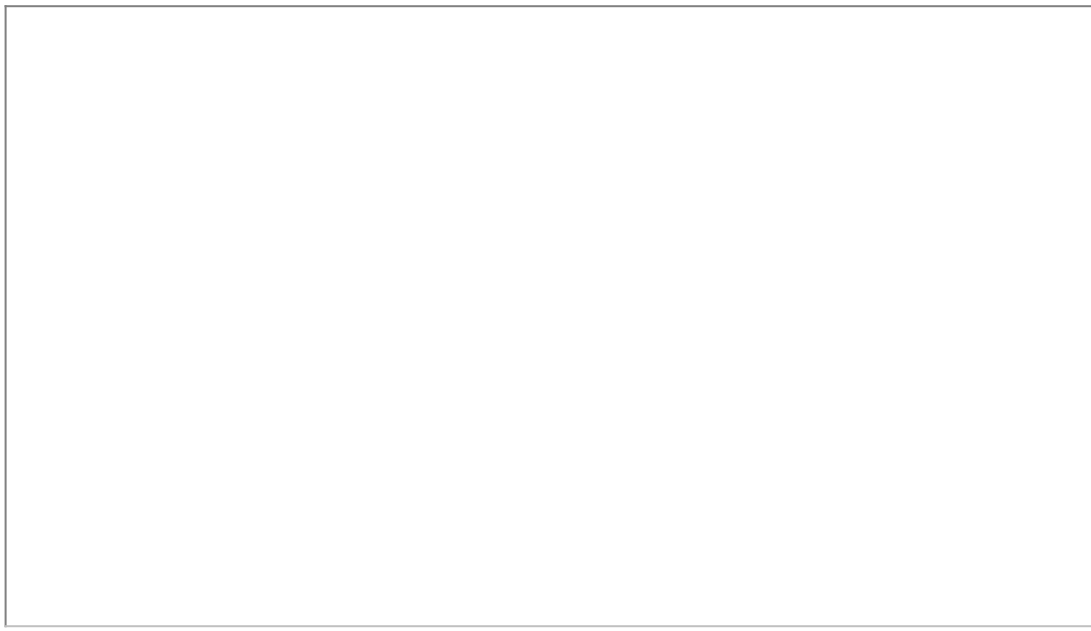


WASH-RAG at the Rotterdam Institute; IHE Delft and New Partn

By S.N. Srikanth on Monday, September 21, 2026

WASH-RAG had a strong presence at the Rotary European Action Summit in Rotterdam, held September 11–13, 2026. Our booth attracted many visitors, and the WASH-RAG Action Conference & Dinner on September 11 at the Postillion Hotel brought together an engaged and knowledgeable audience for an excellent program of speakers and discussion.

A special thank-you goes to our Regional Coordinator, Dilip Mirchandani, whose hard work helped make WASH-RAG's participation a success, and to Board member Bas Hendriksen for his important support.

Building a Partnership with IHE Delft

Thanks to Bas, WASH-RAG also had the opportunity to meet with the leadership of IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, one of the world's leading institutions for graduate education in water.

My colleagues and I met with Operations Director Han de Groot and his team to discuss potential areas of cooperation, including opportunities for scholars to study at IHE Delft and the development of joint educational programs with certificates issued by both IHE Delft and WASH-RAG. The group also discussed how IHE Delft might support WASH-RAG's "3 Districts Initiative."

During the visit, the WASH-RAG team was also invited to a meeting with Rotary International President Yinka Babalola, Rotary International General Secretary John Hewko, Rotary International Directors Dr. Harriette Verwey and Emmanuel Katongole, and others. Srikanth shared WASH-RAG's vision for helping advance Sustainable Development Goal 6—clean water and sanitation for all—through Rotary and beyond. President Yinka expressed interest in continuing the discussion, and further conversations are planned.

Connecting with Rotary Club H2O

Following the Rotterdam Summit, I traveled to Basel, Switzerland, where I met with leaders of Rotary Club H2
The club has a special focus on WASH and brings together Rotarians from Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germar

The club is interested in closer cooperation with WASH-RAG and is also considering having the club itself beco

The Opportunity for WASH Theme Clubs

These conversations point to an exciting opportunity for WASH-RAG: encouraging the development of more R

WASH-focused clubs could become important partners in advancing WASH-RAG's goals, while creating a netw
interest in water, sanitation and hygiene. WASH-RAG may also explore opportunities to welcome Rotary clubs

We encourage WASH-RAG Board and Operations Team members to participate in Rotary Institutes and Distric
valuable opportunities to introduce WASH-RAG, build relationships and develop new partnerships.

Finally, thank you to Gunes Ertas, our Cadre member and Ambassador, for covering the Rotterdam events and
make WASH-RAG's presence in Europe such a success.

