Introducing the Arab Water Council (AWC)

World Water Week in Stockholm, 28 August – 2 September, 2016
A few words about AWC

• My organization is a non-profit **non-governmental organization** (NGO) based in the MENA Region / Headquarters in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.
  • We started our activities in the year 2004.
  • We have a number of 30 permanent staff members/employees, in addition to quite a big number of national, regional or international consultants according to need for each task/activity.
  • Our level of activity is regional (Arab / MENA region), with activities extended on both regional and international scales
A few words about AWC

• Our main focus is on the MENA region, particularly the water-related challenges facing the Arab countries.
• The structural organization of the Council consists of: The General Assembly (GA), the Board of Governors (BOG), the Executive Committee and the Permanent Secretariat.
• The BOG is the supreme body of the Council that sets the detailed its policies and takes organizational and executive decisions to facilitate the work of the Council.
• The AWC Constitution was endorsed in 2006 and the By-Laws in 2007.
• The membership categories include: Government & Non-Government Organizations, Academia, Research Centers, Experts, Public Figures, Civil Society (including media, youth, women), individuals, etc.
AWC through pictures

The Arab Water Council Launching Meeting
(14 April 2004)

H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Abu-Zeid
President, AWC
AWC Mission and Areas of Work

- To promote better understanding and management of the water resources in the Arab States in a multi-disciplinary, non-political, professional and scientific manner.

- To disseminate knowledge, enhance sharing of experience and information for the rational and comprehensive water resources development and management of the region for the benefit of its inhabitants.
AWC and Water

• AWC acts as a regional coordinator for the regional and international programs on facing water challenges in the Arab Region and raising the efficiency of water services through effectuating integrated water resources management.

• Promoting awareness on water scarcity and on the impact of climate change;

• Establishing appropriate mechanisms for coordination in the water sector between relevant Governmental authorities, civil society institutions, private sector and international agencies and organizations;
AWC and Water

• Organizing triennial Arab water fora and participating in regional and international fora, meetings and gatherings related to water policies;

• Developing and issuing a regular status report on the "State of the Arab Water", and publishing a scientific journal on “Water” in the Arab region;

• Working towards attracting and directing available investments through an Arab Water Fund;

• Organizing training courses in the field of water resources management & water diplomacy, with the aim of capacity building and human resources development on the Arab scale, as well as establishment of specialized networks in the field of water use and management in Arab countries with analogous situations.
Partnership and Cooperation

Cooperation with LAS

Cooperation with the League of Arab States (Arab Ministerial Water Council and its Secretariat) is considered one of the most significant activities; where AWC contributed to the following:

• Formulation of the **Arab Water Security Strategy** (2010-2030) which was endorsed in the 4th Meeting of the Arab Ministerial Water Council in Iraq 2012. Action Plans are developed every 5 years, each focuses on sequential stages of implementing the Strategy.
The Climate Risk Nexus Initiative

- The Climate Risk Nexus Initiative (LAS/CRNI) which aims at developing capacities of LAS and Member States to enact decisions and policies that better manage the growing complexity of risks and support the resilience of people and countries.

- Four Areas of Work are identified under the LAS/CRNI:
  - Science and Data Readiness for Decision-Making
  - Tools and Technology for Risk-Informed Development
  - Local Leadership and Capacity Development
  - Strategies and Policies for Transformative Change

- The initiative is supported by 4 lead agencies:
  - UNDP / WFP / UNISDR / AWC
Cooperation with Regional & International Organizations

• Full cooperation and coordination with other regional and international organizations such as the World Bank, NASA, GEF, USAID, FAO, CEDARE, UNESCO, UNDP, ACSAD, GIZ, ESCWA, ICARDA, IWMI, IFAD, ICBA, IsDB, AfDB, RAED, CIHEAM, World Water Council, UNEP, ICID, SIWI, OECD, IDRC, SIWW, and REC among others, is initiated and reflected in the numerous Projects and Protocols of Agreement that are on-going.

• Other areas of cooperation on the national scale are also evident through links with the Ministries of Irrigation, Environment and Planning of pilot countries in the MENA/Arab region.
Major Activities of AWC

1. Technical Programs
2. Regional Strategies & Capacity Building
3. Publications
4. Forums, Conferences & Workshops
1. Examples of AWC Technical Programs

- Adaptation to Climate Change in the Water Sector in the MENA Region (ACCWaM) AWC/GIZ (2013-2015).
Public Engagement Project
(7 countries)

RCIWRM Project
(5 countries)
ACCWaM Project
(3 countries)

AWC/FAO Brackish Water Guidelines Project (9 countries)
2. Regional Strategies & Capacity Building

• 2.1. **Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region (2010-2030)**
  
  • The Arab Water Security Strategy is a long-term program and practical mechanism for overcoming known future challenges in water resources development and management in the Arab region.
  
  • The Strategy was prepared by the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Areas (ACSAD) on commission from the Arab Ministerial Council for Water.

