

Agreed Minutes
of the Fifth Governing Board Meeting
Regional Centre on Urban Water Management
(under the auspices of UNESCO)
Tehran-Iran
24 November 2007



The Fifth Governing Board meeting was held in Tehran, 24 November 2007. The meeting was attended by the following honourable members:

Member States:

- **Afghanistan**
H.E. Mr. Al-Haj Mohammad Ismail, Minister of Energy and Water
- **India**
H.E. Mr. Saifuddin Soz, Minister of Water Resources
- **Iran**
H.E. Mr. Parviz Fattah, Chairman of the GB and Minister of Energy
Dr. Reza Ardakanian, Founding Director of RCUWM-Tehran
- **Oman**
H.E. Mr. Abdullah bin Salem bin Amer Al Rawas, Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources

- **Egypt**
Dr. Dalal Alnagar, Representative, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
- **Germany**
Mr. Hartmut Grubel, Representative, Ministry of Education and Research
- **Kuwait**
Mr. Abdulaziz J. Al-Sumait, Representative, Ministry of Electricity and Water
- **Tajikistan**
Mr. Anvar M. Zairov, Representative, Ministry of Water Economy and Land Improvement

Organisations:

- **UNESCO**
Mr. Han Qunli, Representative of UNESCO

- **The International Water Academy**
Mr. Ulf Arne Gurgens, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

- 1- Dr. Reza Ardakanian as the Founding Director of the Centre welcomed the participants of the 5th Governing Board Meeting.

- 2- The meeting was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Parviz Fattah, Minister of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran and the Chairman of the Governing Board. The highlights of his speech were as follows:
 - To compile a charter on regional cooperation;
 - To review the role of institutions and NGOs in water supply, transmission and consumption chain of regional countries;
 - To study the economic, social, environmental and security aspects of water conveyance in the region;
 - To address pollution of water resources in the regional countries caused by inappropriate expansion of wastewater discharge systems;
 - Project financing by member countries and to find appropriate solutions to ensure the activities of the Centre over the next five year;
 - To involve other GB members contribution in the Centre's work-plan;
 - To include outcomes of research and studies on urban water management in member countries in the agenda of the Centre's plans for the next five year;
 - To develop scientific exchanges at various water expertise levels;
 - Proposal of hosting the 2nd Conference on Water Resources Management in the Islamic Countries by another state member

- 3- UNESCO's remarks were delivered by Mr. Han Qunli, representative of UNESCO in GB. The highlights of his speech were as follows:

He appreciated the activities carried out and the achievements of the Centre and stated that the activities and projects should be continued with the same directions. He also emphasised UNESCO's support toward the Centre's future plans.

- 4- All distinguished members of the GB presented their viewpoints on their country's and organization's policies and strategies in Water Management issues as well as activities carried out by RCUWM-Tehran.

Minister, Oman: The Ministry of Municipalities and Water Resources, Sultanate of Oman is quite prepared to support the Centre's activities and is looking forward to have it's performance promoted in future.

Minister, India: The Minister appreciated the role of the Centre's performance in the region. He emphasised the importance of water quality, optimum use of water and designing a suitable system for groundwater management with public participation. He also pointed out the importance of this issue on impacts of climate change on water resources in the region, which has also been considered by the G77 countries. He recommended the intervention of UNESCO and RCUWM in performing this study.

Minister, Afghanistan: The Minister appreciated RCUWM's contribution in Afghanistan Reconstruction Projects in the field of water. A request was made for future cooperation.



Representative of Germany: He emphasized on studying the climate change impacts on water resources management in the region. BMBF announced its preparedness in collaborating with the Centre on the above-mentioned project.

Representative of Egypt: The role of the Centre in promoting regional cooperation was emphasized. It was proposed to compile common scenarios for this purpose by RCUWM and RCTWS.

TIWA Representative: Poverty reduction and promoting women's role in Water Resources Management as well as impact of climate change in the region was highlighted.

