***Article by Adriana Trejo, Msc student of IHE Delft***

My name is Adriana Trejo and I’m a Civil Engineer graduated from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, in Mexico. One of the main reasons for me to study this field was that I would be able to tangibly contribute to society by creating the infrastructure for the use of other people in it. Nevertheless, as I advanced in my university studies, I understood the impact that the construction industry has on the environment: it uses a vast quantity of the planet's natural resources, it often also uses the space from the natural habitats in which the constructions are made and generates a lot of the greenhouse gasses that cause global warming. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals during my bachelor's. After understanding their importance, I decided to help achieve them.

"Mexico water supply buckles on worsening drought" was the title of an article published last June by NBC News. As news titles like this became more and more frequent in Mexico, I became more confident that the country is heading towards a concerning situation on water availability. This is an issue that had been present since the start of my bachelor’s phase/programme and even though I wasn't convinced I could help, after the covid-19 pandemic started, I decided to pursue a water resources management masters’ degree. I believe now that by becoming a water expert, I will be able to help make the decisions that achieve the best use of the resources. With this, I would contribute to providing water to the population consistently, as a tool to fight this disease and others to come, and not only this but granting their universal right to water. Furthermore, it is my objective to do this, considering the natural environment.

I believe that there has to be someone who makes sure that the best balance with the existing environment is achieved in the decision-making process. I believe human progress cannot and should not be stopped, but there has to be a way to do minimal damage to our environment in that process. When adequate, I think that we must seek the integration of human developments with the ecosystem.

By applying to the Water Management and Governance programme of IHE Delft, my objective was to understand the water management situation from different perspectives around the world and from various fields of work. This would broaden my perspective when facing the situations that could be present at work and come up with creative solutions to achieve the sustainable balance that is needed to improve access to clean water and protection of the environment. I believe the courses at IHE will also train me to read the academic documentation required to stay up to date with the most recent information in the subject, which will also help me develop the best strategies. Furthermore, the international fieldwork and thesis project will train me in applying the acquired skills and knowledge in practical cases and plan for future situations regarding water availability, which I think is crucial to not only respond to the current situation, but to have an agenda for the following years to come to both reduce the ecological impact of our actions as a society and to plan for future development.

Thanks to the Rotary, I was finally able to pursue my objective. When I thought there would not be a chance to do my studies in this specialized institution, the opportunity of applying to a Rotary Scholarship presented itself. Since the start, I obtained outstanding support from Daniel Santillanes, the chair of the scholarship sub-committee of my local Rotary Club. I was amazed by the selflessness, honesty, and good will of Daniel. When the process became a bit rough, he showed me unbelievable support through his work. Soon after, we received the news that thanks too to the work of Hans Lodder, my sponsor in Delft, I had been selected for the Scholarship. What I thought was impossible, happened, and I couldn't believe it. I still can't.

I feel incredibly fortunate to have been accepted by Hans' Rotary Club, and since his first email, I already felt welcome into Delft. Additionally, I have only received amazing hospitality and support, as well as a flowing stream of inspiration from his trajectory of working for the people.

I feel confident that thanks to Rotary's support, I will accomplish my objectives to contribute to my country and grow as a person with the experience that studying at IHE offers.