



Inter-Country Committees
Comités Inter-Pays

Gwénaél de BERGEVIN

Inter-Country Committees Chair Executive Council 2014-2016

Past Governor 2004-2005 (District 1650 Bretagne Mayenne)

8 Hameau de Kermarquer - 29940 LA FORET FOUESNANT France

MI: gwenael.de-bergevin@wanadoo.fr

Dear Chair,
Dear District Governor,
Dear Friends,
Ladies & gentlemen,

It's a great honor for me to address this message of friendship to all the participants in the Tel-Aviv Symposium « WATER for LIFE » which deals with the **Cooperation of the Inter-Country Committees of Rotary International** in life saving water and sanitation projects:

« WATER and SANITATION » for saving lives around the world

« Global Water resources »

Data:

- *Only 3% of the global water is fresh water, which makes it an important geostrategic and financial issue (from CNRS)*
- *Access to water has been recognized by the United Nations as a fundamental human right (resolution of July 2010)*
- *The total global population amounts to 7 billion*
- *1 billion people has no access to fresh water, resulting in poor nutrition and diseases*
- *4 billion people have no access to suitable sanitary conditions (OMS)*

Reflections:

- *All continents are involved*
- *The 300 Inter-Country Committees (apart from the non-democratic countries) should be located in these continents*
- *Many notable projects have already been realized in some countries, but there is still much left to do*
- *All the realized projects belong in the 6 areas of focus of Rotary International.*

WAYS and MEANS OF ACTION:

- *The 300 INTER-COUNTRY COMMITTEES*
- *CLUBS and DISTRICTS BY ZONE*
- *The projects already successfully carried out and which can serve as examples (Israel - Togo - Thailand).*

Conclusions:

*The crucial issue of **saline and fresh WATER** and its impact on human life can be dealt with at different levels:*

- ❖ *Global*
- ❖ *Regional (the Mediterranean Basin)*
- ❖ *By Rotary International Zone.*

My proposal:

*Considering that the mission of the **INTER-COUNTRY COMMITTEES of ROTARY** is to facilitate the establishing of friendship and understanding among peoples, we should start by what we know best in terms of knowledge of the relevant populations and projects. Let us show our successful initiatives around the Mediterranean Basin, gather all the cases of global data (conflicts-success-education-health-agriculture, alimentation, etc.) and the support of the Inter-Country Committees through their Chairs who have a good knowledge of their sectors.*

I wish you a successful symposium, rich in accomplishments.

Gwénaél de BERGEVIN

October 15, 2015

*Inter-Country Committees Chair Executive Council 2014-2016
Past Governor 2004-2005 (District 1650 Bretagne Mayenne) France*