



4th Arab Water Forum 2017
المنتدى العربي الرابع للمياه ٢٠١٧



المجلس العربي للمياه
Arab Water Council



وزارة الموارد المائية والري
جمهورية مصر العربية
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
Arab Republic of Egypt

4th Arab Water Forum

Cairo, Egypt, 26-28 November, 2017

“Sharing Water ... Sharing Destiny”

First Announcement

The Arab Water Council (AWC) has the pleasure to announce the convention of the 4th edition of the Arab Water Forum to be conducted in November 26-28, 2017, in Cairo, Egypt.

The series of the tri-annual Arab Water Fora (AWF) continues to promote a regional platform for engaging AWC members, decision-makers, water resources experts, practitioners and institutions into dialogue on all aspects of water management for growth and sustainable development in the Arab region. The 4th AWF will be convened by the Arab Water Council (AWC) under the auspices of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt.

As more than half of the freshwater resources in the Arab region are transboundary and originate from outside of the region, with increasing water scarcity, recurrent droughts, on-going crises and population displacement, water sharing is becoming the core component of water security and shall define the destiny of sustainable human development in this part of the World. In this context and in order to be a part of the global dialogue on water, AWC chose the slogan of the 4th Arab Water Forum, in line with the 8th World Water Forum's slogan, to be:

“Sharing Water ... Sharing Destiny”

I. Goal and Objectives of the Arab Water Forum

The main goal of the Arab Water Forum is to engage all water-interested parties and stakeholders in dialogue about how far the current water policies and actions are successful to bring water security to the region and to effectively contribute towards achieving 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 provides opportunity to its participants from government authorities, politicians, professionals, private sector, academia, water users and civil society to share their views and renew their commitment towards sustainable development and the livelihood of people in the region.

The specific objectives of the 4th Arab Water Forum are:

1. To share knowledge, information, lessons learned and success stories in water resources development and management.
2. To identify new opportunities that advance research, innovations and policy options improve the performance of the water sector.
3. To encourage further networking between decision-makers, water professionals, private businesses, and scientists in the Arab region to further enhance regional and international cooperation.

II. Themes and Topics

The goals and objectives of the 4th Arab Water Forum will be addressed and achieved through interactive presentations and discussions covering a set of themes. Top level keynote speakers and high profile panelists will handle five themes that enhance the sharing processes within the water sectors.

The themes will span over the main issues that are currently making the priorities of the water sector in the region. They reflect the fact that water in the region is a strong shared concern which will shape the future of its people. This gives the region special challenge in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Theme 1: Water and Sustainable Development

SDG Links : SDG6 (Water Targets 6.1,6.2 and 6.3) and SDGs 1,3 and 17

Being at the core of sustainable development, water poses serious challenges in different sectors that can hinder achieving the SDGs in the Arab region. It also plays a vital role in strengthening the resilience of social, economic, and environmental systems in the light of rapid and variable changes. Moving from a sectoral approach towards a holistic one, this theme will discuss: A renewed focus on the interrelation between socio-economic drivers and SMART water management as a pre-condition of sustainable development; water security within the frame of Agenda 2030 in the Arab Region; methods for enhancing accountability and transparency in financing water investments; means for ensuring access to safe water and improved sanitation for all; equitable allocation of water resources, and ways for developing effective governance towards enhanced decision making and stakeholder participations.

Theme 2: Water, Food and Energy-Climate Nexus

SDG Links: SDGs 2,6,7 and 13, COP 21-22

Today's water-related challenges are no longer readily solved by using hydraulic schemes alone. As Water lies at the heart of the Food, Energy and Climate nexus, it is becoming increasingly clear that a multi-disciplinary approach is needed for delivering water-challenges solutions. Capturing the interconnections between water and other related resources and sectors towards efficient, equitable and sustainable resources management and coping with conflicting demands, this theme will deliberate on: The role of renewable energy in SMART implementation of IWRM; managing risks and uncertainty for resilience and disasters preparedness for climate change impacts; maximizing natural resources productivity; social vulnerability assessments for climate adaptation and balancing water productivity against virtual water trade.

