

Ladies and gentlemen the Presidents, distinguished professors, dear Leo, dear Jean-Baptiste and all of you who participated in the development of this day, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for being here, but I only have five minutes, a very precious short time. I'll forget the protocol and will only speak to the young students.

To you young people, I feel like saying "my dear children." But since I've been working with you for the past four years, as part of the proposed Mediterranean Union of Young Water Ambassadors, UMJAE, I learned that you are the great men of tomorrow. And the more I work with you, the more the idea grows, becomes a certainty. Yes, you will be the great men of tomorrow. The girls too!

Allow me to tell you about the establishment of the UMJAE. In 2008, we had started Mediterranean Water Classes. College students, and especially students of engineering schools, have started an inventory of water in their country, including the governance of this water and then proposed a field action in relation to the Mediterranean Sea. The presence of a teacher and an elected official has guaranteed the quality of these assessments as well as the proposals for the field action.

At the last World Water Forum, the Young Water Ambassadors have delivered to the Union for the Mediterranean (UFM) six projects that were selected by a committee of experts: one in Deir El Ahmar in Lebanon (fight against rural exodus); another at Sfax, Tunisia (recovery of gray water); a third in Casablanca, Morocco (sanitation in rural areas), and two more in Gaza 1 (discharge diagnosis in the Mediterranean); and Gaza 2 (public education to improve sanitation) and finally the STRATEAU Project, a tool that is the link between all the Mediterranean Basin JAE.

The Water Embassy was formed from the essential principle of long-term action. The UMJAE is carried by the same requirement. The movement is already running and it will continue to grow. We move forward today, tomorrow and beyond to realize our project. Regarding STRATEAU, it has already been launched. Our young water ambassadors from Ecole Centrale Lyon will explain to you the operation. I want it to be clear that this tool is the property of the Water Embassy, and it 's use is free of charge to all Mediterranean countries in order to facilitate the implementation of the Water Strategy. Already, several experts in charge of Water Management from countries around the Mediterranean are using STRATEAU, and the echoes sound good.

We are putting together a users club of STRATEAU, you will learn later how the use of strateau becomes more efficient with time. In this club, each member will bring his or her own experience, suggestions, and remarks. Young people, professionals, students, young water ambassadors ... all should assume that the others have something to say. The exchange must be constant, through an electronic forum support. regular meetings are to be held to learn from each other and also to improve through training. The backbone of this club is made up of universities, research centers, communities, ministries, etc.,. This will allow researchers and scholars to bring their own models as add-ons integrated into STRATEAU. In short, STRATEAU is a very unique tool because, instead of relying on a technocratic vision of water, it is based on the application of human ground. We want this users club to use our tool and adapt it to their specific requests. This is why we want to establish links with maximum universities, for it is the union that makes the quality. So Join us!

To treat water, you must keep solid feet on the ground. Therefore, a second club is added to the first: the club of developers. It will work directly with donors funds. These funds will be used to develop interfaces between existing systems and STRATEAU, to finance all documentation, and most importantly, to allow the mobility of our young people who will collect data in the Southern countries, participate in internships, and learn about the water world.

Here we reach the deepest and most beautiful part of our project. You see, when four young water ambassadors of the Ecole Centrale Lyon began working on the project of Deir el Ahmar in Lebanon, they had an idea of the problem. But when they went to Lebanon at the University Notre Dame de Louaize NDU ,to collect data, as part of an internship, everything changed. They understood. They felt. They were impregnated by the reality of the earth, the men and women who live there, their sensitivity, their way of thinking. In a month, they went from concept to reality. They have become pragmatic. They collected plenty of data that have been implemented in STRATEAU. At the same time, they have developed relationships with those they met in associations, town halls, councils, chambers of commerce, of industry and agriculture, etc., the questions they asked awakened consciences, the answers they heard informed their intelligence as well as their sensitivity. It's called get involved. And what's great is that these four young people are now all over the world, other teams have taken over, but they still ask about their project, they continue to interact with their successors. In Lebanon, their enthusiasm was contagious. But water, its quantity and quality remain the specifications of decision makers that the young ambassadors have dealt with.

Here's what I want to say to all of you young people: Your generation has something magnificent: there's no limitation that can stop you from achieving your greatest goals. You exchange with the world through social networks, blogs, etc., you have the will to find common ground with each other, whatever it is, beyond cultures. Look, Brazilian students, Africans, British, Portuguese joined us today to participate in this videoconference. Your generation has learned to work as a team; not every man for himself but always one for all. This is what hope is all about.