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MENA Regional Center

# WATER in the MENA Region: Preparing for a Changing World



A Conference of the Future Earth MENA  
Regional Center and the University of Bahrain  
2-4 February, 2020  
Workshop 5-6 Feb

This Conference aims to bring together leading professionals, specialists, practitioners and researchers involved in various aspects of water resources management with a distinct focus on the Eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA Region). The conference will encourage and facilitate the exchange of experiences, research findings and lessons learned from exemplary case studies. This will be facilitated by establishing a platform to review the current state and discuss the recent innovations, trends and practical solutions that address the challenges of maintaining water security in the MENA Region in a rapidly changing world.



## University of Bahrain Partnership

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The Conference “Water in the MENA Region: Preparing for a Changing World” will be the Future Earth MENA Regional Center’s (FEMRC) first regional conference outside Cyprus. The University of Bahrain has been chosen to be the first host, partner and co-organizer of what is projected to be a biennial gathering of Future Earth and regional partners, each time in a new location and with a new thematic focus. This year’s conference on the topic of water scarcity is being planned within the context of an “in the MENA Region – with the MENA Region – for the MENA Region” event.

## Overall Goal and Concept

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The FEMRC Bahrain conference will encourage and highlight participation of our colleagues from the region and propose an approach that prioritizes both regionally-collected research and practical problem-solving measures regarding the similar and inter-related challenges affecting our water systems. The immediate objective will be to find our commonalities of purpose and to identify the best methods with which to share or adapt our solutions. The anticipated long-term intention of this conference will be to set a course for attainable and feasible future collaboration between all of our countries, and to ensure that each subsequent conference is time purposefully spent together addressing current and anticipated environmental challenges faced by the region.

## Expected Outcomes

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This Conference is envisioned to provide a focused platform to review the current state and to discuss the recent innovations, trends and practical solutions that address the challenges of maintaining water security in the MENA Region. In so doing, we can define and tackle our own unique regional needs and requirements within the particular realities of how our countries actually function. We envision that regional partners attending the conference will find methods to co-develop and co-implement projects that can drive transformations and broadly-applicable solutions across the region. These solutions should make sense for us and our region’s particular needs in light of our region’s environmental, economic and political uncertainties, and contribute to achieve a sustainable and sufficient provision of water for all users in the MENA Region.

## Organizers

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**H.E. PROF. RIYAD HAMZAH**

President  
University of Bahrain  
Manama, Bahrain



**PROF. MANFRED A. LANGE**

Director  
Future Earth MENA Regional Center  
The Cyprus Institute, Cyprus

## Confirmed Keynote and Invited Speakers

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**ANIK BHADURI**

Executive Director  
Sustainable Water Future Programme  
Future Earth, Griffith University  
Australia



**PROF. MANZOOR QADIR**

Assistant Director  
Water and Human Development  
Programme, United Nations University  
Institute for Water, Canada



**PROF. WALEED K. ZUBARI**

Professor & Coordinator  
Water Resources Management  
Program, Arabian Gulf University  
Bahrain



**PROF. JEAN SCIARE**

Director  
Energy, Environment and Water  
Research Center  
The Cyprus Institute, Cyprus



**DR. ADRIANA BRUGGEMAN**

Assoc. Professor  
Energy, Environment and Water  
Research Center  
The Cyprus Institute, Cyprus



**PROF. CLAUDIA PAHL-WOSTL**

Professor  
Institute for Environmental Systems  
Research, University of Osnabrück  
Germany



**MR. NAJIB SAAB**

Secretary General  
Arab Forum for Environment and  
Development  
Beirut, Lebanon



**PROF. OSAMA M. SALAM**

Expert of Water Resources  
Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi  
UAE

## Main Themes and Topics of the Conference

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It is envisioned to address a number of leading themes/topics at the conference, which will follow the overall vision as outlined above. These themes comprise:

### 1. The multiple role of water for communities and societies in the MENA Region

Water  
for Food

**Including:** crop selection, new technologies for irrigation and cultivation, critical assessment of government recommendations

Water in  
other sectors

**Including:** distribution network, storm water management, wastewater treatment and recycling, urban rainwater harvesting

**Including:** private households, industry and commerce, tourism

Virtual  
water

**Including:** regenerating semi/arid land and ecosystems, vegetation recovery, soil water retention

Is an important aspect of water management in the agricultural sector, as regards the export of virtual water

Urban Water

Water for the  
Environment

2. Water governance and ethical principles/considerations regarding water availability and water management

3. Risks to water security in light of climate and environmental changes, their impacts in the region and possible adaptation strategies

4. Case studies and best practices for functioning/workable mitigation/adaptation measures in the MENA Region

## Major Elements of the Conference

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- Workshop:

The "Climate Change Impacts on Water Availability and Adaptation Strategies in the MENA Region" workshop will be held 5-6 February

- Oral and Poster Presentations

- Discussion Groups

- Keynote Evening Lecture

- Ongoing water-related events in Bahrain within in the UoB's "A Year of Water" Program

# Inquiries

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From 8:00 am to 3:00 pm (Bahrain Time)

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