Progress Report on Oman National Committee for IHP Related Activities
June 2012 to May 2014

1. Decision regarding the reformulation of Oman IHP National Committee:
   Oman National Committee for IHP has initiated in 1997 by a Ministerial decision No. (257/97) from the Ministry of Water Resources and has been reissued in 2005 by a Ministerial decision No. (224/2005) from the Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources after merging of the two Ministries. The Committee, on 2011 re-issued by a Ministerial decision (331/2010) from the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources. Oman National Committee has representatives from the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Housing (MOH), Ministry of Agriculture and Fishers (MOAF), Ministry of Environment and Climatological Affairs (MECA), Scientific Research Council, Office of Dhofar Governorate, Muscat Municipalities, Oman Commerce and Industrial Chamber, Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and Petroleum Development Oman (PDO).

2. Meetings of Oman IHP National Committee:
   The Oman National Committee for IHP had several meeting during this period to discuss the following issues:
   - Meeting on 13 May 2012:
     - Reviewing and assessment of all activities and participation of the committee during the last year 2011.
     - All members stressed and agreed on the necessity of their participations in order to accomplish the goals of the current IHP phase 2008-2013.
     - Members agreed on reporting the Committee activities every three months to be done by the Committee's coordinator.
     - Attendance agreed on the need to get support and backup from their high authorities to attend the events, programs and meetings organized by the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) outside the Sultanate.
   - Meeting on 3 July 2013:
     - Reviewing and assessment of all activities and participation of the committee during the last year 2012.
     - Proposed implementation of a workshop on raising capacity buildings of Omani technicians in the field of water related issues.
     - Attendees agreed on the need to support and strengthen the Commission's current budget and begin to take administrative action in this regard.

3. Activities and Framework in the Period June 2012 to May 2014:
   3.1 Activities at National Level
   - Presenting a paper on the International Conference on "Environmental Problems in Arab Countries" which organize and held on Sultan Qaboos University during 26-28 February 2012. The paper discussed the "Urbanization Effects on Water Table Rise in Muscat-Sultanate of Oman" presented by Eng. Tariq Helmi.
   - The Omani National Committee for Education, Culture and Science, organized a Student Forum at Muscat City celebrating the World Water Day 2012. The Forum attended by 50 school students as 3 lectures were presented titled; 1) Relation between water and food security, 2) Water resources in Oman-present and challenges, 3) Threaten to echo-system on seas and oceans and 4) Interaction of rainfall and topography and its role on human activities. On the second session participants divide into working groups to present their ideas, opinions and solutions to sustain water resources either by expressions or drawings.
   - Celebrating the Arabic Water Day 3 March 2012.
Celebrating the World Water Day 2012 at Nizwa city, were an open discussion held at Nizwa University participated by the Governor of Ad Dakhliyah, Al Shura Council Members, Decision Makers and citizens to discuss all related water issues and problems in Ad Dakhliyah. The activity organized by Oman Water Society, Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Public Authority of Electricity and Water and Nizwa University.

The Committee organized a meeting with Dr. Abdel Aziz Zaki the Head of IHP Regional Office – UNESCO Cairo. The meeting aims to discuss several topics, activities and subjects executed by the Oman IHP Committee during the last two years. Also, spot the light on the proposed activities during 2013 as an "International Year on Water Cooperation”.

Participating on celebrating the Arabic Water Day 3 March 2013 activities at Shinas – North Al Batinah.

Oman National Committee organized a seminar on conjunction with Oman Water Society and Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources on Water Resources in Musandam (Challenges and Solutions) during 2nd - 3rd March 2013, Khassab, Governorate of Musandam, Sultanate of Oman. The seminar attended by several water resources local and regional experts from government and non-government entities.

The Oman National Committee celebrates the World Water Day 2013 in conjunction with the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources and "Friends of Peace Volunteers Team". The event organized under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Ali bin Mohammed Al Abri, Undersecretary of Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources Affairs. The celebration programme sited at Wadi Dayqah Dam location in Wilayat Quriyat-Muscat Governorate and attended by several local water concerns.

Oman National Committee for IHP have participated in the "3rd TROPICAL CYCLONES SYMPOSIUM" 5 June 2013 MUSCAT–SULTANATE OF OMAN", organized by the Oman Water Society. Two lectures had been presented by Faisal bin Nasser Al Hajri (Assistant Director of the executive Office for the National Oman Self Defense Committee) and Eng. Tariq Helmi (Hydrogeologist Expert, Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources).

The Oman National Committee celebrates the World Water Day 2013 in conjunction with the Department of Soils and Water Agriculture Engineering, Sultan Qaboos University and Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources. The event organized under the patronage of H.E. Eng. Ali bin Mohammed Al Abri, Undersecretary of Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources Affairs. The celebration programme include scientific workshop entitled "Water Cooperation Towards Resources Sustainability" that held on the 23rd of March 2013 at Al Fahm Hall, Cultural Center (SQU). The workshop covered multiple aspects including cultural, educational, scientific, religious, ethical, social, political, legal, institutional and economic. The workshop covered most of the topics related to the water cooperation by bringing international, national and regional experts together. Key note speakers tackled the following topics; the Water legislatives and regulatives, Socio-economics of water, conflict resolution and Resources transboundary. In addition to the workshop, the Sultan Qaboos University students organized an open day in to raise the public awareness with regard to water resources and the role of society in preserving such resource. The events held from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm in March 21, 2013 at Al Sahwa Park and at City Center Carrefour in March 23, 2013.

