

**5<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM**  
İ S T A N B U L 2 0 0 9



BRIDGING  
DIVIDES  
FOR WATER

16-22 MARCH 2009



**Second  
Announcement**

**March 2008**



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## Turkish Institutional Support for the 5th World Water Forum

The main national institutions providing support to the 5th World Water Forum are the General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI), Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) and the Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (ISKI).

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### *Disclaimer*

The views and opinions expressed within do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Government of Turkey or of the organizing bodies of the 5th World Water Forum. The mentioning of trade names does not constitute an endorsement.

**The Second Announcement has been printed with the valuable contribution  
of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce.**

## Invitation to the 5th World Water Forum



Water is essential for our survival. Hence the dictum “Water is life.” It is very true that water is one of the engines of sustainable development. We cannot fight poverty and hunger without utilizing our water resources. According to experts, nearly 40 percent of the world population is expected to live in water-stressed countries by the year 2015. It has also been reported that the demand on water resources will continue to increase during the decades to come. The Middle East, Africa, Central and Eastern Asia in particular will face serious water shortages.

What is most urgent for the international community is to provide safe drinking water and water for sanitation for all. We also need to supply enough water for agriculture so that food security for over eight billion people can be guaranteed in the future. We should also utilize our water potential for hydropower generation, which is much needed for socio-economic development. Lastly, we have to manage water resources in an efficient and sustainable manner so that we can protect the environment and ecosystems.

Turkey stands ready to share its experience regarding the development and management of water resources, issues which have recently filled our agenda more than ever. Therefore, Istanbul is proud and honoured to host the 5th World Water Forum.

The targets set by the Millennium Declaration of 2000 and by the World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002 reflect the willingness of the international community to address the matter at the global level. In recognition of the importance of water issues, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the period from 2005 to 2015 as the international decade for action on “Water for Life.” These targets and decisions attest to the importance of the proper management of water resources. However, in order to achieve a substantial improvement on the subject, the world community needs a closer cooperation between governments, local authorities and other stakeholders.

With these thoughts in mind, I would like to invite the whole water community to the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, where two continents are linked by bridges or divided by water, depending on the chosen point of view, in order to “bridge divides for water.”

**H.E. Abdullah Gül**  
President of the Republic of Turkey

## Adaptation to Climate Change



The climate is a source of many of the indispensable needs of human life and is affected by the activities of mankind. For centuries, human beings have attempted to adapt to this source by making shelter, producing food and generating energy by making use of environmental conditions.

Throughout the development of civilization, climate change has affected every single aspect of life, such as the environment, development and economy, technology, agriculture and food, urbanization, health and water. The world is currently experiencing the results of rapid industrialization, the increase in population and irregular urbanization.

One of the most important factors to consider in connection with climate change is the emission of carbon gas. The majority of the greenhouse gas emissions on earth are the results of energy-generating activities. Therefore, Turkey is not only focusing on renewable energy means such as water, wind and sun, but is also making efforts to broaden the forested areas which naturally absorb carbon dioxide.

A unifier with tracks deep enough to turn a society into a nation, water is a source for common culture, civilization and an easier life, as well as the main sector negatively affected by climate change. As population grows and economic activities increase, many countries have started to suffer from water shortages or have seen their economic activities limited.

“Global Changes and Risk Management” is one of the main themes of the 5th World Water Forum, which aims at Bridging Divides for Water. The intellectual and scientific platform to be formed by the Forum in Istanbul, a European Capital of Culture 2010, will provide suggestions for solutions on how to overcome the effects of climate change. I wholeheartedly believe that the exchange of knowledge and experience conducted within a developed framework on adapting to climate and global warming, which are among the top issues of the regional meetings to be held prior to the Forum, will carry the 5th World Water Forum one step ahead of the previous Fora.

Building upon the basis of the 1st Announcement, which explained the communication and political processes as well as the main themes of the Forum, this 2nd Announcement provides detailed information on the Forum week, programme and the regional processes.

There are millions of people without access to clean and safe drinking water at the beginning of this century. I am inviting you to the 5th World Water Forum, which is a crucial event for the future of all people on earth, in order to listen to their voices and foster better water resources management. We will be very happy and honoured to welcome you in Istanbul.

**H. E. Veysel Eroğlu**  
Turkish Minister of Environment and Forestry

## What Room Does Water Have in a Changing World?



This is the question to which humankind, in spite of itself, must provide answers in a context of global changes.

Demographic growth and its resulting migration, urban concentration and its resulting pollution, climate evolution and its resulting disasters, all represent additional stress on water resources and create new challenges for sanitation.

Yet the world continues to need water, and needs it a little more every day – a little more water and a little more energy to fill the planet's development needs:

- Water to produce food
- Water to improve health
- Water for industry and services
- Water to quench the thirst of entire populations

And to do all of this, more money is needed, along with improved governance and a broad dissemination of knowledge, all of which should be shared equitably and sustainably.

In concrete terms, this is what is really meant by access to water for all and the right for everyone to use it. The World Water Council exists to deliver this message loudly and clearly. Organised with our Turkish friends in March 2009 in Istanbul, the next World Water Forum also exists for this reason, and to build bridges between continents, cultures and peoples.

This 5th Forum is designed to propose, first and foremost, political solutions based on dialogue, on the capacity to listen and on mutual respect.

We call on you to participate in this 5th World Water Forum, a forum of openness and tolerance. You are invited; you will be warmly welcomed.

**Loïc Fauchon**  
President of the World Water Council

## Participate and Let Your Voice be Heard



The 5th World Water Forum Secretariat is pleased to report that the preparatory process for the Forum is moving swiftly ahead. It is now time for a wide range of stakeholders to become engaged with their energy and ideas to truly make this Forum a highly-participatory World Water Forum.

As readers of the 1st Announcement will be aware, the Kick-Off Meeting in March 2007 resulted in the definition of six themes and twenty-four different topics, under the overarching theme Bridging Divides for Water. To further elaborate this work, the Forum Secretariat and the World Water Council convened the first thematic and regional process preparatory meetings in Istanbul in November 2007. The 120 participants worked to identify consortium partners willing to work together to coordinate the thematic development, and to ensure the involvement of an even larger group of over 400 participants at the second preparatory meeting, in February 2008.



Regional contributions to the Forum will be implemented through specific regional processes crossing the five continents, and will feed into the thematic process. Considering the diversity within these regions, sub-regional activities are also planned. For example in Turkey, starting from World Water Day in March 2008, fifteen local meetings, conferences and workshops will be organised by the State Hydraulic Works. The papers presented will consider practical issues that have a direct impact on daily life. The result of this process will be one summary document with concrete outputs, which will serve as the national contribution to the thematic development of the Forum. Other regions will also hold similar sub-regional processes to solicit local contributions.

Opportunities for your organization to substantively contribute to the Forum's topics and sessions have been built into the preparatory process, and are described in this 2nd Announcement. Take this opportunity to ensure your voice is heard and help broaden the perspectives, ideas, experiences and potential solutions to be discussed at the Forum. We invite you to contribute actively to the 5th World Water Forum's preparatory process to ensure that the event is a success in terms of bringing water and its subsequent benefits to all.

