

5th World Water Forum Istanbul

BRIDGING DIVIDES FOR WATER

16-22 March 2009



First Announcement

SEPTEMBER 2007

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Water Brings All Together



Turkey is fully aware that water is ever-increasingly becoming the single most precious and essential item that sustains life in this world, enabling all humanity as well as nature to survive. We perceive water as a crucial element of civilization. In this regard, the Turkish proverb "Water brings life" has a special place in our culture. Without doubt, the future of life and civilization on earth depends on water.

In recent years, Turkey has made great progress in this area and has participated actively in World Water Fora and Ministerial Conferences.

2009 will be recorded in history as a year during which all the progress made on water-related topics since the Rio Conference, Agenda 21, UN Millennium Development Goals and the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation will be reviewed and new initiatives will be discussed. The year 2009 will also mark the halfway point of the 2005-2015 UN Decade of Water for Life.

The 5th World Water Forum will be convened under the theme

"Bridging Divides for Water". Given the unique geographical location of Istanbul, bridging West and East as well as connecting the North and South axis, Turkey is the dream country to fulfill the purposes and goals of the Forum.

Istanbul will be the venue for participants from all governments, parliamentarians, international organizations, local authorities, institutions, the private sector, major groups, non-governmental organizations and academia who will come to the Forum to develop new ideas that will have the greatest possible impact on all issues in the field of water. We regard this gathering as being of the utmost importance.

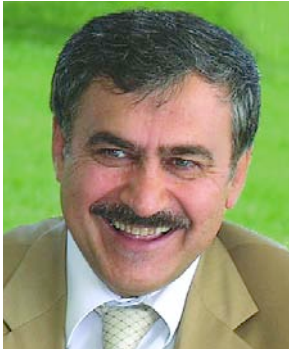
Let us commit ourselves to the creation of a sustainable 21st century that will be the inheritance of our children who will embrace and continue to manage water with gratitude for the following generations.

We look forward to welcoming all participants to the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in 2009, with traditional Turkish hospitality, in order to come together for a prosperous and wealthy world.

Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN

Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Invitation To The Water Forum



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to reiterate the invitation for you to join us at the 5th World Water Forum, which will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, from March 16-22, 2009.

We are honoured that İstanbul is to be the host city of one of the most important events in the world. İstanbul connects continents; water connects people. It is our sincere belief that the overarching theme of the 5th Forum, "Bridging Divides For Water" clearly reflects this understanding and solidarity. This theme ties in very neatly with the theme of World Water Day in 2009, "water connects", which implies collaboration, cooperation and solidarity among sectors and communities. With these common objectives, I am sure that the 5th World Water Forum will provide a scientific and intellectual platform for water experts and users, parliamentarians, Ministers, Heads of States and the public-at-large to seek concrete and applicable outcomes for all of humanity. Our sincere hope is that the 5th World Water Forum will make a huge difference in this sense.

In addition to its presentation of components related to conceptual issues, the political process and

communication aspects, this First Announcement includes some of the major debates and events which will take place in İstanbul. The Second Announcement, to be published in March 2008, will include more complete details on the week of the Forum, while the Third Announcement will be ready for November 2008.

We hope to welcome you to İstanbul, both in preparation for the Forum and during the week of the event itself. It is very important for us that you participate in the different regional events prior to the Forum so that we may all arrive with clear, viable proposals for making further progress towards attaining the goals which the world water community has put forward at different international events, and thus to contribute to bridging divides for water.

As the Minister of Environment and Forestry, I hereby invite you all to take part in this prominent activity by bringing your experience, sharing your know-how and contributing to the action of the international water community. On behalf of the Turkish water community, I will be greatly honoured to work hand in hand with you anywhere in the world.

Prof. Dr. Veysel EROĞLU

Minister of Environment and Forestry

Global Threat: Water Scarcity!



Water is a vital need for life and the development of civilizations. For that reason, the first civilizations in history appeared in regions which are rich in terms of water, such as Mesopotamia in Anatolia and the river Nile in Africa, and established the grounds of agriculture, trade and science.

However, as industry developed leading to environmental pollution, the rapid and unconscious utilization of resources placed the question of global warming on the agenda. Global warming, the greatest problem of the 21st century, led to shortages in the availability of water resources. Thus, country states must take the necessary precautions to initiate not only local but also global water policies.