5- The draft agenda was put on the floor and it was unanimously adopted as follows:

- Opening
 - a. Founding Director of the Centre (Welcoming)
 - b. Chairman of the GB (Opening Speech)
 - c. UNESCO Representative (Opening Speech)
 - d. Remarks by GB Members
 - e. Adoption of Agenda
- Founding Director's Report on implemented activities in 2006 - 2007, budget and work plan of 2008.
- Comments and approval of the Founding Director's Report
- Extension of the Centre's activities for the next 5-year period
- Member's commitments on the Centre's activities
- INWRDAM and UNW-DPC membership in the Centre's GB
- Suggestions on Centre's contribution towards WWF5, Istanbul, 2009
- Organising a meeting between Centre's GB Members and relevant IHP National Committees in 2008
- Reviewing item 5-1 of the 4th GBM (rotation of the Executive Committee members)
- Date and venue of the 6th GBM
- Other issues and Closing remarks

6- The Founding Director's report, "activities, achievements and budget for 2006 - 2007 and work plan for 2008" was delivered by the Founding Director of the Centre, Dr. Reza Ardakanian.

7- The members of the 5th Governing Board Meeting presented their comments and suggestions on the Founding Director's Report. The report was finally approved by the GB Members.

8- **Extension of the Centre's activities for the next 5-year period:** An executive summary report on the 5-year performance of the Centre which was prepared by UNESCO evaluating team as well as DG's and Iran's representative



(Minister of Energy and RCUWM – Tehran Chairman) comments presented (attached) during the meeting was highly received by all the members.

- 9- **Member's commitments on the Centre's activities:** The following decisions were made after having the agenda discussed and deliberated.

Approvals:

- 9-1 The extension of the Centre's activities for the next 5-year was highly recommended. GB members are expected to financially and technically contribute in this concern.
- 9-2 Based on the report presented by the Founding Director of the Centre, the financial report related to 2006 & 2007 as well as 2008 work-plan was approved.
- 9-3 Based on the Executive Committee Meeting recommendations, INWARDAM and UNW-DPC membership was accepted. Further formalities will be carried out by the Centre's Secretariat.
- 9-4 Member's commitments on the Centre activities are as follows:
- 9-4.1 OMAN: The Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, Sultanate of Oman proposed hosting the 6th Governing Board Meeting in Muscat, 2008, back to back to the International Seminar on Climate Change and its impacts on Water Resources in MENA Region. This suggestion was highly received by the participants. Necessary formalities will be taken by RCUWM – Tehran in close connection with UNESCO.
- 9-4.2 INDIA: Contributing to the project on Arsenic removal technology and the project on Training of Trainers Workshop on Integrated Urban Water Management.
- 9-4.3 TAJIKISTAN: Launching a project on Empowerment of women's role in Water issue
- 9-4.4 EGYPT: Holding a training workshop on Impacts of Climate Change in Water Resources Management in the region.
- 9-4.5 Holding the International Conference on Water Resources Management in the Middle East Countries in 2008.
- 9-4.6 UNW-DPC has been included as a new member in the Executive Committee of RCUWM – Tehran
- 9-4.7 Practical approached for involving RCUWM-Tehran in the 5th World Water Forum, Istanbul – Turkey, 2009 will be investigated in the next Executive Committee Meeting. The result will be reported to the GB members. It was also suggested to present the activities and achievements of the two regional Category II Centre's (RCUWM and RCTWS) during the 5th World Water Forum. A meeting between the two centres will be organised for developing a practical mechanism in the 6th Governing Board Meeting.
- 9-4.8 Organising a meeting between the Governing Board members and related National Hydrology Committees of IHP in accordance with the 7th phase of IHP was approved. The practical

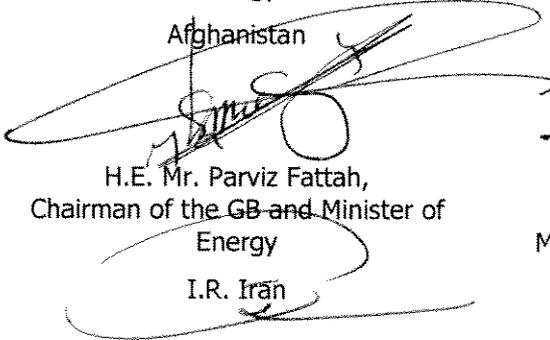


mechanism will be worked out during the next Executive Committee Meeting.

