

NATIONAL REPORT ON IHP RELATED ACTIVITIES, JORDAN

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1. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE PERIOD 2006 – 2008

1.1 Meetings of the IHP National Committee

Generally, there are seven meetings existed each year as one meeting each two months. Starting from the third quarter of 2007, the meetings of the Committee are on a monthly basis.

1.1.1 Decisions regarding the composition of the IHP National Committee

* The committee is headed by H.E the Minister of Water and Irrigation, Jordan, the existing Vice Chair Person is the Secretary General of Ministry of Water and Irrigation Eng. Khaldoun Khashman.

The IHP National Committee composed with the following Institutions and Universities:

- Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) and both Water Authorities
- * Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ)
- * Jordan Valley Authority (JVA)
- Ministry of Education-National Commission for Education, Science and Culture
- University of Jordan, Amman – UNESCO Chair in Wadi Hydrology
- University of Science and Technology, Irbid
- Yarmouk University, Irbid
- Muta University, Karak
- Hashemite University, Zarqa
- Al Albayt University, Mafraq
- Balqa Applied University, Salt
- Meteorological Departement
- Natural Resources Authority (NRA)
- The Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST)

In regard of re-composition of the National IHP Committee, there are several changes existed, especially in 2007 and the beginning of 2008 as follows:

- The vice chair person of the committee has been changed two times, one of the reasons that the previous vice chair person of the Jordan National IHP Committee, Prof Mohammad Shatanawi became as a Minister of Water and Irrigation in the second half of 2007.
- In addition of that, the Secretary and Reporter of the committee have been changed two times. Within 2007 and 2008.
- Changes of the representative of Al Albayt University, Mafraq in 2006 and the representative of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) at the end of 2007.

The IHP Committee Main Functions are:

- * Capacity building.
- * Promoting research in water sciences.
- * Providing technical support and advice.
- * Fostering partnership with other IHP national committees in the regions.
- * Awareness and Advocacy.
- * Water education.

Summary of Recent Jordan IHP National Committee activities:

- Capacity building workshops for Ministry of Water and Irrigation in the field of water sciences focusing on integrated water resources management and ground water protection.
- Specialized seminars and panel discussions in water sciences, land use, water resources preservation.
- Awareness for the UN World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP).
- Dissemination of the UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) to relevant institutions.
- Celebration of the World Water Day in March every year.
- Participation in the Global International Hydrological Programme activities.
- Facilitation and promotion of study visits between IHP national committees in the region.
- Implementation of research projects in water sciences in collaboration with related Jordanian institutions and universities.

1.1.2 Status of IHP-VI activities

The Jordan National IHP Committee Contributed on the IHP-VI. Activities and concentrated on sustainable water resources and related issues such as water harvesting ,water resources management and artificial recharge, water resources protection, human resources development, ...etc.

1.1.3 Decisions regarding contribution to/participation in IHP-VII

The Jordan National IHP Committee contributed on the preparation and commenting of the draft plan for participation in IHP-VII. The activities are concentrated on the national priorities as follows:

- * Surface Water and Groundwater Resources Protection.
- * Climate Change and their Impacts on Water Resources Availability.
- * Public Awareness and Stakeholders Participation.
- * Watershed and Aquifers / Climate Change Impacts.
- * Hydrology / Echohydrology for Sustainability.
- * Cultural, Social and Scientific Responses to the Crisis in Water Governance.
- * Others

1.2 Activities at national level in the framework of the IHP

1.2.1 National/local scientific and technical meetings

* Two workshops have been conducted in the years 2006 and 2007 respectively. The activities of the year 2006 were entitled "WATER and CULTURE" where the title of the year 2007 activities was "Water Resources Management", part of mentioned workshops were run at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan followed the celebration on the international water days of 2006 and 2007, where the other workshops conducted at Jordan University and Balqa Applied University. The main topics of the mentioned seminars were as follows;

- * The Water in the Arabian Culture.
- * Effects of Droughts on the Social, Cultural and Economic Activities.
- * Water Crisis Management and Resolution of Conflict.
- * The Conventional and Traditional Methods in Water Resources Management in Jordan.
- * The Role of Municipal Activities on Characteristics and Watershed Management.
- * Panel Discussion and Recommendations.

In addition to activities conducted at the Amman UNESCO office in 2006 include:

- 1- Echo hydrology and Phytotechnology for Water Resources Management.
- 2- GIS applications in Hydrology Modeling.

Further more, the following training courses were conducted in the year 2007 at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and Balqa Applied University:

- 1- Echo hydrology and Phytotechnology for Water Resources Management.
- 2- GIS applications in Hydrology Modeling.
- 3- GIS applications in Groundwater Vulnerability Assessment

* A workshop has been conducted in march 2008 by the Jordan National IHP Committee. followed the celebration in the World Water Day at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, in a topic, "SANITATION". The main three themes of the seminar were:

- Sanitation in Jordan.
- Water standards and drinking water quality in Jordan.
- Water policies in Jordan.