Istanbul, which is greatly important with regards to its strategic and geopolitical position, has witnessed losses in the availability of its water resources through the effect of global warming and now, despite it having an inland sea, faces the danger of lack of water.

Thus, at Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, we are striving to

inform our citizens about global warming, conscious utilization of resources, water saving and acting as individuals in collaboration with universities, non-governmental organizations and relevant bodies. It is not sufficient to take measures and make decisions at the governmental or local level for the solution of water problems, which interests not only our country but also the neighboring countries.

Istanbul is going to host the "5th World Water Forum", to be organized in March 2009, in order to develop effective and long-lasting solutions to the lack of water, which interests the whole world as a global threat. The Forum which will be organized under the theme of "Bridging Divides for Water" in addition to all the studies on preservation and utilization of water resources conducted until now, will be particularly important as it will be held in our city, which connects Asia with Europe.

I hope developments in line with the decisions taken in the 2009 5th World Water Forum and measures taken in today's conditions will solve the water problem.

Dr. Kadir TOPBAŞ

Mayor of Istanbul

Convey The Message On Water



Water is one of the key priorities for this century. Humanity will move towards peace and development only if it ensures access to water and sanitation to the largest majority of the people on this planet.

But in order to succeed, we need to express the strongest ambitions to the service of a flawless solidarity. The Millennium Development Goals are already universal but they are an example of what must be implemented in all places there is a shortage of water or where sanitation is lacking. In short, everywhere dignity and freedom need to be guaranteed.

The organisation of the World Water Fora is an element of this development, contributing to bringing together men and women defending the same cause, fostering collaborations between institutions at all levels in order to define policies and allowing for the setting up of concrete actions.

After Marrakech, The Hague, Kyoto, and Mexico City, the great water family will gather in Istanbul in March 2009, at the Turkish people's invitation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Turkey for its hos-

pitality and its commitment alongside the World Water Council.

Our Council and its three hundred member organisations are entirely mobilised to turn this major event into a landmark on the long road of access to water for all.

However, the 5th Forum of Istanbul will not only be a week of meetings at the highest level. It is already a process that was started in Mexico and that will continue well after 2009. And only the quality of the work carried out and the commitment of the participants mobilised around this event can guarantee the success of this process.

Bringing together all the competencies on water, "bridging divides for water", such is the ambition shared by Turkey and the World Water Council. Each of us, whether at the international or local level, must contribute to the task. It is only with everyone's participation, with your participation, that we will be able to pass on clear and concrete messages to all those who have power of decision.

Join us to formulate these messages and bring them to Istanbul in March 2009. You are warmly invited. You are welcome.

Loic FAUCHON

President of the World Water Council

Bridging Divides Between Contrasting Perspectives



**Prof. Dr. Oktay
TABASARAN**
*Secretary General of
5th World Water Forum*



Daniel ZIMMER
*Executive Director
World Water Council*

The World Water Forum was established as an open, multi-stakeholder participatory process, which builds on the knowledge, experience and input of the global water community and enables multi-stakeholder participation and dialogue to influence water policy-making at a local, regional, national and global level, thus ensuring better living and respect for the principles of sustainable development to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Being the largest global water event, focusing on the ever-increasing nature of water-related problems, and their crucial importance to human beings, the World Water Fora are built on the knowledge and experience of different types of organizations active in global water policy. It is a venture founded on the principles of collaboration, partnerships and innovation.

The Forum is a constantly-evolving process, prepared during the two-year period prior to the actual event. After the previous Fora, held in Morocco (1997), the Netherlands (2000), Japan (2003) and Mexico (2006), the 5th World Water Forum will be held in March 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Given Turkey's strategic position between East and West, North and South, but also the conceptual barriers between different water cultures, between developed and developing regions of the world, and the need to bring together the many ongoing initiatives around the world related to water issues, "Bridging Divides for Water" has been chosen as the overarching theme for the Forum in Turkey.

