



International
Water Association

Member's biographical reviews | *Petra de Regt*

Petra de Regt

Young Water Action Team

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Petra de Regt graduated in June 2002 from the University of Professional Education, Hogeschool Zeeland, The Netherlands where she obtained a diploma for International Business and Languages.

From August 2002 until December 2004, she worked as Executive Secretary of the 'Young Water Action Team' (YWAT), an international NGO based at the University of Professional Education, Hogeschool Zeeland. The primary aim of this organization is to make young people more aware of international water problems. During this period, she represented YWAT several times at national and international conferences and meetings; coordinated the work of the organization's volunteers and prepared proposals to different Dutch Ministries and European Union donors.

Since 2005, de Regt still remains active in the Young Water Action Team, but more on a voluntary basis. Her other interests include acting as a Board member for the Belgian NGO, GREEN Belgium, membership of IWA's Young Water Professionals Advisory Board, and a small but focused publications record.

Her personal experience has indicated the difficulty that young water professionals have in influencing senior experts working on water. As the water crisis faced today is an inter-generational one (that is, it will not be solved in ten, twenty or even forty years), the fresh and innovative thinking of young water professionals needs to be welcomed and nurtured. In turn, young water professionals will gain much from closer dialogue and learning opportunities with their senior counterparts. For this reason, de Regt strongly supports IWA's Young Water Professionals programme; in particular the new plans for an international exchange programme, the Careers Fair at forthcoming Biennial IWA World Water Congress and the *my-water-career.com* recruitment service.

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