



Partnership Programme: Portrait series on the occasion of 10th anniversary

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Topics: Society | Organisation & Staff | Water & Development

Research in low- and middle-income countries is an important component of Eawag's mission. The Eawag Partnership Programme (EPP) was developed to strengthen research and research ties with students and academic institutions in the Global South. 10 years and over 80 fellows from 28 different countries later, EPP celebrates the successful building of bridges and transfer of scientific knowledge.

Over the next two months, we will present portraits of different EPP Fellows, that tell their success stories and experiences at Eawag. This is the third and last part of the portrait series.



Prof. Dr. Fabrice Muvundja Amisi, Democratic Republic of Congo, EPP Fellow 2008. Associate Professor, Institut Supérieur Pédagogique de Bukavu, and Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Catholic University of Bukavu

I am from the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Eawag Partnership Programme with Developing Countries was a very valuable opportunity for me to push forward my scientific career dream. I joined the EPP programme when I was a final year MSc student. Thanks to this fellowship I could finalise my laboratory work at Eawag, a world famous centre of excellence in the field of aquatic research. I also benefitted from my peaceful stay in Switzerland, in Kastanienbaum, on the shores of Lake Lucerne where I successfully wrote my first scientific paper, not far from where Albert Einstein wrote his Relativity theory! The paper was entitled “Balancing nutrient inputs to Lake Kivu” and it was published with the Journal of Great Lakes Research.

I liked so much how the EPP organisers made our life enjoyable during our stay at Eawag, which otherwise could be somewhat stressful. We went on excursions to Pilatus and elsewhere, had meetings with other Fellows from various countries, attended conferences, etc. This opportunity allowed me to obtain my MSc degree and hence to pursue my PhD study. It also opened doors to other fellowships from other funding agencies for me, such as the International Foundation for Science (IFS), the Belgian funding agency (ARES-CUD) and the Volkswagen Foundation for Science (VW-Foundation).



Mingma Gyalzen Sherpa, Nepal
EPP Fellow 2010, Director, 500B Solutions
Pvt. Ltd.; Kathmandu, Nepal

I am from Nepal. I came to know about the EPP programme when I was doing my PhD, at the Asian Institute of Technology, in collaboration with Eawag-Sandec. The time during my EPP Fellowship was very fruitful. I was really able to focus, and develop and submit a manuscript based on my research findings. This was one of the most important concrete outputs as I recall.

Besides the research, my time during the EPP Fellowship was lot of fun. I made some good friends from Uganda and Switzerland with whom I am still in touch. We used to have some rigorous table tennis matches on the ground floor of Eawag after office hours and that really freshened us up.

In addition, I had an awesome mentor at Sandec and my colleagues were all very friendly. Currently, I lead a private consulting company, providing services in urban sanitation in Nepal that particularly focuses on citywide sanitation planning and faecal sludge management. I also take up individual assignments and have worked with the Asian Development Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Helvetas, and SKAT Consulting among others.

Related Links

Portrait EPP Fellow Pauline Cherunya, Kenya

Portrait EPP Fellow Dr. Charles B. Niwagaba, Uganda

Contact



Christoph Lüthi

Dr. Eng. Infrastructure Planning

Tel. +41 58 765 5614

christoph.luethi@eawag.ch

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