



# Rotary Hands Across Water

June 2017

## Hands Across Water- With the Rotary

### Background

The Hands Across Waters (**HAW**) turns solutions of water challenges into modern, relevant and collaborative science education content. The program is run in Israel by Hi-Tech in association with the Water Authority, Rotary, Water Companies, Academia (Technion) and Ministries of Education and Economy. Initiated in 2006, the program earned approval following a long pilot period. Cooperation with the Rotary commenced in 2012 led by **PDG Avner Fuchs** chairman of the district water & sanitation committee. The program has been active with the Rotary since 2012 promoting cross cultural collaborative along with water inspired education. The program was recognized by the TRF centennial committee as a **Note Worthy Project**.

### Program Goals

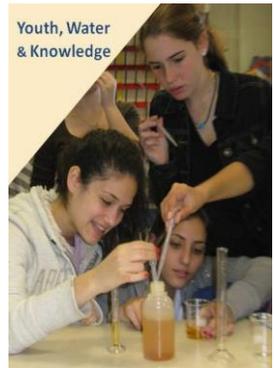
1. Teach about local and global water & sanitation challenges and solutions.
2. Promote cross culture collaboration to address of shared water challenges.
3. Use water solutions as a content base for curricular science education.
4. Empower teachers to provide high quality modern relevant education.
5. Promote leadership, personal involvement, team work and research skills.
6. Inspire students to study and choose clean-tech to face the growing water challenges.
7. Provide effective means for Rotary and community involvement and contribution.



YW&K Lod rain harvest science education project at Lod Gay-Aviv school

### Program outline

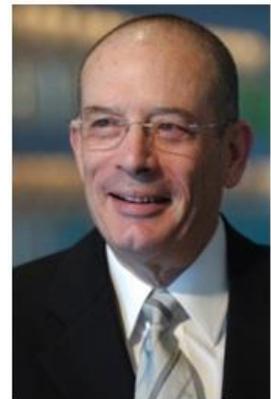
HAW is taught by school teachers, as **curricular support program** using e-learning water inspired content and Hi-Tech guidance. It is suitable for in class, outdoors or home use in frontal lectures, teamwork research projects or self-learning. The program is made up of **modular chapters on topics** at various levels. The content can be used in courses of varying time frames with **6 to 10<sup>th</sup> graders**. It is supported by Hi-Tech coaches on line and in school visits augmented by local Rotary clubs support. **Educational visits** are made to water works like water supply, desalination or sewage water recycling plants, while old water sites add a historical prospective. Students are encouraged to develop **projects of practical and applicable solutions** to growing water challenges in Israel, the region and the world. Annual activity epics in a nationwide award winning poster and model science fair joined by tens of student teams and the program partners.



Youth, Water & Knowledge

### Partners

Initiated by **Dr. Amnon Shefi**, a hi-tech executive and founder of Hi-Tech, the program now enjoys a broad partners base including local water technology companies like TAHAL, Bermad (water control valve), Desalination companies (VID, Veolia & IDE, H2DI), and the Water Companies of Jerusalem, Haifa, Kiryat Gat Eilat, Kfar Saba, Shfaram, Raanana.



Dr. Amnon Shefi



## Rotary Hands Across Water

HAW Cooperates with NASA's environmental education program (GLOBE), WRAP (Water Resource Action Plan Project) and the Stockholm water prize (Tel-Aviv university). Partners contribute knowledge, laboratories, training facilities, sample model building blocks and financial support. Site visits and expert talks are used as a base for hands on education projects. The **Technion** Grand Water Research Institute and the Hebrew university, provide academic support and guidance. The **Education Ministry** promotes the multi-disciplinary program along with the archeologists of the **Nature & Parks Authority** teaching the science behind ancient water systems.



Prof. Galil with young program students

The **Rotary** focuses on **Water & Sanitation** and eight successive district Governors supported the program which is hosted by the **Haifa RC, the largest in the district** following a successful year with the mixed Jewish-Arab city of Lod. Dr. Gerald Sussman pp of the **Coral Spring/Parkland Rotary club** heads a large USA group of 12 US and Canadian clubs that supports the program internationally.

The program promotes joint **cross sectors education activity** including **Jewish, Arab (Muslims and Christians) and Druze** across the country, with a plan to develop school twining programs with schools in the USA and in Europe. Teachers will be provided with guidance background material which allows them to teach and guide students in research and examination of local water challenges and proposition of solutions to be considered for the short and long term. It is based on study of the relevant local curricular science studies (Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Math) as demonstrated in by the local arena of water related challenges and activities. The study will be carried out with Hi-Teach support, in parallel to similar activity conducted by the schools in Israel. Following the local work, classes of the twining schools will work together comparing notes about the local challenges & possible solutions contributing to their ability to communicate and share. Sharing and communication will primarily be conducted in English.



2940 Rotary Water & Sanitation committee visit to desalination plant

The tens of HAW projects successfully conducted with schools of diverse sectors in Israel over the internet and in physical joint session will now expand to include similar international collaboration.

The following [short video](#) shows thee activity run thus far which included wining recognition and many lucrative prizes. The program started to gain international attention, for instance on [Vietnamese TV](#). It was recommended for global expansion by Dr Ron Denham of WASRAG (The WATER AND SANITARION ROTARY ACTION GROUP) and two Rotary International presidents. The [following video](#) captures last year's graduation event.