1.2.2 Participation in IHP Steering Committees/Working Groups

The members of the Jordan National IHP Committee are distributed to work in the seven Working Groups as follows;

- Web Site.
- News Letter (Bulletin).
- Water Harvesting.
- Training.
- Finances Fund.
- Regional and International Cooperation.
- Public Awareness.

1.2.3 Research/applied projects supported or sponsored

* Implementation of a research project to study possibilities of artificial recharge of the flash floods at southern Jordan valley-south of the Dead Sea. The research was conducted by the end of the year 2007 and beginning of 2008 by five researchers of the IHP National Members. The research was funded by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and related Authorities , in addition to very limited financial support (15000 US\$) by the UNESCO.The final report of this study is in the final steps and will be submitted to both the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Jordan National Committee for Education, Science and Culture and UNESCO office in Amman in June 2008.

1.2.4 Collaboration with other national and international organizations and/or programmes

- * A member of the Jordan National IHP Committee participated in the International Ecohydrology working group.

- * A member of the Jordan National IHP Committee participated in the Advisory Board of the International Centre of Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM).

- * UNESCO Chair in Wadi Hydrology at the Univercity of Jordan, Amman.

- *UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo.

- * UNESCO Chair in Desertification Protection at the Yarmouk University, Irbid

- * Higher Committee of Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment.

- * Higher Committee of Desertification Protection at the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Environment.

- * UNESCO, Amman Office and UNESCO Cairo Office.

- * ALECSO, ROSTAS and ACSAD.

* Non governmental organizations and associations in Jordan as "Water Protection Association".

1.2.5 Other initiatives

*Celebration of the Global Water Day in March 2007, and 2008 at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. students, representatives of institutions, universities, the technical cooperation projects and the non-governmental organizations attended the events. A prizes have been distributed during the celebrations.

1.3 Educational and training courses

1.3.1 Contribution to IHP courses

Contribution to the annual wadi hydrology training course in Amman, Jordan. This Course is conducted by UNESCO Cairo Office, UNESCO Chair in Wadi Hydrology at the University of Jordan and Balqa Applied University, Jordan.

1.3.2 Organization of specific courses

1.3.3 Participation in IHP courses

* Participation in the annual Wadi Hydrology Course, Amman.

1.4 Cooperation with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education And/or international/regional water centers under the auspices of UNESCO.

1.5 Publications

* Publication of the scientific papers of the workshop held at Balqa Applied University in may 2007 through a CD.

* The papers presented in the seminar "Water and Culture" held at the University of Jordan in 30, of May 2006 through a CD.

1.6 Participation in international scientific meetings

1.6.1 Meetings hosted by the country

1.6.2 Participation in meetings abroad

* Participation in the 12,th Arab National IHP Committees Meeting in Dubai, Emirates in November, 2007. The National Country report about the water sector has been submitted to the meeting. Actually this meeting is conducted each two years through UNESCO Cairo Office, ALECSO and other Organizations.

* Participation in the 4th International Conference in Wadi Hydrology in Sanaa, Yemen in December, 2007. Two Scientific papers have been submitted to the Conference.

* Participation in two Scientific meetings abroad.

1.7 Other activities at regional level

1.7.1 Institutional relations/cooperation

* Cooperation with several governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and Associations at the regional level.

* Cooperation with Wadi Hydrology Network, UNESCO Regional Office in Cairo, UNESCO Amman Office, UNESCO Chair in Wadi Hydrology.

* Cooperation with Groundwater Protection Network, UNESCO Cairo Office, ACSAD

* Cooperation with the Yemeni National IHP Committee

1.7.2 Completed and ongoing scientific projects

Implemented project entitled, "Storage of a Flash Floods in Wadi Araba and Dead Sea for an Artificial Recharge of the Shallow Groundwater Wells"

2. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

2.1 Activities planned until December 2009

There are three foreseen activities planned as follows:

* A scientific workshop on the topic "International Water Day in Sanitation", at Science and Technology University, Jordan, within the third quarter of 2008.

* Celebration in the Global Water Day in March 2009 at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) headquarter, Amman in cooperation with the Non governmental organizations, UNESCO Chair in Wadi Hydrology and UNESCO Amman office.

* A scientific workshop in March 2009 about "Water Resources and Land Use".

* A scientific Seminar followed by a panel discussion within the second quarter 2009 in one of the Jordan Universities outside the capital city of Amman. The topic will be selected to coincide with one of the themes mentioned in the IHP seventh mid term phase of IHP- VII from (2008-2013).

2.2 Activities foreseen for 2010-2011

* Celebration in the Global Water Day in March 2010.

* A scientific workshop at the first quarter 2010.

- * A Scientific seminar probably in the second quarter 2010.
- * A training coarse in one of the themes mentioned in IHP- VII. within the third quarter 2010.
- * Celebration in the Global Water Day in march 2011.
- * A scientific workshop at the first quarter 2011.
- * A scientific seminar Probably in the second quarter 2011.
- * A training coarse in one of the themes mentioned in IHP- VII within the third quarter 2011.

2.3 Activities envisaged in the long term