Theme 3: Water Quality and Ecosystems

SDG Links: SDG3, Water Targets 6.3, 6.6 and SDG15

Poor water quality and its environmental impacts emerge as a serious problem that may diminish availability chances and lead to health problems, environmental degradation and poor living conditions. Meanwhile, increased water scarcity in the Arab region is driving countries towards using more and more non-conventional water resources which involve important water quality issues. Recognizing the people's livelihood, and the safety of our precious ecosystems, it is essential to work-out national strategies and well-targeted programs for protecting water quality and preserving the environment. This theme will focus on: Managing and restoring ecosystems for water services and biodiversity; the sustainable use of non-conventional water resources in the Arab Region; and action plans needed for mitigating environmental degradation and the impact of water on public health.

Theme 4: Sustainable Solutions for Shared Water Resources

SDG Links: Water Targets 6.5 and SDG 16

Conflicts on shared water resources in the Arab region are still searching for solutions. When about 60 percent of fresh water resources come from outside the national borders, countries in the Arab region have no more time to wait for fair and sustainable solutions. Mutual understanding and cooperation between riparian states play a vital role in finding and embarking on convenient and acceptable arrangements for sharing water equitably and maximizing their mutual benefits from and around the source in the basin. In this context, this theme will discuss: Initiatives and responses for improving shared water governance; cooperation for reducing conflicts and improving shared water management; water rights in occupied lands; and getting the best of the world knowledge and experience in shared water management.

Theme 5: Water and Science, Technology and Innovation

SDG Links: SDG 3, Water Targets 6.3, 6.6 and SDG 15

Science and technology are everyday opportunity to make progress, increase benefits and improve life style. Their role in water resources management is not less than any other part of the human life. Innovations in water development and management open new avenues and bring new opportunities for living with water scarcity, increasing the social and economic value of water, as well as safe and efficient use of water. Recent developments in visualizing data, in communicating information and in simulating systems made it possible to better understand and handle the complexities of conflicting demands and increasing scarcity. This theme will address: Promoting indigenous Arab Water and water-related knowledge, science and technology; the use of ICT and media for sharing knowledge and raising awareness in water management; policies promoting innovations and scientific research in water management; and where water research stands from practices in the Arab Region.

III. Technical Program

The five themes and associated topics presented above will be addressed through a number of plenary and special thematic sessions. The plenary sessions will bring experts, managers and practitioners from international, regional and national organizations to engage into interactive discussions and debate about the state-of-the-art in knowledge, actions and experience. The special thematic sessions will be organized, sponsored or convened by partner organizations. The kick-off meeting of the 4th Arab Water Forum which was organized on April 20, 2017 has shown great interest and clear commitment of several national, regional and international partner organizations who will be engaged in organizing the Forum sessions. Given their political scope, High Level Panels will be organized during the Forum with the aim of synthesizing the viewpoints of political Arab leaders and investment institutions on water-related issues, meanwhile stimulating political will towards taking actions regarding regional water challenges. Arab politicians, financing establishments and country representatives will take part in this interactive session.

In addition, there will be opportunities for organizing a back-to-back workshop(s). The details of the program will be published in due time. A provisional list of session titles and conveners, as expressed during the preparation process so far, is specified in the table below:

