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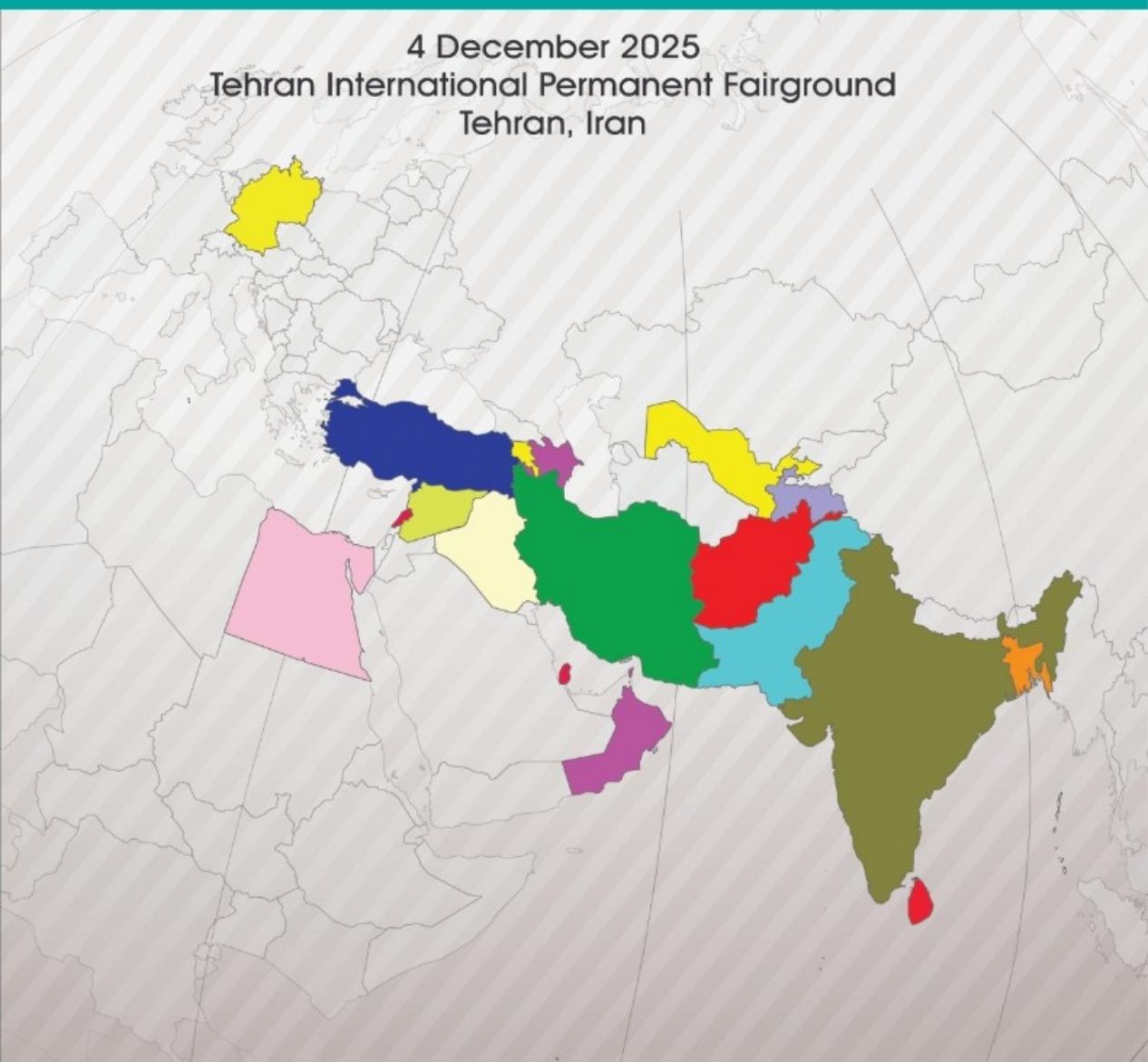
Regional Centre on
Urban Water Management
(RCUWM - Tehran)

14th Governing Board Meeting

COMPENDIUM

4 December 2025

Tehran International Permanent Fairground
Tehran, Iran





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14th Governing Board Meeting (GBM-14)

Compendium

04 Dec 2025

Foreword

In my capacity as the chairperson of the Governing Board (GB) of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (UNESCO-RCUWM) and the Minister of Energy, I.R. Iran, I have the pleasure to announce that the 14th Governing Board Meeting (GBM-14) is planned to be held in Tehran, Iran, on December 04, 2025.

RCUWM is guided and overseen by its Governing Board (GB) at the highest level and its members are Ministers from Iran (Chair), Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan as well as UNESCO Director General.

Building on the initiative during the previous Governing Board Meetings, a new set of collaborative project proposals was also developed and presented by RCUWM in the last GBM. These proposals were subsequently endorsed as part of the Centre's work plan for the period between the GBM 13 and 14. I am pleased to report that the Centre has pursued these activities with strong commitment, resulting in notable progress and tangible outcomes in many of the approved proposals.

I would like to state that the Center is fulfilling its mandate with its maximum capacity for precisely addressing and solving water management issues in arid and semi-arid regions. I believe that regional water challenges can be addressed through strengthening international cooperation. This outstanding goal is not achievable except through exchanging knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned and taking advantage of the capacity of RCUWM Governing Board (GB) member states and organizations. In conclusion, I declare my full preparedness and support for the Center's activities to solve water-related problems in the region in line with implementing the priority areas of the strategic plan of the ninth phase of UNESCO-IHP (2022-2029) at regional and international levels based on the IHP IX priorities as follows:

- 1- Scientific research and innovation
- 2- Water education in the Fourth Industrial Revolution
- 3- Bridging the data- knowledge gap
- 4- Inclusive water management under conditions of global change
- 5- Water Governance based on science for mitigation, adaptation and resilience

Participation of all active RCUWM GB member states in achieving such a goal as well as assisting the Centre's mandate of activities is highly appreciated.

Last but not least, I would like to sincerely thank all active RCUWM members for expanding their collaboration with the Centre, which I admire.

Abbas Aliabadi

RCUWM- GB Chair & Minister of Energy, I. R. Iran

Dec. 2025

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Section 1. RCUWM; INTRODUCTION AND ACTIVITIES

1.1. RCUWM as a UNESCO Category 2 Centre

Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO are specialized institutions established and operated by Member States to support UNESCO's strategic objectives without forming part of its formal organizational structure. These Centres possess their own governance, legal identity, and financial responsibility, while working within a agreement that defines their cooperation with UNESCO. They function as regional or international hubs of expertise, focusing on research, capacity development, technical assistance, and policy support in fields aligned with UNESCO's priorities.

