

**Background
Compendium Materials**

**Sixth
Governing Board
Meeting**



**REGIONAL CENTRE ON URBAN
WATER MANAGEMENT–Tehran**

Tehran – November, 2008

Agreed Minutes

Sixth Governing Board Meeting (GBM) Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM-Tehran) (Under the auspices of UNESCO) Muscat – Sultanate of Oman 2 November 2008, 10:30- 14:30

The Sixth Governing Board meeting was held in Muscat, 2 November 2008 based on the approvals of the 5th GB meeting held in Tehran, 24 November 2007.

1- Participants

Member States:

- **Bangladesh**
H.E. Mr. Md. Abdul Hannan, The Ambassador of the Republic of Bangladesh in Muscat, Oman
- **Egypt**
Ms. Dalal Alnaggar, Representative, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
- **India**
Mr. C.S. Mathur, Representative, Ministry of Water Resources
- **Iran**
H.E. Mr. Parviz Fattah, Chairman of the GB and Minister of Energy
Mr. Farhad Yazdandoost, Director, RCUWM-Tehran
- **Kuwait**
Mr. Hamed Habib Al-Khaledi, Representative, Ministry of Electricity and Water
- **Oman**
H.E. Mr. Abdullah bin Salem bin Amer Al Rawas, Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources
- **Syria**
Mr. Abdalnaser Saadeddin, Representative, Ministry of Housing and *Construction*
- **Tajikistan**
Mr. Anvar M. Zairov, Representative, Ministry of Water Economy and Land Improvement

Organisations:

- **UNESCO**
Mr. R. Meganck, Representative of UNESCO-IHP
- **International Water Association**
Mr. Paul Reiter, Executive Director
- **Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management**
Mr. Murad Jabay Bino, Executive Director
- **UNESCO-IHE**
Mr. Richard Meganck, Rector
- **United Nations Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development**
Mr. Reza Ardakanian, Director
- **Wageningen UR**
Mr. Win P. Cofino, Representative of Director General

The representatives of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Germany, Lebanon and Yemen as well as The International Water Academy (TIWA) were not present in the meeting.

2- Opening remarks

H.E. Mr. Abdullah bin Salem bin Amer Al Rawas, Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, Sultanate of Oman as the host welcomed the participants to the 6th Governing Board (GB) meeting of RCUWM-Tehran.

UNESCO's remarks were delivered by Prof. Meganck, the representative of the Director General of UNESCO.

The meeting was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Fattah, Minister of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran and the Chairman of the Governing Board.

3- Agenda of the meeting

The draft agenda was put to the floor and it was unanimously adopted as follows:

- Opening
 - Welcoming speech by the Minister of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources, Oman
 - Remarks by UNESCO Representative
 - Opening speech by the Minister of Energy, I.R. Iran, Chairman of the GB
- Director's report on implemented activities between the 5th and 6th GBM, budget and work plan for 2009;
- Comments and approvals on the Director's Report, members contribution towards the Centre's activities;
- Director's report and discussion on the strategic plan for the 2nd five year activities, focusing on financial resources and fundraising;
- Date and Venue of the 7th Governing Board Meeting;
- Other issues
- Closing remarks.

4- Discussions and approvals

4-1- The Director's report, including the activities, achievements during 2008 (5th - 6th GBM) and budget and work plan for 2009 was delivered by the Director of the Centre, Dr. Farhad Yazdandoost and approved by the participants of the meeting.

4-2- The distinguished members of the 6th GBM presented their suggestions in concern with promoting the Centres activities as follows:

Bangladesh representative emphasized on:

- The importance of climate change and its impacts on water resources and sustainable development particularly on the sea level rise.
- The importance of arsenic removal from potable water which endangered around 30 millions inhabitants in Bangladesh.
- Water pollution and floods.
- In his point of view, the Centre could be involved in such activities in order to fulfil the needs of the region by forming relevant expert groups from the member states in the region.

