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## **Workshop Report**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Arab Regional Conference on Research Advancement in Managing Limited Water Resources**

*Cairo – 9-11 December 2006*

**Doaa Arafa, WaDImena Research Assistant**

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#### **I. Organization and objectives:**

This conference was organized by the National Water Research Center (NWRC) and the Arab Water Council (AWC) with the aim to search for modern technologies for optimum use of the available limited water resources.

#### **II. Structure and content:**

##### Attendance:

The workshop was attended by a lot of participants from international organizations, such as the International Water Resources Association, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, Global Forum on Agricultural Research, United Nations Development Programme...etc, as well as some national organizations, especially from Egypt, mainly from the National Water Research Centre. A list of participants was distributed within the workshop handouts. It was a huge workshop, and Dr. Abu Zeid, Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, attended the whole of the first day and the morning of the second.

##### Topics:

The topics were divided into several themes: (i) Water for people, food and the environment, (ii) Non-conventional water resources technologies and management, (iii) Communication and information dissemination techniques, (iv) River basin management, and (v) Wadi development and flash flood protection. I attended two days out of the three workshop days. There was a wide variation of topics and presentations in many different areas, which only touched basis on the different mentioned topics (wastewater reuse technologies, decentralization, training, virtual water, national strategies (mainly Egypt) and other. There was very limited time allowed for discussions and the sessions lasted beyond the set workshop hours (Agenda attached-Annex 1). Interestingly, the Egyptian youth who were supported by IDRC and WEC at the WWF4 presented the Nile song during one of the sessions.

##### Exhibition:

This was an exhibition of the work and projects of the different institutes within the National Water Research Centre. I distributed some of our research materials (Managing Water Demand policies and practices in MENA book in Arabic and English, some of the IDRC brochures and the REF brochure).

#### **III. People met**

- Dr. Ali Kaisi and Dr. Al-Shayeb from CGSAR, they are so much interested of getting IDRC's support to bring experts from Tunisia to help them with the development of the operational manual/structure /guidelines of the WUAs. The law for which has been recently passed.
- Mahmoud Hamouda, one of the young professionals who we supported to attend the WWF4, he gave a good presentation on virtual water, the topic that received the most criticism from the audience in terms of its suitability or unsuitability for the region.
- Also, met Dr. Mohamed Bazza from FAO, Dr Radwan Al-Weshah from the UNESCO Cairo office, Eng Nader Al-Masri from MWRI, Dr. Theib Oasis from ICARDA, and Dr. Soumaya Ibrahim, gender expert from Egypt.

#### **IV. Few points from the presentations**

- In several presentations from Egypt, it was very clear that Egypt's future vision is more and more directed towards desert development, not necessarily for agricultural purposes, but may as well be for more economically profitable sectors such as industry and tourism. One presentation talked about creating several vertical axes to transfer Nile water to the Eastern and Western deserts!(something like Tushka). This remains a wide area for future research in Egypt.
- A lot of talk was concentrated on IWRM when it comes to water management, only a presentation by Wael Khairy talked very briefly about WDM. It may have been useful if WaDI *mena* had given some sort of a conceptual presentation about WDM.
- A report on water management in MENA is currently being finalized by . A summary of which was available at the conference.
- The topic on gender mainstreaming in water management was the most useful. A session by Dr. Soumaya Ibrahim talked about gender analysis, division of labour, collecting gender disaggregated data...etc. It was very interesting to me, as well as to all the participants.