The host country provides the institutional base, resources, and long-term support required for the Centre's operations, while UNESCO offers guidance, visibility, and access to a global scientific and policy network.

Within this system, water-related Category 2 Centres contribute to UNESCO's global freshwater agenda by providing scientific services, training programmes, and policy advisory support that respond to regional and national water challenges. Water-related Centres coordinate closely with UNESCO's Natural Sciences Sector, particularly the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), which acts as the primary institutional framework linking their activities to UNESCO's broader water strategy. They also collaborate with UNESCO field offices and IHP National Committees, ensuring that scientific knowledge and capacity-building efforts are effectively transferred to Member States.

The Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) - the only intergovernmental science programme of the United Nations focused on freshwater - plays a central role in guiding the work of these Centres. Since its establishment in 1975, IHP has aimed to strengthen water security, advance hydrological knowledge, support countries in adapting to climate change impacts, promote integrated water resources management, and improve governance structures at national and transboundary levels. IHP implements its mission through scientific research initiatives, observational networks, policy-oriented studies, and extensive training and capacity-building programmes.

Water-related Category 2 Centres translate IHP's global priorities into region-specific actions by developing technical tools, organizing specialized training, facilitating cross-border dialogue, and fostering collaboration among governments, scientific institutions, and relevant stakeholders. They help Member States address pressing challenges such as groundwater depletion, drought and flood risk management, water quality degradation, and urban water complexities. Through these efforts, they serve as an essential bridge between UNESCO's strategic vision and practical implementation on the ground, expanding the Organization's outreach and impact across regions.

The Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) has been established under the auspices of UNESCO in Tehran-Iran since February 2002. It is associated with UNESCO through a formal agreement approved by the UNESCO General Conference and signed and exchanged between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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The Centre's field of activity is to promote scientific research, strengthen regional networks, and support capacity-building in all dimensions of water management. The Centre's Objectives, based on the Agreement, are:

- 1- To generate and provide scientific and technical information on urban water management issues in the region that will allow the formulation of sound policies leading to sustainable and integrated urban water management.
- 2- To promote research on urban water management issues through regional cooperative arrangements using and strengthening local capabilities and involving international institutions and networks, in particular those under the auspices of UNESCO.
- 3- To undertake effective capacity building activities at institutional and professional levels, and awareness-raising activities targeted at various audiences, including the general public.
- 4- To enhance cooperation with international institutions in order to advance knowledge in the field of urban water management.

Building on these themes, the achievements of RCUWM-Tehran since its establishment have been:

- Holding around 110 training events for its Governing Board (GB) member states' experts and managers which sum up to around 35000 persons/day being trained;
- Publishing more than 33 books and publications in close cooperation with its GB member states;
- Planning 10 joint research projects;
- Hosting the International Drought Initiative (IDI) since 2010 with the aim of drought management monitoring and required training for drought management and adaptation to water scarcity;
- Holding 13 GB meetings at the ministerial level

1.2. Administrative and Organizational

Based on Article 9 of the Agreement between UNESCO and the Government of I.R. Iran which states that the Iranian Government shall “*make available to the Centre the administrative staff necessary for the performance of its functions, which shall comprise: the director, a deputy, experts, program specialists and researchers, a financial officer, an assistant to the financial officers, regular staff and a driver*”, the proposed organizational charts of the Centre and the staffing table are presented at Figure 4 and Table 1, respectively.

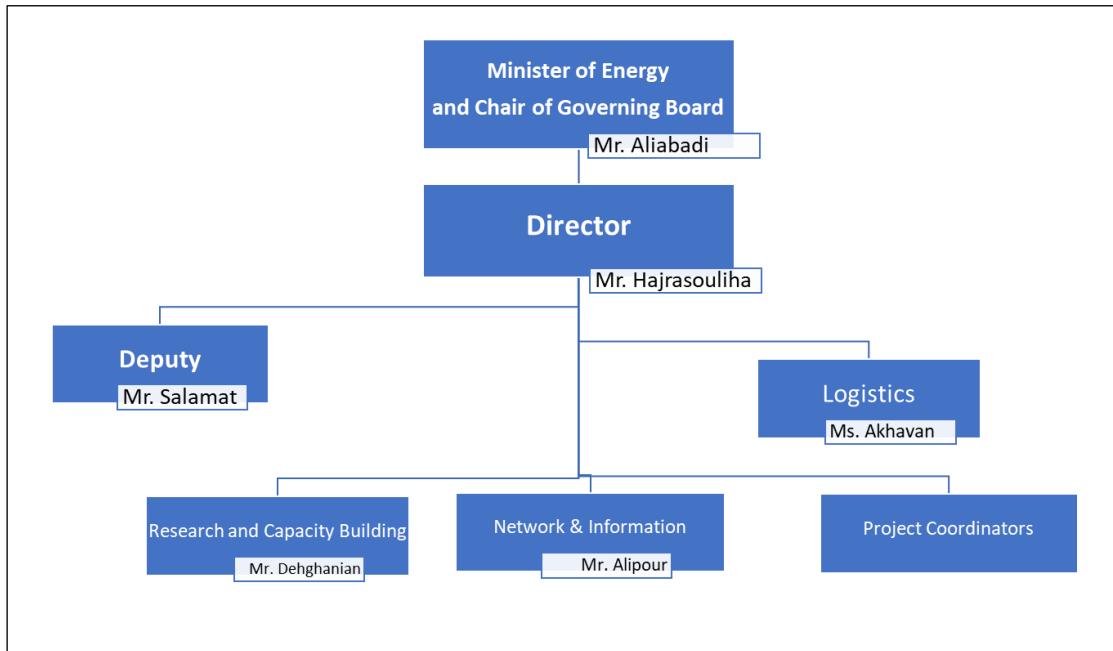


Figure 1- RCUWM Organizational Chart

Table 1- RCUWM Staff

Position	Sex		Education				Years of Experience			
	M	F	PhD	MS	BS	N/A	<5	5~10	10~20	>20
Director	1			1						1
Deputy	1			1						1
Senior Advisers (part time)	11	1	9	3						12
Experts	2			2			1	1		
Program Specialists /Researchers	2	2	2	2				3		1
Financial Affairs (part time)		2		1	1				1	1
Supporting Staff	3			1		2			3	
Total	20	5	14	9		2	1	4	4	16

1.3. Work Plan and Activities (2023-2025)

1.3.1. Work plan

During the previous Governing Board meeting, the Centre's work plans were formally approved by the Member States, providing a comprehensive framework to guide its activities for the upcoming period. These programmes were developed to enhance regional cooperation, strengthen capacity-building, advance technical knowledge, and support the sustainable management of water resources. The approved plans areas include:

