



WRIC News Letter

October 2006

1. Meeting with Mr. Abdulah Al-Dardari, Deputy Prime Minister of Syria

On Oct. 8th, the meeting with Mr. Abdulah Al-Dardari, deputy prime minister of SAR, was held to introduce the activities and outputs of WRIC project. On behalf of MOI, Dr. Sleiman Ramaha, deputy minister of irrigation, Eng. Husein Maklouf, director general of GCWR, and Dr. Bacher Fayad, director of WRIC attended the meeting. As for the Japanese side, Mr. Nagasawa, resident representative of JICA Syria office, Mr. Mori, chief advisor of WRIC and Mr. Sugiura, project coordinator of WRIC joined it.

Firstly, Dr. Bacher presented the outlines of WRIC projects. Especially, as for the output of water balance simulation of Barada-Awaji Basin which was conducted in WRIC last year, it was stressed that the large amount of deficit of groundwater seemed to have been caused by the over abstraction in this area in the past two decades. Following his presentation, Mr. Mori, chief advisor of WRIC project, also explained more detailed outputs of water balance analysis in Barada-Awaji basin, as well as the importance of the sustainability of this project. As for the sustainability of WRIC, Mr. Mori stressed the important following issues.

- 1) **Keep the trained staff at WRIC, even after June 2006**
- 2) **Assignment of qualified staff**
- 3) **Allocation of enough budget, especially for the maintenance of hydrological observation and IT equipment**
- 4) **Smooth and quick execution of budget**
- 5) **Disclosure of the data to public**



Major Syrian Members of the Meeting; from left side,
Eng. Husein Maklouf, Director General of GCWR,
Dr. Sleiman Ramah, Deputy Minister of Irrigation,
Mr. Abdulah Al-Dardari, Deputy Prime Minister of Syria



Mr. Abdulah Al-Dardari, Deputy PM of Syria



Presentation by Dr. Bacher, Director of WRIC



Presentation by Mr. Mori, C.A. of WRIC



As for 1)-4) above mentioned, Mr. Abdulah Al-Dardari promised that Syrian government would take the full responsibility to fulfill these matters for the sustainability of WRIC. Moreover, he was very interested in the disclosure of the data, which is very critical in order to utilize our database as well as to enhance the quality and quantity of data in the database. Mr. Abdulah Al-Dardari mentioned that the disclosure of data is very important and, firstly, we should enhance the smooth exchange and disclosure of data among the related organizations in Syria. At this moment, especially, JICA launched a new development study for the urban planning in Damascus city. Therefore, provision and exchange of the available data in WRIC should be done without any obstacles.

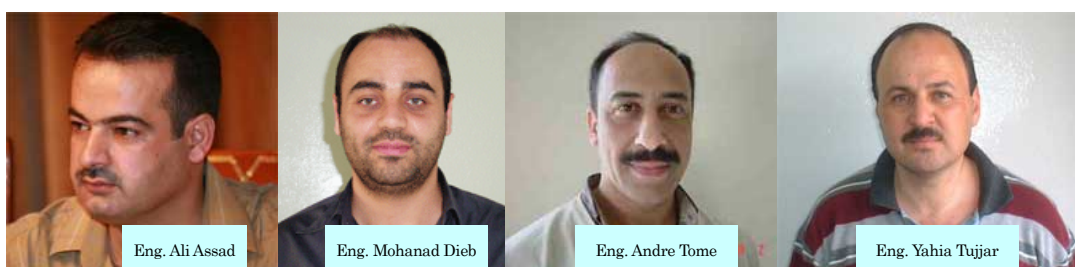
As for the future cooperation for WRIC, Dr. Sleinam Ramah, deputy minister of irrigation, requested the further assistance by Japanese government to expand the WRIC to whole Syria.

We hope that this meeting was a very good opportunity for Syrian high officials to understand our activity and develop WRIC further more in future.

2. Four Syrian counterparts passed the Oracle certificate exam

Four Syrian counterparts, Eng. Yahia Tujjar, Eng. Ali Assad, Eng. Andre Tome and Eng. Mohanad Dieb passed the Oracle international certificate examination of “Oracle 9i Database: Fundamentals 1” and “Introduction to Oracle 9i: SQL”. This certification is a basic level of Oracle database administration and management, which is very useful for the management of any kinds of similar database applications including PostGreSQL adopted at WRIC centers.

Including other two counterparts who had already passed the examination last year, we now have total six of internationally certificated engineers for database management. We hope that these people will contribute to the development of our database, as well as the development of capacity of other WRIC staff.





3. Advisory Committee of WRIC project was held in Tokyo

Advisory Committee of WRIC project was held at JICA HQ in Tokyo on Sep. 27th. This time, Mr. Kato, one of the Japanese experts of WRIC, presented our activity in the past 2.5 months. Especially, malfunction of dataflow in WRIC, which was one of the most important and critical issues of this project, was discussed. This problem is caused not only by the problems of data processing, transmission and uploading, but also by the inaccurate observed data especially at surface water observation stations.

Finally, they confirmed that a project evaluation mission would be dispatched to Syria in December 2006, and next advisory committee would be held in the end of Nov. before the mission team leaves Japan.

4. Mr. Sasahara, new Japanese expert arrived

Mr. Sasahara, Japanese experts in the field of network and IT equipment, arrived in Syria on Oct. 10th and will stay here for about 3.5 months until the end of January. His main task in this term is to establish the network system in the new MOI HQ building in Harasta. However, because of the delay of the construction work of the building, only the basic and detailed design of the network will be done during this project term. After the completion of the construction, Syrian C/Ps have to establish the network system by themselves, based on his design.

He will also conduct supervision of operation and maintenance of the existing network equipment in WRIC centers, which will be the last chance for Syrian C/Ps to receive the technical transfer from Japanese experts in this field. Therefore, we hope that Syrian C/Ps should get the most out of this opportunity and develop their skill to prepare for the future WRIC's move to the new building in Harasta.



Mr. Sasahara, expert for network

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