We thank you wholeheartedly for all your efforts to promote the Forum around the world, and hope to meet you here in Istanbul in March 2009.

**Hasan Zuhuri Sarıkaya**  
Co-Chair of the International  
Steering Committee

**Oktay Tabasaran**  
Secretary General

## What Will the 5th World Water Forum Bring to the World?

The World Water Forum, the world's largest water-related event, is organized every three years as a joint venture between the World Water Council and the government of the host country. After previous Fora in Morocco (1997), the Netherlands (2000), Japan (2003) and Mexico (2006), the 5th World Water Forum will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in March 2009. The Forum is an open, all-inclusive, multi-stakeholder process, which is the culmination of over two years of preparatory activities. In this way, the World Water Forum is not just a week-long event; it is a process which aims to raise the importance, awareness and understanding of water issues and propose concrete solutions to address global challenges.

### Understanding divergent stances

The challenge faced by those involved in the organization of the 5th World Water Forum is to make it a turning point for water management in the world. This Forum must truly be different, and the organizers hope to achieve this by making the preparation of the Forum both open and participatory, and focusing on action. The 5th World Water Forum will thus aim to bring more to the world than merely ideas and debate amongst water experts; it will bring the world to Istanbul to improve our understanding of divergent points of view and allow us to share solutions.

*“Access to water and sanitation is essential for human development. We have a collective responsibility to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets and tackle the water challenges arising from climate change. I hope the Forum will help bridge the gap between policy and practice and spur real commitments, converting rhetoric to action.”*  
**- Kemal Derviş**, UNDP Administrator, Former Minister of Economy of Turkey and former Member of Parliament

### Overcoming barriers

The 5th World Water Forum's overarching theme, Bridging Divides for Water, has been conceived to achieve this purpose. It underlines not just the geographical crossroads between Europe and Asia, the Middle East and Africa, North and South, represented by Istanbul, but also the barriers between modern-age and traditional water cultures and uses, between rich and poor, and between developed and developing regions of the world. It emphasizes the need for greater interaction, communication and functional harmonization of the various entities involved in or affected by water management. It also sends out a message to the water community that water is not an end in itself, but rather a means for our development and well-being. Interaction with other sectors is therefore needed to understand how water can contribute to the solution of common problems faced by all affected sectors.

### A different approach...

The 5th World Water Forum organizers will build on many of the achievements and components of the previous Fora, but will also innovate with a fresh new approach. This Forum will more than ever before be focused on priority issues emphasizing multi-stakeholder interaction. Indeed, the Forum's preparatory process has aimed to channel participation towards identifying the 100 most pressing water-related issues of our time, which will provide the basis of the sessions being developed for the Forum.

### ...leading to real political impact

The Forum's political process will employ a new dynamic of interaction with the thematic and regional processes, the outputs of which will become an essential input into the political component. This political process will involve local and national governments as well as parliamentarians, thus ensuring greater political commitment. Thousands of individuals and organizations from all over the world will take part in the preparatory process. With this multi-stakeholder preparation, added to political involvement and a focus on the key issues, the 5th World Water Forum will become a landmark in the long road to sustainable development.

## Make it Yours!

The 5th World Water Forum is open to everyone. Any individual from any background, region or sector who has an interest in water issues is welcome. The 5th World Water Forum is unbiased: it is built upon open dialogue, accepts and tackles challenging issues and enables participants to discuss freely and come up with common solutions. The 5th World Water Forum encourages participation and collaboration throughout its two-year preparatory process, oriented towards concrete actions. The 5th World Water Forum is yours. Your participation will make it a success.

### Dates to Remember

April 2008: Opening call for contributions to the Forum.

### How to contribute

Your collaboration during the whole preparatory process is essential: it will allow you to guide the 5th World Water Forum to a successful conclusion. Do not miss this opportunity to make a difference! Visit [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org) for more details.

- ◆ Contribute to the development of a session: indicate what you would bring to the debate (page 7)
- ◆ Get involved in the regional process: contact your regional coordinator (page 12)
- ◆ Organize your involvement through your major group (page 14)
- ◆ Participate in the Youth World Water Forum: share your ideas and experiences with your peers and act together now for the future (page 14)
- ◆ Join the Virtual Meeting Space: find the most up-to-date information, exchange ideas, improve the Forum with your input (page 15)
- ◆ Participate in the Water Expo or the Fair: present your achievements to the water world (page 16)
- ◆ Propose an activity in the learning centre: offer training to Forum participants during the Forum (page 16)
- ◆ Contribute to the Global Water Education Village: offer educational activities to children who visit the Forum (page 17)
- ◆ Raise awareness: propose a film or documentary for the International Water and Film Event (page 17)
- ◆ Be a candidate for a Prize: highlight your action, life's work, legislation or awareness-raising contribution (page 18)
- ◆ Inform on water issues: all media are invited to cover the event (page 19)
- ◆ Take part in the Forum week: register your participation (page 22)

### Balanced participation and equity

The 5th World Water Forum will incorporate mechanisms to ensure a balanced participation of all stakeholders. It will mainstream equity aspects and participatory approaches throughout the preparatory process and during the 5th World Water Forum itself. The organizers will strive to achieve a balanced participation of women and men from different regions and sectors in quantitative and qualitative terms, through a process which makes the concerns and experiences of all an integral dimension of the Forum's content and agenda.

### Let the drops guide you

These drops represent the many ways you can contribute to the 5th World Water Forum. You will find them throughout this document, giving you a chance to make your voice heard. Please feel free to suggest any other ideas you may have on how to contribute.



The 5th World Water Forum is your Forum. Its vital objectives will only be met with your active participation. Please spread the message and distribute this announcement as widely as possible around you.

*Damlaya damlaya göl olur*  
(Drop by drop the lake is formed) - Turkish proverb



## Thematic Development

### What are the main water-related challenges faced by humanity today?

This urgent question motivated representatives from a wide range of organizations to gather for the 5th World Water Forum Kick-Off meeting in March 2007. From all sectors, continents and backgrounds, participants identified together six challenges related to the main aim of the Forum: Bridging Divides for Water. These challenges became the six main themes for the 5th World Water Forum and three to five topics were identified under each theme. This evolved into the thematic framework and the basis for the further preparation of the Forum.

In the year that has followed this meeting, a greater understanding of the themes and topics has been achieved through a consultative multi-stakeholder approach. Key issues related to each topic have been translated into pertinent questions, around which the sessions at the Forum will be developed. The present call for participation is an open invitation to you to take part in this ongoing process and to contribute your action-oriented solutions to these questions. Your expertise, experience and ideas are needed. Take part in this opportunity, to make a difference to the lives of millions of people around the world.

### How can you contribute?

Send your contributions through [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org), the 5th World Water Forum website. You will be asked to fill in a form to identify the theme and topic to which your contribution corresponds and describe your proposed contribution.

