



International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance

Alianza Internacional para la Gestión del Agua de Lluvia (IRHA)

Alliance Internationale pour la Gestion de l'Eau de Pluie (IRHA)

bRAINstorming

NEWSLETTER N° 32 – AUGUST 2010

Our newsletter focuses on all activities concerning rainwater harvesting, the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA) and its partners.

Topic of this issue: Member's Newsletter

Editorial

Dear Rainwater Harvesters, Readers, IRHA Members and Friends,

The International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance has many members throughout the world, including organisations, institutions, the private sector and individuals.

This edition of bRAINstorming is giving the floor to some of our members to show who they are, what they are doing and what they've achieved. We are showcasing a mixture of organisation overviews and a sample of their many projects and achievements.

We can also welcome some new members to the IRHA network who have introduced themselves below.

Finally, we will give the floor to our Executive Director, Mrs Vessela Monta, who will share with you her vision on the new responsibility and rights which endorses the IRHA with the Special Consultative Status granted recently by the UN.

As an umbrella organisation, with the goal to reinforce and unify the global rainwater harvesting movement, it is important that we highlight your activities. Hopefully this edition will give you a good idea how our various members make a difference in the world through the use and promotion of rainwater harvesting!

Hannah Price





A message from our Executive Director



I am extremely pleased to share with you the news arrived recently to our organization: the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), at its Substantive Session of July 2010, adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to grant the **International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA)** with **Special Consultative Status** to the UN.

[Read more.](#)



Safe Water International



Safe Water International (SWI) is a U.S. organisation with the mission to identify clean drinking water solutions for the poorest rural areas of the world and to promote local marketplace involvement in delivering those solutions. They became an IRHA Member in 2006.

Since the autumn of 2009, SWI has been carrying out its 'Malawi Villages Drinking Water' project with the aim of providing 10 remote villages in the Kasungu District of central Malawi with a model for obtaining safe drinking water in an affordable and sustainable manner.

This Rotary funded project, implemented with the help Marion Medical Mission, a U.S. based non-profit organisation, has so far installed 10 shallow wells in these rural villages. Before these wells were built, the villages relied on open pits that provided contaminated water. Once the wells were dug, classes on health and hygiene began, starting initially in two of the villages, and later extended to six more villages.



SWI Project Coordinator, Patrick Chimphamba, and Chisonkwe Well Committee

SWI hope that the success and expansion of this project will act as a springboard, encouraging large international organisations to become more involved in the effort to supply a least 6 million of the Malawian population with clean drinking water. [Click here](#) to read their full report.



RainWater Cambodia



RainWater Cambodia, a new IRHA Member, was established in October 2003 through a collaboration of Cambodian and foreign nationals. Their common bond was a concern for the health of people in Cambodia, especially women and children. Access to clean drinking water and improved sanitation are clear priorities for improved health outcomes and that is why RainWater Cambodia focuses on those areas. Wherever possible we build on the strengths of traditional practices - like rain water collection - but do so in a way that eliminates mosquitoes and helps prevent contamination.

To date it is estimated that RainWater Cambodia have assisted over 100,000 people to access safer drinking water through formalised rainwater harvesting. Read more about them [here](#).

Fascinating Water Facts

Sent by our supporter Dr Jagadeesh

- The average toilet uses 5 to 7 gallons of water per flush.
- A shower can use 25 to 50 gallons.
- Just washing your hands can use up to 3 gallons of water
- Leaving the water running while you brush your teeth can waste 3 gallons of water.
- Washing one load of clothes in an automatic washer uses about 45 gallons.
- The average bath takes about 36 gallons of water.
- The average individual uses about 125 gallons of water a day.
- An average residence uses 107,000 gallons of water a year.
- About 340 billion gallons of water are used every day in the US.

Read about more fascinating facts [here](#).

US gallon = 3.79 litres

RAIN – The Rainwater Harvesting Implementation Network

RAIN, an IRHA Member since 2006, is a Dutch international network that aims to increase the water access of vulnerable sections of society in developing countries, particularly women and children, by collecting and storing rainwater.



On the 18th April, 2010, they took part in their local Live Earth 'Run for Water' at the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam. A full report of their day can be found [here](#).



RainWater Harvesting is an independent family owned company based in the UK that specialises in selling rainwater harvesting systems. They have been an IRHA member since 2009 and have written an article outlining how it is possible to pump water without the need for mains electricity.

Pumping rainwater without mains electricity

Rainwater harvesting is of critical importance in many parts of the world both for agriculture and for domestic water supply. Underground tanks are preferable for three reasons a) minimal water loss to evaporation, b) no loss of ground space and c) cool of the earth (less than 15°C even in arid climates) inhibits bacterial action and ensures clean, clear water. However, pumping the water out of the tank is a problem in parts of the world where mains electricity is too expensive, intermittent or unavailable. [Read more.](#)



The Kenya Rainwater Association

The Kenya Rainwater Association (KRA), a new IRHA member, is a non-governmental and non-profit-making national membership association working on implementing and promoting rainwater harvesting and management systems and complementary technologies across Kenya.