Bridging divides implies creating enhanced understanding and improved information exchange between and amongst water users, decision-makers, the media, water practitioners and experts, at local, regional and global levels. It also involves creating or reinforcing existing connections and interactions between the various uses and sources of water, such as water and health, water and sanitation, water and finance, water and energy, water and climate, water and food, freshwater and seawater, and so on. The theme also pertains to the bridging of gaps in water technology, financing, capacity and management, with shared knowledge and experience. Bridging divides between these contrasting perspectives will provide an opportunity to rise above differences and bring various stakeholders and sectors closer together. Water should create connections. It is time to bridge the divides for water!

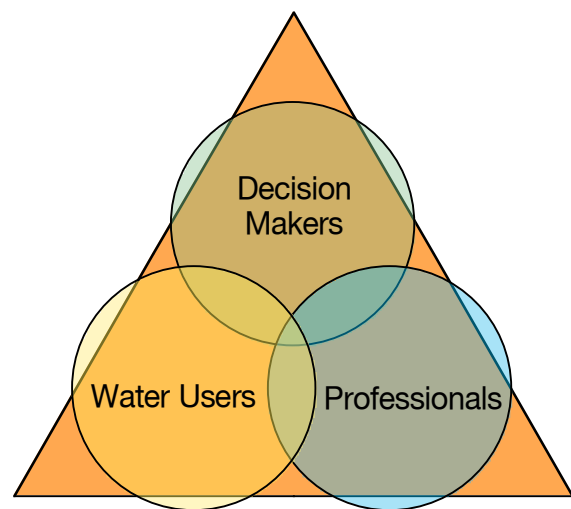
The Turkish government and the World Water Council, the co-organizers of the 5th Forum, are thus honoured and pleased to invite you to join in with these efforts over the coming two years, to ensure that the 5th Forum can build on and learn from the successes and pitfalls of its previous editions, to truly make a difference to the lives of communities around the world. The Forum is your platform, your opportunity to raise awareness of and increase the importance accorded to water issues at the political level. This first announcement aims to illustrate the ways in which the Forum will be organized over the next two years, and the many processes in which you can take part.

The World Water Forum And Its History

The World Water Council is an international multi-stakeholder platform. It was established in 1996 on the initiative of renowned water specialists and international organizations, in response to increasing concern about world water issues from the global community. The World Water Council's mission is "to promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels, including the highest decision-making level, to facilitate the efficient conservation, protection, development, planning, management and use of water in all its dimensions on an environmentally sustainable basis for the benefit of all life on Earth." By providing a platform to encourage debates and exchanges of experience, the Council aims to reach a common strategic vision on water resources and water services management amongst all stakeholders in the water community. In the process, the Council also catalyses initiatives and activities, whose results converge toward its flagship product, the World Water Forum.

Held every three years, the World Water Forum strives to gather people from every horizon to find sustainable solutions to the water challenges that the world

faces daily. The Forum is a unique platform where individuals from both inside and outside the water sector can interact and debate, creating broader awareness for water related issues and a resolve to find solutions. In addition, it provides the opportunity for Ministers, Local Authorities and Parliamentarians to consolidate their different perspectives with those of experts and civil society.



The Forum therefore serves to:

- Raise awareness and build common understanding for global water issues, both inside and outside of the water sector;
- Trigger cooperation, facilitate partnerships and promote concrete action at every level;
- Encourage improved responsibilities and sustainable practices for water resources management;
- Foster political commitment for water issues and maintain water at the top of the political agenda, in particular through the Forum's Ministerial Conference.

The Forum is, however, much more than a week-long conference. It encompasses a two-year preparatory

process in which activities related to the regional, thematic, political and communications aspects of the Forum evolve over the course of many months, finally providing input for dialogue during the Forum week itself.

The 5th World Water Forum to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in March of 2009 is preceded by those held in Marrakech (1997), The Hague (2000), Kyoto (2003), and Mexico City (2006). With a history rich in water resources, culture and technology, Turkey was selected by the World Water Council as the next major stepping-stone towards global collaboration on water problems.

Overarching Theme: “Bridging Divides For Water”

Bridging Divides for Water is the overarching theme for the 5th World Water Forum. Istanbul aspires to be a bridge joining people and regions to find shared solutions for our problems. The 5th World Water Forum offers an excellent opportunity for strengthening cooperation among our nations to face the challenge of attaining sustainable water use. We invite you all to take an active part in this effort to trigger the necessary action to successfully meet this global challenge.