### What happens then?

All proposed contributions will be considered for incorporation into the development of the sessions. Together, session conveners and contributors will work to finalize the structure and contents of each session by the end of 2008 for publication in the 5th World Water Forum's Final Programme. An interactive

dialogue format (e.g. debates, panels, question-and-answer sessions, interactive discussions, etc.) will be encouraged wherever possible, and facilitation assistance will be made available to those who may require it.

### What can you do now?

Get involved! Read, reflect and react to the topics listed below. On the 5th World Water Forum website you will find topic scoping papers and topic roundtable reports from the Thematic Coordination meetings. Then organize your own contribution, bring forth your stone to the edifice as we build, together, this 5th World Water Forum.

#### Dates to Remember

June 2008: Opening of the call for *session* contributions.  
September 30, 2008: Closing of the call for *session* contributions.



#### Keywords to bear in mind

**Themes:** Six main water-related challenges and enabling mechanisms identified for the Forum, each of which covers between three and five topics.

**Topics:** Specific elements that the World Water Forum should contribute to achieving. There are 24 topics. Under each topic between three and five sessions are planned.

**Sessions:** Multi-stakeholder dialogue on one of the key issues on which progress is to be made through the Forum. There will be approximately 100 sessions.

## Overview of the Six Major Themes of the 5th World Water Forum

### Theme 1: Global Change & Risk Management

Respond to this call:  
propose your contribution  
to the thematic process



#### *Topic 1.1 Adapting to Climate Change*

There is a rapidly advancing understanding of many of the causes and consequences of global warming. The key questions facing the water community are how climate change will impact the water cycle and what will be the key adaptation strategies to reduce human and environmental risks. Given the myriad of different physical and economic circumstances, and the inherent uncertainty associated with both effect and needed action, there will be substantial debate through the sessions under this topic on appropriate responses, technical answers and political decisions required to facilitate these responses and where the highest priorities should be placed.

#### *Topic 1.2 Water-related Migration, Changing Land Use and Human Settlements*

Increasing pressure on water, land and living environment leads to migration of populations, which in turn impacts on the environment of the new settlements. Through improved water management, land and environment, can the needs for migration and their impacts on settlements be reduced? What are the most suitable coping strategies for development and management of water services for present and future demographic developments?



#### *Topic 1.3 Managing Disasters*

New threats to the safety and economic security of hundreds of millions of people are arising through more frequent and extreme disasters connected with increasing urbanization and climate variability. A first priority is disaster preparedness, cooperation between government agencies at different levels and the installation/maintenance of key water infrastructure in order to reduce the loss of life, jobs, property and business continuity when disasters occur. In this context, there are a number of different perspectives on the urgency of this problem, the cost-effectiveness of different levels of preparedness and the potential support needed from Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the most vulnerable Least Developed Countries and small island states.

### Theme 2: Advancing Human Development and the Millennium Development Goals

#### *Topic 2.1 Ensuring Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All*

There is universal agreement on the goal of water, sanitation and hygiene for all. At the same time, there is little consensus on how to achieve this goal and more fundamentally, on basic definitions for what constitutes the achievement of safe water supply and the provision of environmentally sustainable sanitation. On the heels of the International Year of Sanitation in 2008, the 5th World Water Forum will provide a new opportunity to debate the true state of progress in furthering the three imperatives of water, sanitation and hygiene, and the political commitments needed to tackle the most challenging regions of the world. The question of whether local entrepreneurs can fundamentally change the delivery paradigm for water and sanitation will be debated alongside the more traditional roles of financing institutions, communities and operator partnerships.

#### *Topic 2.2 Water for Energy, Energy for Water*

Increasingly scarce energy resources and rising costs have an important impact on water production, use and treatment, including the prospects for desalination and reuse. At the same time, increasingly scarce water resources are needed for growing energy demands. Hydropower uses stored water behind dams; water runs through turbines to create electricity in a nonconsumptive manner. Water and energy policies are needed to harmonize both, in cooperation with community-based initiatives and appropriate technologies. But is this harmonization achievable in practice?

**Topic 2.3 Water and Food for Ending Poverty and Hunger**

More food needs to be produced with less water and land. The challenges of a growing population, changing diets, and the unquenchable thirst of agro-energy puts increasing pressure on the limited land, water and environmental resources at both the global and local scales. Where does agro-energy fit into the quest for food security and reducing poverty, and how may the right balance be found to achieve sustainable development? How do we deal with food security and energy security and how do market access and tariff systems need to be adjusted to prevent the poor from being the most affected by the impacts?

**Topic 2.4 Multiple Use and Functions of Water Services**

Multiple uses: conflict or synergy? Domestic, urban and energy needs could be better served by being more efficient and coordinated with water for agriculture. Important investment gains may be achieved if systems and institutions are prepared and able to optimize multiple uses. Are institutionalisation and the scaling-up of multiple uses necessary to better contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals? What would governance look like and what political, institutional and financial measures need to be taken to strengthen the sustainability of such services?

### Theme 3: Managing and Protecting Water Resources and their Supply Systems to Meet Human and Environmental Needs

**Topic 3.1 Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation**

With the growing pressure on water resources and the expected impacts of climate change, improved management and cooperation in transboundary water resource management are becoming essential elements to meet human and environmental needs. What are the success stories and failures of hydro-solidarity and IWRM and what are the associated key actions for basin management, transboundary cooperation and benefit sharing? Legal instruments have been developed at the local, regional and global scales but how effective and resilient are they, especially for transboundary surface and groundwater resources, stakeholder participation, planning, financing and monitoring?

**Topic 3.2 Ensuring Adequate Water Resources and Storage Infrastructure to Meet Agricultural, Energy and Urban Needs**

Ensuring adequate water resources is important for development and even more so considering the effects of increasing climate variability. This demands adequate storage and infrastructure, both natural and man-made. How can the middle ground be found among many different perspectives on how to protect those resources and their ecosystems, while sufficiently meeting human needs in a sustainable way?

**Topic 3.3 Preserving Natural Ecosystems**

For their preservation and for human well-being, natural ecosystems and environmental flows need to become an integral part of land and water management planning, decision-making and implementation processes. What role can existing international laws and conventions play? What can be done in national and local level planning processes to take human needs, as well as local values and conditions into account?

**Topic 3.4 Managing and Protecting Surface, Ground, Soil and Rainwater**

Rainfall is the largest water resource available but its management is the least developed. Groundwater is the most reliable resource but also the most vulnerable to pollution and over exploitation. Despite these facts institutional inertia encourages water management to remain focused on surface water. To protect these different water resources and freshwater eco-systems and to utilise them to their maximum potential in a responsible way, an integrated planning and management approach of surface, ground, soil and rainwater is advocated. What adaptation of legal and institutional frameworks would be required and how can science best inform politicians?

## Theme 4: Governance and Management

### *Topic 4.1 Implementing the Right to Water and Sanitation for Improved Access*

For the Right to Water and Sanitation (RTWS) to be truly meaningful, its recognition must result in improved access to water and sanitation especially for the poor and vulnerable, as well as in conflict situations. Is the RTWS really making a difference to the poor and marginalized? How can they use the RTWS as a tool to gain access and to hold governments and other actors accountable? What are the actions to enable its implementation if it should be a tool for accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals? Though the Right to Water has been clarified, do we have the same level of understanding of the meaning of the right to sanitation and do we know how to implement it?

### *Topic 4.2 Improving Performance Through Regulatory Approaches*

An independent regulatory framework for operators and service providers is being promoted world-wide as a means of providing clarity on roles and responsibilities and of achieving improved service and economic performance, but will regulation work in all situations? What is the current situation and what role can regulatory frameworks play in the future with regard to the (re)use of waste water, or for the sustainable use of groundwater resources?

### *Topic 4.3 Ethics, Transparency, and Empowerment of Stakeholders*

While the concept of “water ethics” seems unquestionable, enabling better water governance and management requires a consensual definition – is this possible? The creation of such a standard would also encourage the engagement of stakeholders in decision-making processes that are transparent, that create accountability and that provide access to justice. What additional measures can achieve this?

### *Topic 4.4 Optimizing Public and Private Roles in Water Services*

As economic and labour-force circumstances continue to evolve, the roles and responsibilities of both public and private organizations in the provision of water services likewise continue to evolve. In this context and in addition to increased outsourcing of specific functions to the private sector, communities are turning to alternative models of service provision including “corporatizing” their utilities under public ownership, delegated models of service provision, and hybrids involving small-scale service providers. In some cases, these changes have been controversial because of fears of the loss of community control as a consequence of increasing levels of private sector involvement.

### *Topic 4.5 Institutional Arrangements for Efficient and Effective Water Resource Management*

In order to render decentralised water management equitable, efficient and effective, all levels of government need to coordinate their efforts. This topic is concerned with coordination and allocation of water resources in increasingly water-scarce circumstances. The debate will focus on issues that are both misunderstood and where competing alternative views remain unreconciled, including ways to establish proper water governance coordination among water authorities and all water-related sectors and stakeholders, at and between national and local levels.



## Theme 5: Finance

### *Topic 5.1: Sustainable Financing for the Water Sector*

Major investments are required in the water sector to meet the Millennium Development Goals and to face global changes. The capacity to lend is there, but the capacity to borrow is not: what can the different stakeholders do to increase their borrowing capacity and what do financing institutions need to do to adapt their products to the requirements of the borrowers? What can local governments do to become more reliable financial stakeholders so that

operators and utility managers can make investments to expand coverage and improve service delivery? What non-traditional financing mechanisms are possible to improve watershed management?

#### ***Topic 5.2: Pricing Strategies as a Tool for a Sustainable Water Sector***

Pricing strategies are supposed to respond to financial, social, economic and environmental sustainability policy objectives, but tariffs alone may not be an appropriate vehicle to deliver on social policy objectives. Work on this topic will seek to uncover the main trade-offs between urban supply, rural supply and irrigation service provision, including strategies for pricing sanitation supply.

#### ***Topic 5.3: Pro-poor Financing Policies and Strategies***

While sufficient financing is essential for expanding service coverage to meet the needs of poor communities, many financing mechanisms do not truly serve the poorest populations. A number of specific financial and legal solutions will be investigated to accelerate access to affordable water supply and sanitation service provision for the poor.



### **Theme 6: Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development**

#### ***Topic 6.1: Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development Strategies***

Much money and attention is directed to capacity development. But how successful are we in the development of capacities at different levels, especially on the vocational and operational level? With a vast and fast-growing body of knowledge and experience, how can we ensure all stakeholders, including children, youth and educators, contribute and have equitable and meaningful access? Scientific knowledge must be pertinent to issues on the ground and be shared effectively and rapidly, so that communities with indigenous knowledge may make a difference in reducing the impact of major water problems.

#### ***Topic 6.2: Water Science and Technology: Appropriate and Innovative Solutions for the 21st Century to Address the Needs of Society***

To build a better future, water management strategies could benefit from some thinking outside the water box. Would the incorporation of emerging technologies and unified personalized information platforms create flexible systems that can respond rapidly to change?

#### ***Topic 6.3: Using the Assets of Professional Associations and Networks to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals***

While professional associations and networks could potentially play a very significant role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, their role at present is small. This topic concerns the question of whether the development community views professional associations as underutilized assets and how professional associations and networks could be used, encouraged and supported to become key contributors to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

#### ***Topic 6.4 Data for All***

Unlocking that data treasure chest is not only a question of access to information, but also of comprehending which elements are most important and which tools can be put in place to best share knowledge. And with just 20% of water-related data readily accessible, can a better scientific and operational understanding of the water cycle already be obtained?

#### ***Topic 6.5 Water and Culture***

Cultural diversity and its integration into water management approaches, science, policy-making and capacity-building, offer both opportunities and challenges for sustainable water resources management. Additionally, history offers some important lessons to help solve current and future challenges.

## Regional Processes

Contribute to the regional process by contacting your regional coordinators



Successive World Water Fora have increasingly served as catalysts for greater regional cooperation and understanding around water issues, allowing local and regional solutions and trends to be shared at a global platform. In line with the spirit of “bridging divides”, for the 5th World Water Forum stakeholders in each region will be asked to:

- ◆ Identify a number of water-related issues based on the programme framework;
- ◆ Shorten the long list to consider the most serious issues;
- ◆ Report on the solutions encountered for the purpose of the discussions during the week of the 5th World Water Forum.

The regional inputs, which will ultimately feed into the political outcomes of the Forum, will be developed through a number of regional coordination meetings, including continent-based regions as well as at the sub-regional and national scale. The regional processes will thus produce a substantive contribution to both the thematic and political processes, effectively contributing to “bridging” these fundamental Forum elements.

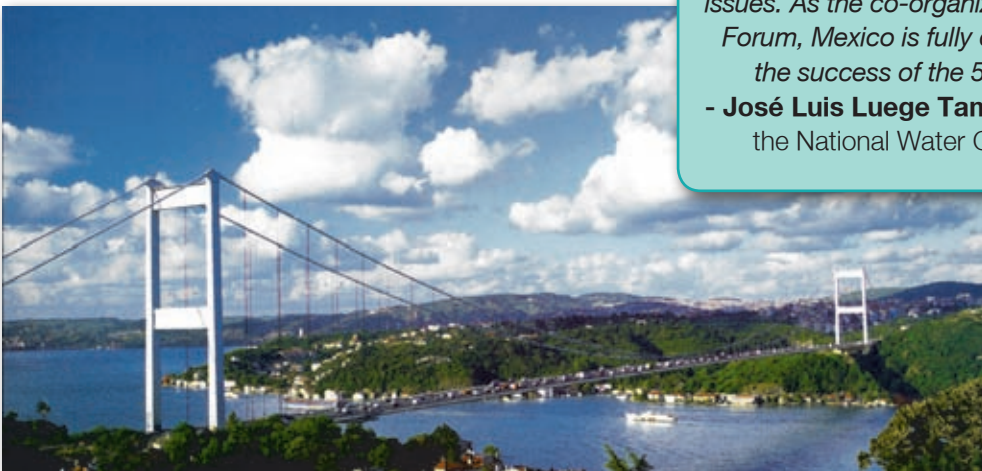
The regional processes are neither homogenous in design, nor in implementation. Each region is coordinated by a specific organization or group of organizations that aims to bring together the various stakeholders from all sectors and corners of the region. Some regions have further divided their preparation into sub-regional consultations, the results of which will be incorporated into the overall process for the region.

