

## **"Let us be caring, Armenia" - World Water Day 2014**

Within the framework of "Let us be caring, Armenia" initiative, Country Water Partnership Armenia together with its partner SPRING Group organized and implemented a series of measures devoted to World Water Day.

This year, the initiative was joined by the Geological Museum of Institute of Geology, National Academy of Sciences, which allowed involving a wider range of activities.

The series of measures started announcement of open with photo competition entitled "Water Stories". The announcement was posted on the websites. More than 50 photographs were presented to the competition. The jury chose 15 photographs to present them to the conference participants and to choose the winners.

On March 7, in the Geological Museum a training session was organized for high school students of several schools. The session was attended also by the students of YSU Faculty of Biology, Department of Biochemistry, school teachers, and museum staff.



*Training session in Geological museum*

A report on "Water and Energy" was presented to the participants and their attention was attracted to the studies implemented within the framework of World Bank's "Thirsty energy" initiative.

The participants were very interested in the close connection between water and energy and simple actions were suggested for their saving in our everyday life.

On March 18 the "Marriott" Hotel hosted a Press Conference - discussion, which, based on WWD this year's title, was also attended by the representatives of the Ministries of Energy and Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The attendees talked about the problems of water resources and the main emphasis was put on the use of hydropower resources and the problem of small HPP construction, which became very spread in recent years and has a catastrophic impact on the wildlife and natural ecosystems.



*Press Conference on March 18*

On March 20, the Geological Museum hosted a scientific conference on "Water in our life".

The conference was attended by representatives of Ministry of Science and Education, the Ministry of Culture, the museum's "Eco club" members, other museums' staff, Yerevan State Engineering University's students.

During the Conference speeches on "Water worshipping in Ancient Armenia", "Water in Petroglyphs", "Vishapakahrs and Water" were presented. The water theme in A. Isahakyans works was also presented, as well as great Armenian poet H. Tumanyan's "Game of Rivers" popular game, which was taken from his manuscripts and published by the staff of Tumanyan's house museum.



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The conference was concluded with performance of "Art vocal" chorus and schoolchildren's dance ensemble.



*Performance of "Art vocal" chorus*



*Performance of schoolchildren's dance ensemble.*

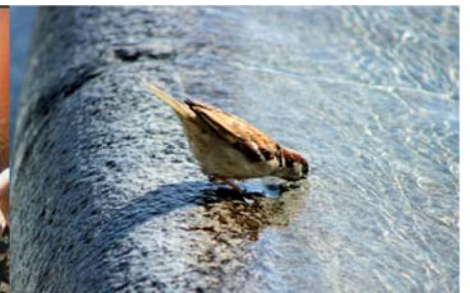
An exhibition of photographs sent to the Photo competition was also organized in the Museum, and the participants chose the best photos that should receive awards in 6 nominations.



*"I wish it would rain down a little more"*



*Vardavar (ancient Armenian feast, during which people pour water on each other.)*



*"Armenia fountains' water is very tasty"*



*"For khash"*



*"The Akhtala river asks for help"*



*"Water or energy?"*

On March 21 the Conference on "Problems in the field of the RA Water Resources" was held, which closed the series of the measures within the framework of "Let us be caring, Armenia – World Water Day 2014" initiative. The conference was attended by the representatives of Ministry of Nature Protection's Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, water supply organizations, private sector, NGOs, universities, the media, students. Speakers raised water problems and the works carried out for their solution.

The main problem, which was also consistent with the WHO's this year motto, related to the construction of a great number of small hydropower plants, resulting in violation of ecosystems of all the rivers, on which they are constructed. It turned out that we have problems with

legislative and regulatory management in this area and a legislative initiative is being prepared to regulate it.

Water companies presented their achievements in energy and water saving.

Besides, wastewater treatment problems and considering wastewater as a valuable and sustainable resource were also considered.



During the Conference the award winners received both money, and real prizes in the form of a drop of water made of stone. They received also certificates.



*Prizes to photo competition winners*

YerevanDjur water and Armenian Water & Sewerage companies rendered financial support to the events.

Information on the events can be found at the following websites.

<http://www.aravot.am/2014/03/21/442990/>

<http://armenpress.am/arm/news/754740/jri-hamashkharhayin-orvan-ays-tari-miacel-e-naev-erkrabanakan.html>

<http://www.pressident.am/news/16/3161-hayastane-anmasn-ci-mnoum-jri-hamasxarhayin-orvanic.html>

<http://www.newsbox.am/water-resources/>

<http://www.panarmenian.net/arm/photoset/all/5916>

<http://www.aravot.am/2014/03/20/442807/>

<http://www.tert.am/en/news/2014/03/18/water-resources//?sw/?sw>