All members attending the Fifth Governing Board meeting expressed their appreciation for attending the board meeting and further expressed their gratitude for the hospitality shown during their stay in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

H.E. Mr. Al-Haj Mohammad Ismail,
Minister of Energy and Water

Afghanistan



H.E. Mr. Parviz Fattah,
Chairman of the GB and Minister of
Energy
I.R. Iran

H.E. Mr. Saifuddin Soz,
Minister of Water Resources

India



H.E. Mr. Abdullah bin Salem
bin Amer Al Rawas,
Minister of Regional Municipalities and
Water Resources

Oman

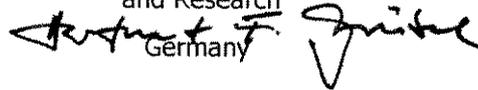
Dr. Dalal Alnaggar,
Representative, Ministry of Water
Resources and Irrigation

Egypt



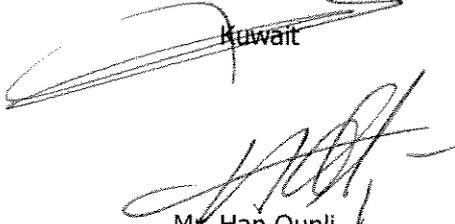
Mr. Hartmut Grubel,
Representative, Ministry of Education
and Research

Germany



Mr. Abdulaziz J. Al-Sumait,
Representative, Ministry of Electricity and
Water

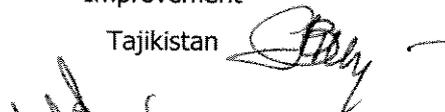
Kuwait



Mr. Han Qunli,
Representative of UNESCO in the GB

Mr. Anvar M. Zairov
Representative,
Ministry of Water Economy and Land
Improvement

Tajikistan



Mr. Ulf Arne Gurgens,
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
The International Water Academy



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) was established in Tehran, Iran in February 2002 under the auspices of UNESCO. It is a UNESCO Category 2 Water-Related centre with a mandate of promoting capacity building and knowledge sharing in the areas of water resources management and particularly in urban water management in arid and semi-arid regions of South West Asia, CIS and Middle East Countries.

UNESCO requires that Category 2 Water-Related Centres undergo a periodic review. The main objectives of such a review are to assess the centres' performance with respect to their terms of reference and contributions to the UNESCO mandate. The outcome of the review is a decision on whether the agreement between UNESCO and the host government should be renewed.

The Review Panel for the RCUWM was Prof. K. Vairavamoorthy, Prof. D. Butler and Dr. J. Marsalek.

The principal aim of the review is to evaluate:

- The progress made by the centre in meeting its terms of reference, and its stated objectives and functions, specified in Article III of the Agreement between the Government of the I.R. Iran and UNESCO.
- The degree of success achieved in undertaking the centre's programme of work to fulfil this declaration.

The review included a visit to RCUWM by a Visitation Team consisting of Prof K.Vairavamoorthy and Prof D.Butler. The visit lasted 2 days and took place on 23rd and 24th October 2007. During the visit, the Visitation Team met with senior staff at RCUWM, inspected outputs generated by RCUWM and met with a number of stakeholders.

The Evaluation Team is satisfied that RCUWM has met the expectations of the IHP Intergovernmental Council and that RCUWM has made good progress in meeting its Objectives and Functions specified in Article III of the Agreement between the Government of the I.R. Iran and UNESCO.

The recommendation of the Evaluation Team is that UNESCO's agreement with RCUWM should be extended for a further 5 years.

**H.E. Mr. Fattah****Honorable Minister of Energy and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (under the auspices of UNESCO)**

As you know by the end of 2007, the first five year performance period of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management – Tehran will be accomplished. According to the first part of article X of the agreement made between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNESCO, the extension of the Centre's activities is implicated to both sides' approvals. It's obvious that in this respect the most important factor for the extension of the Centre's activities is its performance during the last five year in accordance with the Centre's missions and objectives. In this regard around four months ago a formal letter was sent by me to UNESCO requesting an international independent expert group to evaluate the Centre's activities and outcomes and to report it first of all to the founders and in the next stage to the Governing Board Meeting. Hopefully by the efforts that have been made, the expert group after formation and codification of their tasks, have traveled to Tehran from 23rd to 25th Oct. 2007 to review the Centre's activities and to survey the works that have been carried out . With no doubt one of the main works of the expert group will be receiving your opinion as the representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the chairman of the Centre's Governing Board about the effectiveness of the Centre's activities as a regional Centre.

