



WETSKILLS WATER CHALLENGE

AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH OF AUTHENTIC LEARNING AND NETWORKING FOR WATER STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

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Stop Talking,
Start Doing

A Wetskills Water Challenge =

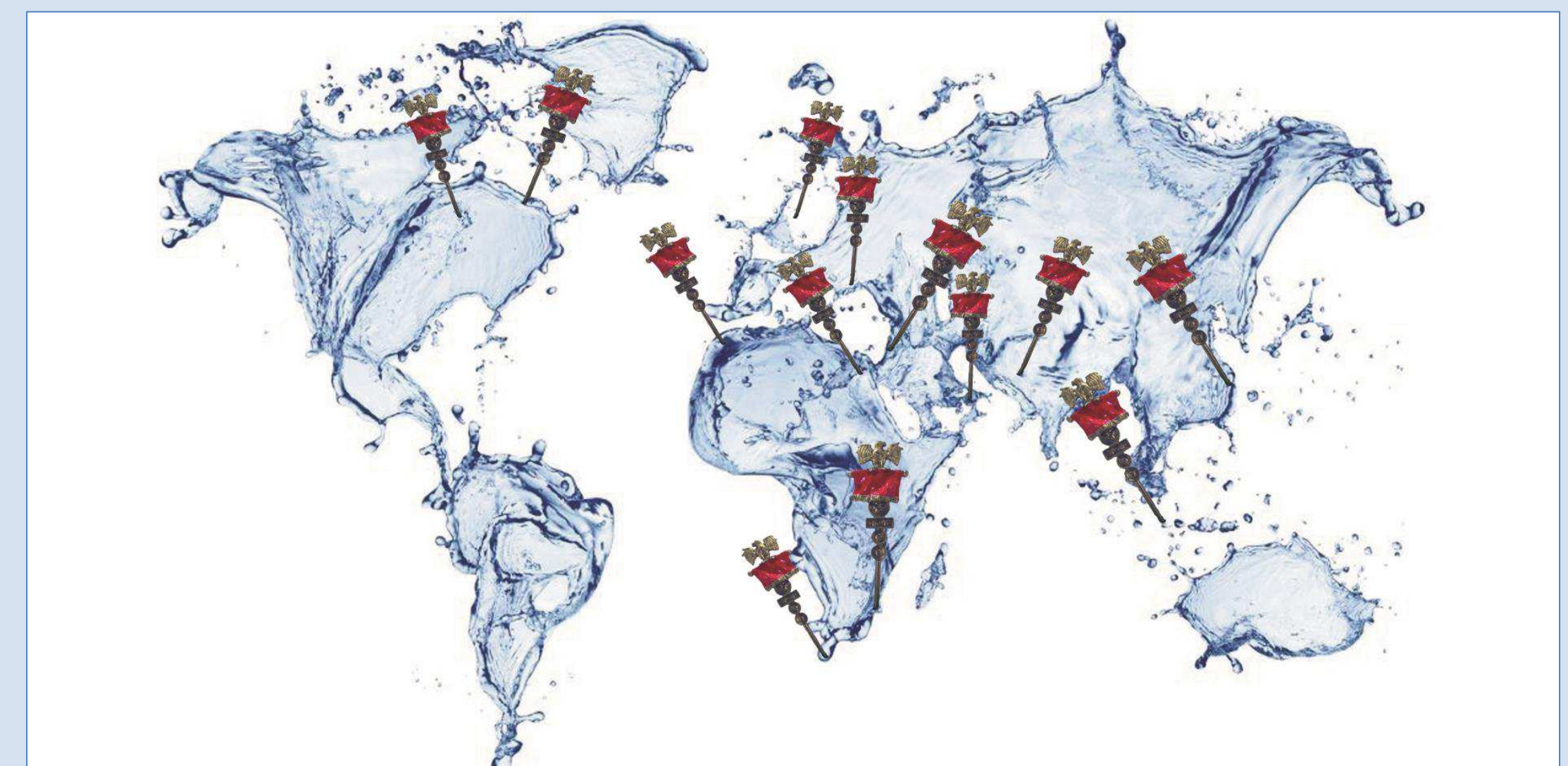
A two-week think-tank in a specific country...

*to promote international cooperation,
knowledge sharing & soft skills development...*

*... between international water students and young
professionals...*

*Resulting in out-of-the-box concepts for study cases provided by
business partners...*

*...being presented during a high-level
event in the host country*



Method (Didactical philosophy)

The program shortly includes the following steps:

- Teambuilding & social events (come together, ice-breaking)
- Site visits (water-related sites)
- BrainHurricane (speed date session with external experts)
- Working sessions (working together in teams, supervision)
- Training business wise presenting (Pitch and Poster)
- Preparation for formal event
- Finals (with Pitch presentation, interactive Question & Answering and Poster market)
- Awarding session (high level stage)

Results

- 17 editions in 13 different countries (2010-2015)
- >300 Wetskills Alumni worldwide (>70 different universities and organisations involved)
- 70 out-of-box solutions on challenges from water sector
- Wetskills Alumni network and network with universities and industry
- 42 Wetskills Alumni from **Southern Africa**
- Two editions in **South Africa** (Cape Town 2012 and Nelspruit 2014)
- One edition in **Mozambique** (Maputo 2013)



