

Second Conference

Information Note

Jul 11 to 14, 2016, Hammamet, Tunisia

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1. Background

The Water, Growth and Stability Initiative (WGSIni) was launched at the first Water, Growth and Stability conference, which took place on April 26–28, 2016, in Szentendre, Hungary, co-organised by the Regional Environmental Center (REC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary as a pre-event to the 2016 Budapest Water Summit. The WGSIni is a milestone output of the REC project “Sustainable Use of Transboundary Water Resources and Water Security Management in the MENA region (WATER SUM)”, which is supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

Water, Growth and Stability Initiative: <http://wgsini.rec.org/>

WaterSum: www.watersum.rec.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/watersum

Twitter: www.twitter.com/WATERSUMproject

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/water-sum-project

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdox0WGTfIdmZgyCrSdbNQg/featured>

2. Objectives of the Conference

The second Water, Growth and Stability conference has two main objectives: to launch the WGSIni forums and to highlight the contribution of the WATER SUM project to the initiative. The conference will be structured into three working groups (WGs): WG 1: Municipality Forum; WG 2: Civil Society Forum; and WG 3: Women’s Forum. The WGs will debate five key topics:

- Water demand management in Jordan and Tunisia
- Water resources protection in Jordan and Tunisia
- Water resources management in a changing climate in Jordan and Tunisia
- Local water security action planning in Jordan and Tunisia
- The role of civil society and women in water management in Jordan and Tunisia

The conference will also provide a venue for discussions among the local water security planning teams of Jordan and Tunisia, which will be divided into working teams (WTs): WT Al Karak municipality, WT Jerash municipality, WT Al-Salt municipality and WT Ajloun municipality (Jordan); and WT Nefza delegation, WT Bir Mcherga delegation, WT Matmata delegation and WT Sidi Ali Ben Aoun delegation (Tunisia).

The agenda is available online: http://documents.rec.org/events/WGS_Agenda_July2016.pdf

Conference’s webpage:

http://watersum.rec.org/index.php?mact=CGCalendar,cntnt01,default,0&cntnt01event_id=15&cntnt01display=event&cntnt01returnid=58

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3. Distribution of participants in Working Groups and Working Teams

The participants will be assigned to Working Groups and Working Teams during the conference. The **Working Groups** mirror the Water, Growth and Stability Initiative Forums, namely:

- WG1 — Municipality Forum
- WG2 — Civil Society Forum
- WG3 — Women’s Forum

The High Level Panel opens the conference and then the work follows divided in Working Groups in Day 1 from 11am to 1pm and Day 2 from 9am to 11am. Participants are pre-divided into Working Groups. Please see the list of participants. Next to your name your Working Group is indicated, except for the High Level Panel participants who can freely choose which working group they want to integrate.

In addition, participants will also be divided in **8 Working Teams** reflecting the municipalities participating in the Initiative:

- WT1 Al Karak mun. (JO)
- WT2 Jerash mun. (JO)
- WT3 Al-Salt mun. (JO)
- WT4 Ajloun mun. (JO)
- WT5 Nefza del.(TU)
- WT6 Bir Mcherga del.(TU)
- WT7 Matmata del.(TU)
- WT8 Sidi Ali Ben Aoun del.(TU)

The Working Teams will be active on Day 1 from 2pm to 6pm, on Day 2 from 11am to 6pm.

Participants that are members of local planning teams must participate in the Working Team relevant to their municipality, region, delegation (also visible in the list of participants). The other participants from WG2 Civil Society Forum, WG3 Women’s Forum, and High Level Panel are recommended to participate in the Working Teams closer to their own geographical location or that of their organizations. The participants are expected to register for the Working Team of their interest during the conference registrations on Day 1 from 8am to 9am.

4. Venue and accommodation

The Conference will take place in the Golden Tulip Taj Sultan Resort. Guests are also accommodated in the same hotel.

Web: <http://www.goldentulip.com/en/hotels/golden-tulip-taj-sultan>

Address: Zone Touristique Yasmine Hammamet, 8050 Hammamet

Contacts: info@goldentuliptajsultan.com, Telephone: +216 72 24 02 90, Fax: +216 72 24 04 11

Location: <http://www.goldentulip.com/en/hotels/golden-tulip-taj-sultan/emplacement>

The hotel opened in 2003 and since then remains an example of international architecture in Hammamet. It is located 8.8km from Hammamet proper and 61 km from the Carthage Airport (TUN).

