

**Press Release: 14 December, 2011**

**Closing of ACWUA's 4<sup>th</sup> Best Practices Conference "Water and Wastewater Utilities Reform: Changes and Challenges" on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in the presence of about 300 participants.**

Under the Patronage of H.E the Egyptian Prime Minister, and in the presence of about 300 experts and leaders of water utilities from 15 Arab Countries, ACWUA launched its 4<sup>th</sup> Best Practices Conference on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2011 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt under the title:

**"Water and Wastewater Utilities Reform: Changes and Challenges"**

Speakers at the opening ceremony:

- **H.E. Eng. Khaldon Khashman**, Secretary General of Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA)
- **H.E. Dr. Stefan Girod**, General Manager of German Water Partnership, Germany
- **H.E Ms. Cornelia Wolff von der Sahl**, Project Director of Water Berlin International
- **H.E Mr. Jörn Winkels**, Chairman of the advisory board of Water Berlin International
- **H.E. General Sayed Naser**, Chairperson of Holding Company for water and wastewater, Egypt
- Word from the League of Arab States - **(Mrs. Inas Abdelazim)**
- **H.E General Eng. Khaled Fouda**, Governor of South Sinai
- Patronage speech (Delegation of H.E the Prime Minister of Arab Republic of Egypt):  
**H.E. Dr. Abdelkawi Khalifah** (Governor of Cairo)

The conference's agenda was full of various activities: two days of the conference covered about 45 papers submitted by high-level Arab and International experts of water and sanitation in the world, which were carefully chosen.

The conference provided broad technical sessions organized by the German Water Partnership (GWP), German Development Bank (KfW), and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the International Water Association (IWA).

- German Water Partnership (GWP) organized two technical sessions; mainly presented the German experience in utilities reform and the strategies for a successful utility reform bringing a real successful story from a German Water Utility.
- International Water Association (IWA) organized a session, focusing on the link between Strategic Asset Management and utilities reform.

- German Development Bank (KfW) organized a session about adaptations to climate change through water utilities reform.
- German International Cooperation (GIZ) led two training sessions; first one about Regulation and Water Sector Reform, bringing experiences from Zambia, Kenya and Arab experience. The second training session will be about the challenges of decentralized sanitation for water utilities.

A small **exhibition** was held side by side to the conference, by private sector companies of water technology systems.

ACWUA has scheduled internal, organizational meetings held on 9 December, 2011, starting by the **Board of Directors meeting** for the year 2011, and followed with a **matchmaking workshop** for water utilities, to be attended by the Board members and leaders of water utilities, and organized by the German Water Partnership (GWP) and the German International Cooperation (GIZ).

Three meetings held in parallel for three **technical working groups** of ACWUA:

- Utilities Reform: Sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Utilities Management: Sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Capacity Building and Training: Sponsored by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

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### **Honorary Membership**

ACWUA has awarded Honorary Memberships for persons who exerted their ultimate efforts and truly believed in the vision of ACWUA and gave all their support for ACWUA to become what it is today.

**H.E Eng. Mousa Jamani**, Minister of Water and Irrigation, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**H.E Dr. Abdelkawi Khalifa** - the Governor of Cairo, Egypt

**Mr. Ruediger Heidebrecht** - Head of Training and International Cooperation, DWA

**H.E Eng. Khaldon Khashman** - Secretary General of Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA)