L’EAU
SOURCE DE VIE,
PAS DE PROFIT

FORUM ALTERNATIF MONDIAL DE L’EAU

DU 14 AU 17 MARS 2012
AU DOCK DES SUDS - MARSEILLE

ET DU 9 AU 17 MARS
SPECTACLES, EXPOS, CONFERENCES, MANIFESTATION
Marseille : alentours

www.fame2012.org/fr
LES FEMMES

AXE THEMATIQUE

ET L'EAU
NO WATER - NO EMANCIPATION!

All over the planet, the tasks allotted mainly to women remain the same nowadays: attending to the vital needs of the whole family (washing, washing up, hygiene and childcare). This means they have a special relationship to water and are often in charge of providing the water for all the family.

From the river to water sent through taps by pressure in Europe, women have passed through different stages – the fountain, the washhouse, the well, water chests...

When access to drinking water is difficult, it means that 90% of women’s and girls’ time is spent on doing household tasks (collecting wood, carrying and purifying water, preparing meals), whereas for men, this is a time where men and boys can fulfil their potential by taking part in social, economic or political activities. The hours spent by women walking carrying a heavy load leads to a great deal of physical pain and fatigue, which in turn brings other health problems such as wounds on the feet, falls, problems linked to carrying heavy loads...

What’s more, the time of the journeys they make on their own spells extra danger for each of them – they risk being attacked either sexually or otherwise, and if there is a lack of pure water that may force the women to go even further away from home, the risk of danger is increased yet again.

Not only can certain women not receive a basic education that would give them the chance of widening their horizons, but on top of all this, they have to take care of any members of their family who are ill through lack of drinking water. So lack of water has a disastrous effect on girls’ education and their ability to have an economically and politically productive life that will guarantee them the possibility of proper self-fulfilment.

What can be observed here is a vicious circle: women are under-represented in all the authorities with the power to make decisions in either the political or the intellectual spheres of several societies.

So who will make sure with these decision-makers that their rights are respected, rights that include the fundamental one of the right to drinking water and proper purifying facilities?

Universal access to drinking water would not only have positive effects on the health of millions of human beings, it would also help to attain a radical change in the position of women in several societies.

This statement is the basis for the two workshops on “Women and Water” that we propose here.

Coordination of the main theme:
Isabelle Marilier and Christine Mead
Collectif13 Droits des Femmes
http://collectif13.ddf.free.fr/
Marche Mondiale des Femmes
http://www.marchemondialedesfemmes.org/
Women and Water

Workshops around the theme Women and Water

15 March 2012, 15.30 – 18.00  Water: a curb on emancipation?
(Salle A, Docks des Suds, Rue Urbain V)

16 March 2012, 15.30 – 18.00  Women’s role in water management
(Salle A, Docks des Suds, Rue Urbain V)

16 March 2012, 18.30 – 21.00  Inter-disciplinary evening around the main theme
(Salle A, Dock des Suds)

Thursday 15 March, 15.30 – 18.00

Water, a curb on emancipation?

The workshop will open with a 5’ extract from the film Blue gold (a special present from documentary film-maker Didier Bergounhoux of Collectif 13 Droits des Femmes).

1/ Senegal: A Meeting with some women in a rural environment

Speaker: Bintou IBRAHIMA DATT, President of the AAWOL DIAM (The Way of Peace).

She raises all the questions about women and young girls in a rural environment and wants them to organise themselves collectively:
- Against violence of any kind, including the risks they take when going to fetch water,
- To gain access for women to the land, to property ownership, to becoming cattle breeders,
- To raise peoples’ awareness, especially that of women, to the necessity of rendering their environment healthier and protecting it.
- Claim their right to drinking water, set up a proper list of requirements and specifications to be presented to the Senegalese government, relating to all the problems that concern water and the land now being faced by women.

Her talk will be backed by a Powerpoint file lasting approx. 15’.
2/ Showing another side of the women of the Democratic Republic of Congo
Speaker: Florence MAKPOLO-SONI - CONGO Action Association

We have chosen to highlight the women of the village of Makwasha, who live in poverty in the richest province of the country, Katanga.

The major international companies have sited their playground just 50 km from the women’s mud huts. These are the companies who turn over dollars like leaves and are quoted on the Stock Exchange.

But neither the Congolese state nor the large firms that exploit the minerals of Katanga have ever thought of improving the lives and living conditions of the local inhabitants.

It is thanks to their traditional art of painting and their determination that the women of Makwasha have access to water today.

A 10’ filmed report (DVD), devised for the FAME, illustrates the situation of women since a water pump was installed in their village.

3/ Water as a vital element for life itself –
Speakers: Mariama SAIDOU of Niger, a member of Youth, Environment, Democracy, Development (linked to the Desertification of the Sahel network), with Fati ABDOUNAYE President of the NGO RAYOUWAN MATA (20 minutes).

How can we have access to water? Finding the means of water production for the targeted populations and providing them with the proper framework for improved water management.

These new means of producing water will no doubt constitute a real breath of fresh air for women, but more especially, the young women who are tied to this difficult daily chore which renders them vulnerable in a rural environment.