It is a modern hotel located in the touristic area of Yasmine Hammamet, near many top attractions. Guests can enjoy spacious accommodation, sea views, and soothing day spa facilities in a friendly environment. Accommodation is also available for guests with reduced mobility. Gourmet fusion cuisine is also available. It has direct access to the beach, an outdoor pool, tennis courts, an indoor pool, and a fitness centre. The conference facilities have internet access. Their meeting rooms are day

lit. Additional hotel services include free parking, a banquet room, multilingual staff, a tourism desk, and airport transportation upon request.

5. WGS logistics and financial support

5.1 For registered participants eligible for financial support

5.1 a) Accommodation

The REC will cover only your basic daily room fare. Any other extra costs on the room (telephone, mini bar, other hotel services) incurred during the sojourn will be paid by the participants at check-out.

5.1 b) Travel insurance

You are responsible for purchasing your own travel insurance for the whole period covering your travel and sojourn in Tunisia.

5.1 c) Boarding passes

All delegates and attendees are requested to return the original airline boarding passes in person for the first leg (from country of origin to Tunis) during the registration and by registered mail (from Tunis to country of origin).

5.1 d) Airport transfers between Tunis Airport – Hammamet and vice-versa

Upon your arrival to Tunis there will be an organized airport transfer. There will be a driver at the airport with a sign identifying the conference. The same will happen on your departure from the hotel to the airport. To save money and fuel, whenever possible, the REC will group passengers into the same transport which might mean a little waiting time. The schedule for the transfers back to the airport will be made available during the training.

5.1 e) Airport transfers in the country of departure

For your transfer to/from the airport of your city of origin (e.g. by taxi/bus/train), you will receive a small travel allowance (see below “Reimbursements and travel allowances”), but you are responsible for organizing your own trip.

5.1 f) Travel within Tunisia (only for Tunisian participants)

You will receive a travel allowance (see below “Reimbursements and travel allowances”), but you are responsible for organizing your own trip.

5.1 g) Reimbursements and travel allowances

Travel insurance

The participants are entitled to be reimbursed for their travel insurance costs against 1) a copy of the insurance policy where the price and name of beneficiary is clearly visible. Reimbursement can be granted only for the exact period concerning your travel and sojourn in Tunisia.

Visa Costs

Visa costs will be reimbursed. You will need to bring with you 1) a copy of the visa where the price and name of the traveler are clearly visible, and 2) a copy of the passport.

Travel allowance

Participants will receive a small travel allowance that covers the roundtrip distance travelled between their home addresses and the airport of departure. The Tunisian participants will receive an allowance to cover the roundtrip distance travelled between their home addresses and the conference venue.

In case you use your car for this trip, or any other private car, please bring a copy of the car papers with you. This is a necessary precondition to pay the travel allowance.

5.2 For other registered participants NOT eligible for financial support

All expenses linked to travel, accommodation, visa, travel insurance, local transfers, airport transfers, etc. of registered participants NOT eligible for financial support shall be borne by themselves and organized by themselves. The REC cannot provide any financial or logistical assistance.

6. Conference facilities

The working language of the conference will be English and Arabic, with simultaneous translation. The conference facilities have internet access and the meeting rooms are day lit.

The Conference will take place in 3 rooms:

- Meeting Room *Khalifa* (Plenary) up to 450 participants
- Meeting Room *Le Oizir* (Vizir) up to 35 participants
- Meeting Room *Le Sultan* up to 30 participants

Each Forum (Municipality Forum, Civil Society Forum and Women Forum) will have a room assigned.

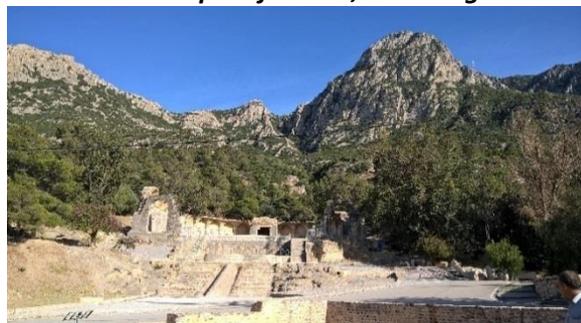
More information will be given *in loco*.