KRA works in collaboration with a range of partner organisations, and strives to improve water supply, food security, and environmental sustainability for rural communities living in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). Many community groups have been assisted by KRA to install technologies such as farm ponds, earth dams/water pans, tanks, sand and sub-surface dams, rock catchments, and drip irrigation. KRA is a member of the Greater Horn of Africa Rainwater Partnership (GHARP), which also includes national rainwater associations from Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia, and Tanzania. [Read more.](#)



Water Harvesters

Water Harvesters has been an IRHA member since 2007. Based in New Delhi, their objective is to make people aware of the far reaching effects of groundwater abuse and the hazards related to groundwater depletion

They have recently implemented a project in the new terminal (T3) expansion at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. After implementation of remedial measures and reassessment of recharge capacities, the recharge capacity was enhanced to 0.66 mil m³.

Baldev Chugh, CEO of Water Harvesters, has written an article detailing why and how this important work was achieved:

Backdrop:

Natural replenishment of ground water reservoir is a slow process and is often unable to keep pace with the excessive and continued exploitation of ground water resources in various parts of the country (India). [Read more.](#)

New Members



The IRHA is pleased to welcome **Oasis Aquatic Gardens** as a new Private Sector Member. Based in Kentucky, USA, they specialise in providing design, installation and management of the following:

- Rainfall Harvesting Systems
- Ponds, Streams & Waterfalls
- Rain Gardens & Stormwater management
- Landscape Enhancements & Repairs
- Lawn Drainage & grey water reuse

Combined Harvesters

We can also welcome **Combined Harvesters**, rainwater specialists based in the UK, as a new Private Sector Member.



Formed early in 2006 Combined Harvesters have grown to be a highly respected designer, retailer and innovator for the rainwater harvesting and stormwater management industry.

They have written an article describing the company available [here.](#)



We would also like to introduce **Rain Tank Depot** to our network. They are based in the US and supply:

- Rain Water Harvesting Systems
- Rain Barrels
- Water Tanks
- Rain Water Collection Tanks
- Water Purification
- Reverse Osmosis
- Water System Pumps
- Water Pressure Boosters



IRHA Activities and News

Rainwater Harvesting at the Heart of Micro-Farming and Food Security in Watershed Development Programmes

The IRHA has almost finished taking subscriptions for our **new training session**, taking place in Maharashtra, India, from **18th to 27th October**, 2010.



The training will develop the capabilities of professionals to implement rainwater harvesting projects and measures for improved food security in micro-farmed, semi-arid regions.

All details can be found at www.irha-h2o.org and we will be pleased to answer your emails. If you wish to subscribe, email secretariat@irha-h2o.org - don't delay; the number of participants is now very limited!

IRHA Meeting with Young Rainwater Harvesters from Eckerd College, Florida

On 1st June, 2010, the IRHA met with students from Eckerd College, a university in Florida, USA. The young adults, all studying Political Studies, had come to Geneva to visit various NGOs and international organisations.



Meetings such as these are important for the IRHA's mission to raise the awareness of younger generations to the importance of rainwater harvesting to counter food shortages, improve sanitation and as an adaptation strategy to climate change.

We hope that the students went away from the meeting with a better overview of rainwater harvesting and also how an NGO such as the IRHA works in an international environment like Geneva. These young adults will be the future policy makers, and by sensitising them to the plight of water scarcity now, it can only have beneficial impacts in the future. [Read more.](#)

6th Annual ARCSA National Conference

Taking place in October in Austin, Texas, the ARCSA National Conference brings together hundreds of rainwater harvesters. This year's conference will feature 3 keynote speakers as well as many world-class speakers, including our own Executive Director. For more information, please [click here](#).

CIDECALLI Training Course

Our Member CIDECALLI is holding a training course about rainwater as drinking water, taking place in Mexico on 18th to 24th October. [See flier.](#)

The IRHA is now on Facebook. Join us online and get involved!

If you have any ideas, examples or questions about rainwater harvesting, please feel free to share them with us on our new page. We want this to be interactive, so the more contributions the better! In return we will keep you up-to-date on all the activities currently going on at the IRHA, including updates of current projects and details on ones we hope to implement soon.



Finally, we can introduce **Rain Harvesting Pty Ltd** as a new IRHA Member. Based in Australia, they manufacture a complete range of gutter systems and rainwater goods, including:

- A fire proof gutter mesh system
- First flush water diverters
- Rain alert wireless tank level monitor

Upcoming Newsletter

The next edition of bRAINstorming will look climate change and rainwater harvesting, including how RWH can help mitigate the effects of a warming climate. If you have any ideas, articles or pictures that you would like to contribute, please send them to us at:

newsletter-en@irha-h2o.org

Subscribe to the Newsletter

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please email us at:

newsletter-en@irha-h2o.org

Become a Member

The IRHA Members benefit from our extensive network and contribute to increasing the global use of rainwater harvesting.

Visit our website at:

http://www.irha-h2o.org/en/become_a_member.html

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