



3rd Arab Water Forum

2nd Consultation Meeting

15 May 2014, Cairo - Egypt

Introduction:

The Arab Water Council held a 1st consultation meeting on 12 January 2014 to kick-off the preparation process of the 3rd Arab Water Forum (AWF3) that will be held in 9-11 December 2014, in Cairo, Egypt. The meeting discussed the regional priority water issues and accordingly defined the forum's objectives and themes and suggested a wish list of sub-themes (topics). The 1st consultation looked also at the future plans and potential contributions of the Arab region in the 7th World Water Forum (WWF7) that will be held in Korea in 2015.

Following this meeting, **the AWF3 Organizing Committee** issued the 1st forum announcement inviting institutions working in the water sector in the region to sponsor the organization of sessions within the framework of the agreed themes and sub-themes. Soon after, an impressive number of expressions of interest were received from international and regional organizations as well as from AWC member institutions. To ensure the spirit of partnership, AWC invited for the 2nd Consultation Meeting on **May 15, 2014** in Cairo to review the state of progress, discuss the provisional program, agree on the next steps and discuss the possibilities of coordinated regional participation in WWF7, which could bring to the global water community a clear vision of the Arab Countries regarding the water future in MENA region.

Consultation Proceedings:

The 2nd consultation Meeting started with an Opening Statement by the Chairman of the Organizing Committee Dr. Safwat Abdel-Dayem. He introduced the objective and agenda of the meeting. He welcomed and appreciated the offers and commitments made by the AWC partners and members and invited all to focus on



innovative solutions and policy recommendations for improving water management in the region. He called upon identifying case studies that could eventually serve the regional participation in the WWF7. This was followed by two opening remarks by HE Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid, President of AWC and HE Dr. Hussein El-Atfy, Secretary-General of AWC.

Following the opening remarks, Ms. Dalia Al-Said, member of the organizing committee, reminded the participants with the outcome of 1st consultation and mentioned the steps of the preparation process. Afterwards, Dr. Safwat presented the topics proposed by the sponsors of thematic and special sessions. Then, the session's conveners were invited to give a short presentation summarizing the background, technical content, joint organizers and proposed structure of their sessions.

With respect to the WWF7, Dr. Safwat reviewed the Arab Water Council preparatory process for Participation in the 7th World Water Forum in coordination with the Secretariat of the Council of Arab Water Ministers in the League of Arab States (LAS). The Arab Region Coordinator in the WWF7, Dr. Hammou Lamrani, in his turn gave a summary overview of the different processes in this round and presented the expected regional contributions. He underlined the importance of the AWF3 and the coordination between LAS and AWC in providing input to the regional report and the thematic process of WWF7.

Finally, Dr. Mary Halim, member of the Organizing Committee, gave a presentation about the Exhibition and the cultural and artistic contests, which will be organized at the occasion of the AWF3. She discussed the main objective of the EXPO and the importance of bringing together variety of exhibitors from all water backgrounds in the region to display their latest products and services at one of the largest events in the region. She also described a set of three cultural contests (best painting, Best photograph, Best short film 2014), which are intended to engage youth and children in the forum through artistic work. (For more details on the contests visit AWC website www.arabwatercouncil.org)



All power point presentations are loaded on the forum's webpage on the AWC website www.arabwatercouncil.org

Recommendations of the 2nd Consultation:

The interactive participation and discussions in which all participants were engaged produced a set of important recommendations and suggestions to be considered by the Organizing Committee in its endeavor to finalize the forum's preparation process. The recommendations touch on organizational and topical issues. These recommendations can be summarized as follows without any specific order:

- Shortening the opening and the exhibition time to two hours and get the first plenary before lunch to attract the attendance of the first day.
- Grouping sessions under relevant themes to facilitate the reporting process.
- Giving each topic one-time slot rather than two-time slots, e.g. Groundwater governance.
- Clustering the session with similar topic to avoid replication.
- Encouraging session conveners to organize interactive sessions to involve key experts, decision-makers and politicians in panel discussions to enhance and achieve better outcomes.
- Organizing session on the "Role of Media and Mass Communication" in raising awareness, spreading the water culture and taking the water issues out to the public to engage the civil society in decision making.
- Shedding the light during the forum on the Arab scientific innovations and latest technologies in the field of water, and to discuss ways to transfer such innovations to policy makers and the public.
- Including and discussing the socioeconomic impacts of water and energy on life of people in the region.
- Avoiding the use of the terminology "Transboundary Conflict Resolution" into a more positive term, e.g. "Building up Partnership in Shared Water Resources" or similar...