The absence or inadequate supply of water means access to drinking water in an urban environment is only sporadic.

Alleviating these difficulties would mean a major advantage for the urban population. Here too, the role, aid and support of partners in development is capital.

The daily life of a young woman in a small village 12 km away from Niamey.

Actress Catherine Lecoq will read a short text
4/ Water in Palestine – Unequal Sharing  Speaker: Faty KOUMBA, Legal expert (15 minutes)

Faty KOUMBA Collective: Association for Liberties, the Rights of Man and Non-violence

This association helps Palestinian women to lodge a complaint and to keep note in a special notebook of the exact date and time every time a cut in the water supply is imposed by the Israelis. This allows the population of the old town of Hebron access to water, to buy water from water-sellers, and to accompany the women from Hebron through the checkpoints and military blockades so they can buy water and give advice on economising and keeping water.

5/ Brazil: 1000 Water Points – 1000 Water Tanks

Speaker: Nathalia CAPELLINI (15 minutes)

This is about a project made in conjunction with the Brazilian government to build one 1 million (?) water tanks in the semi-desert area of Brazil, where people do not have access to water.

This experiment has shown how far women are implicated at every stage of the process, from building the cisterns right through to the management of water resources. The project was very positive in the region.

Debate and other ‘alternative’ proposals
Friday 16 March – 15.30 – 18.00

**Women’s role in water management**

1/ *Precariousness in a large city: Marseille*  Speaker: Isabelle MARILIER, Collectif 13 Droits des Femmes (15 minutes)

* The difficulties encountered by single parent families (often women on their own responsible for several children) in paying their water bills and the subsequent cuts in supply.
* The hardships of women who live in the street and so have no access to water, toilets etc
* Rom women and water.
* Women without any identity papers and their families; they cannot “claim anything” [made jointly with the RESF (Réseau Education Sans Frontières/ Education Without Borders Network)]

2/ *Uganda: Women take responsibility*

Speaker: Margaret NAKATO, Joint President of the World Forum of Fishermen and Those Who Work at Sea. Administrative manager of the Katosi Women’s Development Trust Association (15 minutes)

By its lobbying with the local authorities and people in power, this association helps women to take responsibility on the water management commissions. It also works towards the participation of women in rural communities in the decision making process about the siting of hydraulic installations as well as water management.
3/ **Morocco: Community water management**

Speaker: Mr. **Mohamed AANDAM**, President and founder of the Association Tichka, and currently General Secretary (South Morocco– Ouarzazate) (15 minutes)

Access to drinking water in rural Morocco is scarce and even lacking altogether. People get their water from wells or springs, generally situated several hours away from where they live (contamination risks, difficulty of guaranteeing the supply through any official structure such as the National Office for Drinking Water). This situation has moved certain communities to organise themselves to set up joint projects with people from elsewhere who will help to put autonomous water management systems in place for the Canalization of Drinking Water Supply (AEP), and they will assume the management of same. Community management is one of the strategic options of any cooperation project in favour of the implication of users’ organisations in water management.

*Actress Catherine Lecoq will read a poem*
4/ Water and a purifying system in a rural environment – Songpelsé (Burkina Faso) Speaker: Claire ROUAMBA/OUEDRAOGO, President and founder of the Song taaba of Women United and Development ASFUD. (15 minutes)

Where water and purifying it are concerned, the ASFUD has had the benefit of important support from several sources and some solid experience, including setting up dry toilets which means not only saving water, but also the excreta are used as fertilizer in the fields or for market gardening; this keeps the toilets and the villages clean.

Thanks to help from Luxembourg, a purifying project has been set up that enables the commune of Tanghin-Dassouri to have water-purifying agents on hand who collect the household rubbish, thereby helping avoid atmospheric and water pollution.

5/ Technology used in providing access to water, the effects on management and health
The transmission of knowledge and know-how

Speaker: Bernard Béroud, President of the IAS
A 20’ expose with slides and videos by the Association of Engineers and Architects Showing Solidarity– Geneva

Setting up a water tower in several villages (notably in Songpelsé in Burkina Faso) has brought about a reduction in child mortality, an improvement in public health in general and a reduction in the number of difficult tasks assumed by women, as well as making it easier for young girls to go to school. This study was made with the help of the local dispensary. Technology used for the water tower: solar-electro-powered pump.

Debate and other ‘alternative’ proposals
Cross-theme evening around the main theme Women and Water

Friday 16 March 18.30 – 21.00

In the presence of
Miriam NOBRE, International Secretary of the Women’s Worldwide March
Madeleine REES, General Secretary of the International Women’s League for Peace And Freedom

Introduction: Isabelle Marilier, Collectif 13 Droits des Femmes

This session will leave more room for greater participation on the public’s part for those women who work and were therefore unable to be free during the day. It also gives the people who were not able to join in the workshops, given the number of them running at the same time, a chance to come and listen and join in the debate.

The aim here is to make a synthesis of all the discussions and ‘alternative’ proposals on the question of gender at the level of the various problems raised by lack of access to water and its purification, with the consequences this implies on hygiene, health education and autonomy for women.

The ultimate aim will be to put out a declaration addressed to the highest authorities at international, national and local level.