Egypt representative stated that:

Capacity development is amongst one of the most important activities of category II Centres acting under the auspices of UNESCO. RCTWS- Cairo is quite prepared to cooperate with RCUWM-Tehran for promoting this vital mission by carrying out joint projects based on regional needs.

UNW-DPC representative mentioned that:

One of the main goals of the UNW-DPC is to focus on capacity building. By taking into account RCUWM's mission and objectives, our programme is prepared to further support the centres activities.

He stated that the Integrated Flood Management Training Workshop would be held in Tehran in close cooperation with UNW-DPC, WMO and the Centre with the participation of around 25 qualified experts from the countries in the region in May 2009.

IWA representative stated that:

The centre has an extensive capacity for fulfilling the needs of the region. We should investigate proper mechanisms in order to use this capacity for the benefit of the inhabitants of the region. IWA is prepared to support the Centre in this respect, and wishes to further express its willingness to become a member of RCUWM-Tehran executive committee. He also congratulated the Centre for its successful first 5-year performance.

INWRDAM representative mentioned that:

He was pleased to have his centre accepted as a new member of the Governing Board. He also emphasized on searching for new financial resources through international organizations by the GB members contribution.

Wageningen UR representative stated that:

Wageningen University and Research Centre is ready to contribute in jointly implementing the Centre's activities and work plan in 2009 by closer contacts to be made in near future.

UNESCO-IHE representative proposed that:

UNESCO-IHE is prepared to hold short / online courses to train young professionals in close cooperation with RCUWM – Tehran GB members.

Oman representative mentioned that:

In continuation with the joint implemented activities carried out with the Centre, The Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources is willing to co-organize an International Conference on Capacity building in Urban Water Management under water scarcity conditions to be held in Muscat, 2009.

- 4-3- As some GB members (India and Bangladesh) have not properly fulfilled their commitments based on the previous GB meetings approvals, all members were kindly asked to precisely follow up their commitments in due time.
- 4-4- It was suggested to have all of the GB members' financial and technical contribution in at least one of the projects of the Centre.
- 4-5- The financial and technical performance of the GB members were proposed to be prepared by the Centre and presented in the next GB meeting.
- 4-6- Dr. Yazdandoost, RCUWM-Tehran Director presented the Strategic Plan for the 2nd five year activities focusing on the financial resources. This was initially approved by the Executive Committee members meeting held on 1 November 2008. The report was highly received and approved by the GB members.
- 4-7- It was decided to determine the date and venue of the 7th Governing Board Meeting of the Centre during one month time by receiving the GB members' feedbacks.
- 4-8- The GB members welcomed the proposal of H.E. Mr. Fattah, as the Chairman of the GB on establishing a Regional Centre on Drought Watch. A proposal will be compiled by the Centre on the above mentioned issue to be presented to the next GB meeting for a final decision to be made in this concern.

Closing remarks

The closing remarks were presented by H.E. Mr Fattah. The Chairman delivered his deep appreciations to H.E. Sheikh Fahad, the honourable deputy of His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos for receiving the GB members and his valuable view points in concern with water issues.

Due to the high importance of water H.E. recommended holding a summit with the participation of the heads of the states in order to raise water issues at the highest political level.

Although Afghanistan representative was not present in this meeting the Chair asked the GB members to contribute and support Afghanistan plans and projects in the water sector.

The Chairman of the GB deeply thanked H.E. Mr. Al Rawas, the respectful Omani Minister and his wonderful team for organizing the 6th Governing Board meeting of RCUWM-Tehran in the beautiful city of Muscat.

All members attending the Sixth Governing Board meeting expressed their appreciations for attending the board meeting and further expressed their gratitude for the hospitality shown by the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources during their stay in the Sultanate of Oman.

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

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
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Mr. Mr. Hamed Habib Al-Khaledi,
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Mr. Abdulnaser Saadeddin
Representative of Ministry of Housing and
Construction
Syria

H.E. Mr. Md. Abdul Hannan
Ambassador, Republic of Bangladesh in
Oman

Mr. Anvar M. Zairov
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Representative of Wageningen University

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