The Committee members contributed with collaboration with the Oman Water Society and Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Ishaq bin Ahmed bin Mohammed Al-Ruqaishi, The Under Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for Agriculture, on the Seminar on "Role of produced water in sustainable
Development Plans in Al Wusta Governorate”, in Duqm, during the period from December 09th to 10th December 2013. The seminar was attended by national and international researchers, specialists and representatives of some government agencies, private sector, universities, colleges and scientific research centers. Total of (18) scientific papers were presented covering different aspects of produced water. These aspects include produced water treatment technologies, practical applications of produced water management, utilization of investment opportunities, and water demand.

- The Oman National Committee contributed in organizing the “International Seminar on “Use of Unconventional Water in Urban Water Management” in Muscat, on 24th to 26th February 2014 organised with collaboration with Ministry of Water Regional Municipalities and Water Resources and Regional Centre on Urban Water Management-Tehran.

- Celebrating the Arabic Water Day 3rd March 2014. The National Committee participated in organizing several events to celebrate this day. This included lectures in schools and public areas, TV and radio interviews, marathon and distribution of posters and pamphlets to the public.

- The Oman National Committee celebrates the World Water on 23rd March 2014 by organizing a workshop in collaboration with the Sultan Qaboos University and Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources. The event organized under the patronage of H.E Ahmed bin Nasr Al Bakri, the Under Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The workshop entitled “Workshop on Water & Energy”. The workshop brought scientists and engineers working in water science and applications to discuss the major issues related to energy & water production, water sanitation and desalination. The workshop was intended particularly to address water-energy nexus. The participants have international and national experience and they address the water-energy nexus including: solar energy and its use on water production, the bio-fuel production from waste water, renewable energy among other important issues. The Ministry and the SQU had other activities such as an open day at the Sahwa Park to bring together the public and children together and brochures on importance of conserving the water resources was emphasized.

- Dr. Ghazi Al Rawas, member of the Oman National Committee invited as a guest speaker to give a lecture title “Applications of Remote Sensing: Assessment of Vegetation damage using Remote Sensed Data” for the Oman Water Society, May 2014.

### 3.2 Activities at Regional Level

- The Oman National Committee (ONC) for IHP delegate attended and have its contribution in the "6th World Water Forum held during 12-17 March 2012 Marseille, France", "The Time for Solutions". The delegate; Head of Committee Eng. Salim Al Shibli, Dr. Ghazi Al Rawas and Mr. Sulaiman Al Mabsali (committee members) attended all the meetings and activities along the events representing the Oman National Committee.

- Dr. Ghazi Al Rawas attended the "Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), Centre for Environmental Studies and Research (CESAR)”, Sultan Qaboos University, 27-30 May 2012.

- Three members of the Oman National Committee for IHP participated on the "20th session of the Intergovernmental Council” held during 4-7 June 2012, Paris, France" as an observer member. The Omani delegates include Eng. Salim Al Shibli, Dr. Ghazi Al Rawas and Mr. Sulaiman Al Mabsali. The 20th session discussed many issues includes; institutional developments at UNESCO, revision and implementation of 19th session, strategic plan of the 8th phase of IHP Programme IHP-VIII, 2014-2021 and IHP activities related of UNESCO.
Dr. Ghazi Al Rawas attended the "Second workshop in the initial national communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)", United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Project, Sultan Qaboos University, 2-3 June 2012.

Oman National Committee for IHP has contributed in the "Regional Consultation for Arab States–Amman – Jordan, 8-10 October 2012", The Head and Coordinator of the Committee participate at the meetings to discuss Groundwater Governance in Arab States region in accordance with the global Framework for Country Action (FA). The scientific contribution presented by a paper and a PowerPoint presentation on the "Status of the Groundwater Governance in Oman", considering challenges, priorities, gaps and recommendations. Also a Questionnaire on Groundwater Governance in Oman had prepared and submitted to the meeting organizers.

A periodic executive report prepared and sent to the IHP Secretariat exploring all the Oman National Committee for IHP activities and participation during the period of June 2010 to May 2012.

The Oman National Committee (ONC) for IHP attended and have its contribution in the "UNESCO Strategic and High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy held during 11-15 March 2013 Geneva, Switzerland" organized by the World Metrological Organization (WMO). Eng. Salim Al Shibli (previous Head of Committee) attended the meeting and activities along the events representing the Oman National Committee and the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources.

Oman National Committee for IHP has contributed in the "ihp survey for viii implementation plan 2014-2021". The committee proposed a list of several activities, events or projects which could be executed during the eighth plan.