Session Title	Sponsors/Organizers/ Conveners
PS: Water and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS): Progress in the NENA Region	(FAO / ESCWA/WFP/ LAS/AWC/...)
PS: Water, Food, Energy, Climate: Smart Solutions for the Arab Region	(GIZ/AWC/...)
SM: High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development	(AWC /LAS) (By invitation)
SM: Promotion of Integrated Investments in the Water Sector in the Arab Region	(EU/...)(By invitation)
SS: Role of Media in Raising Awareness in Water Resources Management	(MWRI-Planning Sector /AWC-AWA/EU/ AWC-Youth Network/ ...)
SS: Arab Region in the 8th World Water Forum: towards Active Participation	(LAS /AWC / ...)
SS: Regional Water Security in the MENA Region	(WB/...)
SS: Water and the Sustainable Development Goals: State of progress in the NENA Region	(ESCWA/ ...)
SS: State of Arab Water and Sustainable Development	(CEDARE / AWC / ...)
SS: The Debate of Equating Improved Irrigation Efficiency to Water Saving	(FAO/ AWC/IWMI/...)
SS: IWRM as a tool for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region	(EU/...)
SS: The Regional Environmental Center activities in the MENA Region	(REC/...)
SS: Promoting the Use of Non-Conventional Water in the Arab Region	(AWC /UNESCO/ FAO/...)
SS: Transboundary water in the Arab region	(CEDARE/ISRSNB-FU/GIWEH/ NWS/...)
SS: From Traditional Knowledge to Innovation: Role of Modernization in improving Water use in Agriculture	(ICARDA/...)
SS: The Use of Solar Energy for Development of Mega Projects	(FAO/ MWRI/ADB/...)
SS: Scaling Up the Safe Use of Recycled Water in the Arab Region	(IWMI/ ICARDA/FAO/ SIDA/...)
SS: Climate Change and Water: Impacts and Adaptation Measures	(ESCWA/ NWRC/...)
SS: The Regional Knowledge Hub: An Advanced ICT Platform to Address CC Impacts	(FAO/ ESCWA/GIZ/ ICBA/USAID/...)
SS: Arab Water Under Occupation	(PWA/...)
SS: Desalination Industry: Management and Regulations in Arab Countries	(ARWADEX/...)
SS: Case Studies for Rain Water Harvesting in the Arab Region	Prince Sultan Institute for Environmental, Water and Desert Research

PS= Plenary Session; SS=Special Session; SM=Special Meeting

IV. Fine Art Gallery and Cultural Contests

It has been a tradition of the Arab Water Forum to organize a Fine Art Gallery for showcasing the artworks of the water contests, this year under the main theme “Sharing Water ... Sharing Destiny”. Four contests will be organized for paintings, caricature, photography and short films, besides stereotypes as sculpture artworks and earthenware. These contests aim to increase awareness on water issues especially among youth and children. The Terms of participation in the contests are announced by the organizing committee and are posted on the Forum website, together with the Subscription Form (www.arabwatercouncil.org/4thAWF).

Please complete the Subscription Form and send to the following address:
contests@arabwatercouncil.org

V. The Arab Water Expo

The third Arab Water Expo will be organized alongside the 4th Arab Water Forum days. It is an excellent opportunity for all public and private institutions in the water sector and related businesses and industries, research centers, international institutions and non-governmental organizations to display, present and share their activities, programs and products with participants from all around the Arab region. Interested national, regional and international exhibitors are invited to register for their stands in the exhibition as soon as possible. An Exhibitors' Directory will be published including the activities and contacts of each exhibitor.

The layout of the Exhibition area and the Exhibition Reservation Form are posted on the Forum website (www.arabwatercouncil.org/4thAWF). Please complete the Reservation Form and send to the following address: exhibition@arabwatercouncil.org

VI. Website

A dedicated website has been developed for the 4th Arab Water Forum (www.arabwatercouncil.org/4thAWF). Please make sure to visit the site regularly for the latest information and news.

VII. Venue

The venue for the Forum is 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 please visit (www.citystars.com.eg)

Hotel address:

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Tel: (+202) 24800100
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E-mail: mail@interconticitystars.com

VIII. Registration

Registration for attending the Forum is now open for all. The Registration Form can be downloaded from the Forum website, filled-in and sent back to the organizing committee by e-mail (awf4@arabwatercouncil.org) or fax (+202-22600683).

Early registration (before 30 September 2017) will be subject to discounted fees.

IX. Contacts

4th Arab Water Forum,
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