



4th Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium was held

The 4th Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium was held successfully on June 8th in the conference hall of Ministry of Electricity in Damascus. This symposium has been held annually from 2003 to present the activities and output of WRIC, as well as to enhance sharing and exchanging the experience and knowledge of the water sector in this region.

This time we received total about 150 of participants and 18 speakers. Firstly Eng. Husein Maklouf, Director General of General Organization for Water Resources (GOWR) made an opening address and Mr. Nagasawa, Resident Representative of JICA Syria Office made an presentation concerning the JICA's activities in water sector in Syria. After these opening speeches, 2 sessions were conducted as following.

1) WRIC Activities

In the first session, Mr. MORI, Chief Advisor of WRIC, introduced outline of WRIC activities and achievement in 4th project year and Japanese future cooperation strategy for WRIC. As for the future cooperation strategy, especially, Mr. Mori stressed the importance of continuous assist to WRIC, as well as the importance of ownership and initiative of Syrian side to keep the sustainability of WRIC activities.

After that, each WRIC staff made a presentation of their activities in detail. In their presentation, many topics were introduced by our Syrian C/Ps, such as a hydrological analysis of water balance in Barada-Awaji basin, an experience to establish the new WRIC branch office in Tartus, a methodology to process our observation data, various kinds of GIS theme maps, and so on.

2) Activities in Water Sector in Syria.

In this session, we received speakers from many organization related to water sector in Syria. We understood the activities in each organization and discussed many issues such. For example, concerning groundwater well, the problem of over abstraction of groundwater and the actual measures to control the existing illegal wells were discussed.

Unfortunately information exchange among water-related organizations and projects has not been done enough in Syria. This symposium would be a good chance to exchange information and



experience with each other.

For your reference, we are going to prepare a CD which includes a program, all of the presentation files, many photos of this symposium. If you want to get the CD, please send an e-mail to the following address of WRIC.

Finally we would appreciate cooperation and contribution of all the speakers, participants, and related organizations.



Eng. Maklouf, Director
General of GOWR, MOI



Mr. Nagasawa, Representative
of JICA Syrai Office



Mr. MORI, Chief Advisor
of WRIC project



Eng. Whab, WRIC MC



Eng. Tome, WRIC DRD



Eng. Dieb, WRIC MC



Eng. Natof, WRIC DRD



Eng. Sakr, WRIC MC



Eng. Assad, WRIC Tartus



Participants of Symposium

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