7. Study visits

Thursday, 14 July, 2016 (8:00 – 18:00)

The one-day long excursion is envisaged to provide participants a unique insight into water management solutions from the ancient times. It will include visits to three sites:

Visit to the Temple of Water, Jebel Zaghouan National Park



The Temple of Water dates back to Roman times. This was where the main source of water for famous Zaghouan – Carthage Aqueduct was located. The place is as impressive today as it must have been in the 2nd century CE. Above it rises the 1,295 meter high Zaghouan Mountain, and in front stretches

the fields. The Mediterranean Sea may be seen on a clear day. Eco-museum within the Jebel Zaghouan National Park will also be visited.

Visit to preserved parts of Zaghouan - Carthage aqueduct



The Zaghouan Aqueduct or Aqueduct of Carthage is an ancient Roman aqueduct, which supplied the North African city of Carthage with water. From its source in Zaghouan it flows a total of 132 km, making it amongst the longest aqueducts in the Roman Empire. The date of the construction of the aqueduct is not entirely clear. Sources mention a visit by the Emperor Hadrian in 128, with which a five-year-long drought is meant to have come to an end. The water shortage resulting from the drought might have convinced him that the people should not rely only on rainwater any more.

Visit to the Cisterns of La Malga in Carthage



The Cisterns of La Malga or Cisterns of La Mâalga are a group of cisterns which are among the most visible features of the archaeological site of Carthage in Tunisia. They are one of the best preserved Roman cisterns. The cisterns, with a capacity of 50,000-60,000 m³, received water from a branch of the Zaghouan Aqueduct. They were designed to provide the water supply for Carthage, the most important city of Roman Africa during the High Empire. As part of the site of Carthage, the cisterns are classed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. On 17 February 2012, the Tunisian government proposed that the whole Zaghouan-Carthage Roman hydraulic complex, of which they are a part, should be classed as a world heritage site.

Lunch and two coffee breaks will be provided by the Organizer.

8. Meals

The REC will provide lunch and coffee breaks in the REC Conference Center for all registered participants during the conference according to the timings outlined in the draft agenda. In addition,

registered participants eligible for financial support also have breakfast and dinner included in their hotel package.

9. Other Useful Information

9.1 Exchange Rates

This information is indicative only and it is provided for your convenience. The REC recommends you check the exchange rates before you travel, for instance, in www.xe.com.

1 EUR = 2.44 TND

1 USD = 2.20 TND

1 JOD = 3.10 TND

1 EGP = 0.25 TND

1 MAD = 0.22 TND

9.2 Useful Phone Numbers

- Tunis Carthage Airport: 71.848.000 – 71.840.023
- Info Vols: 1817
- Allo Taxi: 71.783.311 - 71.840.840
- Allo Rapide Taxi: 25.837.000 - 25.837.083
- Police Emergency: 197
- Fire Department (pompiers): 198
- Emergency Medical Team/Ambulance (SAMU): 190
- Allo Docteur / Ambulance: 71.780.000 - 71.781.000
- Tunisie Ambulance: 71.725.555
- Hospital: Charles Nicolle Hospital, Tunis: 71.570.011 - 71.764.066 - 71.579.346
- Hospital Mongi Slim, La Marsa: 70.939.066 - 70.939.033
- Anti-Poison Center: 71.335.500
- CAMU (Centre Assistance Medicale Urgente) : 71.341.807 - 71.330.670
- Burn Center at Hospital: 71.389.546 - 71.389.533
- Hôpital D'Enfants (Children, Emergency Care): 71.261.044 71.570.487
- Dentists Tunis: Dr. Mustapha Ben Aissa: 71.288.010 - 71.792.003 - 40.430.505
- Doctor: Leila Makhoulouf - 71.875.141 - 22.604.274 || Solange Laaroussi : 71.343.753 - 98.323.237

Annex I - Water, Growth and Stability is a REC Sustainable Event

'A sustainable event is one designed, organized and implemented in a way that minimizes potential negative impacts and leaves a beneficial legacy for the host community and all involved.' (UNEP Sustainable Events Guide, 2012).

REC as a mission driven organization is committed to sustainability, including events organized by us. We are trying to take steps throughout the planning process of our events, during the events and also after the events to minimize the harmful environmental impacts. To ensure that **sustainability aspects are guaranteed in all cases** REC applies set of activities and measures to all of its events, as described below.

