

15th Anniversary of the Water Science, Policy and Management at Oxford

The 20th of September saw a celebration at the Natural History Museum in Oxford to mark the completion of 15 years of the MSc on Water Science, Policy and Management, one of the 12 courses supported by the Water Conservation Trust (WCT). The course is taught at the University's School of Geography and the Environment which, for many years, has been ranked number 1 in the World. The event also saw the launch of a textbook entitled 'Water Science, Policy and Management: A Global Challenge' written by the teaching staff ably assisted by many of the alumni including Tim Foster, Patrick Thompson and Grace Remington who were among the 16 scholars supported by the WCT. Liverymen Dr Alex Money and Dr David Johnstone were principal authors of two of the 20 chapters. The book discusses many of the key issues concerning water and the environment including climate change, water resources, resilience, groundwater, freshwater ecosystems, human rights, health, drought, wastewater and finance, to name a few.

The event was opened by Lord Chris Patten, after which a discussion panel of alumni recalled experiences of their time on the course and how it influenced their career and future work. Among the panellists were Alex Money, Tim Foster and Abishek S. Narayan (winner of the Conservators' Prize for the best dissertation of his year). Alumni from all years and their guests, including a number of liverymen, enjoyed an evening of recollection and fun that finished with drinks and a range of extremely good canapes.

This is an outstanding example of the success and reach of our Bursary programme which is the largest part of our charitable giving. Since 2008/9 Water Conservators have been providing bursaries to students to undertake this Masters course at Oxford. This was the first of our highly successful Bursary programme and the most prestigious. Currently we provide bursaries to 11 other universities for Masters degree courses in water, environment, and solid waste management.

You may recognise our Liverymen and Bursary students in the photo.