As a result of their encompassing consultative work, the regional processes will render substantive regional inputs to the discussions at the 5th World Water Forum. A specific regional session will be organized at the Forum to present the main results of each region’s deliberations and processes.

For more details on how to contribute to your regional processes and to follow their progress, please refer to the 5th World Water Forum website, [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org), or write to [regions@worldwaterforum5.org](mailto:regions@worldwaterforum5.org).

*“The 5th World Water Forum represents a great opportunity to evaluate the progress made over the last three years in water management in the world, as well as to share new and different views, approaches and experiences related to water issues. As the co-organizer of the 4th World Water Forum, Mexico is fully committed to supporting the success of the 5th Forum in Istanbul.”*

**- José Luis Luege Tamargo**, Director General of the National Water Commission of Mexico



## Political Component and the Ministerial Conference

The 5th World Water Forum will strive to establish dialogue among and between four political groups, namely Heads of State or government, local elected officials, parliamentarians and ministers. These four groups will meet, along with participants at the 5th World Water Forum, to discuss “Water Management Adaptation Strategies for Global Changes, including Climate Variability/Change”. These processes seek to identify implementable water resources strategies that will help societies cope with climate change along with other important global changes, such as population growth, land use changes, urbanization and migration.

The main objectives of the Political Processes are to raise awareness on water issues and solutions at the political level and to create political will to take action. To do so, participants are envisaged to set a political agenda that provides new and concrete answers to the current water issues facing the world. In doing so, the 5th World Water Forum seeks to influence water policy-making at local, regional, national and global levels.

The Political Processes will be rooted in local and regional realities articulated by the people on the ground. They will directly build on the Thematic and Regional processes, in fact mirroring these more technical and action-oriented processes.

A meeting of Heads of State/Government with a limited number of invitees will headline the government segment of the Political Process. The outcome of this meeting will be a short “Appeal” covering general principles and values. It will point out how water actions are central to society and to the adaptation measures for global changes.

*“All socio-economic stakeholders, Mayors, Parliamentarians but also Heads of States have to gather at the 5th World Water Forum to improve water management. Let’s define all together water policies to be implemented on every continent within the context of sustainable development.”*

**- Blaise Onesiphore Glele Ahanhanzo,**  
Deputy Mayor of Abomey, President, National Association of the Cities of Benin

The Ministerial Conference is one of the main events of the Political Process. Targeting the Ministers in charge of water, it will also be open to all relevant Ministers. The Ministerial Conference will prepare an action agenda through a full-fledged preparatory process. Four preparatory meetings will be organized in Paris, Rome, Geneva and Istanbul, to prepare and agree on the Ministerial Agenda, which is envisaged to be concluded during the Senior Officials Meeting that will take place during the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul.

Parliamentarians will discuss and prepare recommendations for a better implementation of water laws and treaties. These outputs will be used to feed the dialogues with national and local governments.

The Local Authorities process was initiated with the “Mayors Meeting” organized by the Municipality of Istanbul on World Water Day (March 22nd, 2008) and attended by a number of mayors of cities from different regions of the world. In the coming months, the local authorities process will grow to include other cities. This process will produce the “Istanbul Urban Water Consensus;” a non-binding document of principles designed to strengthen the commitment of mayors and to bring the issues faced by Local Authorities to the attention of governing bodies, legislators, and the international community.

These Political Processes will not stop at the 5th World Water Forum. Their results will actively engage other international dialogues such as the G8, UN-CSD or UNFCCC. These meetings and the results of the 5th World Water Forum will push water resources strategies and actions further up the international agenda.

## Participation of the Major Groups of Agenda 21

With the overarching theme of Bridging Divides for Water, the 5th World Water Forum took on the challenge of ensuring that multi-stakeholder dialogues are conducted at every step of the preparatory process and during the event itself. Bringing all parties to the table implies reaching out both to the water community and to the global community at large whose work has an impact on water.

Open consultations and dialogues around the Forum's key issues and main questions are an essential part of the preparation of the topics and sessions. The perceptions, opinions and divides between the different stakeholders and interest groups are thus bridged in order to identify agreement and discord on proposed actions and solutions.

### Major Groups of Agenda 21

To improve working with the global community at large, the organizers of the 5th World Water Forum wish to encourage the participation of the Major Groups of Agenda 21. Special efforts will be made to ensure that the nine Major Groups, namely women, youth and children, business and industry, local governments, science and technology, workers and trade unions, indigenous people, farmers and NGOs, are integrated into the different platforms of the Forum.

**Organize your involvement  
by contacting your major  
group coordinator**



The Major Groups will be provided with contact points in the Secretariats of both the 5th World Water Forum and the World Water Council. They will be supported in their networking and self-organization so as to create well-organized mechanisms for dialogue with the thematic and political processes of the Forum. Inclusion of the Major Groups in the Forum's thematic and political process through these mechanisms will be unique to the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul. It will complement these groups' existing structures at the Forum, such as the Istanbul Urban Water Consensus of the Local Governments, the Global Water Education Village and the Youth World Water Forum.

For more details, please write to [majorgroups@worldwaterforum5.org](mailto:majorgroups@worldwaterforum5.org).

### Youth World Water Forum

The Youth World Water Forum, organized by an international group of youth organizations with the support of local counterparts, allows young people to experience the challenges of organizing a Forum. It also provides a special venue encouraging youth to take part, not only by learning to take decisions in the future, but

**Share your ideas and  
experiences - act together  
now for the future.**



*"I am especially looking forward to the Istanbul Forum as it promises to involve a wider participation base than ever before. It will be amazing to see a more diverse group of people sharing their experiences and ideas, helping mutual learning and bridging divides including age, race and gender."*

- **Rachael O'Rourke**, Executive Committee of the THIMUN Youth Network

more importantly taking part in the decision-making of today, which will have a long-lasting impact. The Youth Forum runs parallel to the Forum itself and its participants, coordinating with their peers from all around the world, keep a constant and dynamic interaction between the sessions of the two Fora. Check the [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org) web site for the latest information.