Bridging Divides for Water means connecting stake-

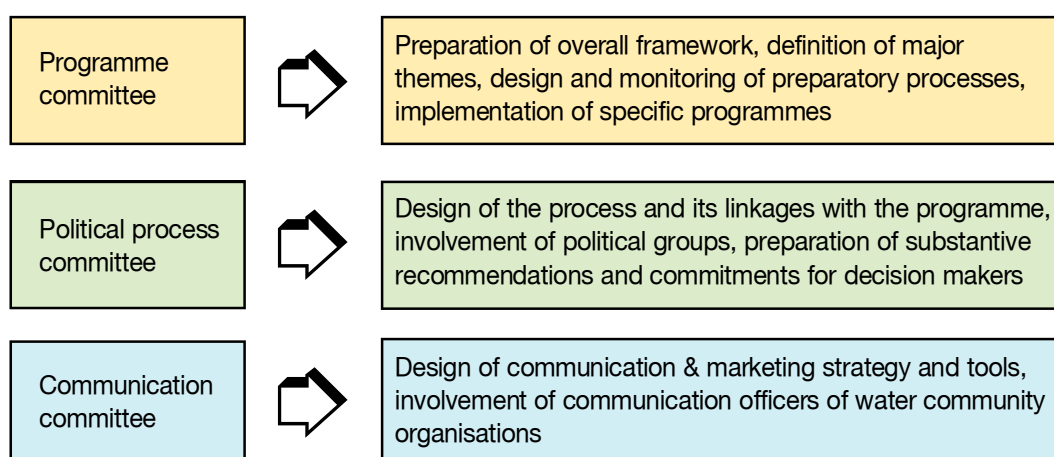
holders, sectors and regions. It involves water users, decision makers, the public and private sectors, experts and water practitioners at local, national, regional and global levels. Water stakeholders should more and more cooperate with actors from other sectors such as health, agriculture or energy to strengthen the key role of water for the achievement of all MDGs. It means connecting cultures, rich and poor, developing and developed regions of the world and especially the present with the future generations.

A New Approach To The World Water Forum

To build on the lessons from the previous Fora and create increased commitment from the global water community, the World Water Council and the Turkish co-organisers have worked out an improved framework for the preparation of the Forum.

This framework relies on three committees in charge of the three strategic components of the Forum i.e. the

programme, the political process and communication (see figure). These three committees are composed of an equal number of representatives of Turkish and World Water Council members. They all work with the support of a larger working group of organisations contributing to the preparation of the Forum. They all report to the International Steering Committee.



Political Process

Based on the experience developed during the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico, the political process in Istanbul will involve three political groups, namely national governments, local authorities and elected parliamentarians.

This process will as much as possible relate to the thematic and regional frameworks and processes of the Forum. Political groups will be requested to provide their perspectives on the issues and prepare a series of recommendations and commitments for action. The process is therefore expected to be rooted in the local and regional realities: the regional activities

conducted during the two years prior to the Forum will as much as possible involve local political representatives who will be requested to provide action-oriented contributions to the process.

The discussions during the Forum aim at building bridges between the three political groups and will focus on a series of draft recommendations. This process strives to lead to new commitments and working partnerships.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Turkish Parliament as well as the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality are being mobilized for this process.

Programme Process

The programme of the 5th Forum is based on a pyramid structure to focus on the main aim: BRIDGING DIVIDES FOR WATER.

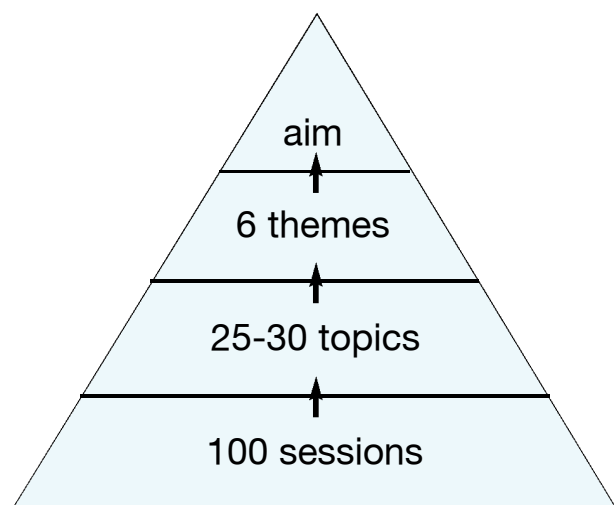
In general the thematic programme for the 5th Forum is focused on interaction between participants rather than sessions. All issues, themes, topics and sessions are directed at achieving the main aim of bridging divides.