Eric Johnsen, MBA/MDiv WASH-RAG Operations Chair Assistant

By Eric Johnsen on Monday, September 21, 2026

Meet Eric Johnsen, MBA/MDiv, WASH-RAG's new Operations Chair. A longtime Rotarian with a background spanning healthcare administration, finance, risk management, construction, and nonprofit leadership, Eric brings a strong commitment to service and a passion for expanding WASH-RAG's impact around the world.

In his new role, Eric is helping lead WASH-RAG's focus on moving from individual projects to larger programs, expanding our Ambassador and membership network, and developing sustainable, long-term solutions. Get to know Eric, his Rotary journey, and his vision for WASH-RAG.

Read More

The Well at Katanga

By Christopher Roesel on Monday, September 21, 2026

Adile is a young woman from Katanga village, Uganda. Her story shows how access to clean water can chang much more than a family's daily routine—from health and education to women's leadership and economic opportunity.

The story grew out of our community assessment and illustrates why the proposed Rotary Global Grant takes integrated, community-led approach to WASH, health, education, and economic empowerment.

Read More

Water Footprint: Concepts, Assessment Methods, and Applicatio

By Rajendrakumar Saraf on Sunday, September 20, 2026

Water use extends far beyond what we see at the tap. The **Water Footprint (WFP)** measures the direct an indirect freshwater consumed and polluted throughout the lifecycle of products, services, and processes.

By looking at **Green, Blue, and Grey Water Footprints**, we can better understand pressures on rainfall, rivers, aquifers, and water quality. The approach has applications across agriculture, energy, industry, water infrastructure, and urban development.

From reducing irrigation demand and fixing distribution leaks to reusing treated wastewater and harvesting rainwater, Water Footprint assessment can help identify practical opportunities for more sustainable water management.

Read the full article to explore the concepts, assessment methods, applications, and policy implications of Water Footprint.

Read More

The Economics of Water - Valuing the Hydrological Cycle as a Gl

By Stewart Martin on Monday, September 21, 2026

Here's a great, easy-to-read resource for anyone interested in WASH and the global water crisis. The Econom explains why water is more than a local resource—it is a global common good—and explores the hydrological stress, groundwater overuse, and the economic value of water. Take a few minutes to explore the website, th bottom for the Executive Summary or the full report. It's well worth sharing with your club and district WASH https://watercommission.org

The Invisible Threat in Drinking Water

By Ian Rumbles on Sunday, September 20, 2026

Unsafe drinking water isn't always visibly contaminated. **Arsenic—a naturally occurring contaminant in g affects millions of people worldwide**, particularly in parts of South and Southeast Asia. Because arsenic c smelled, or tasted, people can unknowingly consume contaminated water for years.

Long-term exposure is associated with serious health impacts, including skin lesions, cancers, cardiovascular d diabetes. The burden can also extend to household finances and livelihoods through increased healthcare cos illness.

The challenge is significant, but **solutions exist**. Testing can identify contaminated wells, communities can b safer water sources, and treatment technologies can remove arsenic effectively. A project at a primary school Vietnam, reduced groundwater arsenic from 0.55 mg/L to below 0.001 mg/L, providing safer drinking water t 1,000 children and community members.

The key message for the WASH sector is simple: **access to water is not enough—water must also be sa** testing, public awareness, alternative water supplies, appropriate treatment, health support, research, and su all have a role to play.

Read More

Align to Accelerate

By Ian Rumbles on Sunday, September 20, 2026

Many organizations are trying to determine the best way to measure the impact of WASH projects.

WHO and UNICEF are hosting a webinar to begin discussions on developing common monitoring tools and inc measure WASH systems.
8 October 2026 14:00–15:30 Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Working with Align to Accelerate (A2A), they have developed a short list of indicators. The webinar will start a consultation on the indicator shortlist and explain how to contribute.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Spanish and French.
Register here

Happy Anniversary E-Club of WASH

By Ian Rumbles on Sunday, September 20, 2026

Past Rotary International President Bill Boyd strongly promoted WASH, and in 2016 he was instrumental in establishing the E-Club of WASH in his home country of New Zealand.

On Thursday, October 22, at 18:00 UTC, this vibrant virtual club of WASH professionals and WASH enthusiast holding its 10th Anniversary Party, and everyone is invited. Please follow this Zoom link, and enter our Rotary District Number – 9999.

Even if you cannot attend, you might want to check out their Vimeo Library of almost 200 videos on a variety WASH topics.

Last year, on World Water Day, the E-Club of WASH inducted Ron Denham, Erica Gwynn, and Steve Werner a Honorary Members of the Club.