A) Venue and accommodation

The Conference will take place in the Golden Tulip Taj Sultan Resort. Guests are also accommodated in the same hotel.

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Location: <http://www.goldentulip.com/en/hotels/golden-tulip-taj-sultan/emplacement>

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The hotel organizes separate waste processing, management of quality control and energy savings. It holds certifications:

- CEPR - "Certification de personnes en HACCP"
- Certification E-Cristal Tunisie EcoCheck, Centre International des Technologies de l'Environnement de Tunis (CITET)
- Certification «respectueux de l'environnement»
- Certification ISO 9001/2000 and ISO 22000/2005

Energy saving measures applied during the conference:

- projectors and other appliances are switched on and off as necessary
- shading is controlled properly
- automatized lighting system can be manually overruled if needed
- proper temperature is provided in the rooms (according to WHO recommendations)
- energy characteristics and performance of the building demonstrated/communicated on screens during the event

There will be a selective waste collection system. It is a general practice which covers others events as well and which the REC encourages its partners to adopt when organizing REC events.

B) Water

REC implements a set of water saving measures in its events, for instance, the use of tap water for

drinking, if and when it is feasible.

C) Catering

REC has good, long-lasting cooperation with catering service suppliers. Catering is planned individually for all events, taking into account the request of the project managers. Basic principles are applied regularly:

- Preference to short distribution channels and locally sourced products. Local suppliers, home-made food, without preservatives and colorants, and season products are given priority whenever possible.
- Serve as much vegetarian as possible (lower carbon footprint)
- Only reusable cutlery, plates, cups, bottles are used. (no plastic at all)
- If and when it is feasible REC serves tap water for drinking during events.

The hotel has its own management of the food supply to ensure quality products. It also employs a quality international cooking team. In the main restaurant hotel serves buffet meals. Tunisian gastronomy is rooted in Maghreb's traditional cuisine. The Golden Tulip strives to offer the best food and exciting flavors. The hotel's international cuisine with local touches is translated into a wide range of dishes to ensure there is something for everyone. The secret of its success lies in the quality natural local products and freshness of its ingredients and their meticulous treatment in the kitchen.

D) Communication and Event Materials

REC implements set of measures to minimize negative environmental effect caused by communication activities and production of event materials:

- Invitation and registration to the event is done paperless, communication is by default done through e-mails, documents are stored in electronic format
- Wasteful conference giveaways are minimized and by default made from recycled materials
- conference materials, presentations are basically shared in electronic format (online)
- materials if printed, are printed on recycled paper using REC printers run on vegetable-based inks.

E) Transport

REC implements set of measures to improve sustainability of event transport:

- REC for its own staff runs complex mobility services through and connected to the innovative Transport Monitoring Tool (<https://tmt.rec.org/>).
- REC encourage also event participants to use public transport as much as possible. Information on possibilities is spread with invitation and registration materials
- When organizing transfers from airport REC offers for participants to share cabs.
- Green taxi service is preferred.
- Special award is offered to the event participants travelling the longest distance by walking, bike or train.

F) Awareness raising

REC pays high attention to awareness raising measures. Following ICLEI's Sustainable Events Guide (<http://www.iclei-europe.org/topics/sustainable-events/>) there are several benefits of a sustainable event. All involved, either in organization including service providing and participation of the event

can benefit in a number of ways:

- Costs savings - through energy efficiency, waste reduction, consumption of local products.
- Positive reputation - demonstration of your organisation's commitment to sustainability principles, improving your image and international competitiveness.
- Environmental innovation – promotion of innovative technologies/techniques can help you use resources more efficiently.
- Awareness-raising - among participants, staff, service providers and the local community, encouraging people to make responsible decisions.
- Social benefits - providing jobs, benefiting regional suppliers, promoting better working conditions, and potentially acting as a catalyst to encourage environmental best practice across the region.
- Influencing decision-making – inspire change by engaging stakeholders, sharing standards and introducing new ways of behaviour.
- Spreading best practice within the organisation - many of the measures and management practices can also be applied to the day-to-day operations of your organisation.

G) Evaluation

REC events are always evaluated by the participants at the end of the meeting. Although the risk of receiving less evaluation forms is valid, REC still tries to circulate and collect Evaluation Forms in an electronic way instead of printed versions.