One thematic coordinator will be assigned for each theme. The coordinator will propose a consortium of institutions to be involved in the development of the theme following guidelines prepared by the Programme Committee. To ensure an effective, balanced and representative consortium, the thematic coordinators proposal will be subject to the Programme Committee's approval.

Approximately 3 sessions will be identified for each topic. These sessions will provide the platform to bridge divides between stakeholders, sectors and between the present and the future. Sessions will be inclusive and open and provide creative ways for building bridges. Presentation time will be strictly limited to allow for maximum interaction

between participants. Invitations for contributions to sessions will be sent out in the beginning of 2008.

The Forum week is planned to cover 7 days: an opening day, 5 days in which the themes will be discussed and further developed and a closing day. Plenary sessions will be held in the morning covering key-notes, feedback from the previous day, panels and regional reports. Topic sessions will be scheduled in the afternoon.

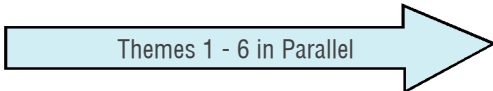


Programme Framework, Issues, Themes and Topics

Topics	Themes	Issues	Overarching Theme
Adapting to climate change	Global Changes & Risk Management	Providing Water for Sustainable Development	Bridging Divides for Water
Migration and changing land uses, human settlements and water			
Mitigating disasters			
Ensuring water, sanitation and hygiene for all - ensuring adequate infrastructure - protecting public health in the short term	Advancing Human Development and the MDGs		
Water for energy, energy for water			
Water and food for ending poverty and hunger			
Multiple uses of water e.g. water supply and irrigation			
Basin management and transboundary water cooperation	Managing and Protecting Water Resources and their Supply Systems to Meet Human and Environmental Needs		
Ensuring adequate water resources and storage infrastructure to meet agricultural, energy and urban needs			
Preserving natural ecosystems			
Managing and protecting surface, ground and rainwater			
Implementing the right to water and sanitation for improved access	Governance and Management	Enabling Mechanisms for Development	
Improving performance through regulatory approaches			
Ethics, transparency, and empowerment of stakeholders			
Optimizing public and private roles in water services			
Institutional arrangements for efficient and effective water management			
Sustainable means of financing local water authorities and systems	Finance		
Pricing strategies to ensure fairness and sustainability			
Pro-poor policies and strategies			
Education and capacity-building strategies	Education, Knowledge and Capacity Building		
Water science and technology: appropriate and innovative solutions for the 21st Century			
Using professional networks and associations to strengthen the water sector			

5th World Water Forum

Draft Programme of the Week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	March 16	March 17	March 18	March 19	March 20	March 21	March 22 UN World Water Day
	Plenary Sessions						
Morning 1	Registration	Keynotes speech 1 Region 1	Keynotes speech 2 Region 2	Keynotes speech 3 Region 3	Keynotes speech 4 Region 4	Keynotes speech 5 Region 5	Report Theme 1+2+3
Morning 2	Opening Ceremony	Panel 1 Report day 1	Panel 2 Report day 2	Panel 3 Report day 3	Panel 4 Report day 4	Panel 5 Report day 5	Report Theme 4+5+6
Lunch Break							
	Parallel Sessions						
							
Afternoon 1	UN WWD Report	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Final Report
Afternoon 2		Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Closing Ceremony
All day	Political Processes					Ministerial Conference	
	Fair and Expo						
	Social and Cultural Events						
	Preparation Daily Reports / Synthesis						
	Instruction Convenors - Rapporteurs						

Timetable

● Thematic Preparation

- August 2007
 - Programme framework
 - Preparatory processes
 - Guidelines for thematic and regional coordinators
 - Initiate regional process (to be able to provide input to political process in June 2008)
- November 2007
 - First thematic coordinators meeting in Istanbul
- January 2008
 - Second thematic coordinators meeting in Istanbul
 - Invitation for contributions to sessions
- June 2008
 - Session plan
- August 2008
 - Session final selection

