



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

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NEWSLETTER N° 47 – OCTOBER 2012

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

This month's topic:

Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting

Editorial

Dear Rainwater Harvesters, Readers, IRHA Members and Friends,

In this month's newsletter we introduce you to our new membership group: Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting. The idea behind this group is to raise awareness of rainwater harvesting using the media, whether that be in newspapers, magazines, photo documentaries and blogs. It is a platform to bring together the talents of journalists in order to raise the profile of rainwater harvesting.

The members of this group are both professional and amateur journalists, but they are all linked by a passion for rainwater harvesting. Several of the journalists have been practising rainwater harvesting for a long time, and want to share their experiences with the rest of the world. Others are new to the concept, and are enthused to go and find out about rainwater harvesting in their own country.

In this newsletter you will find a selection of the articles written by our Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting. These articles come from countries in Africa, North America and Asia, covering a variety of different rainwater harvesting techniques. Some of these articles are about the journalists' own experiences of rainwater harvesting, and in others they have interviewed rainwater harvesters and experts.

Along with their articles, we also run a blog where the Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting can post their first hand experiences of rainwater harvesting, sharing examples from their own countries and neighbourhoods. We have included a selection of some of their posts and photographs from this blog, to give you an idea on what our Journalists report on, and hopefully to encourage you to follow the blog!

We hope you enjoy reading all the articles by our Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting, and perhaps they will give you some ideas to start harvesting the rain yourself! We also would like to thank all the journalists who are part of this group for their great work in helping us raise the profile of rainwater harvesting.

Hannah Price
Editor



Rainwater Harvesting articles in the media

One of the main ways our Journalists for RWH help raise the profile of rainwater harvesting is by researching and writing articles about this practice.

These articles have covered the Journalists' personal experiences of rainwater harvesting, from their work to encourage the community to harvest rainwater to their childhood memories of grandparents collecting this resource. Many have also interviewed rainwater harvesters, asking how and why they collect their rain, using these examples to show others the benefits of this practice. Finally, others have described the need for rainwater harvesting in their country or community, whether this is due to water shortages, a changing climate or population growth.

All these articles have been published in a wide range of media, including printed and online newspapers – both local and national, community websites, and blogs.

Below you will find a collection of some of the articles written by our Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting, and you can follow the links to read the articles in full. If you are eager to read more, all the articles by the Journalists for RWH can be found on our [website](#).

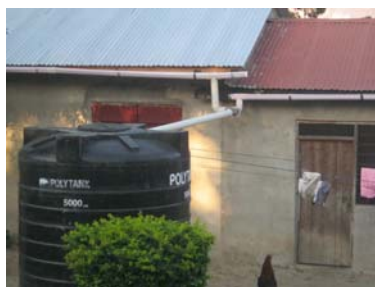
Time for rainwater harvesting is now

By Stella Barozi in The Guardian, Tanzania

Stella interviews Sarah who is struggling to water her vegetable garden as the rains stopped earlier than anticipated. She describes how she saw the rainwater flowing off her neighbours roof and was wasted: "That's when the idea of harvesting rainwater came to my mind". Sarah now plans to set up a rainwater harvesting system so she can water her vegetables and crops.

In the same article, Stella also interviews Engineer Pantaleo Tumbo, a tutor at the Water Development Management Institute. He believes the Tanzanian people need to start harvesting rainwater, as he himself already does. He says this water can be for both domestic use and irrigation, rather than relying on the mains water.

[Read the full article...](#)



Source: Stella Barozi in The Guardian

The Arduous Trek for Drinking Water

By Joyce Chimbi in One Water, Kenya

In this two part article, Joyce recollects her childhood when she and her grandmother harvested the rain the fell on the house. In the rainy season she would rush home to help her grandmother aim the gutters of the house into buckets and tanks. Once filled, the rainwater could last them up to a month during the dry season, with no need to fetch water from the source half a mile away.



Joyce Chimbi with her grandmother
Source: One Water

She concludes the article with a look at Nairobi today, with its water shortages and high prices, while rainwater is allowed to drain away.

[Read the full article...](#)

Rainwater collection saves water treatment costs

By Anitra Accetturo in the Bellingham Herald, USA

Anitra tells us how, in 2002, she became aware of rainwater harvesting after starting her internship with the City of Bellingham to implement a rain barrel pilot project. She goes on to describe how rainwater harvesting can help conserve water. By using rainwater for flushing toilets, landscape irrigation and washing cars, she says we can drastically reduce the amount of energy needed to treat and distribute potable water.

[Read the full article...](#)

Many turn to rainwater harvesting

By Allison Watkins in Go San Angelo, USA

In this article Allison describes the benefits of harvesting rainwater in a dry climate, in this case, in Texas, USA. She believes that with rainfall being so scarce, it is important to catch it when it does happen. In fact, her mother grew up a farm where their main water source was rainwater from a cistern.

She shows that a house can easily collect 60 gallons (227 litres) of water after just one inch (2.5cm) of rain. As well as using this water in the home, Allison describes its use for landscape irrigation, saving both water and money.