Join Wetskills-South Africa 2016

(during the WISA conference, with IWA YWP)

Durban, 6-19 May

Register on: www.wetskills.com

Experiences worldwide

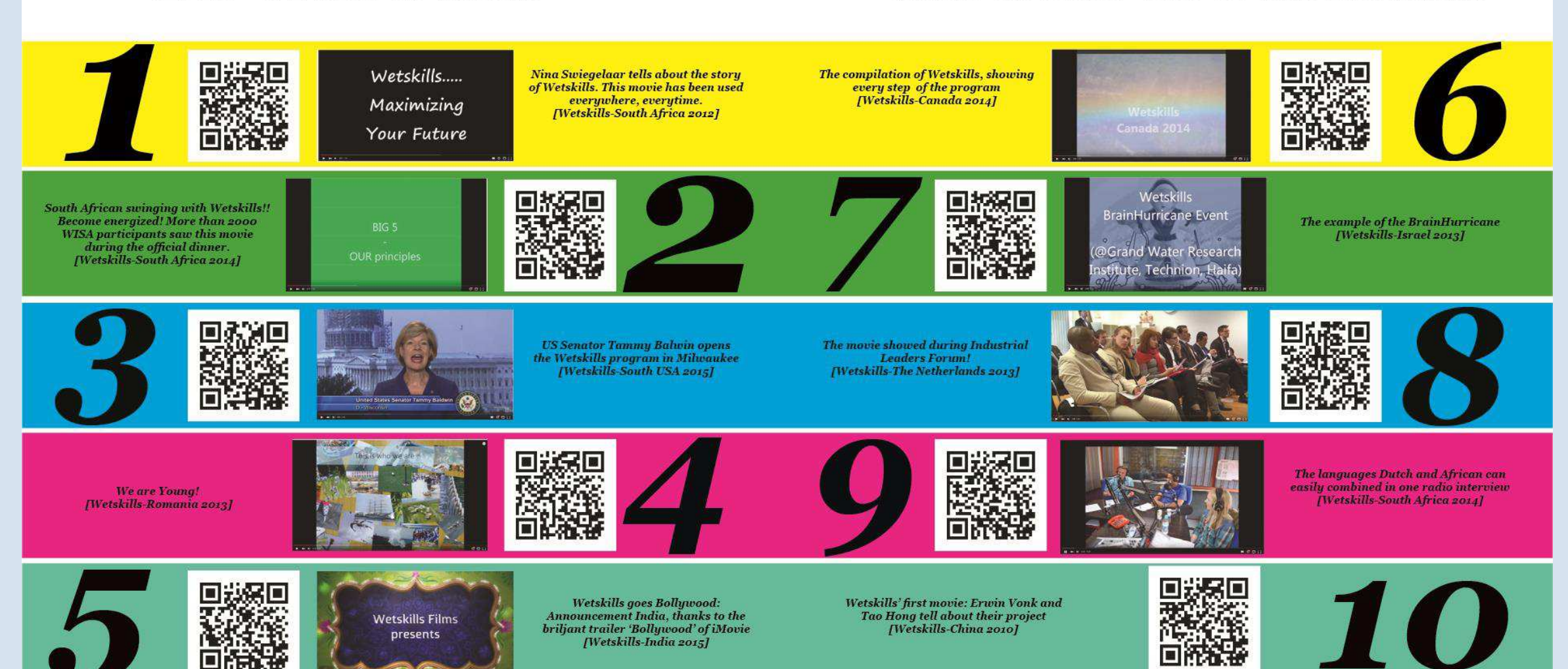
- ☐ Transdisciplinary and transcultural cooperation in practice
- ☐ Integration of students and Young Water Professionals in sector
- ☐ Real-life challenges provided and supported by the sector partners
- ☐ Intergenerational support, networking, expertise exchange
- ☐ Informal and energizing ice-breaker during a larger formal event
- ☐ Positive PR for the organising partners and involved organisations
- ☐ Link between universities and working field
- ☐ Follow-up activities and business (*WetsNext*)
- ☐ Proven concept in more than ten different countries worldwide
- ☐ Changes start with (personal) ambition
- ☐ Cooperation is key in a changing and challenging world
- ☐ And .. It is a challenge to go outside the BOX

References

- Manea, et al. (2013): 'Wetskills Romania 2013', ROM-Aqua (paper of the Romanian Water Association), Bucharest, Vol. 88, no. 4, July/Augustus 2013
- Foulds (2014): 'Wetskills highlights young talent', Water & Sanitation Africa July/August 2014, pp 11-13.
- See all publications, news items and press-releases about Wetskills: www.wetskills.com/publications/

10 movies

about wetskills



"There is not one single word that I can use to describe what has been one of the most profound two weeks in my life. .. I realized that my life is forever changed and that I have unravelled the mystery of many things that I have been unsure of until now. .. thank you from the bottom of my heart for taking me on an amazing journey. These two weeks has more that exceeded my wildest expectations and I owe much to you guys."

Nina Swiegelaar, participant Wetskills-South Africa 2012

"Thank you to everyone for the co-operation team work; craziness and knowledge. This is truly in the truest sense of South Africa's 'Spirit of UBUNTU'. Where we see no differences but you people coming together to achieve one common goal. AMANDLA!"

Nthabiseng Masehla, participant of Wetskills-South Africa 2014