



Third Arab Water Forum Cairo, Egypt, 9-11 December, 2014

First Announcement

The Arab Water Council (AWC) invites its members, partners and all water stakeholders and interested parties in the Arab region to the 3rd Arab Water Forum to be held in December 9-11, 2014, Cairo, Egypt. The Arab Water Forum is a tri-annual event that brings professionals and intellectuals from all background to learn from the past, consider the present and plan for the future of water resources and water uses in the Arab region where challenges are mounting and sustainable solutions are crucial for better future. It is the regional chance to work collectively to make an impact on water policies, strategies and actions that turn challenges into opportunities.

I. General theme:

The general theme of the 3rd Arab Water form is:

“Together Towards A Secure Arab Water Future”

The General theme reflects the determination of the Arab countries to secure their water needs for now and the future through cooperation across the region to implement their shared vision and scale up their current actions towards sustainable water security.

II. Goal and Objectives

The main goal of the 3rd Forum is to engage all water-interest groups and stakeholders in debate about how far are the current water policies and actions are successful to bring water security to the region and effectively contribute in food security and conservation of the ecosystem. It aims at identifying policy adjustments and necessary mechanisms that could further promote cooperation between the Arab countries in the Water Sector. The forum will send clear messages to politicians and policy makers about how water experts, professionals and users see the future and what they expect from them to consider on short and long terms.

The specific objectives of the 3rd Arab Water Forum are:

1. To improve knowledge, exchange information, and share best practices and innovative solutions that currently govern water resources development and management.
2. To identify new opportunities that advanced research, innovative solutions and policy options could help in the sustainable use of scarce water resources.
3. To encourage further networking between decision-makers, water professionals, private businesses, and scientists in the Arab region to share their expertise to face pressing water challenges.
4. To enhance more regional and international cooperation.

The goal and objectives of the 3rd Arab Water Forum will be addressed and achieved by the participants through three themes. Several sub-themes are proposed to open windows for sharing knowledge about the efforts being done and the plans being considered by the governments, development partners and civil society at the national and regional levels.

III. Themes and Sub-themes

➤ Theme 1: Integrated Water Resources Management: Achievements and Constraints

This theme will focus on the state of implementing integrated water resources management (IWRM) across the Arab region. The progress made so far in response to previous commitments made by governments, development partners and civil society will be reviewed and lessons learned and success stories will be shared. Further commitments and actions needed would be considered along the following issues:

- **Economic and Social Value of Water.**
- **Water Governance: What it takes**
- **From MDGs to SDGs: An Arab Perspective**
- **Right to Clean Water and adequate Sanitation**
- **Water Supply and Demand Management**
- **Integrated Urban Water Management**
- **The Water-Food- Energy Nexus**
- **Role of NGOs and Civil Society in Water Management**
- **Water and Green Economy**

➤ Theme 2: Arab Countries Actions for Sustainable Development of Water Resources and Water Services

This theme will focus on the tools and mechanisms in-place or being developed by the Arab countries individually and collectively for sustainable water resources management and efficient provision of water services. Discussions would reveal the success made so far in building the needed capacities and the impact made on water and people. The deliberations would show

whether they are enough or need to be strengthened for reaching safe and sustainable future. These would be reached by addressing the following issues:

- **Mainstreaming of Climate Change and Climate Proofing in National and Regional Water Policies and Programs.**
- **Policy, Legislation and Institutional Arrangements for IWRM**
- **Water Tariffs, Cost Recovery and Water Accounting**
- **Public-Private Financing of Water Projects**
- **Hydro-Politics and Water Diplomacy in Shared Water Resources**
- **Monitoring, Evaluation and access to Information**
- **Science, Technology and Innovation**
- **Education , Capacity Building and Public Awareness**

➤ **Theme 3: Arab Integration for Food Security under Water Scarcity**

The theme will focus on actions made and plans prepared for achieving food security in the Arab countries under the mounting water stress in the region. It highlights the fact that regional cooperation has great potentials and offers many opportunities for better use of the available water and land resources to reach food security on sustainable basis for all countries in the region. This may require addressing among others, the following issues:

- **State of Food Security and its Challenges in the Arab Countries**
- **Arab Countries Collective Strategy for Achieving Food Security**
- **Cooperation in Effective Exploitation of the Available Land and Water Resources**
- **Economic Value of Water in Food Production and Trade**
- **Non-Conventional Water Uses in Agricultural Production**
- **Preparedness for Climate Change Impact on Food Security**
- **Enhancing Water Use Efficiency for Food Production Through Science, Technology and Improved Management**

The three themes will be addressed in plenary and parallel high-quality technical sessions. The plenary sessions will include a keynote speech by a world-class leader in his/her area of expertise who will cover the issues included in the sub-themes and would bring in his own vision, experience and messages to the region. Sessions on one or more sub-theme would be organized by national, regional and international water institutions. They are expected to share knowledge about their initiatives, programs and experiences in dealing with the issues addressed. As the forum is not intended to accommodate individual research papers, author(s) who would like to make a contribution that is consistent with the forum outline and objectives could channel their interest to the organizers of topic or special sessions as appropriate when advertized. It should be action oriented contribution rather than of academic and conceptual nature.

IV. Special Sessions and Workshops

Special sessions will be organized by partner organizations to present specific initiatives, projects or programs within the broader context and scope of the forum. The modalities of organizing the special sessions will be decided by the convening organization. The door is also open for regional or international institutions to organize a back-to-back workshop(s). These could be organized immediately before or after the forum days according to special arrangement with the Organizing Committee.

V. Contests and Cultural Shows

It has been a tradition of the Arab Water Forum to organize water contests under the main theme “*Together Towards A Secure Arab Water Future*”. These contests aim to increase awareness on water issues especially among youth and children. Terms of participation in the contests will be announced by the organizing committee in due time and will be posted on the forum website.

VI. Exhibition

The second Arab Water Expo will be organized alongside the Forum days. It is a unique opportunity for all public and private institutions in the water sector and related businesses and industries to display and present their activities, programs and products. An invitation will be issued soon for interested regional and international exhibitors to register for their stands in the exhibition.

VII. Venue

The meeting venue is the luxurious 5-stars **InterContinental City Stars Cairo Heliopolis Hotel**. The hotel is located 15 minutes from Cairo International Airport. For more details about the facilities of the hotel (www.citystars.com.eg)

Hotel address:

InterContinental City Stars Cairo Heliopolis
Omar Ibn El-Khattab St., Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt
P.O. Box 1026 Heliopolis Bahary, Cairo, Egypt
Tel: (+202) 24800100
Fax: (+202) 24800200
E-mail: mail@interconticitystars.com

VIII. Contacts

The Organizing Committee, Third Arab Water Forum
Arab Water Council Building
9 Al-Mokhayam Al-Dayem St.
Nasr City, Cairo
Egypt
Tel: +202 24043079 - +202 24023276 - +202 24023253
Fax: +202 22600683
E-mail: awf@arabwaterforum.org
Website: www.arabwatercouncil.org