[Read the full article...](#)

Contractor has harvest of rains

By Vinod Nedumudy in The Asian Age, India

Vinod interviews Jerome, a civil contractor in Kochi who has been harvesting rainwater for 10 years. Jerome's 115,000 litre tank, located under his house, provides his family with water all year round. They use this water for drinking, cooking and flushing, equalling 550 litres a day.



Source: Vinod Nedumudy in The Asian Age

Jerome installed his rainwater system before anybody had thought of rainwater as a drinking source, including the government. Over the last 10 years, every time he builds a house, he encourages the owners to include a system in their home.

[Read the full article...](#)

Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting blog

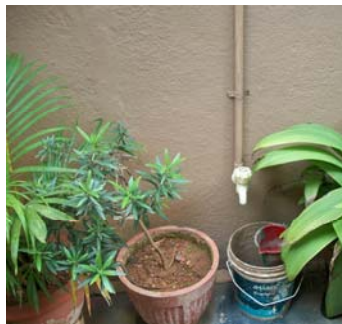
Alongside the published articles, the Journalists for RWH also contribute to our **blog**. Here they post their first hand observations and experiences of rainwater harvesting in their own countries and communities. The idea is to show the wide variety of rainwater harvesting systems that can be found.

Retrofitting RWH in houses

By Arathi Manay, India

In this post, Arathi interviews Dr Nagarajan who retrofitted a rainwater harvesting system in his house in 2010. When he built his house in 1981, he felt there was no need to harvest the rain as there was a sufficient supply of corporation water. However, the increasing population of Bangalore led to water shortages in the city, while at the same time low lying areas were flooded during the monsoon.

In 2009, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSD) made it mandatory to harvesting rainwater in buildings over a certain size. Arathi reports that this was when Dr Nagarajan decided to act. He installed a 2000 litre tank which receives rainwater from the roof which is used for the backyard, frontyard and toilets.



The 2000 litre water storage tank and the pipe from the tank in the front yard
Source: Dr Nagarajan

Dr Nagarajan says it was quite easy to retro-fit RWH into the house and that *“the satisfaction we get when we use the harvested water cannot be expressed.”*

[Read the full post...](#)

A new Rainwater Harvesting convert!

By Marianne de Nazareth, India

Marianne reports on another who started harvesting the rain on his house after the BWSSD brought in its notification for mandatory RWH. Ramsy Pinto, a young engineer, is now hooked on rainwater harvesting and is happy to spread the concept by word-of-mouth to all his connections.

Before installing the system, Ramsy had to buy water in tankers for his home and garden. Now, for five months of the year he does not have to buy any tankers of water, and within a year got back his investment of Rs. 15,000.



A filter is fitted to the main drain from the roof, this filters the water before it goes straight into the sump for household use. He also pumps excess rainwater into a borewell on his premises that helps to recharge the groundwater.



The filter for the RWH system, Ramsy's flourishing garden, and his house

Source: Marianne de Nazareth



[Read the full post...](#)

Zambia's rainwater harvesting potential high

By Newton Zibanda, Zambia

Newton describes the current state of rainwater harvesting in Zambia. In an interview with Bob Muzyamba, the Secretary General of the Zambia Rainwater Harvesting Association (ZRHA), he describes the scale of rainwater harvesting use in Zambia *“leaves a lot to be desired”*.

However, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Local Government and Housing and the Ministry of Energy and Water Development were engaged by the ZRHA to explore ways of enhancing the use of rainwater harvesting.

Mr Muzyamba finishes by saying *“there is a huge potential for rainwater harvesting in Zambia in all region or zones...”*

[Read the full post...](#)

Islamabad's taps dry up as water shortages worsen

By Saleem Shaikh, Pakistan

Saleem, with his co-author Sughra Tunio, introduce us to the drastic water shortages that are currently affecting Islamabad.

Changes in climate have led to reduced rainfall and higher temperatures. Added to this, Islamabad's population has doubled since 1998 to 1.7 million people. These two combined factors have drastically reduced water availability.



As taps run dry, many people are forced to buy water from tanks
Source: Saleem Shaikh

The post concludes stating the need for a national rainwater harvesting policy, including mandatory rainwater harvesting systems in every house in Islamabad.

[Read the full post...](#)

Rain Harvest will solve water scarcity in Uganda - Businge

By Hope Mafaranga, Uganda

Hope interviews Grace Businge, a lady with strong views on rainwater harvesting: "Right from my childhood I knew that harvesting rain water can save time, women and children who trek long distance in search of water during the dry season."

Grace has a tank in every building that has a tap in it, including the pig and poultry houses and the latrine. She irrigates who crops and vegetables with rainwater and her family does not go hungry.



Grace with one of her tanks. Source: Hope Mafaranga

Grace has no time for women who have abandoned rainwater harvesting. She believes that if they still harvesting the rainwater, Uganda would not have a food crisis.

[Read the full post...](#)

Become a Journalist for Rainwater Harvesting

We are always looking for journalists to join this group to help us with our mission to raise the profile of rainwater harvesting. If you are a journalist - professional or amateur - with an interest in rainwater harvesting, then you could also become a Journalist for Rainwater Harvesting.