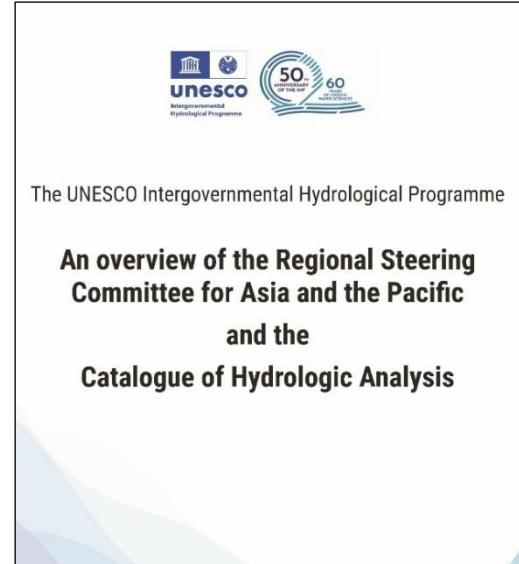
- Best Practices in **Groundwater Management** at Regional Scale
- Transferring Experiences and Technical Knowledge about Integrated **River Management** based on Restoration, Rehabilitation and Maintenance of River
- Improving **Water Governance** in RCUWM Governing Board (GB) Member States
- Development of a Regional Collaborative Platform for Adaptation of Urban Water Systems to **Climate Change**
- Development and Implementation of a Regional **Drought Monitoring**, Prediction and Risk Management System
- **New Technologies** in Water and Wastewater Treatment and Recycling
- **Skill Improvement** for Urban Water Practitioners and Technicians
- **Improving Water Quality** in the Region: from Capacity Building to Capacity Development and Developing Standards for Water Sector

The following sections provide a detailed account of the Centre's efforts and accomplishments under each of these eight programmes divided into four main areas including research, capacity building, networking and publications.

1.3.2. Research Activities

- 1- Published Research Article entitled “*Groundwater Resources Management in Iran through Implementing the Restoration Plan*”

As part of its research outputs, the Centre contributed a scientific article entitled “*Groundwater Resources Management in Iran through Implementing the Restoration Plan*”, which was published in 2025 within the volume *UNESCO IHP: An Overview of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific and the Catalogue of Hydrologic Analysis*. The publication, released in Indonesia by the UNESCO Office in Jakarta in collaboration with the IHP Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific, is indexed in UNESDOC-UNESCO. This contribution reflects the Centre’s continued commitment to advancing knowledge and sharing technical experiences with the broader regional and international water community.



2- Development of the Regional Drought Monitoring System (RDMS)

Over the past two years, one of the key research activities of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM-UNESCO) has been the development of the Regional Drought Monitoring System (RDMS). Drought is a complex, gradual, and multidimensional climatic phenomenon with significant impacts on water resources, agriculture, ecosystems, and national economies, particularly in geographically vulnerable regions. Increasing climate variability and the intensifying effects of climate change have heightened the need for accurate, continuous, and region-specific drought monitoring systems. In West and Central Asia, recurrent and severe droughts have caused extensive agricultural losses, environmental degradation, economic setbacks, and social challenges affecting millions of people. These realities underscore the necessity of proactive drought management, informed planning, and reliable early-warning capabilities.

The RDMS was designed as a Web-GIS-based platform supported by global climate datasets and remote sensing products to monitor drought conditions across UNESCO Governing Board member countries. Drawing on scientifically validated climate records, the system provides temporal and spatial analyses using a suite of standardized drought indices. As the first step toward a comprehensive integrated drought-management framework, RDMS offers a robust basis for early warning, risk reduction, and informed decision-making.

Early monitoring and warning serve as the foundational pillar of Integrated Drought Management (IDM). By identifying the onset, intensity, spatial extent, and duration of drought episodes, timely monitoring helps prevent an environmental phenomenon from escalating into a human, economic, or ecological

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crisis. RDMS supplies real-time and historical datasets—including precipitation anomalies, soil moisture indicators, and vegetation-health metrics—enabling managers, policymakers, agricultural experts, and researchers to detect emerging risks, plan water allocation, adjust cropping patterns, and coordinate preparedness actions.

The system currently covers selected countries across West and Central Asia, with priority support to RCUWM Governing Board members such as Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan. Its data foundation is built on ERA5 reanalysis products provided by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), offering high-quality, continuous spatial and temporal coverage. Data are processed and stored in structured formats such as GeoTIFF and NetCDF.

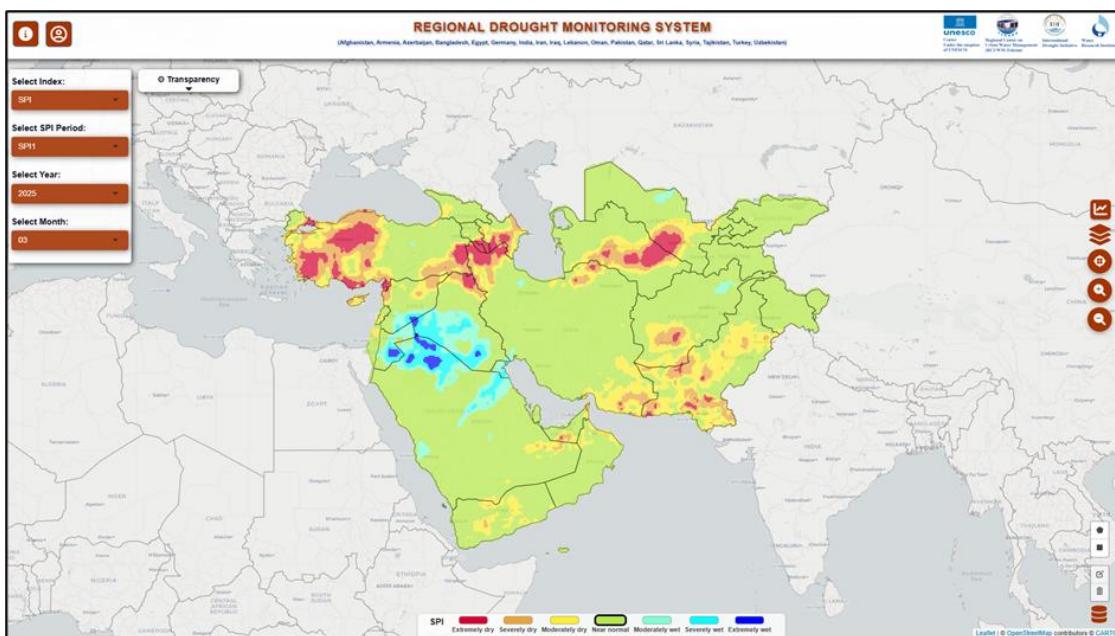


Figure 2- RDMS web platform

In its first phase, RDMS computes the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) across multiple timescales—1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, and 24 months—to capture meteorological, agricultural, and hydrological drought dynamics. Users can analyze drought trends at national scales, explore point-based time series, or define custom geographic areas using shapefiles or drawing tools. The web platform, built with a three-tier architecture and interactive technologies such as Shiny, Plotly, HTML/CSS, and JavaScript, allows users to download outputs in various formats and interact with maps and graphs seamlessly.

