



Securing Water: Approaches & Perspectives from Civil Society

Monday 23 November 2015, 12:30-14:00
International Environment House II

Biographies

Maude BARLOW, Right Livelihood Award Laureate 2005 - Canada

Maude Barlow is a Canadian activist who served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the UN General assembly and successfully advocated for the right to water and sanitation to be explicitly recognized at the UN General Assembly in 2010. Maude is also a Councillor of the World Future Council and the Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, Canada's leading social organisation advocating for clean water, fair trade, green energy, public healthcare and a vibrant democracy. Maude received the Right Livelihood Award in 2005.

Jumanda GAKELEBONE, Right Livelihood Award Laureate 2005- Botswana

Jumanda Gakelebone represents the First People of the Kalahari (FPK), a grassroots organization representing the Bushmen of Botswana, which received the Right Livelihood Award in 2005. Despite winning several legal cases in the Botswana High Court that guarantee his community's right to access their ancestral lands and right to access drinking water in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR), the Government has severely restricted the realisation of these rights. Gakelebone, as an elected representative and activist in Botswana spearheads his peoples' struggle to reclaim their rights to water, land and livelihoods.

Lifeng LI, Freshwater Director, WWF International

Lifeng Li has been working on water and river basin management for WWF since 2002. In July 2008, he took over the directorship of the Global Freshwater Programme for WWF, working actively on freshwater conservation in many of the world's large rivers including the Amazon, Rio Grande and Rio Conchos, Amur, Yangtze, Mekong, Ganges, Indus, Danube, Balkan rivers, and Zambezi. Previously he coordinated the Task Force on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) for the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). Through CCICED, the Task Force submitted Policy Recommendations 'Promoting IRBM to Restore Living Rivers in China' to the State Council in October 2004 – the first report promoting IRBM in China. Afterwards, many of the recommendations were accepted by the Chinese government and some of them have been implemented e.g. using IRBM as the framework for revising of the river basin management plans. Through the Task Force, Lifeng also proposed the



establishment of the Yangtze Forum – a high level platform for ministerial and provincial decision makers, corporate leaders, academics, and civil society to collectively develop solutions better river basin management in the Yangtze. The Forum has been organized successfully every two years since 2005. Lifeng was the Vice Secretary General for the 1st and 2nd Forum. During 2006-2008, he helped lead the China National IRBM Strategy, Yangtze Conservation and Development Report 2007 and 2009, and Yangtze Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report. He is a board member of Delta Alliance, an international knowledge-driven network organization with the mission of improving the resilience of the world's deltas.

Lifeng received his PhD on physical geography from Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2000.

Mara Tignino, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator, Platform for International Water Law, Faculty of Law, University of Geneva/The Geneva Water Hub

Mara Tignino is Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law and Coordinator of the Platform for International Water Law. Mara developed the research projects "Non-State Actors and the Management of International Freshwater Resource" (FNS, 2012-2014), "Governing Water: the Contribution of International Law to Cooperation on Transboundary Freshwater Resources" (FNS, 2009-2011) and "Gestion et protection de l'eau: les réponses du droit international aux défis liés à cette ressource naturelle" (Boninchi Foundation, 2009-2010).

Mara holds a Diplôme d'études supérieures and a Ph.D. in international law from the Institut de Hautes Études Internationales et du Développement in Geneva (2008). She received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali of Rome (2000) and a Certificat d'études politiques européennes from the Institut d'Études Politiques of Strasbourg (1998). She is a member of the European Society of International Law, the American Society of International Law and the Commission on Environmental Law of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Moez ALLAQUI, Senior Legal Desk Officer, Waterlex

Moez Allaoui joined WaterLex in October 2014. Prior to joining WaterLex, he worked in Tunisia as director of legal affairs in SONEDE (the public drinking water utility) and also served a three-year term on the SONEDE International SA board of directors. He holds a B.A. in private law and a Professional Master of Law Degree in logistic and translation from the University of Al Manar (Tunisia), as well as an LLM in international economic and development law from the University Descartes Paris 5 (France).

Moez has published many articles and studies on the human right to water and about water utility management in several scientific journals and specialized websites. He also contributed to the recognition of the right to water in the Tunisian constitution approved in January 2014.