## Virtual Meeting Space

Prepare your input by using the Virtual Meeting Space



An important dimension of the 5th World Water Forum is its Virtual Meeting Space, accessible through the 5th World Water Forum website. The 5th World Water Forum organizers have created the Virtual Meeting Space using the latest innovative technologies to bridge divides between those interested in improving water management in the world. This space will be pivotal to your participation in the Forum, throughout the preparatory process, during the event itself and its follow-up. It will ensure that you are able to find the most up-to-date information on all Forum-related issues and processes, but will also help you to freely exchange ideas with other professionals within and outside the water sector from around the world. Through a few short clicks on the Virtual Meeting Space, you will be able to:

### Exchange & Access

- ◆ Find information on sessions and outputs, organizations involved, preparatory meetings and a “Water - who’s who”;
- ◆ Help improve the 5th World Water Forum by participating in on-line surveys;
- ◆ Exchange ideas with others on the Forum’s themes, topics and sessions through discussion fora, and find answers to your questions (or answer others’ questions) about water-related and Forum-related issues;
- ◆ Contribute to or consult the Water-Wiki, a web-based encyclopaedia on the Forum themes;
- ◆ Create RSS feeds for the 5th World Water Forum’s website to make sure that you have the latest information on Forum related-issues that most interest you.

### Register & Update

- ◆ Register your participation in the 5th World Water Forum week;
- ◆ Submit your proposals for contribution to the Forum;
- ◆ Book a stand in the Water Expo and Fair, or present your candidature for the various water prizes;
- ◆ Update your data, including your personal profile, areas of expertise and water-related activities: actions, programmes, events, reports and articles, which would then be searchable by other system users.

### Collaborate & Contribute

For members of working groups involved in preparing the 5th World Water Forum sessions, the Virtual Meeting Space is also the entry point to a password-protected collaborative portal, providing access to a new world of collaboration beyond geographical, time and languages barriers. Some of the functionalities include:

- ◆ Access to your personal homepage with related information on your working group’s activities;
- ◆ A place to produce documents with the other members of your working group and to store them in a joint space;
- ◆ A real-time chat to easily communicate with members of your working group;
- ◆ An agenda and work planner for your group’s collaborative work.

Don’t miss this opportunity to be amongst the first users of this exciting new platform. This tool will be developed step by step throughout the preparation of the Forum to coincide with the needs of Forum participants. Your contributions and feedback are very important to us.

Click on [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org) today and join the rest of the world water community.



## World Water Expo and Water Fair

### World Water Expo

**Design your space and activities for the World Water Expo or Fair**



The World Water Expo will be an inclusive space in the 5th World Water Forum venue for the participation of companies related to water that wish to present their services, products, activities and works. This component aims to allow the expression of water entrepreneurship, and effectively bridges the supply with the demand for innovation and new water technologies.

Companies present in the World Water Expo represent the complete spectrum of water-related activities, including wastewater treatment, on-site sanitation, agriculture, and many more. It will bring together key decision-makers from a large number of water authorities and companies around the world and is thus perfectly placed to facilitate new business opportunities. Indeed, the Expo will reinforce your opportunities in the marketplace and provide an advantageous atmosphere for networking opportunities throughout the event, as well as providing access to a sizeable potential new customer base.

Take advantage of the great opportunities to promote your company's products and services by exhibiting at the Expo. Several stand options are available: a Space-only stand, Shell Scheme stand and Fitted Stand, with areas starting from 9m<sup>2</sup>. A pricing table will be available at [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org) or by e-mail: [expo@worldwaterforum5.org](mailto:expo@worldwaterforum5.org) starting from April 2008.

### Water Fair

The Water Fair will be an open venue for the presentation of different types of cultural, social and educational activities on water-related subjects. Multi-stakeholder activities for the Water Fair which seek to create a festive yet reflective atmosphere at the Forum's main venue include a poster exhibition, the "International Water and Film Event", the Global Water Education Village, a Learning Centre, networking spaces, side-events, water-related performances, a photo exhibition, and ethnic manifestations on water themes, amongst others.

The Water Fair will create opportunities for your organization's work, projects, and expertise to be shared with a large audience. Several stand options are available: a Space-only stand, Shell Scheme stand, and Fitted Stand with space areas starting from 9m<sup>2</sup>. A pricing table will be available at [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org) or by e-mail: [fair@worldwaterforum5.org](mailto:fair@worldwaterforum5.org) starting from April 2008.

## Learning Centre

The Learning Centre will present participants with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge by following action- and policy-oriented courses. Registered participants will have access to a unique opportunity to learn from a peer-supported environment for free, and some courses will be available at a limited cost. Organizations interested in sharing their know-how are invited to indicate their interest through the Forum website: [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org).

**Propose an activity for the learning centre**



## International Water and Film Events

The International “Water and Film” Events Istanbul 2009 will take place on the occasion of the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul. The call for entries is open until September 1st, 2008. This event aims to bring together films, documentaries and spots produced by water experts, children and students to raise awareness on water issues among the public at large, at both the local and the international level. Over 100 films from all around the world will be screened. The final selection will take place in November 2008.

**Propose a film or a documentary**



The International Water and Film Events (IWFE) are a joint initiative of the International Secretariat for Water and the French Water Academy, in partnership with the organizers of the 5th World Water Forum. Furthermore, several international film festivals from throughout the world are contributing in the selection process of the IWFE. For more information, please visit the web sites [www.riec-iwfe.org](http://www.riec-iwfe.org) or [www.i-s-w.org](http://www.i-s-w.org) or [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org)



## Global Water Education Village

The Global Water Education Village and Water School will highlight programmes from around the world that are active in water education and action efforts. The goal of the Global Water Education Village is to demonstrate successful, action-oriented strategies and education-based solutions to global water issues, as well as to serve as a key interaction point for students, teachers, policy makers and water professionals.

**Propose an educational activity**



Demonstrations will include hands-on activities, exhibits and posters, and guest speakers. The Water School is a technical-training institute delivering professional development and capacity-building training for water education in multiple languages for participants, teachers, students, and water professionals. The Global Water Education Village and Water School at the 5th World Water Forum is carried out in partnership with Project WET. For more details please write to [gwev@worldwaterforum5.org](mailto:gwev@worldwaterforum5.org)

## The Citizen’s Water House and its “Fountains of Knowledge” The crossroads of cultures

After The Hague, Kyoto and Mexico City, the Citizen’s Water House and its “Fountains of Knowledge” have now made their way to Istanbul, the venue of the 5th World Water Forum. A space for debate, exchange, discussion, projections of audiovisual works, exhibitions and artistic expressions, the Citizen’s Water House in Istanbul, organized by the International Secretariat for Water, will welcome all Forum participants.

Through its programme, the Citizen’s Water House and its “Fountains of Knowledge” will contribute to bridging divides between the various partners involved in water management.

## Water Prizes

**Be a candidate for  
a prize**



Four prestigious water prizes will be awarded on the occasion of the 5th World Water Forum. These prizes, with differing objectives, scopes, and financial rewards all recompense outstanding contributions to the world of water. For more details on the application procedure and terms of reference for these prizes, please visit: [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org).

### King Hassan II Great World Water Prize

The King Hassan II Great World Water Prize is an international award honouring the memory of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, whose distinguished leadership encouraged cooperation and sound management of water resources. The Prize is awarded to an institution, organization, individual or group of individuals in view of their outstanding scientific, economic, technical, environmental, social, institutional, cultural or political achievements in the field of water resources. The theme for the Prize is “Cooperation and solidarity in the fields of management and development of water resources”.

