The Second Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference (MHEWC-II)

Early Warning and Early Action towards Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Societies

13-14 May 2019, WMO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

Side Event 2 Concept Note

Side Event title: Bridging disciplines and building networks to future-proof multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) - Young professional’s perspective

Date, time and venue: Monday, 13 May 2019, 13:00-14:00, Salle B

Lead: Water Youth Network (WYN)

Other contributing partners: Practical Action

Main session objectives:

The session will showcase good practices and success stories of young professional’s contribution to designing and implementing people-centred early warning systems (EWS), as well as their views on future steps and challenges towards:

- Engaging across different sectors e.g. inter-governmental, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector, and academia;
- Promoting knowledge exchange across disciplines e.g. between sociologists, information and communication technologies (ICT) professionals and hydrologists, and across generations;
- Development of governance mechanisms that support the integration of different disciplines and sectors to enable more people-centred EWS e.g. capacity building/training, partnerships/ networks, interdisciplinary teams/ roles.

The session will also hear from senior professionals developing interdisciplinary capacity building and training programmes to build the skills of the next generation of multi-hazard EWS (MHEWS) professionals.

The EWS Young Professionals Network¹ will be launched during the event. It offers one mechanism to improve interdisciplinary knowledge exchange between young professionals working on different aspects of people-centred MHEWS from government, NGOs and private sector globally.

Expected outcomes:

The insights gained from the event will be used to inform the further development of the EWS Young Professionals Network.

¹ http://www.wateryouthnetwork.org/special-projects/ews-young-professionals-network/
A pre-event on 12 May 2019 is organised for young professionals to develop an action plan for the network. If there are any additional actions identified by the event attendees, these can be included in the plan.

A blog post on the Water Youth Network (WYN) website will be prepared about the outcomes of the session.

Key messages:

- There is an urgent need to work across disciplines and sectors to effectively integrate the four components of people centred or end-to-end MHEWS: (1) disaster risk knowledge, (2) detection, monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the hazards and possible consequences, (3) warning dissemination and communication by an official source, of authoritative, timely, accurate and actionable warnings and associated information on likelihood and impact, and (4) preparedness at all levels to respond to the warnings received (UNGA/ UNISDR, 2016)²;
- This combined with the need connect across multiple hazards and a wide variety of end-users (e.g. public, agriculture, transport) is a huge challenge for the current and next generation of professionals working on EWS;
- Research conducted by the Water Youth Network included interviews with 17 young professionals revealed the important role for young professionals to help bridge the disciplinary divide and work closely with end-users to enable more integrated approaches to MHEWS (Cumiskey et al., 2019³);
- Many mechanisms need to be in place to build knowledge, skills and capacity of young professionals to work together effectively across disciplines now and in the future. Furthermore, the research highlighted the need for more networks that connect professionals from different disciplines working on different aspects of EWS from global to local levels to exchange knowledge and co-develop the most locally appropriate EWS solutions.

Moderator:

- **Ms Lydia Cumiskey**, EWS Young Professional Network Coordinator, WYN, Ireland

Speakers:

1. **Ms Julia Chasco**, Sociologist, National Meteorological Service (SMN), Argentina

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2. **Mr Rollis Jiofack**, Intern at Water, Hydrosystems and Agriculture Laboratory, Burkina Faso and EWS Young Professionals Network member

3. **Mr Madhab Uprety**, Knowledge Officer, Global Flood Resilience Programme, Nepal (on floods and landslides)

4. **Ms Adele Young**, PhD researcher IHE-Delft on forecasting methods in data scarce regions, Trinidad and Tobago and EWS Young Professionals Network co-coordinator

5. **Mr Giacomo Teruggi**, Scientific Officer, Hydrological Forecasting and Water Resources Management Division, Climate and Water Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Switzerland