



Middle East Northern Africa Seminar 2008

World Water Week in Stockholm

August 17 – 23, 2008

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS OF INNOVATIONS

SIWI, Sida, BGR, BMZ and UNESCO are organising a seminar in the form of an innovation forum focusing on groundwater management in the MENA region. Prospective participants are invited to submit an abstract for a concept/paper to be presented, prepare an exhibition, and participate in an incubator of ideas. Participants selected to present a concept note/paper or an exhibition will be sponsored and invited to participate in the World Water Week.

Seminar concept. The Middle East Northern Africa Seminar at the World Water Week in Stockholm 2008 will focus on innovations in all aspects of groundwater in the MENA region¹. The seminar will focus on both technical and governance issues. Sustainable groundwater management deals with breaking the vicious cycle of supply driven groundwater development to a virtuous cycle of integrated management in which *inter alia* resource availability is matched with demand management measures. The topic will be discussed from different angles.

Innovation is the central theme of the seminar. The organisers hope to highlight new possibilities of managing groundwater in the MENA region and create a conducive environment for learning and collaborative opportunities. This can be approaches that have been already successfully implemented, those that have been tried on a smaller scale, or are at the concept stage.

Format of the seminar. The MENA Seminar will start with a workshop to introduce the theme. The seminar with oral presentations will take place mid-week and the week will finish with a summary meeting where new ideas, new cooperation or new concepts on groundwater management in the region that has been discussed during the week will be gathered and packaged for follow up by interested parties. The MENA Seminar will also have its own exhibition area, where posters and other kind of exhibits can be presented to both regional and non-regional participants. The exhibition can also include presentations of

¹ Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, The Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, The United Arab Emirates and Yemen.



institutions, organisations and private companies that are active and involved in groundwater management in the region. At the same time the exhibition space will be a place for informal dialogue between the invited participants, as well as with other conference participants.

Integrated water resources management with respect to groundwater has a variety of technical and institutional dimensions and is practised on different policy levels ranging from the international (transboundary) to the national and the local level. It hence includes a wide range of actors, institutions, organisations and private companies and civil society / NGO's / water user representatives involved in:

- planning, decision making and implementation
- water resources management and protection
- water exploitation and distribution (operators)
- water allocations
- research and development
- water use (for drinking, environment, agriculture, industry)

Selection of participants. The speakers and exhibitors to the MENA Seminar 2008 will be selected based on short abstracts or concept notes describing their innovations, received from this open call. About 20 participants will be selected to participate with oral contributions or with exhibition material such as posters or models in the exhibition area. The contributions will be examined by a selection committee. The committee will also decide which of the accepted contributions will be eligible for full conference funding from the convening organisations. The nominating committee will consist of renowned researchers and technical and governance experts, as well as representatives from the convening organisations (i.e. SIWI - also on behalf of Sida, BGR - also on behalf of BMZ, UNESCO).

Criteria. The criteria for selection will include:

- Balanced geographical coverage; *we are hoping to have contributions from across the MENA region*
- Innovation; *to what extent is this paper or exhibit presenting a new concept, or a good regional application of an innovation tried elsewhere?*
- Relevance to current situations and to other actors; *the concept presented should be useful for the problems of today, and tomorrow and of interest for others*
- Both technical and governance oriented papers will be accepted; *papers on governance of groundwater are especially welcomed.*
- Quality; *the concept notes should make clear that sufficient quality of the final contribution is secured*



Deadline for submitting a maximum 600 words abstract or concept note: 20th April 2008. *Please indicate if you wish to make a poster, model or other for the exhibition or present an oral paper at the seminar.*

Deadline for submission of draft paper: 30 June 2008

The persons selected by the committee are expected to submit a draft paper (2-4 pages) of the abstract or concept note by 30 June 2008.

Criteria for contributions:

The abstract or concept note (in English) should be not more than 600 words. It should indicate the innovation that is proposed or has been used. Geographical location, organisations/institutions involved, and if possible references of already published details.

How to submit:

The contributions can only be submitted by e-mail to: rebecca.lofgren@siwi.org

Please indicate the following information:

Name, affiliation and address of the submitting author, means of contacting the author: phone, mobile phone, fax and address from where the author would possibly travel to Stockholm in August 2008.

Not providing clear contact information may lead to missing an invitation!

For more information please contact:

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