Future development (Phase II) will expand the system by integrating advanced indices such as SPEI, VCI, CDI, and region-specific metrics to enhance real-time monitoring and local-scale accuracy. These advancements will further strengthen the system's capacity to support climate-resilient planning, regional cooperation, and long-term drought-risk reduction.

In summary, RDMS represents a significant scientific and operational achievement of the past two years, providing a comprehensive, user-friendly, and data-driven tool for drought monitoring and decision-support across West and Central Asia.

1.3.3. Capacity Building Activities

During the reporting period, the Centre's capacity-building programme achieved notable progress through the organization of nine specialized training workshops covering themes such as climate change, groundwater management, river and flood management, drought monitoring, water governance, media literacy, wastewater recycling, and water supply and demand management. In addition, four sets of educational materials were developed based on the material educated in those workshops in the areas of and are available online.

Collectively, these efforts contributed to advancing Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), while also supporting the priority themes of the UNESCO IHP, including water governance, climate change adaptation, water scarcity, and resilience-building across the region.

1- Training Workshop on “Water Media Literacy” - May 2023

RCUWM, in collaboration with the Public Relations of Ministry of Energy and Secretariat of Intergovernmental Hydrological Program (UNESCO-IHP), organized an international training workshop on 9-10 May 2023 aimed at enhancing professional knowledge and strengthening stakeholder engagement on key water-related challenges. The event gathered 140 in-person and 25 online participants, including journalists, water professionals, and representatives from Governing Board member countries—Oman, Iraq, Syria, Türkiye, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. The workshop delivered a series of specialized sessions focusing on themes such as water governance, climate change impacts, social dimensions of water management, and media's role in shaping public awareness.



Figure 3- Workshop on Water Media Literacy

2- Training Workshop on “Climate Change; Impacts and Adaptation” - October 2023

RCUWM, in close cooperation with Iran Water Research Institute (WRI) and Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO) and in collaboration with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organized a training workshop in October 2023 entitled “Climate Change; Impacts and Adaptation”.

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The event was a platform for interaction between experts in the region and aimed to accelerate future research and major milestones in the discipline of climate change. The workshop themes included Climate change and its impact on climate patterns, Impacts of climate change on water resources, and Policymaking for adaptation to climate change.

The event gathered 100 in-person and more than 1000 online participants, including Managers and experts from RCUWM Governing Board Member States, Government sector managers and experts in the field of climate change management in Iran (including the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, Iran Meteorological Organization, Department of Environment, Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade), Academic community and researchers and Consulting engineers related to water and environment



Figure 4- Workshop on “Climate Change; Impacts and Adaptation”

3- Training Workshop on “Integrated Flood Management” - November 2023

RCUWM, in close cooperation with Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO) and in collaboration with the Associated Program on Flood Management (APFM) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organized a training workshop in November 2023 entitled “Implementation of Integrated Flood; Management; lessons learned and challenges”. This event was executed based on the river management plan of RCUWM work plan and motivated by the book “Introduction to IFM” translated and published by RCUWM earlier.

The workshop targets were training and familiarization of experts and participants with concepts of integrated flood management and its aspects, enhancing the level of technical knowledge required to implement IFM in the country and among consulting engineering companies and related governmental managers, and exchanging updated experiences in the field of flood management with the GB member states.

The event that was hosted by the Iran Consulting Engineers Association, gathered 140 in-person and more than 300 online participants, including Managers and experts from several RCUWM Governing Board Member States including Iraq, Syria, Oman, India, Pakistan and also WMO.



Figure 5- Workshop on “Integrated Flood Management”



Figure 6- Participants from Iraq, Oman, India, and Syria to the Workshop on “Integrated Flood Management”

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4- Training Workshop on “Groundwater Governance; Lessons learned, challenges and Solutions” - April 2024

RCUWM, in close cooperation with Iran Water resources Management Company and in collaboration with International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) under the auspices of UNESCO and Agriculture and Water Strategic Research Centre of Iran Chamber organized a training workshop in April 2024 entitled “Groundwater Governance; Lessons learned, challenges and Solutions”.

This event covered a variety of themes including Mainstream Groundwater Governance Frameworks, Equitable access to and consensus-building on Groundwater Data and Information (Transparency, Accountability and Trust Building), Interactive Soft and Hard Technologies for Monitoring and Control of Resources and Conservation, Inter-sectorial collaboration and Policy Coherence, Involvement of Local Stakeholders in Decision-making Processes, Social and Organizational Learning Capacity Development for Collective Actions and Collaborative Partnerships, Mechanisms for Water Re-allocation (Water conflicts and Movements and Institutional Reforms), Political Economy of Groundwater (People and State relationships), Legal Regimes and Water Rights (Challenges of Public Trust Legal Doctrine), and Experiences and Lessons Learned, Challenges and Solutions.



Figure 7- Workshop on “Groundwater Governance”, Online Presentations: Elisabeth Lictevout (Netherlands), Elena Lopez (Spain), Andrew Ross (Australia)

The workshop gathered 100 in-person and more than 1500 online participants and participants from Spain, Australia, Italy, Netherlands, and Malta delivered presentation about the groundwater governance in their country.

Also, two books including “The Groundwater Economics” and “The Role of Sound Groundwater Resources Management to Achieve Water Security” which was translated and published by RCUWM was revealed during this event.

5- Training Workshop on “Urban Flood Management; From Prevention to Adaptation” - May 2025

After successful organization of the workshop on “Integrated Flood Management” in November 2023, and following the request for a joint workshop from Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization, RCUWM organized a joint workshop on “Urban Flood Management; From Prevention to Adaptation” on May 13, 2025.

This workshop targeted on Urban planners, civil engineers, hydrologists, environmental scientists, policymakers, and local government officials involved in flood management and urban development and around 60 in-person & 150 online experts from different section of Tehran Municipality attended the event.



