

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.

