

**Words of Welcome by**

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(UNW-DPC)**

**On the occasion of the**

**UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC)  
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)  
Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM-Tehran)**

**Training Workshop on  
Integrated Flood Management  
for countries in Western Asia and the Arab region**

**11-14 May 2009  
Esteghlal Hotel, Tehran, Iran**

## **1. Welcome**

His Excellency M. R. Attarzadeh, Deputy Minister of Energy of Iran for Water and Wastewater

Distinguished Iranian representatives

Mr B. Nezamolmolki, Acting Director of RCUWM-Tehran

Dr Avinash Tyagi, Director of the Climate and Water Department, WMO

Honourable guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Dr Pasquale Steduto, Chairman of the UN-Water and Prof. Osterwalder, Under-Secretary General of the UN and Rector of the United Nations University, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Training

Workshop on Integrated Flood Management for countries in Western Asia and the Arab region that the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development UNW-DPC, together with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM-Tehran) are jointly conducting at the elegant premises of the Esteghlal Hotel, in the city of Tehran.

- I would like to welcome the participants in this workshop as well as the **representatives of WMO** and the **trainers**, without whom the workshop's impressive agenda could not have been arranged.
- And my sincere thanks go especially to His Excellency Parviz Fattah, Minister of Energy of Iran and who in his capacity as Chair of the Governing Board of RCUWM-Tehran is our kind host for this international workshop.

## 2. UN-Water

- As you may know **at least 26 UN agencies and programmes** are currently working together within the **interagency mechanism** known as UN-Water in order to strengthen coordination among all UN bodies dealing with water-related issues, from health to farming, environment to energy, food to climate, and sanitation to disasters.
- UN-Water **adds value to existing UN programmes and projects** and fosters **more co-operation and information-sharing** among UN agencies and outside partners.

### 3. UNW-DPC

- The UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC) - is **one of the core programmes of UN-Water** and has been established to enhance the coherence and integrated effectiveness of UN Agencies and programmes of UN-Water, by strengthening their **capacity development activities** in all water related issues including water supply and sanitation. In doing so it hopes to contribute to increasing the number of people worldwide with access to drinking water and basic sanitation and therefore support them in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals related to water and the goals of the Johannesburg Implementation plan. By doing this we are clearly **focussed on developing countries and countries in transition**.
- UNW-DPC is also **supporting the improvement of capacity and competence** for national and local stakeholders in water management and, hence, the **delivery of UN-Water members towards the common goals**;
- UNW-DPC celebrated its opening in August 2007 and is hosted by the United Nations University in the city of Bonn in Germany.

### 4. UNW-DPC activities

**Being an organization supporting capacity development and integration at all level and sectors in and outside of what the Third World Water Development Report calls, the “Water Box”, UNW-DPC** is supporting capacity development activities from an integrated perspective in areas such as:

- increasing the adaptive capacities of water management systems in the face of climate change and consequent changes in the hydrological cycle;
- increasing the efficiency and productivity of water use in agriculture;
- increasing the efficiency of urban water management systems so that more people can be supplied in our expanding cities;
- supporting transboundary waters management

... To name but a few.

## 5. UNW-DPC collaborations with UN-Water members

- To this end, since its creation in August 2007, **UNW-DPC has been and is cooperating with a number of different UN-Water members.** A few examples of bilateral cooperation are the organization with
  - **UN-HABITAT** of an international workshop on Drinking Water Loss Reduction in Bonn, and training seminars on urban water management for Mayors at 4<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum in China.
  - With **UNESCO-IHP** we organized an international workshop on Institutional Capacity Development in transboundary basins and developed contributions to the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Development Report and the UNW-DPC side publication on "Institutional Capacity Development in Transboundary Water Management";