Figure 8- Workshop on “Urban Flood Management; From Prevention to Adaptation”

6- Training Workshop on “Wastewater Reuse within a Circular Economy Context” - January 2025

RCUWM in collaboration with the National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company, Iran Water Resources Management Company, and the Bureau of Urban and Rural Water and Wastewater Supervision and Management of the Ministry of Energy, and in line with its mandate and the project proposals approved in the 13th GBM, hold a workshop entitled “Wastewater Reuse within a Circular Economy Context” on 21 and 21 January 2025 in Tehran.

The workshop explored the challenges and opportunities in practical knowledge of wastewater recycling and reuse within the circular economy approach and reflected researchers’ experiences through practical presentations.

The objectives of the event were 1- To enhance knowledge and share innovative experiences based on the principles and applications of the circular economy in the water and wastewater industry, focusing on wastewater reuse, 2- To build the capacity of specialists in the technical, economic, social, and environmental evaluation of wastewater reuse projects and to provide optimal solutions for improving

performance and sustainable development of projects, and 3- To assess policies and supportive incentives to accelerate and facilitate the adoption and implementation of wastewater reuse projects within the circular economy framework.

The workshop discussed several topics like Introduction to the principles and foundations of the circular economy and its application in the water and wastewater industry with a focus on wastewater reuse, technical, economic, social, and environmental assessment of wastewater reuse and financial-economic models of wastewater reuse projects and methods of their implementation and gathered around 90 in-person & 500 online participants



Figure 9- Workshop on “Wastewater Reuse within a Circular Economy Context”

7- Training Workshop on “Implementation of Integrated Drought Management (IDM): Challenges and Solutions” - October 2025

RCUWM, in close cooperation with Iran Meteorological Organization (IRIMO) and in collaboration with Integrated Drought Management Program (IDMP) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organized a training workshop in October 2025 entitled “Implementation of Integrated Drought Management (IDM): Challenges and Solutions”. This event was held based on the drought management plan of RCUWM work plan approved in GBM13.

The main objectives of the workshop were to identify the key challenges in implementing IDM at local, national, and global levels, to share best practices, tools, and technologies for drought risk reduction and management, to foster collaboration among international organizations, governments, academia, and civil society, to align IDM strategies with the priority areas of UNESCO-IHP IX (e.g., water governance based on science for mitigation, adaptation and resilience), to develop actionable recommendations for advancing IDM globally, and to enhance the level of technical knowledge required to implement the IDM concept in the RCUWM GB member states.

The workshop keynote speakers included UN Resident Coordinator for Iran, Head of UNESCO Tehran

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Office, Deputy for Water and Wastewater Affairs of Iran Ministry of Energy, Head of IRIMO, Head of Natural Resources and Watershed Management Organization and Head of IDMP. Several RCUWM Governing Board Member States including Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Switzerland, Türkiye, and Oman attended and made presentation about drought management in their countries. Moreover, experts from UNCCD, ICPAC-Kenya, CIMA Research Foundation of Italy, and National Drought Mitigation Centre of the USA joint the workshop online and made speeches. Totally, the event hosted 140 in-person and more than 60 online participants.



Figure 10- Workshop on “Implementation of Integrated Drought Management (IDM): Challenges and Solutions”

8- Training Workshop on “Implementation of IFM in Iraq” - October 2025, Baghdad, Iraq

Regarding the successful organization of the workshop on “Integrated Flood Management” in November 2023 in Tehran, which hosted a couple of experts from region countries and following the discussions between RCUWM and Ministry of Water Resources of Iraq, a 3-day joint workshop was held in 28-30 October 2025 in Baghdad, Iraq.



Figure 11- Workshop on “Implementation of IFM in Iraq” - October 2025, Baghdad, Iraq

H.E. Mr. Aoun Dhiab Abdullah, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq, Iran Ambassador to Iraq, and Head of UNESCO Baghdad Office were among the keynote speakers of the event. Furthermore, the H.E. Mr. Aoun Dhiab Abdullah warmly received Mr. Hajrasouliha, Director of RCUWM and they discussed future cooperation. Also, the director invited the Minister for attending GBM14.

8- Training Workshop “Water Supply and Demand Management” - October 2025

RCUWM, within the framework of the UNESCO programme on “Water science, innovation, education, management, cooperation, and governance bolstered for a water-secure world in a changing environment,” and in close cooperation with UNESCO Tehran Office organized a 7-day training workshop in October 2025 entitled “Water Supply and Demand Management”. RCUWM prepared all scientific and technical documents and developed the agenda and content for the workshop. Also, invited suitable persons from African countries to join the workshop. Finally, 7 international attendees from Tanzania, Algeria, Nigeria, Mauritania, and Iraq were selected to join the workshop.



Figure 12- Workshop “Water Supply and Demand Management”

The workshop included a 5-day visit to Khozestan Province which included several technical sessions plus technical tours to water resource management facilities like dams and distribution and diversion canals and also hydropower plans. This part was hosted by Khouzestan Water and Power Authority.



Figure 13- Workshop “Water Supply and Demand Management”

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The next 2 days of the event was held in Tehran, where Tehran Water and Wastewater Company and Iran Chamber of Commerce hold two technical sessions regarding capabilities of Iranian companies in the water and wastewater industry and arranged technical visits to Tehran Water Treatment Plant and Tehran Water Distribution Control Center.



Figure 14- Workshop “Water Supply and Demand Management”

1.3.4. Networking Activities

During the reporting period, the Centre strengthened its regional and international networking efforts by expanding cooperation with key partners and positioning itself as an active platform for knowledge exchange within the water sector. These efforts aimed at increasing institutional visibility, creating new collaboration opportunities, and enhancing interaction among stakeholders. In this context, the Centre carried out several overarching networking actions, including signing 4 MoU with Water and Agriculture Strategic Study Center of Iran, Iranian Consulting Engineers Association, Iran Water Research Institute, and Tajikistan Institute of water problems, hydropower engineering and ecology, which provided a foundation for deeper cooperation across the region.

The Centre further advanced its institutional and international partnerships by engaging with organizations, regional water bodies, and technical institutions such as UNESCO-IHP, UN agencies like UNRC for Iran, UNDP Iran Office, Swiss Embassy in Iran, UNCCD, ICPAC-Kenya, CIMA Research Foundation of Italy, and National Drought Mitigation Centre of the USA, the International Association of Hydrogeologists, etc. These engagements enabled alignment of priorities, joint planning, and exploration of new areas of collaboration. Key activities in this category included invitation of experts to make presentations in Centre's workshops each contributing to the expansion of the Centre's cooperative network and strategic outreach.