### Kyoto World Water Grand Prize

The Kyoto Grand World Water Prize, created by Kyoto City in March 2003 in conjunction with Soroptomist International and the World Water Council, aims to honour a distinguished individual or organization whose grassroots activities work towards addressing critical water needs of communities and regions. The prize will be awarded for the second time at the 5th World Water Forum. The prize money must be used by the winning organization to continue the award-winning exercise or initiate similar ones.

#### **Dates to Remember**

Consult the Forum web site for the deadlines for water prize candidatures



### “Compromiso México” Water Prize

As the host country of the 4th World Water Forum, Mexico has shown its continued commitment to the water cause by establishing the “Compromiso México” Water Prize to reward the best local public policies that have had a positive impact on the drinking water, sewerage and sanitation services of their constituencies. The winners will be selected by an international jury of experts.

### Turkish Prime Minister’s Water Prize

The Turkish Prime Minister’s Water Prize will be awarded for the first time at the 5th World Water Forum and will continue to be awarded at future World Water Fora. This prize is to be awarded to journalists who make a significant contribution to a better diffusion and global understanding of key water issues. A professional jury comprised of water experts and journalists will select the prize winners.

## Press and Media

Report on water issues



In the preparatory process and during the 5th World Water Forum, the Forum's website is the focal point of information for media. In the media corner section, you will find press releases, press kits, interviews, press information and much more. Please visit the Forum's media corner at [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org).

To make the 5th World Water Forum a platform for media from around the world, the 5th World Water Forum media team will be in close contact with national and international journalists during the preparatory process, during the 5th World Water Forum itself and during the post-Forum period (please see contact details below).

### Journalist accreditation for the 5th World Water Forum

Registration for journalists during the 5th World Water Forum will be open and available in the virtual press room on the 5th World Water Forum's website: [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org).

### Logistics for media during the 5th World Water Forum

A Press Centre will be established inside the venue for free use of all registered journalists with all necessary working facilities. The Press Centre will contain interview facilities, and the Press Centre Team will be pleased to put you in touch with the desired interview partner. For special requirements, please contact us in advance, using the information below.

### Visual identity

To use the logos and other images of the 5th World Water Forum, you are kindly requested to submit your request using the form on our website: [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org).

### Media contact

For further information please write to [media@worldwaterforum5.org](mailto:media@worldwaterforum5.org).



#### Green Forum Initiative

The Green Forum Initiative is one of the innovative processes being implemented for the 5th World Water Forum. This initiative aims to reduce the environmental footprint, including waste and emissions, resulting from the preparation and organization of the event.

As a part of the initiative, the 5th World Water Forum co-organizers have committed to planting a tree for every participant at the Forum. More information on the Green Forum Initiative may be found on the 5th World Water Forum website: [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org).

## The Forum Venue

### Golden Horn Congress and Exhibition Centre

The Golden Horn Congress and Exhibition Centre, at the heart of Istanbul's Golden Horn, commands a unique view of Istanbul and has been restored to its original state at the time of the Ottoman Empire. The multipurpose 157,000 m<sup>2</sup> facility can easily meet the requirements of large and special events. It is accessible by air, sea and land, since a heliport, a 1 km long pier facility, and car park are available. Nearby accommodation, with numerous hotels in Taksim (Zone 1), in Eminönü, Aksaray (Zone 2) and around the airport (Zone 3) makes it convenient for participants to arrive on site.

### Feshane Registration & Fair Centre

Feshane adds a different colour to the Golden Horn with its attractive landscaped areas surrounding this historical structure. Feshane has a special pier opening to the Golden Horn and is built on an area of 56,000 m<sup>2</sup>. It was originally built in 1839 under the order of Sultan Abdulmecit as a factory to meet the fez and woollen cloth needs of the Ottoman army. It lies just opposite the Golden Horn Congress and Exhibition Centre.



## Transportation

Turkish Airlines (THY) is the official airline of the 5th World Water Forum. It has scheduled flights to/from 129 cities around the world. Special discounts may be applicable (check [Perlpco.com](http://Perlpco.com) or THY local offices). Istanbul's international airports, Atatürk International and Sabiha Gökçen International, have direct connections offered by more than 55 airlines in different countries. Information booths and registration desks will be available at Atatürk International Airport. Transfer services from airport/hotel/airport will be available and are subject to a service charge.

There will be a secured shuttle bus & boat service offered free of charge between the hotels and the Forum venue for those who made their accommodation reservations via [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org). Specific schedules will be posted at the hotels, registration area (Feshane) and main Forum venue (Golden Horn Congress and Exhibition Centre).

For more information please visit the website: [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org).

## Accommodation

The inlet of the Golden Horn divides the European side in two and bridges the old and the new part of the city.

The map below shows the European side divided into 3 zones:

- **Zone 1**, the new city zone: Istanbul's modern side with shopping and fine dining attractions along the shores and the hills of the Bosphorus.
- **Zone 2**, the old city zone: occupying the tip of the peninsula of the Golden Horn, is home to the city's main sightseeing attractions such as St. Sophia, Topkapı Palace etc.
- **Zone 3**, the Marmara Seaside zone: covers the Marmara shoreline from the Airport to the old town.
- **Zone 4**, Cruiseliners docked on Golden Horn. (To be confirmed)



Hotel reservations will be made directly by the participants of the Forum through the web page of [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org). Reservation deadlines will be announced through this web page – after these deadlines neither reservations nor prices will be guaranteed. Participants will need to use a valid credit card to complete their reservations.

Forum registration must be accompanied by a hotel reservation in order to facilitate the provision of secure transport services to the Forum venue. Shuttle services by boat and bus will be made available to and from 5th World Water Forum associated hotels.



## Registration and Accreditation Process

Take part in the Forum and register your participation



To register for the 5th World Water Forum, please complete the registration form, which includes hotel and tourist activities, as well as an on-line payment facility. The form is available through the Virtual Meeting Space of the 5th World Water Forum's website, in the registration section. Online registration and prior payment will mean that on-site accreditation should be fast and efficient. Participants may also register at Atatürk airport and on-site at the Feshane Registration centre.

To make the Forum more accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, a number of discounts have been introduced in the registration fees. These include:

- Early bird registration, up to December 31st, 2008, will give rise to a 20% discount;
- Participants from developing countries\* will benefit from a 40% discount;
- Participants from the least developed countries\* will benefit from a 60% discount;
- Up to five representatives of each World Water Council member organization receive a 20% discount;
- Young people from 16 to 25 years old will only pay 10% of the standard price;
- 3-day and 1-day registration packages cost 50% and 20% of the total price respectively;
- A group rate, for up to 30 individuals, gives each a 10% discount.

**Dates to Remember**  
December 31, 2008:  
Deadline for early-bird registration.

\* OECD definitions.

Note: Fees indicated are in Euro.

