



A f r i c a n W a t e r A s s o c i a t i o n
A s s o c i a t i o n A f r i c a i n e d e l ' E a u

Press release

The African Water Association (AfWA) meetings together with a session of the Scientific and Technical Council, a meeting of the Executive Board and a General Assembly started on February 12 2007 in the Tangiers (Morocco) Ramada hotel conference room with the opening ceremony of the Exhibition called « AfWA's Day » which main topic was « **Metering and mastery of the water production and distribution : which approach for the African water utilities? »**

A water and sanitation sector related equipment exhibition was organized over 5 days along with the meetings (from February 12 to 16 2007).

The opening ceremony of these days was presided by Mr Mohamed El YAZGHI, Ministry of Town and Country Planning, Water and Environment and Mr Ali FASSI FIHRI, AMEPA President and ONEP Managing Director. More than 100 delegates from 22 African countries attended this event.

From February 13 to 14, 5 Specialised Committees of the Scientific and Technical Council (STC) held a meeting in order to deal with the topics related to the Association activities. The works of these sessions mainly concerned the functioning of the STC, the bye law, the various projects in progress, the analysis of the 2007 activities programme and the launching of the 2008 activities programme. The participants also discussed about the international cooperation materialized by the projects with the European Union (EU), the World Bank Institute (WBI), the African Development Bank (ADB), the International Water Board (OIEau), Municipal Development Partnership (MDP), the World Water Council (CME) and the CENTA (the Sevilla-Spain Water New Technologies Center) of Andalousia.

On February 15, the African Water Association Executive Board which is composed of 14 members represented by the following countries SENEGAL, TUNISIA MOROCCO, GABON, Cote d'Ivoire, GHANA, SOUTH AFRICA, CAMEROON, DRC, TOGO, BENIN, BURKINA FASO and by 2 representatives from the affiliated members held its 1st statutory meeting of the year 2007.

Two(2) conferences were held by distinguished experts on the opening of the General Assembly on February 16 2007, namely by Mr BEDOUMRA KORDJE, the African Water Facility and ADB Water and Sanitation Department Manager on «The African Water Facility and the eligibility conditions for the financing » for the first conference.

The second conference was held by Mr Mouhamed Fadel NDAW, PEPAM coordinator on the following topic: "Presentation of the Senegal PEPAM (Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme for the Millennium).

A message on behalf of the CME (World Water Council) was given by the CME Governor Mr BZIOUI.

The Association was also pleased to get a message from Mr Loïc FAUCHON, President of the World Water Council and read by Mr. BZIOUI, Governor of the CME.

A panel of officials and experts representing other international organisations participated in this General Assembly, namely Mr. BEDOUMRA KORDJE (ADB TUNISIA), Mr. PICARD Ingrid (Urban consulting), Mr. LE JALLE Christophe (PS-Eau), Mr Jean Louis MILLO (OIEAU), Mr .Mokhtar BZIOUI (Conseil Mondial de l'Eau Maroc), Mr. Mohamed Fadel NDAW (PEPAM) of Senegal, Mr. ADEGNIKA Félix Mourény (PDM), Mr. Alain MOREL (WSP-AF World Bank).

Like the other regions around the world, Africa is faced with a high rate of water wastage and pollution. Yet, the continent is not really suffering from a water shortage, but from a bad distribution of this property and a crucial need in investment for the infrastructures treatment and water supply and sanitation services.

So many subjects that will be debated during the next World Water Forum to be held in Istanbul on March 2009. The alarm bell has sounded.

Tangiers, February 16 2007

The AfWA General Secretary