In addition, the Centre focused on developing professional and regional connections through participation in expert gatherings, facilitation of dialogue platforms, and coordination with Governing Board member countries. These interactions supported experience sharing and helped identify emerging regional needs.



Figure 15- Signing MoU with Tajikistan Institute of water problems, hydropower engineering and ecology



Figure 16- Signing Letter of Engagement with APFM-WMO (left), Meeting with Sri Lanka Minister of Water Resources (right)

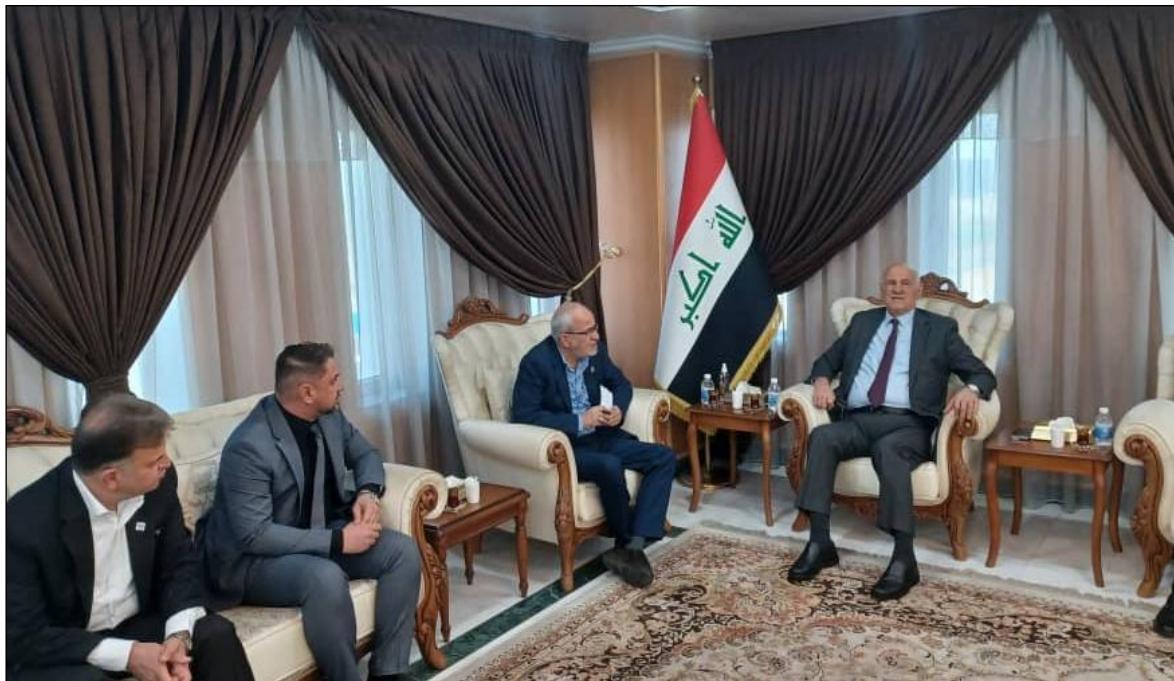


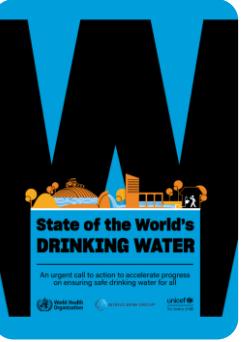
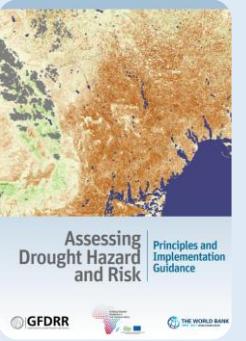
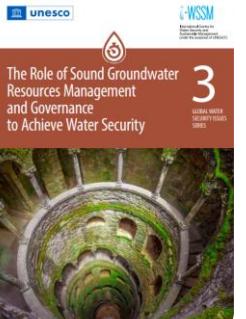
Figure 17- Meeting with H.E. Mr. Aoun Dhiab Abdullah, Minister of Water Resources of Iraq

1.3.5. Publication Activities

Over the past years, the Centre has significantly expanded its knowledge dissemination efforts through the translation, publication, and distribution of specialized scientific resources. As part of these initiatives, the Centre successfully produced a collection of 13 books, aiming to enhance regional access to up-to-date technical materials and support capacity development among professionals, researchers, and policymakers in the water sector.

These publications reflect the Centre's commitment to promoting the exchange of knowledge aligned with UNESCO's objectives. The titles of the published books are illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2- List of published books by Centre, 2023 - 2025

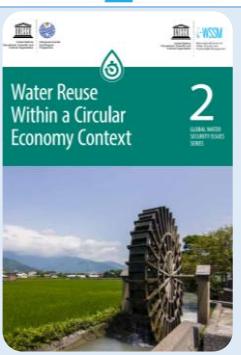
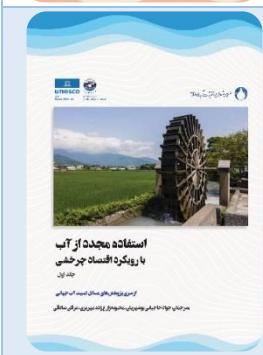
		<p>Title: State of the World's Drinking Water Year of Publication: 2023 Type of Publication: Translation Language: Farsi No. of Pages: 184 Original Publisher: WHO, UNICEF, World Bank</p>
		<p>Title: Assessing Drought Hazard and Risk Year of Publication: 2023 Type of Publication: Translation Language: Farsi No. of Pages: 164 Original Publisher: GFDRR, World Bank</p>
		<p>Title: The Role of Sound Groundwater Resources Management and Governance to Achieve Water Security Year of Publication: 2024 Type of Publication: Translation Language: Farsi No. of Pages: 242 (in 2 volumes) Original Publisher: UNESCO, IWSSM</p>



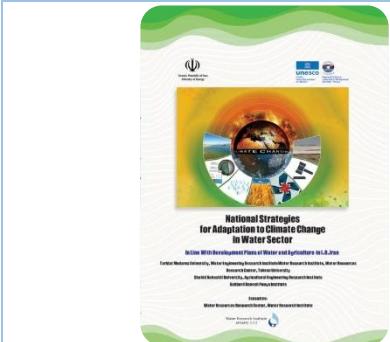
Title: Sanitation Safety Planning
Year of Publication: 2023
Type of Publication: Translation
Language: Farsi
No. of Pages: 212
Original Publisher: WHO