As well as the in the written media, we are also looking for journalists who work in photography and film.

What do we expect from a Journalist for Rainwater Harvesting?

- Produce articles (or equivalent) about rainwater harvesting, and have them published either online or in print.
- Contribute to the Journalists for RWH blog.
- Interact with the IRHA through social media.

To become a Journalist for Rainwater Harvesting is free, all we ask is that you are active and contribute to our goal on increases the use of rainwater harvesting practices throughout the world.

For more information about becoming a Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting, please read the [Membership Charter](#) (which you can download by clicking on the image below), and visit our [website](#) to download the application form.

You can also contact us at journalists@irha-h2o.org to express your interest.



[Membership charter \(pdf\)](#)



[Journalist for Rainwater Harvesting poster \(pdf\)](#)

Meet our Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting

Our Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting are both professional and amateur journalists who are passionate about rainwater harvesting. Many practise it themselves and have grown up using it. Others are newer to the practice, but are eager to spread the word about it within their own communities and countries.

At the time of writing this newsletter, we had 18 Journalists for Rainwater Harvesting from 11 countries and three continents.

Meet our Journalists:

Marianne de Nazareth, India

Saleem Shaikh, Pakistan

R.M. Manoj Rathnayaka,
Sri Lanka

Hope Mafaranga, Uganda

Anitra Accetturo, USA

Stella Barozi, Tanzania

Vinod Nedumudy, India

Joyce Chimbi, Kenya

Newton Zibanda, Zambia

Angela Chasha, Botswana

Arathi Manay, India

Mwansa Frederick Pintu,
Zambia

Karen Iron Msiska, Malawi

Evelyn Situma, Kenya

Timothy Kasonde Kasolo,
Zambia

Veby Mega Indah, Indonesia

Ronald Musoke, Uganda

Allison Watkins, USA

You can find out all about these Journalists for RWH on our [website](#) - including their background, who they work for or what publications they write for and, of course, why they are interested in rainwater harvesting!

IRHA News and Activities

Citizen Of Our World

We are very pleased to announce that Citizen Of Our World will be funding a project in the Gbullung Clinic in Ghana, where we will build a new toilet block with hand washing facilities to improve its sanitation conditions. This clinic is in the same region as our Blue Schools in Tamale, Ghana project, and will help further improve the health of the children, as well as the local population.

Citizen Of Our World allows you to become actor of global change, choosing what projects you want to see implemented. Our project was voted for by the members of Citizen Of Our World, and we would like to thank them, and COOW, for supporting us!

New IRHA Member

We are very happy to announce that the **Jal Bhagirathi Foundation** is a new IRHA Organisation Member.



The Jal Bhagirathi Foundation is an NGO which works to support and mobilise water distressed rural communities in the Thar desert of India, promoting the rich tradition of water management by constructing and rejuvenating water-harvesting structures.

JAL BHAGIRATHI
FOUNDATION

The Foundation also very kindly provided an article for the last edition of our newsletter [Rainwater Harvesting in Schools](#).

Blue Schools Programme

We are currently in the process of formulating three new Blue Schools projects: two in Burkina Faso and one in Burundi. We plan to start implementing this projects at the start of 2013:

- **Blue Schools in Bubanza, Burundi** will take place in Muyange Primary School and Mitakataka Primary and Secondary School. This project will be carried out with the local partner Centre de Paix Giramahoro.
- **Blue Schools in Gourma, Burkina Faso**, in Seiga Primary School, Lantaogo Primary School, Diapangou B Primary School and Balga Primary School. Association pour la Gestion de l'Environnement et le Développement (AGED) is our local partner.
- **Blue Schools in Bazèga, Burkina Faso** will be in Gana Primary School and Gana College, as well as the in Kiswendsida Beog-Neeré Centre - a shelter for street children. Our local partner is Réseau Nouvelle Planète Management (RNPM-BF).

Visit [Project Implementation](#) page of our website to find out more about these projects, along with all our other projects, both finished and underway.

Raindrops Geneva Award 2013

We are looking for posters that show the benefits and/or uses of rainwater harvesting. They could be on domestic use, groundwater recharge, agriculture, or risk reduction. Keep in mind that the aim of the competition is to make the general public aware that rainwater can be (and is!) an essential resource.

The three best posters will be awarded prizes, including 1,000CHF for first prize. The deadline for submission is the **31st October 2013** at 12.00 p.m. (midnight) GMT, and the winner posters will be announced in November 2013.

Before submitting your poster, please visit the [IRHA website](#) to read the Rules of the Competition and to download the entry form. You can also email us at raindropsaward@irha-h2o.org for more information.



IRHA Video Corner

The IRHA Video Corner showcases interesting and informative short films on several different aspects of rainwater harvesting.



Join us online and
get involved!



Upcoming Newsletter

The next edition of bRAIN-storming is:

Activities of the IRHA Members in 2012

If you have any ideas, articles or pictures that you would like to contribute, please send them to us at:

newsletter@irha-h2o.org

Subscribe to the Newsletter

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please email us at:

newsletter@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](#) for more information.