the moment is the scary task of attaining funding; we are tackling this challenge by making an early start and brushing up on our pitch writing skills. The committee has already learnt a lot and hopes that the process of organising the summit will also be a catalyst to bring about change at their own university – enhancing a culture for sustainability on campus.

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Student Project – mAppetizing Freiburg



Guides you to sustainable places: mAppetizing Freiburg (pic: Mark Heuer)

Have you ever been new to a city, and did not know where and how to shop and eat the way you want? Where is the closest farmers' market? When is it open? Where can you get apples or organic flour, fair chocolate, and regional lettuce? And how do you get there by bike?

In the green city of Freiburg in Germany, it is rather easy to eat and shop in a sustainable manner; you just have to know about the possibilities. All the existing information are now bundled

and available in your pocket with the App "mAppetizing Freiburg". It provides a one-stop resource – a 'food pocket knife' – for your eating experience in Freiburg – with truly low costs. Features:

- **Yummy:** Food map to over 100 ecological, fair, and regional markets, shops, restaurants, fruit trees, and much more
- **Informative:** Get directions and info about food spots instantly
- **Handy:** Numerous useful resources from green

barcode scanners to delicious recipes or CO₂ calculators

- **Interactive:** Share your favourite food spots in Freiburg with your friends and add new spots to the map.

mAppetizing was developed mainly by Mark and Philipp, two students from the University of Freiburg. It took more than a year to realize

the app. One of the most time consuming exercises was the marketing. "Because once you have a good product, you want to get it out there", Mark says. "In this regard, we were very lucky to attract a lot of attention in the local media. Every newspaper article, blog post or radio report directly translated into downloads". As of today, about a thousand people

have installed the app. Despite some difficulties, and unforeseen last minute problems, Mark and Philipp were positively surprised by how much they managed to do in such short time.

mAppetizing has been implemented in the city of Freiburg in Germany, but now that the software has been developed, it is fairly easy to adapt it to every

other city without the need of any programming skills. If you are interested, check out the website or contact Mark and Philipp.

Contact

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Introducing the WSEN - The Executive Board

The General Assembly (GA) made up of former and current delegates of the WSEN Global Summit elected their Executive Board (EB) and General Assembly Representatives during the Summit in Stellenbosch in July 2014.

In this newsletter, we present the EB members. We will introduce the current

GA Representatives in our next newsletter.

The EB is the core executive body of the WSEN. It consists of experienced members and volunteers guiding the network and operating the regular activities of the WSEN, like summit organisation support or future host selection. It is open to motivated students, who are or

were delegates at a WSEN Global Summit, or former Summit organisers or volunteers. Together with the GA Representatives, the Executive Board constitutes the decision-making body of the WSEN.

The current elected EB members are Martin Bosak (Netherlands/ Germany), Joseph G. Gasser

(Switzerland/ USA), Melissa Ingaruca Moreno (Peru), Giorgina King, (South Africa), Christopher Luederitz (Germany), Wladyslaw Senn (Scotland/ Switzerland), and Klara Winkler (Germany).

Author

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Martin Bosak (Netherlands/ Germany)



Joseph G. Gasser (Switzerland/USA)



Melissa Ingaruca Moreno (Peru)



Giorgina King (South Africa)



Christopher Luederitz (Germany)



Wladyslaw Senn (Scotland/ Switzerland)



Klara Winkler (Germany)

Current hot topics for the International Committee

This section is about some projects the International Committee (IC) is currently working on with the help of former delegates and volunteers.

Project Database

For a long time, a discussion within the IC went on regarding a project database: a database that encompasses all the great sustainability projects members of the WSEN have initiated. Besides giving an overview, the goal is to show insights into the projects – their aims, successes, challenges etc. – and

moreover, present guidelines, so that interested students can start a similar project at their universities.

This project has finally been started. The first steps are made and you can expect a new feature on the WSEN web page in the following months, which will present the first projects.

WSEN becoming a NGO

An important step for the WSEN to become a non-governmental organisation (NGO) was made at the General Assembly (GA) in Stellenbosch in July 2014.

The GA elected the Executive Board and their GA Representatives and acknowledged the operational and financial status of the organisation. Through this process, the WSEN has now become an official formalised entity with legal status, a UK-based international student organisation. The WSEN headquarters are established in London, hosted by our new partner, the UK National Union of Students (NUS). The WSEN remains also closely tied to its original host and founder,

Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan.

Support for Organising Committee

A further major task of the IC is the support of the WSEN 2015 Organising Committee at Murdoch University, Australia. Organising Guidelines as well as first-hand experience of former organisers were shared in order to facilitate the smooth setting-up of the next Summit.

Authors

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About us

"The WSEN connects and supports students from all over the world who are striving to be incubators of the positive change needed for sustainability to be actively practised in all aspects of society."

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What motivates you?

Since I was a child, during the summer vacations, I have been traveling constantly to Amazonas, in northeastern Peru. Many members of my family were born in that region and I have always enjoyed the beautiful landscape and the various tourist destinations. A few years ago, the government decided to give in concession several lots of land for mineral exploration in areas close to biodiversity conservation areas and tourist destinations; this decision represented a major threat to the unique biodiversity and the water availability in the region.

I was unfortunately able to view the impacts associated to these decisions and it made me get interested in environmental management and sustainable development. I started working on investigation and consulting at my university, the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

(PUCP); and joined MUNAY, the Interdisciplinary team for sustainable development at PUCP. It was not until 2013 that I heard about the World Student Environmental Network. I received an invitation letter and details for my participation in the WSES 2013 to be held in Luneburg, Germany.

Not only had I learned about sustainable development in universities, I was able to learn more about new perspectives, methods and practices to make our world sustainable. The Peruvian delegation had the opportunity to present 3 development projects: "Connected with the Amazon", "Environmental Citizen" and "I'm green". We gained more tools to put in practice in the projects I work, we gained new insights and ideas for new projects and, in a joint effort with Melissa, the other Peruvian delegate, we received good inputs regarding

the organization of the first Peruvian Student Environmental Summit.

Representing my country and PUCP was a big responsibility and a big opportunity; I made really good friends and came back to Peru with great memories and a wider vision for facing the sustainability problems in my country, my city and my university. This year, I came back to the WSEN 2014 in Stellenbosch, South Africa as a volunteer, an incredible experience that left me with more ideas, more promises and the motivation to continue on this journey towards a more sustainable world.

More at:
wsen2014.org/2014/06

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