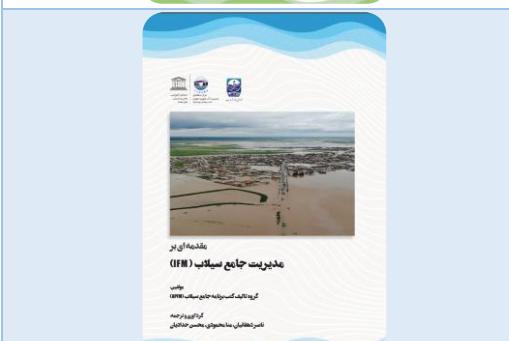
Title: Drought Risk Assessment and Management
Year of Publication: 2023
Type of Publication: Translation
Language: Farsi
No. of Pages: 212
Original Publisher: European Commission-JRC



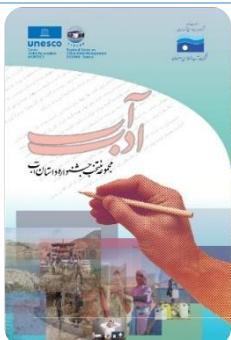
Title: water reuse within a circular economy context
Year of Publication: 2024
Type of Publication: Translation
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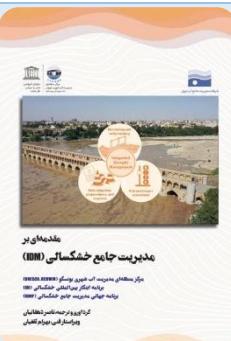
Title: National Strategies for Adaptation to Climate Change in Water Sector
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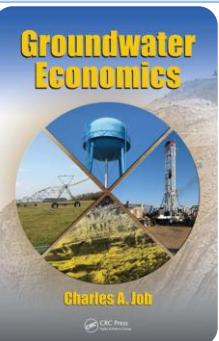
Title: An Introduction to Integrated Flood Management
Year of Publication: 2023
Type of Publication: Compilation-Translation
Language: Farsi
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Title: Water Literacy
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Title: An Introduction to Integrated Drought Management
Year of Publication: 2025
Type of Publication: Compilation-Translation
Language: Farsi
No. of Pages: 230



Title: Groundwater Economics
Year of Publication: 2023
Type of Publication: Translation
Language: Farsi
No. of Pages: 864 (in two volumes)
Original Publisher: Taylor and Francis Group



Title: Wastewater; Turning Problem to Solution
Year of Publication: 2024
Type of Publication: Translation
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No. of Pages: 218
Original Publisher: UN

1.3.6. Roadmap 2026-2028 (New Proposals)

In light of its technical capabilities, established regional networks, and the evolving water-related challenges across the region, the Centre intends to prioritize Plan No. 2- Transferring Experiences and Technical Knowledge about Integrated River Management based on Restoration, Rehabilitation and Maintenance of River, 4- Development of a Regional Collaborative Platform for Adaptation of Urban Water Systems to Climate Change and 5- Development and Implementation of a Regional Drought Monitoring, Prediction and Risk Management System - as approved in the previous Governing Board meeting for the next two years.

To effectively advance these plans, the Centre has identified a set of proposed priorities aimed at accelerating project development, strengthening partnerships, and attracting the engagement of Member States and partner organizations. These recommended priorities, developed by the Centre's Scientific Advisory Team, are presented in table below as the foundation for the Centre's forward-looking roadmap.

Table 3- extended work plans for future cooperation

Plan	Current Progress 2023-2025	Future Predicted Programmes	Counterparts
2- Flood Management	3 Workshops 1 Publication	Regional Training Workshop on “Flood and Sediment Management in line with IFM: Challenges and Solutions”	APFM (WMO&GWP)
		Compile a book entitled “Guidelines for Adaptive River Management in Drylands”	APFM (WMO&GWP)
4- Climate Change	1 Workshop 3 Publication	Workshop on Climate Change and Regional Adaptation	WMO
		Compile a book entitled “Climate Change Adaptation Approaches and Experiences in the RCUWM Governing Board Member States”	WMO
5- Drought Management	1 Workshop 1 Publication 1 Research Project	Regional Training Workshop on “Implementation of IDM: Challenges and Solutions”	IDMP (WMO&GWP)
		Compile a book entitled “Integrated Flood and Drought Management focusing on Advanced Technologies in the RCUWM Governing Board Member States”	IDMP and APFM (WMO)
		A Regional Drought Monitoring System (RDMS) to Implement IDM - Phase 2	WRI (Ministry of Energy)

Section 2. GOVERNING BOARD

2.1. Governing Boards of Category 2 Centres

The Governing Board is the highest oversight and decision-making body of UNESCO Category 2 Centres and plays a central role in ensuring that each Centre remains aligned with UNESCO's strategic objectives. From UNESCO's perspective, the Governing Board provides the formal governance mechanism through which the Organization monitors the Centre's relevance, programmatic orientation, and contribution to global and regional priorities, particularly those of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) in the case of water-related Centres.

The Board is typically composed of representatives from the host country, Member States of the Centre, and a UNESCO representative, ensuring both national ownership and international legitimacy. It is responsible for approving work plans, reviewing progress reports, and guiding long-term strategic directions. Through its periodic meetings, the Governing Board ensures transparency, scientific rigor, and effective coordination with UNESCO, while fostering cooperation among participating countries and strengthening the Centre's role as a regional hub for knowledge and capacity development.

The Chair of the Governing Board is typically assumed by a senior representative from the host country, reflecting its primary responsibility for supporting the Centre's operations. Board members include officially nominated representatives from participating Member States, alongside observers from UNESCO and relevant partner organizations.

Membership is designed to ensure balanced geographical and technical representation, enabling the Board to provide informed and regionally relevant guidance. The Chair is responsible for convening meetings, facilitating discussions, and ensuring that decisions are implemented effectively. Through this structure, the Governing Board benefits from diverse expertise while maintaining strong leadership and continuity in decision-making.

2.2. RCUWM Governing Board

RCUWM is also guided and overseen by its Governing Board (GB) as the most important decision-making constituent at the highest level. The Governing Board of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) is distinguished by its high-level composition, as its members are Ministers responsible for water affairs in their respective countries. This ministerial-level structure sets RCUWM apart from many other UNESCO Category 2 Centres, whose governing bodies are typically composed of senior technical experts or institutional representatives rather than cabinet-level authorities. The Chairmanship of the Board is held by the Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reflecting the host country's leadership role and ensuring strong political support for the Centre's mandate.

