

First Announcement and Call for Papers

ACWUA's 4th Best Practices Conference
Water and Wastewater Utilities Reform
"Changes and Challenges"
7-8 December 2011
Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt



Some of the water and wastewater utilities in the Arab region have been going through various reform and restructuring initiatives to improve operational performance, extend services, and advance management systems. The debate question is: how much does the shape and structure of the utility affect its management performance? Utilities ownership, private sector participation, public-private partnerships, public-public partnerships, commercialization, and utility competitiveness are some of the debated structures under utility reform initiatives.

The reform debate extended beyond shapes and structures to address business practices including autonomy, recovery of costs, corporate governance, and performance management; ACWUA will seize the opportunity through its Best Practices conferences platform and employ the topic of utilities reform in the 4th Best Practices Conference.

ACWUA Best Practices conference does not only provide an opportunity to enhance communication flows, synergies and the sharing of successful experiences, but as well, it will facilitate the creation of new partnerships that complement and maximize the impact of on-going work in this sector for the benefit of all countries in the region.

Why to attend ACWUA's 4th Best Practices Conference?

The conference will provide case studies for recent reform processes implemented in water utilities in the Arab region, also aims to share and exchange the local experiences with the international water community and summaries the lessons learned from each case study. Discussion and comments will be targeting and focusing on developing best practices and guiding principles on water utilities reform.

The conference will provide a broad technical presentation and policy-based program, tar-

geting water supply and wastewater experts and other service providers in the water sector.

Who will attend?

ACWUA expect more than 300 participants and delegations to attend the 4th Best Practices Conference in Sharm Al Sheikh, Egypt. Many will be coming from ACWUA membership comprising of more than 200 individual members, and more than 90 water and wastewater utilities from 16 Arab Countries; Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The 4th Best Practices Conference is also aimed at senior decision makers from public and private water and waste water utilities/water supply companies, water ministries & authorities, environmental agencies & ministries, municipalities, utility operators, private sector companies and consultants and educational institutions internationally and across the region.

Conference Themes and Topics

This year focus area will be **Water and Wastewater Utilities Reform: Changes and Challenge**

The following is a selection of key themes which the Scientific Committee is seeking contributions; papers addressing these issues from the Arab Region and international water community are welcomed and encouraged.

Conference key themes:

1. The paradigm shift in managing water utilities
2. Challenges prohibiting a successful utility reform
3. Capacity building in water utilities reform
4. Best practices in water utilities reform

Below are list of topics which also help find the appropriate theme for your paper and assist matching it with appropriate reviewers:

- ✓ Water sector reform
- ✓ Autonomy
- ✓ Commercialization
- ✓ Performance Contracting
- ✓ Management Contracts
- ✓ Private Sector Participation
- ✓ Public-Private-Partnership
- ✓ Public-Public-Partnership
- ✓ Capacity building and organizational development
- ✓ Triggers for water utilities reform
- ✓ Utilities reform and customers satisfaction
- ✓ Regulatory and institutional framework for utilities reform
- ✓ Accountability
- ✓ Water operators partnerships
- ✓ Financing and subsidies
- ✓ Utility governance
- ✓ Economic regulations
- ✓ Laws & regulations to achieve utility reform
- ✓ Regulations and the social policy
- ✓ Reform vs. Efficiency
- ✓ Pros and cons for water utilities reform
- ✓ Pro poor-utilities reform
- ✓ Reform requirements for Urban vs. Rural communities
- ✓ Role of benchmarking in regulating water utilities

IWA International Stream

As part of ACWUA 4th Best Practices Conference program, the International Water Association (IWA) will be organising an international stream to bring global perspectives and best practices to the programme. One theme to be presented and discussed by internationally renowned experts includes O&M: 'Strategic Asset Management - critical steps towards effective O&M'.

Invitation to submit a paper

Papers are expected to make an original and substantial contribution to the conference themes and topics. Speakers who are interested in presenting a paper should send an abstract for refereeing. Paper proposals will be selected by the conference scientific committee to cover different areas, methods, approaches and positions.

Abstracts should be maximum 300 words. Each entry should incorporate the following information:

Author's(s') full name(s), Title – Position – Institution – Address for correspondence– Theme of the paper (see conference themes), indicating a first and second choice – Title of the paper – Abstract of the paper.

Abstract submission form including all specifications and guidelines can be downloaded from the ACWUA website www.acwua.org. Abstracts and later paper submissions should be sent by e-mail to the following address: bpconference@acwua.org

The official language of the conference is English (Simultaneous translation to Arabic and French will be available). The papers will be published through ACWUA newsletters and IWA-water 21 official scientific publisher.

Deadlines

- **Deadline for submitting abstracts: 30 August 2011**
- **Announcement of results and selection process will start in: 20 September 2011**
- **Deadline for submitting the presentations and papers: 7 November 2011**

Enquiries

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