

Global G-WADI and 5th Asian G-WADI Meeting – Statement

Representatives of the Global/Asian/African/Arab and Latin American G-WADI Regional Secretariat and Asian G-WADI members countries from 9 Asian members (China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam) and Oman as well as representatives of UNESCO Offices (Bangkok/Beijing/New Delhi/Tehran/Paris/Santiago), and Prof. Abdin Salih and Prof. Soroosh Sorooshian, Members of the Global Advisory Group of G-WADI, met in Beijing, China on 20th September 2013.

Resulting from an intensive and interactive process, the participants:

1. **Extended** special thanks and appreciation to our host "CAREERI", Prof Xin Li, Prof. Zhuotong Nan and their team, Institute of Atmospheric Physics Team and UNESCO Offices in Bangkok/Beijing/New Delhi/Tehran, for the opportunity provided to attend and benefit from the International workshop on remote sensing and eco-hydrology in arid regions and Dr William Logan, Deputy Director, International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (ICIWaRM), "under the auspices of UNESCO", for supporting the Global G-WADI meeting along with this workshop;
2. **Underlined** the urgent need for UNESCO Offices in the regions of Africa, Arab, Asia, Latin America and respective G-WADI secretariats wherever they exist, to draw-up mechanisms for effective coordination as per the attached Terms of Reference; the experience of the Asian case could be shared with other regional members for their reference;
3. **Emphasized** an urgent need for an improved communication between and amongst the member states, Africa, Arab, Asia, and Latin American G-WADI secretariat, UNESCO field offices and requested establishing a communication mechanism that is efficient, frequent and dynamic. This may include an e-newsletter, and an e-discussion group.
4. **Declared** their firm intention to work together to enhance the visibility and outreach of the Africa, Arab, Asia, and Latin American G-WADI networks—the existing web site of Global and Asian G-WADI could be served as model to other members—and also invite other members to use available web page facilities to contribute national/regional news and reports;
5. **Emphasized** developing joint research initiatives in areas identified as common concerns for members of Africa, Arab, Asia, and Latin American G-WADI;
6. **Committed** themselves as members of the Africa, Arab, Asia, and Latin American G-WADI to convince their governments and policy makers to prioritize water resources of the arid and semi-arid regions of their countries/region. This may include contacting their planners and policy makers to secure funding from governments and other bilateral funding sources for pilot basins and other activities and providing successes in this direction to the respective G-WADI secretariats and UNESCO;
7. **Called upon** UNESCO Headquarters to allocate sufficient seed resources, and to assist all regional G-WADI Networks to generate additional resources for their activities;
8. **Requested** UNESCO Regional/Cluster Offices in Africa, Arab, Asia, and Latin America to assist their respective G-WADI network to prepare in coordination with the G-WADI secretariat a plan of action on funding mechanism;
9. **Expressed** its commitment to contribute to implementation of IHP VIII activities in coordination with IHP networks and regional settings, in consideration of the priority areas under the IHP VIII (2014-2021) “Water Security: Responses to Local, Regional and Global Challenges” and particularly theme III, *Addressing Water Scarcity and Quality and other related themes*.

10. **Welcomed** the interest expressed by the Belgrade, Serbia-based Category 2 Center for “Water for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change”, under the auspices of UNESCO, to join the G-WADI programme and, with the help of Programme Secretariat, will work to formulate its roles and responsibilities as a networking organization in Southeast Europe between now and the next meeting;
11. **Appreciated** the efforts of Asian G-WADI in jointly publishing a special issue for G-WADI in International Journal of Sciences in Cold and Arid Regions with research outputs from all regional networks;
12. **Requested** CAREERI, Chinese Academy of Sciences to continue supporting the Asian G-WADI Secretariat for another three years and appreciate the desire of Iran and India to host Secretariat next term. The new management setup will be Coordinator of Asian G-WADI group from CAREERI and four Co-coordinator each one from Almaty, Beijing, New Delhi, and Tehran Cluster Countries. From UNESCO side coordinated by Mr Jayakumar with the support from Officers from Almaty, Beijing, New Delhi and Tehran UNESCO Cluster Offices.
13. **Welcomed** two new member countries from Asia such as Thailand and Vietnam to be part of Asian G-WADI group now officially Asian G-WADI represented by 13 Countries (Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam) in addition requested UNESCO New Delhi to coordinate with IHP Nepal to become member for Asian G-WADI.

**Beijing, P.R. China
20 September 2013**

Terms of Reference

Asian G-WADI Secretariat (CAREERI):

1. Name a focal person and provide his/her coordinates to all members of the network and UNESCO.
2. Develop and implement an outreach strategy of the Asian G-WADI network. This must include setting up of a web site at the Asian G-WADI Secretariat hosting institute server, preparation of brochures, posters and other materials, in consultation with other members of the Asian G-WADI share information with global G-WADI secretariat and other regional G-WADI networks.
3. Seek and compile information and news from all members of the network to be published as news item in the web of the Global and Asian G-WADI network.
4. Maintain the record of the members of the network, their activities including the pilot basins, and lead the implementation of the approved regional workplans.
5. Maintain records of the Asian-GWADI meetings in Asia and globally and seek possibilities to provide necessary support if requested particularly for the Asian G-WADI basins. This could include the establishment of a mechanism for exchange of experts and information.
6. Act as liaison between the Asian and Global G-WADI network
7. In close coordination with the related UNESCO Cluster Offices and Global G-WADI Network and the Asian G-WADI Co-coordinators, prepare an annual plan of action for the network in consultation with other members of the network
8. Prepare an annual report and a final report at the end of the third year to be presented at the next General Assembly of the members of the Asian G-WADI network.
9. If new pilot basins are proposed by any member, review the proposal in consultation with the Asian G-WADI Co-coordinators and related UNESCO cluster offices to receive their comments and suggestions on activities to be held at the basin; and to identify possible assistance if needed.

UNESCO Offices (Almaty, Bangkok, Beijing, New Delhi and Tehran)

1. The UNESCO cluster office present in the country of the Asian G-WADI Secretariat serves as the main coordinator from UNESCO's side.
2. The directly related cluster offices (Almaty, Bangkok, Beijing, New Delhi and Tehran) assist the main coordinator in the work of the Asian network.
3. The main Coordinator keeps an active link on the activities of the networks with the IHP Secretariat in Paris and Science Regional Bureau in Jakarta and related cluster offices in other regions of UNESCO.
4. In consultation with other UNESCO Cluster Offices in the region and IHP secretariat assist the Asian G-WADI Secretariat and Asian G-WADI Advisory Group in drafting of a plan of action for the network and its implementations
5. UNESCO in coordination with Global Technical Secretariat and IHP secretariat will also act as the main facilitator in all stages of planning and implementation of the regional plan of actions.