Launch of the Blue Passport
INBO General Assembly – 14th August 2013 - Fortaleza, Brazil

MAGGIE WHITE – INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR WATER
BLUE PASSPORT

PASSEPORT BLEU
BLUE PASSPORT

BASSIN DES GRANDS LACS
SAINT-LAURENT – GOLFE
GREAT LAKES
ST LAWRENCE - GULF BASIN
What is a Blue Passport?

The Blue Passport is an official acknowledgement of citizen participation in water protection, use, conservation and management. It promotes citizens who take action – individually or collectively – for water at local level throughout the watershed.

The Blue Passport is an initiative of the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) in collaboration with the International Network of Basins Organisations (INBO) and institutions involved locally and interested in the dissemination of the awareness tool.
A short history of the Blue Passport.

With the aim to prepare “2013, International Year of Water Cooperation”, the Blue Passport concept was introduced in March 2012, at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille, as part of the World Youth Parliament for Water, the Citizens’ House for Water and during the signing ceremony for the World Pact for Better Basin Management. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug, President of INBO, chaired this ceremony.
Why own a Blue Passport? Its added value

To confirm your status as a Basiner who lives in the hydrographical ecosystem that is the basin.

To emphasize that identities are shaped by more than administrative and national boundaries.

To have the privilege of being part and playing an active role in citizen initiative networks in the water sector.

To gain legitimacy to better influence administrative and political decisions about the quality of your living environment.

To collect visas indicating water actions taken by Blue Passport holders.
How to obtain a Blue Passport?

All Basiners can apply. Applicants must have been involved in one or more local water-related actions or have advocated for it. Applicants shall demonstrate their commitments for water. One witness shall attest this involvement.

Applicants must fill a form available either online at www.sie-isw.org/passeport, from river basin organisation involved or as part of International event related to water management.

Applicants must follow the rights and responsibilities toward their hydrographical basin of residence.

Applicants must contribute to the cost of the Blue Passport.
Already known basiners:

- Ban Ki Moon - Secretary General of UN
- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - President of Liberia
- Ex-prince of Orange who became king Willem-Alexander of Netherlands
- Ghislain Picard, Chief of the Assembly of the first nations of Quebec and Labrador
- Laetitia Obeng – previous president of Global Water Partnership
- Bart Devos - President of World Youth Parliament for Water.
His excellency, M. Kabiné KOMARA, World INBO President 2013, OMVS High Commissioner, Former Prime Minister of Guinea
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His Excellency, Mr Vicente Andreu Guilló, President of the National Water Agency, ANA, Brazil
Mr Lupercio Ziroldo Antonio,
REBOB President
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Mr Benedito Ben Braga,
President of World Water Council
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**Main steps:**

- In Geneva, February 2013, presentation of the Blue Passport in the frame of the “Post 2015” Water Consultation.

- In the Hague, March 22nd, 2013, in the frame of the World Water Day, official delivery of first Blue Passports to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - President of Liberia, Ex-prince of Orange who became king Willem-Alexander of Netherlands, ...

- In May/June 2013 the Organization for the Enhancement of the Senegal River (OMVS) was the first transboundary river basin organization that expressed a wish to promote the “Basin’s citizenship”.

- **Finally, the Blue Passport final concept will be presented to** the participants of the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) General Assembly, that is taking place in Fortaleza, Brazil (12th-16th.08.2013), in order to take steps forward.
Blue Passport

Next steps:

Work collectively with River basin organizations in order to promote the notion of basiners’ and raise awareness of the citizens on their basin’s through concrete actions.

The idea would be to promote the cultural identity of the citizen’s of river basins with river basin organisations. This could be organised through different type of activities such as:

- Offering the passport to basiners in the framework of an event organised by a river basin organisation,
- Delivering the passports through a targeted campaign,
- Mobilising a specific target group such as the youth and enabling them to become the ‘spokesman/woman’ of their basin and get involved in the World Youth Parliament for Water. It’s 3rd edition will take place in Daegu during the 7th WWF.
- Organising a film competition at a basin level in order to impulse the creation of audiovisual work and instigate the production of movies/documentaries on that theme. Movies can also compete in the 4th edition of the International water and film events that will take place during the 7th WWF.

This tool can also facilitate the operations of joint bodies by advancing transboundary water cooperation at the citizen level.
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The Blue passport is an additional tool that can highlight and promote citizen involvement and we would like to develop it with you!

OBRIGADA-THANK YOU-GRACIAS-MERCII

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: www.sie-isw.org