- This was followed up with **UNESCO-IHE** when we also prepared a session on Institutional Capacity Development at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Istanbul this year.
- With **UN-DESA** we have organized an Expert Group Meeting on Gender-disaggregated data in Water and Sanitation, in New York, and a "Capacity Development Workshop on Improved Agricultural Productivity, Water Efficiency and Strengthening Rural Livelihoods", in Bangkok. We will continue our work in agriculture and water efficiency when we team up with **FAO** in a series of Training of Trainer workshops to support capacity development for farm management strategies to improve crop-water productivity. We will be looking forward to returning to Iran for one of these workshops in August this year.
- Furthermore, we have organised awareness-raising workshops for journalists about water and related issues, for example in Iran in 2007 (with **UN-HABITAT** and **RCUWM**) and early this year in Egypt, together with **UNCCD**.
- Groundwater will not be forgotten by our team, as demonstrated by our collaboration in the Groundwater and Human Security Workshop with **UNU-EHS** and **UNU-INWEH**. By the way this will also be Iran, but this time in Shiraz, after the conclusion of our course here in Tehran.
- Of great importance is **also** the support for multilateral collaboration between the UN-Water members and partners

- Consequently, we are working on the development of a single entry point of access for information on capacity development world-wide: the **UNW-DPC online repository** of capacity development activities.
- The **repository** will be a **key tool to support** the work of the **Capacity Development Observatory** to be developed by UNW-DPC.
- This **Capacity Development Observatory** will be **THE UNW-DPC supported forum** for facilitating the UN-Water members and partners in **monitoring and analyzing capacity development requirements, together.**

## 6. Cooperation between UNW-DPC and WMO

And last but not least, UNW-DPC has already joined hands with our UN-Water partner, **WMO**, in the organisation of a **Training of Trainers course on Climate and Water Affairs in Skopje**, FYR of Macedonia, aimed at supporting University lecturers from post-conflict states in South-East Europe, in developing inter-disciplinary curricula integrating hydrology, climatology, economics, environmental science disciplines for the training of the next generation of managers and policy makers in integrated approaches to the management of water resources in the face of climate change.

Today, we are again joining hands in the organization of this Training Workshop on Integrated Flood Management for countries in Western Asia and the Arab region.

## 7. Integrated Flood Management Workshop

As we prepare ourselves for this workshop, **let me describe to you what Integrated Flood Management could be in an ideal world.**

It is the possession and inter-disciplinary application of the appropriate tools, knowledge and attitude required to be able to make **management decisions** that **reduce the unwanted impacts** of flooding on all sectors of society - the economy, health, politics, agriculture, industry, ecosystem - **by harnessing the capacities** of all these sectors **to reduce risk, ameliorate impacts and ultimately help society benefit** from these natural events **which are have been and always will remain** travelling companions to the steady march of human civilisation through history.

**An integrated approach**, as we all know by now, needs new capacities if it is to be effectively implemented.

**Individuals** need the knowledge, skills and attitudes to absorb the ideas from disciplines outside their own training and where necessary to be able to coherently make use of other disciplines' technologies and policy instruments.

**Organizations** need the extra capacity to be able to work with other organizations effectively, for the benefit of all, without neglecting their own specific responsibilities.

**Institutions** - the rules, legislation, regulations and norms guiding a society – need to have the capacity to create an environment for individuals and organizations to work boldly and purposefully with different stakeholder groups, across disciplines and sectors, without the risk of being institutionally disadvantaged.

**But capacity development is not a straightforward thing.** It requires good ideas and materials, excellent partnerships, and effective means of delivering knowledge, skills and attitudes to the right people at the right time. This is what leads me to remain humble but at the same time hopeful about the outcomes of this training workshop.

**We are bringing together experts,** with various disciplinary backgrounds, who are responsible for flood management in **9** countries from Western Asia and the Arab region to exchange ideas and approaches and to discuss and learn about the way different sectors are impacted by flooding and can support **effective** flood management. Here, today, we are interested in **supporting capacity development for effective flood management.** Integration is the way not the end in itself. We all would agree that effectiveness must always remain the yardstick by which success is measured. Let us keep mindful of this, during our time together this week.

## **8. Thanks**

Honourable Guests,

I am **very pleased and grateful** to all the participants from around the region who have come today. I would like to thank them heartily for **their keen interest and motivation** to make this workshop a fruitful one.

At this point I would **again like to thank** RCUWM-Tehran for co-organizing and hosting this workshop.

Finally, I am **very grateful to the opportunity to once more successfully work together with WMO** on such important training courses as this one.

## 9. End

Ladies and gentlemen,

- I wish you an interesting exchange and successful workshop and look forward to **working with you in the future**. Let us for now, **join together** to discuss, question and exchange **with disciplinary vigour and interdisciplinary perspective**, so that we can all take what we have learnt back into our working lives on our return.

Thank you