- Making sure to include and share knowledge and experience from pilot projects in Africa especially in adopting green economy.
- Presenting case studies, achievements and success stories in the Arab region and taking this to the WWF.
- Linking the forum's themes to the Arab Water Strategy.
- Encouraging the participation of governmental institutions to involve policy and decision makers.
- Inviting the session sponsors and the organizing committee to find ways to make the whole event more affordable and accessible for civil society organizations.
- Adding a wrap-up session end of each day to stress the highlights of the day.
- Introducing a simple evaluation of the forum by the participants if possible end of each day or at least before the forum closure.
- Defining a mechanism to monitor the outcomes of the AWF similar to the one established for the WWF through communication with different regional organizations and through follow-up of the implementation of commitments and recommendations of the forum.
- Making sure to provide Arabic summaries of all presented papers.
- Organizing and placing exhibitors in a more attractive way and avoid any hidden areas.
- Announcing the AWF3 through a press conference to maximize the media attention and encourage participation.
- Inviting representation of Palestinians to discuss their current water problems and define solutions.
- Inviting the National Water Councils and cultural centers form all over the region.
- Giving more attention to the Topic of Energy and its relation with water.
- Leaving free space for the latecomers that might have interesting and new ideas.
- Ensuring media active participation in the sessions and sufficient coverage of the forum.



Next Steps

- ✓ The organizing committee will communicate the minutes to all the participants of the 2nd Consultation meeting.
- ✓ Sponsors and Conveners of session will be invited to consider the recommendations related to their session organization to the maximum possible extent of their convenience.
- ✓ Terms of reference for session organization will be prepared soon and distributed among the session Conveners and Sponsors.
- ✓ The Organizing Committee will keep door open till end of July to accommodate new proposed sessions of special interest to the forum as far as the program can permit.
- ✓ Special invitations for participation will be issued where appropriate.
- ✓ The Provisional agenda will be revised to accommodate the recommendations as much as possible and the 2nd announcement will be issued by August.



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List of Participants

	Organization	Contact person	Position
1	African Development Bank	Eng. Yasser Elwan	Water and Irrigation Expert
2	Ain Shams University	Prof. Aly ELBAHRAWY	Professor, Hydraulics department - Faculty of Engineering
3	Alexandria University	Prof. Rawya KANSOH	Professor of Hydraulics & Water Resources, Faculty of Engineering

4	Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)	Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud El-Sayed	Deputy General Coordinator
5	Arab Water Council	H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid	President
6	Arab Water Council	H.E. Dr. Hussien El Atfy	Secretary General
7	Arab Water Council	Dr. Safwat Abdel Dayem	Head of Organizing Committee 3rd Arab Water Forum
8	Arab Water Council	Dr. Mary Kamal Halim	Publication and Documentation Consultant
9	Arab Water Council	Ms. Mervat Hassan	Administrative and Financial Manager
10	Arab Water Council	Eng. Mohamed Awadallah	IT- Manager _ Networks Engineer
11	Arab Water Council	Eng. Hossam Gebril	ICT Specialist
12	Arab Water Council	Ms. Yara Al Nagdi	Administrative Assistant
13	Arab Water Council	Ms. Manal Adbelaal	Financial Controller
14	Arab Water Council	Ms. Sherine Yussef	Events Officer
15	Arab Water Council	Ms. Dalia Alsaid	Programs Officer
16	Arab Water Council	Eng. Mona M. ELAGIZY	Director Climate Change Risk Management Program, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency

17	Association of the Fiends of Ibrahim ABDEL AAL	Mr.Nasser NASR ALLAH	President
18	Cairo University	Dr. Sameh Mohamed ABDEL GAWAD	Professor of Environmental Hydraulics , Faculty of Engineering
19	Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)	Dr. Khaled AbuZeid,	Director, Technical Programs
20	Desert Research Center	Dr. Hala Nour El-Din	Agriculture Economic Sector
21	Desert Research Center	Dr. Hani Saeid Al Shatla	Agriculture Economic Sector
22	Egyptian Radio	Ms. May EL - SHAFEI	Senior Broadcaster, Al Barnameg Al-AAM
23	ENCID	Mohamed Hassan AMER	Chairman
24	GIZ Office in Cairo	Ms. Amira Abdel Aziz	Development Advisor Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA region (ACCWaM)
25	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)	Dr. Theib Oweis	Program Director of Integrated Water and Land Management (IWLM)
26	League of Arab States	Dr. Hammou Laamrani	Advisor Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region
27	Ministry of Water & Electricity	Eng. Said Aly ALDUAIR	General Director Department of Water Resources Development

28	Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation	Dr. Khaled WASSIF	Head of General Directorate for Awareness and Water Advisory
29	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Eng. Eman Fathy ABDEL AZIZ	Civil Engineer
30	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Ms. Ghada Barakat	
31	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Dr. Samia M. S. EL GUINDY	Director, Advisory Panel Project
32	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Dr. Bayoumi Attia	Advisor
33	National Water Research Center	Dr. Shaden Abdel Gawad	Professor of Environmental Engineering and Former President of NWRC
34	UNESCO Cairo Office	Dr. Abdelaziz Zaki	?
35	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Dr. Pasquale STEDUTO	FAO - Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa FAO Representative in Egypt
36	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Dr. Fawzi Karajeh	
37	World Bank	Eng. Heba Al Hariry	Regional Project Coordinator
38	World Food Programme	Mr. Carlo Scaramella	Deputy Regional Director

39	World Food Programme	Mr. Oscar Ekdahl	Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Regional Bureau for the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Eastern Europe United Nations
40		Eng. Heba Eriba	