In accordance to your awareness on the Centre's activities through yearly reports, periodic reports and participation in the Governing Board Meetings, you are kindly requested to provide us with your written suggestions to be forwarded to the evaluating group on behalf of the representative of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Reza Ardakanian

Founding Director

RCUWM – Tehran

*Dear Dr. Ardakanian**The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will support the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management - Tehran and will take necessary steps to expand and promote participation of other countries in this Centre.**The evaluation of the Centre by an International Independent Group of Experts is an outstanding effort coordinated by you and it's the sign of lucidity in the financial and technical works. I hope that the activities develop and promote by having the agreement extended between UNESCO and I. R. Iran in future.**Parviz Fattah
Minister of Energy &
Chairman, RCUWM-Tehran Governing Board*

Date:

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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترقية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General
for Natural Sciences

Mr Reza Ardakanian
Director
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No.120, Khoramshahr Str.
Tehran 1553713511
Islamic Republic of Iran

6 November 2007

Ref. : SC/HYD/446

Subject : RCUWM-Tehran First Five Year Performance Report

Dear Mr Ardakanian,

I have the pleasure to reply to you on behalf of the Director-General with reference to your letters of 14 and 20 July 2007 Ref. F-86-148 and F-86-198) Informing him about activities of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM- Tehran), under the auspices of UNESCO.

The Director-General was pleased to receive you during your visit to UNESCO on 13 September 2007 by which he was able to learn further about the progress of RCUWM-Tehran, noting with satisfaction the First Five Year Performance Report that was presented to him.

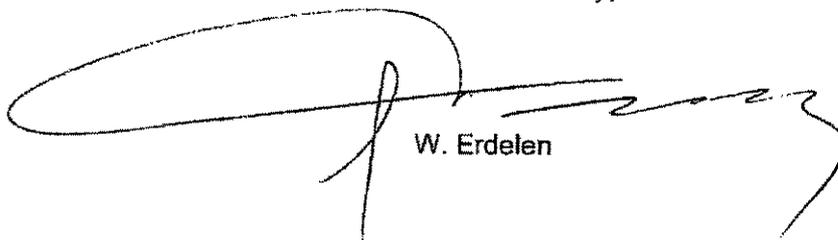
It is highly significant to note, as the above report shows, that RCUWM-Tehran since its establishment in 2002 as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre has implemented a remarkable range of capacity building and training activities that have contributed to IHP-VI, having shown a high degree of cooperation with IHP. The conferences and workshops have evidently addressed relevant themes for the region in full compliance with its mandate. It is also encouraging that a considerable number of professionals from countries of the region have benefited from the activities organized by RCUWM. This is a clear demonstration of how Category 2 Centres can contribute to UNESCO's efforts on issues of regional and global importance. It would be certainly very appropriate that the Centre continue to emphasize this line of action.

Since the first five-year period of RCUWM's activities has been completed, I support the proposal to carry out a review of the performance of the Centre. As the review findings would be a determining factor for the renewal of the Agreement with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNESCO, I look forward to the results and recommendations of the assessment.

UNESCO attaches great importance in the contribution of Category 2 Centres to the realization of the strategic objectives and priorities of the Organization. With a view to strengthening the links between the Organization and Category 2 Institutes and Centres and ensuring coherence and synergy as well as greater contributions to the implementation of UNESCO's programmes, UNESCO is actively pursuing the application of a relevant common strategy. As you may recall, UNESCO's IHP has developed the "Strategy for UNESCO's Category 1 and Category 2 Water-Related Institutes and Centres" (IHP/Bur-XL/8 Rev.), which has already been approved by the IHP Intergovernmental Council. These documents provide guidelines and criteria for the operation and functioning of Category 2 institutes and Centres, including the review of Centres' performance for the purpose of the renewal of the agreement between the host government and UNESCO, as well as to ensure that the focus and coverage of the activities carried out by the Centres are in line with UNESCO's strategic programme objectives and scope. Upon the renewal of the agreement I would suggest that RCUWM-Tehran lend its full support to the application and enhancement of this strategy that will gain in importance given the expansion of the network of Category 2 water-related Centres.

I look forward to our continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop on the left and a series of horizontal and diagonal strokes extending to the right.

W. Erdelen