

ISWEE'11 Foreword

Hacene Mahmoudi^{a,b,*}, Nachida Kasbadji Merzouk^b and Nawel Spahis^a

^a*Faculty of Sciences, Chlef University. BP 151, Algeria*

^b*Solar Equipments Development Unit (UDES), Center for Renewable Energies Development (CDER), BP. 386, Bou-Ismaïl, 42415, Tipaza, Algeria*

Water resources development and management in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region have been driven by the highly specific characteristics of climate, geography and the resource itself. MENA region is considered to be the most water scarce region in the world, with the highest levels of water deficit. MENA leads the world in desalination technology investments. Therefore, the pressing need for seawater desalination leads to higher energy demand and higher pollution levels.

Desalination by means of renewable energy sources and in a first place concentrated solar thermal power is a suitable solution for improving living conditions of people in arid areas and increase these regions energy autonomy.

In this context, The First International Seminar on Water, Energy and Environment was organized by the Renewable Energy Research Center (CDER), Algiers, Algeria. From 1 to 3 March 2011. The seminar was really a good opportunity for academic, industrial and policy makers of the region to exchange knowledge and experiences.

This issue of Procedia Engineering contains full text of papers presented at the ISWEE'11. We are happy that ISWEE'11 Proceedings are published in an electronic way. There is a free access to the Proceedings via ScienceDirect. This new style of publication of papers enables their fast, broad and free worldwide dissemination. We believe that this will essentially increase the impact of the Seminar on the research community dealing with Water, Energy and Environment.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +213777170833.
E-mail address: usto98@yahoo.fr

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In the 3rd of March 2011, the International Desalination Association (IDA) presented a special all-day session entitled *Desalination For A Better World* at the First International Seminar on Water, Energy and Environment (ISWEE'11). The meeting was a good opportunity for hearing and exchanging information about the details of the Algerian desalination plan and the situation of the country's desalination plants. Thanks to IDA director Miguel Angel Sanz for initiating and chairing of the session.

And, last but not least, We would also like to acknowledge our sponsors : NASR (DGRSDT), AEC, Befesa, Aqualia, INIMA, Hyflux, Cash Assurances, ANDRU, Acciona, ERI, Suez environment (Degremont), Dow, Genesys, URAER, UDES, Cosider TP and Hydo projet Ouest for their financial support.

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