

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Asian G-WADI Meeting – Statement

Representatives from the Asian G-WADI member countries (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan), the Chairperson of IHP Intergovernmental Council (Prof. Soontak Lee), Authorities of the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture of the I.R of Iran, representatives from UNESCO Offices (Almaty/Tehran), representatives from Iranian National IHP Committee, as well as representatives from Iranian Universities met in Tehran, Iran, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011.

The participants took note of the last statement produced by the Asian G-WADI Network in Beijing in July 2010 and further supported the statement. Reviewing the past activities of the Asian G-WADI and with extensive discussions taking place around strengthening regional integration under the Asian G-WADI Network, the participants:

1. **Extended** special thanks and gratitude to the “The Ministry of Energy of I.R of Iran” and IHP National committee of Iran, for hosting and organizing “*Regional Training Workshop on Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources Management in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones*” and the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian G-WADI Network meeting in Tehran Iran from 20-23 June 2011;
2. **Extended** special thanks to Prof. Soontak Lee, Chair of the IHP Intergovernmental Council for attending and providing scientific contribution to the Asian G-WADI meeting and training workshop;
3. **Extended** special thanks to UNESCO Offices in Almaty/Beijing/New Delhi/Tehran and IHP Secretariat for their contribution provided to participants to attend and benefit from the Training Workshop and the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian G-WADI Network meeting held in Iran;
4. **Appreciated** the efforts and supports towards the various activities of the Asian G-WADI Network provided by the Asian G-WADI Secretariat hosted at ‘CAREERI’ which was represented in Tehran meeting by Prof Ding and Dr Nan;
5. **Noted with thanks** the progress made by the Asian G-WADI Secretariat to further develop its website to systematically distribute updates to Asian G-WADI Network and requested CAREERI to strengthen this initiative;
6. **Highlighted** the dynamics of G-WADI Pilot Basins which could potentially serve as the common ground for addressing Hydrological and Climate Change issues at the basin level;
7. **Highlighted** the important role played by the Regional G-WADI Networks in strengthening the capacity to manage the water resources of arid and semi-arid areas;
8. **Emphasized** the challenges and complexities of long term approaches regarding Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and the need to link scientific achievements with policy aspects of water resources management;
9. **Noting** the well laid platform provided by the Asian G-WADI Network for networking and cooperation:

- a. **Underlined** the need for further capacity building and strengthened networking among the countries of the Asian G-WADI Network, particularly toward the establishment of joint monitoring mechanisms;
  - b. **Recommended** exchange of visits among Asian G-WADI Pilot Basins with special thematic trainings at the site and requested UNESCO field Offices in Almaty/Beijing/New Delhi/Tehran to facilitate these visits;
  - c. **Stressed** the need to identify common issues for the scientific/technical cooperation of Asian G-WADI countries;
  - d. **Welcomed** the first proposal developed by IHP Iran for collective regional effort on “the Creation of Landform, Land Use, Land cover, and Soil Erosion Maps using a GIS and Remote Sensing Protocol at the Regional and National scales”. The participating countries agreed that the present Asian G-WADI countries would review the Iranian proposal and provide their feedback on how to move forward;
  - e. **Further agreed** that the Iranian proposal would be elaborated in detail for the fund mobilization to international donors;
10. **Underlined** the need to further explicitly elaborate on the role and possible contributions of UNESCO Category II Centres to the Asian G-WADI Network;
  11. **Emphasized** the importance of exchange of information and networking among G-WADI Networks established in Africa, LAC and in the Arab regions;
  12. **Requested** G-WADI Global Technical Secretariat and IHP Secretariat to facilitate networking and providing web linkages in the global G-WADI website;
  13. **Agreed** to work closely with the Asian G-WADI Secretariat to provide inputs for the publication on “Lessons Learnt from Integrated Watershed Management in Asian G-WADI Countries” in the IHP technical document series with the technical and financial support from UNESCO IHP Secretariat;
  14. **Welcomed** Pakistan’s willingness to identify and establish a G-WADI Pilot Basin in the arid and/or semi-arid zones of Pakistan with support from the Asian G-WADI Secretariat as well as UNESCO Tehran to provide criteria for nomination of a G-WADI Pilot Basin and background work done by Pakistan;
  15. **Called upon** the IHP Council, IHP Bureau and IHP Secretariat to provide the needed attention and consideration to the G-WADI programme in IHP programming and particularly in the formulation of IHP-VIII.