This unique governance arrangement enables the Board to take strategic, policy-level decisions that directly influence national and regional water agendas. It allows member countries to endorse cooperation frameworks, approve joint initiatives, mobilize high-level resources, and facilitate cross-border coordination with greater speed and authority. As a result, RCUWM benefits from enhanced

political visibility, stronger intergovernmental commitment, and the ability to translate technical recommendations into concrete policy actions across the region. The main tasks of the RCUWM Governing Board according to the agreement are as follows:

- Approve the medium and long-term programmes of the Centre;
- Approve the annual work plan of the Centre, including the staffing table;
- Examine the annual reports submitted by the director of the Centre, including a biennial self-assessment of the Centre's contribution to UNESCO's programme objectives;
- Adopt the rules and regulations and determine the financial, administrative and personnel management procedures for the Centre in accordance with the laws of the country;
- Decide on the participation of regional intergovernmental and international organizations in the work of the Centre;
- Examine the periodic independent audit reports of the financial statements of the Centre and monitor the provision of such accounting records necessary for the preparation of financial statements.

2.3. Governing Board Composition

Governing Board Members consists of:

- 1) Members at State Level including water related ministries from 18 countries
- 2) Representative of UNESCO Director General
- 3) Members at International Organization Level
- 4) Observers: Representatives of relevant national, regional, and international entities.

Currently, Centre's GB Member States are Ministers from Iran (Chair), Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Germany, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Swiss, Syria, Tajikistan, and Türkiye as well as the representative of UNESCO Director General as for the period of 2018-2026.

2.4. Governing Board Meetings

According to the Agreement, the Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session once per year. The Governing Board shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year. It shall meet in extraordinary session if convened by its Chairperson, either on his or her initiative or at the request of the director-general of UNESCO or one-third plus one of its members.

According to the agreement, so far 13 GB meetings have been arranged and held with the attendance of its member states and organization representatives. The Centre has held its ordinary GB meetings as presented in Table 4.

Table 4- Record of Governing Board Meetings

Year	Venue	Date	Participant Members		
			States	Org.	Total
2002	Muscat, Oman	18 May 2002	1	1	2
2003	Tehran, Iran	17 Dec 2003	9	4	13
2005	Tehran, Iran	27 Feb 2005	9	5	14
2006	Tehran, Iran	13 May 2006	10	3	13
2007	Tehran, Iran	24 Nov 2007	8	2	10
2008	Muscat, Oman	2 Nov 2008	8	6	14
2010	Tehran, Iran	5 May 2010	11	4	15
2012	Tehran, Iran	4 Sep 2012	11	4	15
2013	Dushanbe, Tajikistan	19 Aug 2013	9	4	13
2019	Tehran, Iran	5 Dec 2019	16	9	25
2020	Video Conference	23 Sep 2020	15	9	24
2021	Video Conference	26 May 2021	18	12	30
2023	Hybrid (Tehran, Iran)	23 February 2023	15	8	23

2.5. 13th Governing Board Meeting - February, 2023

The Thirteenth Governing Board Meeting (GBM) of the Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM) was held on 23rd February 2023 based on the approvals of the 12th GBM held virtually on 26 May 2021. This hybrid event involved a mixture of in-person and remote attendees. Remote attendees joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams platform while in-person attendees sit together in the Conference Hall of Ministry of Energy HQ, Tehran, Iran.

Table 5- List of Participants (In-person and Remote) in the 13th GBM- February 2023

RCUWM	H.E. Mr. Ali Akbar Mehrabian, GB Chair and Minister of Energy, Iran Mr. Mohammad Hajrasouliha, Director, RCUWM-Tehran
Member States	Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Omar, Deputy for Water Affairs, Minister of Energy and Water (Online) Armenia, Mr. Vahagn Gevorgyan, Chairman of Water Committee Bangladesh, H.E. Mr. Muhammad Tajul Islam, Minister of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (Online) India, Mr. John Mai, Deputy Ambassador of India to Iran Iran, Mr. Javanbakht, Deputy Minister of Energy for Water and Wastewater Affairs Iraq, H.E. Mr. Awn Theab Abdullah, Minister of Water Resources Lebanon, H.E. Hassan Abbas, Ambassador of Lebanon to Iran Oman, Mr. Naser Al – Battashi, Director of Water Resources Oman, Ibrahim bin Ahmed Almuaini, Oman Ambassador in Iran Pakistan, Ms. Zaib Tayyab, Counsellor of the Embassy Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. G.M.V.Wishwanah Aponsu Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Iran Switzerland, Mr. Kim Sitzler, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland to Iran Syria, Mr. Ali Ahmad Khamis, Consuler, Embassy of Syria in Iran Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Delir Juma, Minister of Energy and Water Resources Turkey, Ms. Ozge Imamoglu, Head of Department for International Organizations of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (online)
Member Organizations	UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Farzin, Representative of Iran Office UNDP, Ms. Nematova, Deputy of UNDP Representative in Iran UNESCO, Mr. Abou Amani, Director of the Division of Water Sciences and IHP Secretary (online) UNESCO, Ms Sarantuya Zandaryaa, Programme Specialist (Water for Human Settlements), Division of Water Sciences IsDB, Mr. Farshad Kalivash, Field Representative in Iran FAO, Ms. Nazi Tavakoli, Representative in Iran ECO, Mr. Khusrav Noziri , Secretary General Oman Water Society, Mr. Saif Rashid Al Shaqsi, President

2.5. 14th Governing Board Meeting - December, 2025

To follow article No. 7.3 of UNESCO-RCUWM agreement which states that: “*The GB shall meet in ordinary session at regular intervals, at least once every calendar year*”, the 14th GB Meeting is planned to be organized on Thursday 04 December 2025, 09:00 – 11:30, Tehran Standard Time. The provisional agenda of GBM14 is shown in Table 4.

Table 6- Tentative Agenda for the GBM14

NO.	Time	Item
1	09:00 – 09:10	National Anthem and Reciting the Holy Quran
2	09:10 – 09:20	Opening, Minister of Energy & RCUWM GB Chair
3	09:20 – 10:10	Speech by Representative of UNESCO-DG (5 mins) Speeches by G B Members at the ministerial level (5 mins) Speeches by other GB members (3 mins)
4	10:10 – 10:25	Director Report on the activities between the 13 th and 14 th GBMs and work plan of the next year
5	10:25 – 11:00	Presentation of 3 New proposals by RCUWM Scientific Advisors
6	11:00 – 11:20	Comments and approvals on the director’s report Interventions & Contributions by GB Members on the Proposals
7	11:20 – 11:25	Determining the venue and tentative date of the next GBM
8	11:25 – 11:30	Closing
9	11:30 – 13:00	Visit to the International Water & Wastewater Exhibition

