

Voyage of groundwater discovery

The first 'Professional Management of Water Well Drilling Projects and Programmes' online course, provided by Unicef, Skat Foundation and Cap-Net kicked off in early March 2018

Running over six weeks, the new online course provides participants with an overview of what is required to improve borehole drilling professionalism in the countries in which they work.

Requiring about six hours of investment per week, plus an additional four for the final assignment, it provides a 40-hour training opportunity for people from all over the world – and they can take part without leaving their home or workplace.

The application process was open for a month, and we received 648 applications spanning 381 organisations and 96 countries. We were astounded by the level of interest.

Unfortunately, we could only accept 85 participants, a mere 13% of those who applied, our limitation being funding for

sufficient, good facilitation. And so over the past weeks we have been interacting with the participants who work in 35 organisations in 43 countries, of whom 33% are women.

We provide extensive reading material and videos for each module, and the participants engage with the topics through their weekly assignments, participation in online discussion forums and a weekly quiz. For example, they have been tasked with looking at the drilling supervision practices in their own organisations, to prepare a hydrogeological desk study and to reflect on regulatory policies and practices in the countries in which they work.

I was sceptical about online courses until I undertook my first one three years ago. This time, as a facilitator, I've witnessed that this course provides an opportunity for people who are already managing drilling projects and programmes to improve their skills and knowledge from far and wide.

So what are we learning every day from the participants? For example, that drilling data is not shared because of fear that the information may be used for gaining the upper hand in mining minerals in one country. Or about the rapidly falling groundwater levels in Sanaa, Yemen, threatening the agriculture and domestic water supplies of the future. And

Kerstin Danert



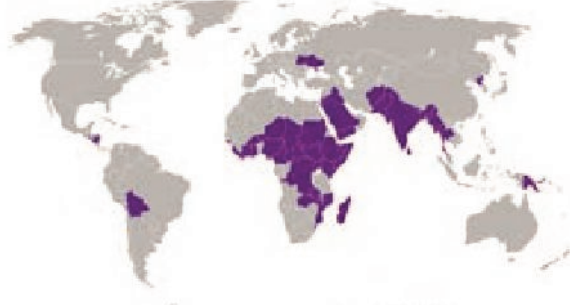
Course details

The course facilitation team includes Dr Kerstin Danert, Skat Foundation, Switzerland; Dotun Adekile, independent consultant, Nigeria; Prof Moustapha Diene, Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal; Africa Groundwater Network (AGW-Net) and UPGro Ambassador, Tom Armstrong, J.B. Drilling, Kenya; Dr Charles Serele, Unicef, Madagascar; Damian Indij, Cap-Net UNDP (course co-ordinator), Argentina; and Stephanie Theis, Skat Foundation, Switzerland.

The course is hosted on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Cap-Net's virtual campus. The initiative is part of a Unicef and Skat Foundation project to raise drilling professionalism, and is also being financially supported by UPGro (Unlocking the Potential for Groundwater for the Poor).

Course modules

- Module 1: Introduction and Groundwater Information and Siting
- Module 2: Costing and Pricing, and the Procurement and Contract Management
- Module 3: Borehole Drilling and Supervision
- Module 4: Institutional Frameworks for Borehole Drilling Professionalism
- Module 5: Dialogue and Actions to Raise Drilling Professionalism



Map indicating countries in which the course participants work

Description:

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