

Training Workshop on “Water Monitoring Network and Early Warning System”

16-19 August 2021, 10:00 AM, Turkey Time

Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR

Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Excellences, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السّلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

Very Good Day to all of you

I am pleased to welcome you all to the training workshop on “Water Monitoring Network and Early Warning System”, which we are organizing within the framework of SESRIC’s Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB) and in partnership with the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM).

Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. Dr. Marwan ALRAGGAD (مروان الرقاد), Executive Director of the INWRDAM and his team, for their close cooperation and collaboration with SESRIC in the organization of this important training workshop.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Prof. Dr. Jalal HALWANI (جلال حلوانى), Director of Water and Environment Science Laboratory at the Lebanese University and Dr. Khaled EL-OMARI (خالد العمرى), Director of Quality Control Centre Laboratories at the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Tripoli and North Lebanon, for accepting our invitation to provide this important training workshop for the benefit of experts from the National Water Resources Authorities of the OIC member countries.

Dear Participants,

Water is a source of life, livelihood and prosperity. It is an input to almost all production circles in various sectors. Lack of water means poverty, and poverty means lack of basic human needs, such as food, clean water, sanitation, nutrition and health care. Therefore, the domain of water is one of the most critical areas of cooperation identified by the OIC member countries for joint Islamic action in the OIC-2025 Programme of Action.

It is a matter of the fact that today a large number of OIC member countries face severe water-related constraints and challenges due to rapid urbanization, increased economic activities and rising consumption that place further pressures on water demand. On the other hand, non-revenue water, pollution, climate change, hydrologic variability, land use and changing ecosystems limit water availability. All of these challenges combined negatively affect water security for many OIC countries.

In this context and among other successful solutions developed to address various aspects of the water-related challenges, the water monitoring network and early warning system stand out as an advanced framework to ensure the safe supply of drinking water, quality control in the water distribution network, and detecting low probability or high impact contamination events in water distribution systems. The accurate implementation of this approach helps to increase the quality of water source areas, public health, and hence, regional economic development and social welfare of the societies.

Dear participants,

The OIC Water Vision, a strategic document adopted by the “2nd Islamic Conference of Ministers responsible for Water” held in Istanbul in 2012, points out that the OIC member countries are guided by the noble Islamic values of unity, fraternity and solidarity that provide an extraordinary opportunity for them to work together to ensure a water-secure future.

The OIC Water Vision calls for a joint action to address many of the present and future water security challenges through connecting centres of excellence within the OIC in water science, policy, management and technology development, identifying and exchanging solutions to water problems, and building the institutional and human resources capacities in the domain of water.

Recognizing the need for enhancing the human resources capacities of the national water resources authorities in our member countries and with a view to contributing to the implementation of the OIC Water Vision, we at SESRIC have initiated many years ago the SESRIC Water Resources Management Capacity Building Programme (Water-CaB).

This programme aims at facilitating the sharing and exchanging of knowledge, experiences and best practices among the OIC member countries in the domain of water resources management. Within the framework of this programme, we organize short-term training courses, training workshops (like this one), and study visits on a wide range of technical aspects such as integrated water resources management, water-storing techniques, safe drinking water resources management, etc.

We also prepare various technical background reports and research studies to analyze the current state at the OIC level in the domain of water in order to identify the challenges and risks facing the OIC countries and suggest appropriate policy actions that need to be taken to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-OIC cooperation in this important domain.

In this context, I would like also to inform you that we have last year reactivated the “OIC Portal on Water Resources” in order to enable the OIC member countries to share their water-related information, success stories, initiatives, innovative techniques and new mechanisms on water-related issues. The portal serves as an information and knowledge hub for the OIC member countries in the domain of water and could be accessed through the website of SESRIC.

Dear Participants,

I believe that this training workshop, which aims to provide insights into the digitalization of early warning systems, the latest techniques of water testing, water monitoring networks and the vital role of ecosystem-based approaches in reducing disaster risk (Eco-DRR), will make a positive impact and add value to the work and expertise of all the participants.

I assure you that we, at SESRIC, spare no effort towards continuing our role in facilitating the transfer of knowledge and experience among our member countries through various south-south cooperation modalities. We look forward to furthering our collaboration with our partners in this training workshop and the national water resources authorities towards further assisting our member countries in this important domain.

Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and a successful training throughout the upcoming days.

Thank you, و السلام عليكم و رحمة الله و بركاته