

### 1. 3<sup>rd</sup> Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium

3<sup>rd</sup> Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium was held on Sep.5 at Meridien Hotel in Damascus. As one of the activities of WRIC project, Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium has been held annually. The purpose of this symposium is to share the information and experience of WRIC and the other related organizations in water sector and to enhance the water resources management in Syria and neighboring region.

This time we received total about 190 of participants that is much more than that of previous 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium. After the opening speech of Dr. Soleman, Vice Minister of Irrigation and Mr. Nagasawa, Resident Representative of JICA Syria Office, 3 sessions were conducted as followings, 1) WRIC Activities, 2) Experiences in the other Arab countries and 3) Activities in Water Sector in Syria.

In the first session, Mr. MORI, Chief Advisor of WRIC, introduced outline and difficulties of this project briefly. Especially, he stressed the ownership of Syrian side and necessity of incentives for the WRIC staff to keep the quality of staff and activities in future. Dr. Bacher Fayad, Director of WRIC, made a presentation of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Water Resources Report which is one of the most important achievements in 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the project. After that, each WRIC staff made a presentation of their activities in detail.

In the second session, Mr. Hani Al-Kurdi of JICA Jordan Office, Mr. Alfred Zoser of JICA Egypt Office, Dr. Moustafa T.Gaweesh and Dr. Mohamed Rami Mahmoud of Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation introduced their activities in each country. We found that Jordan is much suffering from the scarcity of water resources, therefore, they have been doing such measures as national water master plan, introduction of water saving irrigation, prevention of water leakage and non-revenue earning water of water supply. In Egypt, they are doing the management of Nile River, the longest river in the world. Especially activities for



Presentation of Mr. MORI, Chief Advisor



cooperation and coordination among the Nile basin countries provided the Syrian people with useful information, because Syria also has many international rivers such as Euphrates, Yarmouk and Orontes rivers.

In the third session, Dr. Matsushima and Mr. Iwai of JICA technical cooperation project, Dr. Abdullah Droubi of ACSAD and Mr. Khaled Al-Shalak of DAWSSA made a presentation of each project in Syria. Unfortunately information exchange among water-related organizations and projects has not been done enough. Hopefully this symposium will be good chance and start for information exchange with each other.



Presentation of WRIC staff (Mr. Mohammad Sai, GDCB)



With WRIC staff and participants

## 2. JICA Water Workshop in Middle East Area

Following the Syrian-Japanese Water Symposium, JICA Water Workshop was held on Sep.6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> by JICA Syria Office. JICA officials and experts in Syria, Egypt and Jordan, including all WRIC Japanese experts, attended this workshop. We mainly discussed the future cooperation in capacity development of water resources management.

It was very useful for all to share information and knowledge of various activities in water sector in each country and many ideas of future cooperation came out as the result of this workshop. Each JICA office and Project will make effort to realize these ideas.



Participants of Workshop

## 3. Mr. Ziad Wahab made a presentation of IT Training course in Egypt.

As reported in the last WRIC News Letter, IT (Network) Training course was conducted from July 16<sup>th</sup> to August 12 in Egypt. In order to



report the result of training course to all WRIC staff and to share the knowledge and experience, Mr. Ziard Wahab, one of four trainees, made a presentation in the meeting room of Main Center on Sep. 15<sup>th</sup>. About 15 members of WRIC Main Center attended that presentation.

Such presentation will be held in each WRIC basin center (on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> in GDCB, Schedule of GDBAB is not fixed yet), therefore, the four trainees' experience will be shared with all WRIC staff hopefully.

#### 4. Mr. Kodama moved to GDCB, Latakia

Mr. Kodama, hydrologist, moved to GDCB (Latakia) on Sep.21<sup>st</sup> to support the GDCB WRIC activities. He will stay in Latakia until the end of December, for about 3.5 months. This is the first time for Japanese expert to stay in GDCB for such long period.

It is expected that GDCB WRIC activities are more enhanced , and especially, the working system and capability of hydrological data management are to be improved.

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