

Under the Patronage of the Algerian Minister of Water Resources
H.E Eng. Hocine Necib
ACWUA 6th Best Practices Conference-Algiers-Algeria
3-4 December 2013

The Arab Countries Water Utilities (ACWUA) in cooperation with the Algerian Ministry of Water Resources and the Algérienne Des Eaux (ADE) and under the umbrella of the Arab Ministerial Water Council / League of Arab States has organized **ACWUA 6th Best Practices Conference**:

**“Standardization & Certification in Managing Water Utilities in the Arab Region”,
El Aurassi Hotel in Algiers - Algeria from 3-4 December 2013**

More than 300 participants and delegations attended **ACWUA 6th Best Practices Conference**, coming from ACWUA membership comprising of more than 106 water and wastewater utilities from 18 Arab Countries; Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

In addition to Excellencies including the Arab Water Ministers, Ambassadors, and representatives of community-based organizations, International organizations, donor agencies, private sector companies and research and academic institutions.

Conference: The conference discussed more than 40 selected presentations of Arab and International water experts distributed among 9 sessions, and focused on the following conference topics:

- Regional standardization and certification: challenges, success factors and opportunities
- Standardization: An approach towards sustainability management for water utilities
- Institutionalization and reform of water utilities to enhance performance and comply with international management standards
- Capacity building for standards compliance and certification of water utilities

ACWUA 6th Best Practices conference was distinguished by the **launching** of different publications, that represent the outcome of continuous works and efforts of the technical working group members for 2-years:

- Launching of “Utilities Reform” Case Study Booklet
- Launching of “Management of Utilities” Case Study Booklet
- Launching of “Public Awareness” Reader – Experience from the Arab region

During the **opening ceremony**, ACWUA was **awarded** the **“ABC Presidential Award”** In recognition of ACWUA’s exceptional leadership and commitment to excellence in the field of operator certification and given by Mr. Paul D. Bishop, CAE, CEO of Association of Boards of Certification (ABC), USA

At the **closing session** of ACWUA 6th Best Practices Conference in Algiers, Algeria held on the 4th December 2013, attended by 200 persons the organizers and participants agreed on the following:

- 1- The necessity of the unification of accreditation procedures between Arab countries and the development of inter-Arab legislation.
- 2- Assigning ACWUA to work on finding appropriate funding for the project "Unification of Accreditation & Standards in water utilities in the Arab countries".
- 3- Continue to work on the development of Arab and International Cooperation in the field of integrated water resources management to realize sustainable development in building capabilities of skilled workers in the water utilities in the Arab countries.
- 4- The need to urge the Arab countries to adopt and employ the best professional practices for the betterment of public water utilities management.
- 5- Application of quality systems and standards in water utilities in order to provide better services to citizens and especially to reduce the risk of contamination.
- 6- Recommendation to apply International regularity standards as a tool for continuous monitoring and a reference for matching mechanism for public water services.
- 7- The need to expand the deployment of the Water Operators Certification Program implemented by the Arab Countries Water Utilities for water operators in the Arab water utilities.
- 8- Work on building a solid strategy that aims to maintain water resources by using technical indicators for enhancing the efficiency of water utilities, improving the quality of service and ensuring the continuity of good management of water utilities.

Accordingly; conference attendees agreed to adopt these recommendations and announce them under the name of "**The Algeria Declaration**" by ACWUA 6th Best Practices Conference held in Algeria from 3-4 December 2013.

High-Ranking personalities and decision makers who attended the conference are:

- 1- H.E Mr. Hocine NECIB, Minister of Water Resources, Algeria
- 2- H.E Dr. Abdelkawi Khalifa, Former Minister of Water and Wastewater Utilities, Egypt
- 3- H.E Eng. Ghani Dakheel, representing H.E Eng. Mohannad Al Sa'adi, Minister of Water Resources, Iraq
- 4- H.E Mr. Abdelsalam Al Razzaz, Minister of Water and Environment, Yemen
- 5- H.E Mr. Adel Haddad, Secretary General of the Ministry of Water and Environment, Yemen
- 6- Eng. Abdelkrim Mechia, Director General, Algérienne Des Eaux (ADE), Algeria
- 7- Eng. Khaldon Khashman, Secretary General, ACWUA
- 8- Eng. Imad Al Zeer, Chairman of the Board, ACWUA Board of Directors
- 9- H.E Dr. Abdellatif Rachid, President Senior Advisor, Former Minister of Water Resources, Iraq
- 10- H.E Dr. DjamelEddin Djaballah, Director of Environment, Housing, Water Resources and Sustainable Development Department, League of Arab States
- 11- Mr. Gerhard Gerritzen, Deputy Managing Director, (IFAT ENTSORGA), Messe München GmbH Germany
- 12- Dipl.-Ing. Rüdiger Heidebrecht, DWA German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste e.V. Head of Department Training and international Cooperation
- 13- Mr. Paul D. Bishop, CAE, CEO of Association of Boards of Certification (ABC), USA

Exhibition: A specialized exhibition presented state of the art new water technologies and solutions took part alongside with the conference. Leading companies and specialized vendors of water and wastewater equipments and other service providers participated in the technical exhibition like:

- SOCIETE DES EAUX ET DE L'ASSAINISSEMENT DE LA WILAYA D'ALGER (SEAAAL),
- Spa Société de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement de Constantine (SEACO),
- La Société de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement d'Oran (SEOR),
- La Spa d'Aménagement - Environnement –hydraulique (AMENHYD),
- ETUHP MENANI,
- IFAT ENTSORGA,
- China Petroleum Engineering & Construction Corporation (CPECC),
- CMC DI RAVENNA,
- RSA Electronics.

Back-to-back activities: The importance and exclusivity of this conference rises from the variety of activities held back-to-back with conference on day 3 of the conference (5th December 2013):

- Two field visits were organized to Koudiat Acerdoune Dam (Organized by ADE) and Boumerdas Wastewater Treatment Plant (Organized by office national de l'assainissement (ONA)).
- Launching of Benchmarking Technical Working Group
- Launching of Energy Efficiency Task Force
- Launching of Quality Management Standards Task Force
- Utility Management & Utility Reform technical working groups meeting
- Public Awareness meeting
- Board of Directors Meeting

ACWUA