

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

MINISTRY OF WATER & IRRIGATION

Speech of the Secretary General

Eng. Khaldon Khashman

AT

THE EMWIS Information Seminar

Amman, Jordan

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you all to the National EMWIS Information Seminar and to express to you, on behalf of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation our deep appreciation to all of you for taking the time to participate in this very important event.

Today we all gather here to confirm our commitment not only to the cooperation under the umbrella of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership launched in Barcelona 1995, and the respective commitments made by our governments in Marseilles 1996, Napoli 1997, and Torino 1999.

But we also commit ourselves to the strengthening of the national dialogue between all stakeholders in the water sector and potential beneficiaries within a continuous process aimed at the ultimate goal of establishing a National water information system in Jordan.

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Today marks a significant development in the history of EMWIS in Jordan. Today we present to you our achievements during the second phase of EMWIS, and we take the time to look ahead to plan our

future. And as we launch officially the new web portal of Jordan's EMWIS focal point, represented by our Ministry, we invite you all to benefit from its multiple services and to become part of this system. We hope that by the end of this event, we will merge not only as partners but also as potential owners of this system, which will definitely lead to strengthened exchange of water related information and know-how. We can choose today to launch a pilot effort towards the establishment of a National Water Information System.

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

We all share the vision for the need of the reinforcement of the role of local water players as an essential element to the successful implementation and sustainability of any national water information system. Without the participation of all water actors in the country, any advances made within the EMWIS system at the international and local level would be much less significant.

It is needless to mention, that a pre-requisite to information sharing and exchange of knowledge, is that information is diffused by those who own it and accessed by those who need it.

I will not take more of your time. You have lots of important decisions to make. But please allow me before I finish my word to thank you all again for your time, and to thank Mr. Walter Mazzitti, the chairman of the EU Task force on Water & EMWIS Secretary General for coming all the way to Amman to take part in this national event, and for his deep enthusiasm for making this system a success story of cooperation and partnership, both at the regional and national levels. I also would like to thank Eric Mino EMWIS Technical Unit Coordinator and Jawad El-Kharraz EMWIS Technical Unit Information Manager; for their outstanding efforts to support our focal point at the Ministry, and to thank the National Focal Point team for organizing this event and for bringing and maintaining life to the EMWIS in Jordan.

Lastly but not least, Special thanks for the EC, the Italian, French and Spanish governments for their continued support to the EMWIS system since its launch in 1999.

I trust that your deliberations and discussions during this gathering will be fruitful and constructive.