Listen to the Best Virtually

By Ian Rumbles on Monday, September 21, 2026

Listen to the Best Virtually

World Water Week, held annually in late August in Stockholm, is known for its exceptional program of WASH Experts. You can watch hundreds of inspiring and informative sessions on their YouTube channel for free. One session this year highlighted how Rotary is involved in making a difference in Securing Freshwater.

"Where WASH Professionals of the World Come Together" is how the annual UNC Water and Health Conferen promotes itself. The conference will be held October 26-30 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. You can now registe attend the Conference virtually by going to Virtual Platform Registration.

Be a Handwashing Hero

By Ian Rumbles on Monday, September 21, 2026

October 15 is Global Handwashing Day, a day to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of was
soap.

The multi-year theme, "Be a Handwashing Hero" is a creative way to encourage people to stop the spread of
harmful germs by using soap effectively when handwashing.

Visit their Resources page to get factsheets, infographics, logos and much more, in multiple languages.

4 in 10 people Lack Safe Toilets

By Ian Rumbles on Monday, September 21, 2026

4 in 10 people Lack Safe Toilets

With the theme of "Safe Toilets. Equal Features", November 19, World Toilet Day, will highlight how safe sanit
women and girls the ability to attend school, work, and take part in society.

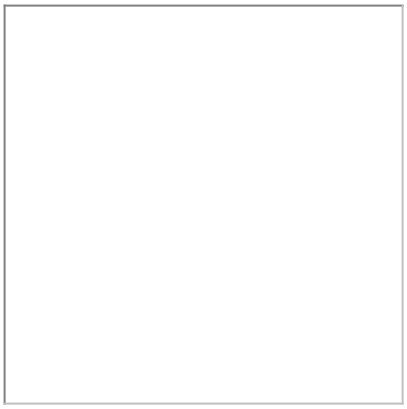
The UN estimates that 3.4 billion people are without safe sanitation, but the lack of access impacts women ar
exposing them to diseases and especially danger and abuse.

Schools with clean, safe toilets and access to menstrual hygiene kits allow girls to stay in school longer, marry
children, earn more over their lifetimes, and be more independent.

To promote equal access to toilets, visit the World Toilet Day Resources page.

WASH Ambassadors: Advocating, Growing, and Making an Impa

By Stephen Mark Werner on Monday, September 21, 2026



Update from the Ambassador Program:

First, a big thank you to all Ambassadors for everything that you are doing to be strong ambassadors (advoca
District leaders (DGs, DGEs, DGNs) to mention how the WASH Area of Focus can help all the other Areas of F
economic/community development wants to help create more economic benefits, but men can't work as muc
health concerns, and women can't be as productive if a lot of their time is spent fetching water (usually from
family members. It would also be nice for Rotary clubs to follow up on their WASH projects by helping wome
less time fetching water.

Second, we are one-third towards our goal of having at least one Ambassador in every one of the 530 Rotary
someone to be an Ambassador if you work with a Rotarian on WASH projects in a District that doesn't have a
vetting process is very quick and easy, and mainly is focused on the volunteer job responsibilities and time co
who would be a strong Ambassador, and then we'll take it from there. (And you can self-nominate yourself if

Finally, a few thank-yous (which is difficult to do since so many of you are helping a lot), Dilip Mirchandani fro
a wonderful focus on WASH and the WASH Ambassador program at the Rotary Rotterdam Zone Institute held
Chinn and Ralph Young from the U.S. have done a lot to process new Ambassador applications, and they hav
about 7-10 new Ambassadors joining every month. And finally, Ranjeev Shrestha from Nepal has done a lot t
helps his fellow Ambassadors and Rotarians deal with the recovery from their terrible floods that made interna
that terrible humanitarian crisis.

Free WASH Courses from the WHO Academy

By Ian Rumbles on Sunday, September 20, 2026

The World Health Organization (WHO), working with adult learning and its WASH experts, has created top-tie
multiple languages.

The free courses take 2-3 hours to complete and include a certificate upon completion.

The WHO Academy uses cutting-edge technology combined with the latest evidence-based information.

To learn more or to register, visit the WHO Academy.

Footer

Submit your stories, videos, and pictures for upcoming Newsletters to us at info@wash-rag.org.

WASH-RAG reserves the right to edit stories for length and content. By submitting a story you give us permiss
including but not limited to your email or club's website.

The WASH Rotary Action Group is pleased to consider partnerships with any corporate supporter. Due to the u
accepting corporate support does not imply an endorsement of any particular water technology. Rotarians, Ro
to determine if it is the best solution for the conditions where the program will be implemented. The WASH Ro
technologies work best, but Rotarians and Rotary clubs must decide how to implement their programs.

This Rotary Action Group is recognized and operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not
more please contact the WASH Rotary Action Group by email at info@wash-rag.org Thank you.

WASH Rotary Action Group | USA