Members of the World Water Council		
Category/ Type of registration	Up to December 31st, 2008	From January 1st 2009
Developed countries / UN	600	800
Developing countries	360	480
Least developed countries	240	320
3-day registration	300	400
1-day registration	120	160

General Public		
Category/ Type of registration	Up to December 31st, 2008	From January 1st 2009
Developed countries / UN	800	1000
Developing countries	480	600
Least developed countries	320	400
Students	80	100
3-day registration	400	500
1-day registration	160	200

The registration packages include the Forum documents, admission to the Water Fair, Water Expo and to related events, and daily lunch.

## Visa Information

The co-organizers of the 5th World Water Forum have facilitated the procedure to obtain a visa in order to attend the Forum. Upon receiving confirmation of their registration, participants, if they wish, can receive a letter of invitation by e-mail. Up-to-date information on the detailed visa process is available on the website of the 5th World Water Forum.



## General Information on Istanbul

As Forum participants board the shuttle boats and travel along Istanbul's Golden Horn to the Forum venue and slip under numerous bridges joining Istanbul's diverse neighbourhoods, they will get a sense of the Forum's overarching theme, Bridging Divides for Water.

Istanbul, Turkey's largest city, bridges the continents and cultures of Europe and Asia. Straddling the Bosphorus, its skyline studded with domes and minarets, it has been a focal point of world history for more than two millennia, serving as the capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. In this sprawling, romantic city you can stroll down the streets where crusaders and janissaries once marched; admire mosques that are the most sublime architectural expressions of Islamic piety; peek into the sultan's harem; and hunt for bargains in the Kapalı Çarşı (Grand Bazaar).

The city is now a modern metropolis offering a unique blend of cultures. Side by side with Old Istanbul you'll find hip bars and clubs, malls and haute cuisine. One can change continents in just a few minutes, either by ferry or by crossing the Fatih Sultan Mehmet and Bosphorus bridges, and within an hour you can be on the Black Sea coast. The many means of transport around Istanbul are relatively cheap and easy to use.

### Practical information on Turkey

**Official language:** The official language of Turkey is Turkish.

**Currency:** The New Turkish Lira (YTL) is currently the official currency. From January 1st, 2009, this will be referred to simply as Turkish Lira (TL). Foreign currency can be exchanged at banks or authorized exchange bureaus. International airports, the larger hotels and some shopping malls also offer currency exchange services.

**Tipping:** At various establishments like hotels, restaurants, Turkish baths, and hair salons, tipping at a rate of 5%-15% of the total is common.

**ATM:** ATM machines can be found all around Istanbul.

**Credit Cards:** Major credit cards including American Express, Diners, Master Card, Euro card and Visa are accepted in large hotels, car rental companies and major stores. You will need cash to pay for taxi fares, some restaurants and coffee shops.

**Travellers' Cheques:** In Istanbul, travellers' cheques are rarely accepted.

**Local time:** GMT+2 hours.

**Climate:** March in Turkey is considered the beginning of spring. The average temperature in Istanbul for March is 7°C or 45°F. There may be some rain or sleet, or bright sunny days when the air may be brisk but the sun is warm and everyone heads outdoors for a stroll.

**Electricity:** The electrical current in Turkey is 220 volts, 50 cycles alternating current (AC); wall outlets take European Continental-type plugs, with two round prongs.

**Water:** Tap water is generally safe to drink, but since it contains chlorine, it is recommended to get advice from the hotels.

*For more practical information see [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org)*

## Tours and Social / Cultural Activities

Perl PCO can offer you half and full day touring and short excursions for during, before and after your stay in Istanbul... in case you wish to experience more of Turkey than the Forum.



### Perl Classics for World Water Forum participants and accompanying persons...

- PC1 - **Byzantine Relics** - Half Day Tour
- PC2 - **Ottoman Relics** - Half Day Tour
- PC3 - **Bosphorus On Private Tour** - Half Day Tour
- PC4 - **The Tulipe Era** - Half Day Tour
- PC5 - **Two Continents** - Half Day Tour
- PC6 - **Princess Islands** - Full Day Tour
- PC7 - **Pergamum Tour** - Full Day with plane
- PC8 - **Ephesus Tour** - Full Day with plane
- PC9 - **Discover Izmir** - 2 Days - 1 Night by plane
- PC10 - **Discover Cappadocia** - 3 Days - 2 Nights by plane



### Perl Water Tours for World Water Forum participants and accompanying persons...

- PW1 - **Fountains, Aqueducts and Cisterns of Istanbul** - Half Day
- PW2 - **Water and its Purification in Istanbul** - Half Day
- PW3 - **A Lake and a Sea From a Balloon...** Afternoon and the evening
- PW4 - **Art of the Water - Ebruli Art** - Half Day course
- PW5 - **Water Feast** - Water Pastry - Water pudding - Waterpipe  
Learn the mystery, taste the delicacies
- PW6 - **Aqua Therapy** - Turkish Bath - Half Day
- PW7 - **Aqua Healing - Thermal Spa - Yalova** - Full Day
- PW8 - **Aqua Healing - Pamukkale** - 1 Night by plane
- PW9 - **West Mesopotamia Region:**  
Antep - Urfa - Harran with visit to GAP Dam - 3 Days 2 Nights
- PW10 - **East Mesopotamia Region:**  
Mardin - Diyarbakır - 3 Days - 2 Nights by plane



More details will be provided on our web site [www.perlpco.com](http://www.perlpco.com)

### Street Festival

A street festival, including various cultural activities, open to participants and the general public, will also be organised to coincide with the Forum week.

### Gala Dinner

The 5th World Water Forum's Gala Dinner will be organised in a special location within the historical part of Istanbul. An exquisite dinner will be accompanied by high calibre cultural performances to leave guests with good memories from this special event. Participation in the Gala Dinner is optional and tickets may be ordered online as part of the registration pack.

## Sponsorship

### Be Part of the 5th World Water Forum...

The 5th World Water Forum provides a strategic opportunity for companies concerned with water issues to gain exposure to new potential markets, by having their brand name and logo seen by thousands of key individuals, including Ministers, Mayors, CEOs, and representatives of the media. Several sponsorship categories will be made available to companies interested in taking advantage of this unique opportunity.

### Istanbul Category



### Ocean Category



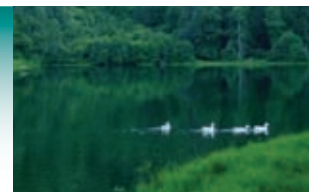
### Sea Category



### River Category



### Lake Category



To contribute and be part of it:



Call our Sponsorship Coordinator at +90 212 368 48 68 or send an email to [sponsorship@worldwaterforum5.org](mailto:sponsorship@worldwaterforum5.org). For more information, you can also visit our website [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org), under 'Sponsorship' Perl PCO • Cumhuriyet Cad. 279/2 Harbiye 34373 • Istanbul -Turkey

# 5th WORLD WATER FORUM İSTANBUL 2009



BRIDGING  
DIVIDES  
FOR WATER



World Water Council  
World Water Forum



İSTANBUL  
METROPOLITAN  
MUNICIPALITY



İSKİ  
İSTANBUL WATER AND SEWERAGE  
ADMINISTRATION



## Contact Information

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