  • AWC role was instrumental in developing the first 5-year Action Plan of the Strategy.
2.2. Arab Non-Conventional Water

• Six Policy Briefs were prepared by AWC, in cooperation with UNESCO, CEDARE & RAED addressing the non-conventional water resources development including the following themes:

(1) Sustainable development of Non-Conventional Water Resources in the Arab Region;
(2) Desalination;
(3) Reuse of Treated Wastewater;
(4) Agricultural Drainage Water Reuse;
(5) Brackish Groundwater utilization; and
(6) Water Harvesting.
2.3. The Arab Water Council Academy

- The Arab Water Academy (AWA) was launched on 6 July 2008 in Abu Dhabi, with the aim of becoming a regional "center of excellence" for executive education in water. Contributors to the AWA courses are world class experts drawn from the regional and international communities.

[Link to the Arab Water Council Academy website: www.awacademy.ae]

Presently, Sinai University has shown interest in hosting the Headquarters of the AWA.
3. AWC Publications

Regular Publications:

• AWC e-quarterly Newsletters.
• State of the Arab Water Report, jointly produced by AWC and CEDARE (every 3 years) (Available on AWC Website)
• AWC Scientific Water Journal, since 2007 (Semi-annual)
• “Encyclopedia on Water Resources Development and Management in Arid and Semi-arid Region of the Arab World”, cooperation between the AWC and the CIHEAM /Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, Italy. 2009.
AWC Publications (cont.)

- AWC Brochure (English & Arabic)
- Water Reuse in the Arab World: From Principle to practice
- Synthesis Reports. 2nd and 3rd Arab Water Forums (2011, 2014)
- Water, Food Security & CC Nexus: Case of the Arab Region (AWC/IFAD, 2013)
- Perspectives on Water and Climate Change adaptation, AWC & WWC, IUCN, 2007
- Status of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Plans in the Arab Region, AWC & CEDARE & UNDP December 2005
4. Forums, Conferences & Workshops

- **Organized by AWC**
  - 3 AWC General Assembly Meetings
  - 4th African Water Week (Cairo – May 2012)
  - 3 Regional Workshops for RCIWRM project (AWC/WB/NASA/GEF)
  - 3 National Workshops on ACCWaM Project (*Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt*)
  - 5 Regional Workshops on “Developing Guidelines for Brackish Water Use for Agricultural Production in MENA” (June 2013)
  - Regional Workshop on Promoting NGOs, Civil Society and Media Role in the Eastern Nile Water Resources Management. AWC/UNESCO (Dec. 2013)
4. Forums, Conferences & Workshops

• Co-organized by AWC
  • 7 World Water Forums (participating in the Thematic and Arab Regional processes)
  • Arab Water Week
  • World Water Days
  • Stockholm World Water Week (2013, 2016)
  • International Conference on Food Security in Dry Lands (Doha - November 2012).
  • Participation in FAO Land and Water Days (May 2014)
Training & Capacity Building Programs

- ACLIMAS series of Training Workshops on “Climate change adaptation for water, food and environment security” by AWC/Bari Institute, Italy (Cairo- Egypt, September 2015).
- Series of “Water Diplomacy” Workshops, Cairo, Egypt (AWC / CEDARE).
- Capacity building in the water sector for the MENA region, INWENT Program, Climate Change Awareness Program, GIZ.
- AWC/UNESCO/GIZ Training of Trainers Program for “Mainstreaming CC into National Policies in the Arab Region.”
- Exposure visit to Egypt’s Water Sector organized by AWC in cooperation with UNDP for Iraqi experts to learn about transboundary conflict resolution and to acquire knowledge on the functions and roles that national water councils and regularity systems are playing to improve the water resources management at local and regional levels.
AWC Partners
How the WATER SUM project and WGS Initiative can support the mission/activities of AWC?

Areas of common interest between both AWC and the Water Sum Project / WGS Initiative:

• Promoting cooperation among governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses and other stakeholders.
• Supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in decision-making in the water sector.
• Contributing to sustainable development solutions, with special focus on the MENA region.
• Capacity building and training on the regional scale.
How the WATER SUM project and WGS Initiative can support the mission/activities of AWC?

The Water Sum project / WGS initiative can support AWC work by joint efforts in the following fields:

• Promoting the sustainable use of water resources in MENA
• Exploring solutions to the water crisis in the MENA region;
• Enhancing water governance for sustainable growth;
• Raising awareness of the SDGs through the Arab MDG+ Initiative;
• Supporting capacity building and training on water resources management in a changing climate;
• Strengthening regional cooperation and knowledge transfer in the water sector.
AWC contacts

- AWC Website: [www.arabwatercouncil.org](http://www.arabwatercouncil.org)
- Social media: [www.facebook.com/arabwatercouncil](http://www.facebook.com/arabwatercouncil)
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AWC new campus under construction
Thank you