● Political Preparation

The Preparatory Conferences consist of 4 meetings and is a 9 month process:

- Meeting 1: June 2008
- Meeting 2: September 2008
- Meeting 3: November 2008
- Meeting 4: January 2009

Ministerial Conference

One of the main objectives of the 5th World Water Forum is to make an impact on the policy agenda. The Ministerial Conference aims most importantly to produce concrete commitments to support local processes around the world. Ministerial involvement will be sought throughout the Preparatory Process

and especially at the Regional Meetings to allow Ministers and other government officials to formulate and share their positions with counterparts from other countries. During the Forum in Istanbul, efforts will be made to foster continuous communication between Ministers and other stakeholders.

Water Expo

The Water Expo will be organized parallel to the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul. It will be a flexible and inclusive space for the participation of various organizations and firms related to the water field that

wish to present their services, products, activities and works. This component seeks to allow the expression of water entrepreneurship and the sharing of new water technologies.

Water Fair

The Water Fair will be organized during the 5th Water Forum in Istanbul and will involve different types of cultural, social and educational activities on water related themes and/or subjects. Activities for the Water Fair which seeks to create a festive yet reflective atmosphere at the Forum's main venue include a

poster exhibition, the International Water and Film Event, educational water games, water related performances, a photographic exhibition, ritual and ethnic manifestations on water themes and competitions related to water issues, among others.

Social and Cultural Events

A programme to visit historical and cultural sites in Istanbul will be organized for interested delegates and accompanying persons.

Miniaturk, Grand Bazaar, Galata Tower, Dolmabahçe Palace, Princes' Islands are some of the places to be visited.

Places such as; Topkapı Palace, Museum of Archeology, Çinili Köşk Museum, Sultanahmet (Blue) Mosque, Süleymaniye Mosque, Hagia Sofia, Aya İrini, Byzantium Cistern, German Fountain, Golden Horn,

Tours before and after the Forum week will be organized for those participants interested in visiting Turkey. These tours will be a combination of touristic, cultural and technical visits.

General Schedule

ACTIVITIES LEADING TO THE 5th WORLD WATER FORUM

PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES	2007		2008				2009	
	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	March 16-22
Local Workshops	Local Workshops in different regions of the world							FORUM IN TURKEY
Regional Meetings	Regional Meetings and preparation of Regional Position Papers							
	Selection of Bridging Actions							
Political Process	Ministerial Participation throughout the Preparatory Process							

Water Prizes

Two prestigious water-related prizes are awarded once every three years in conjunction with the World Water Forum.

The King Hassan II Great World Water Prize

The King Hassan II Great World Water Prize, which was established through a partnership between the World Water Council and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, 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.

Created in March 2000 in order to stimulate awareness, 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 inaugural edition of this Prize was held in Kyoto, Japan, during the 3rd World Water Forum in March

2003, and its second edition was organized in Mexico City in 2006.

The Kyoto World Water Grand Prize

In March 2003, Kyoto City hosted the 3rd World Water Forum in Japan and wished to contribute to the success of future World Water Fora through the establishment of a World Water Prize. In conjunction with "Soroptimist International of Kyoto" and the World Water Council, the "Kyoto World Water Grand Prize" was consequently created.

This Prize aims to honour a distinguished individual or organization whose grassroot-level activities work towards addressing critical water needs of communities and regions. The prize money must be used by the winner or winning organization to continue the award-winning exercise or similar ones. The intended use of the funds is to be announced at the award ceremony. The inaugural edition of this Prize was organized at the 4th World Water Forum in 2006.

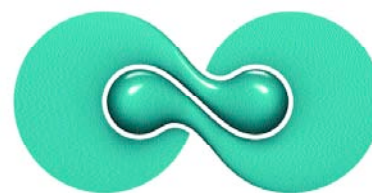
5th World Water Forum Logo

The logo of the 5th World Water Forum bears the signature of Bülent Erkmen, one of the best graphic artists of Turkey.

About the logo of Istanbul 2009, Bülent Erkmen says:

“This logo implies bridging the differences between Europe and Asia; Middle East and Africa, North and South; rich and poor; developing and the developed countries. It also defines the exchange between different water cultures, the opportunity to gather across divides and manage resources better.”

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
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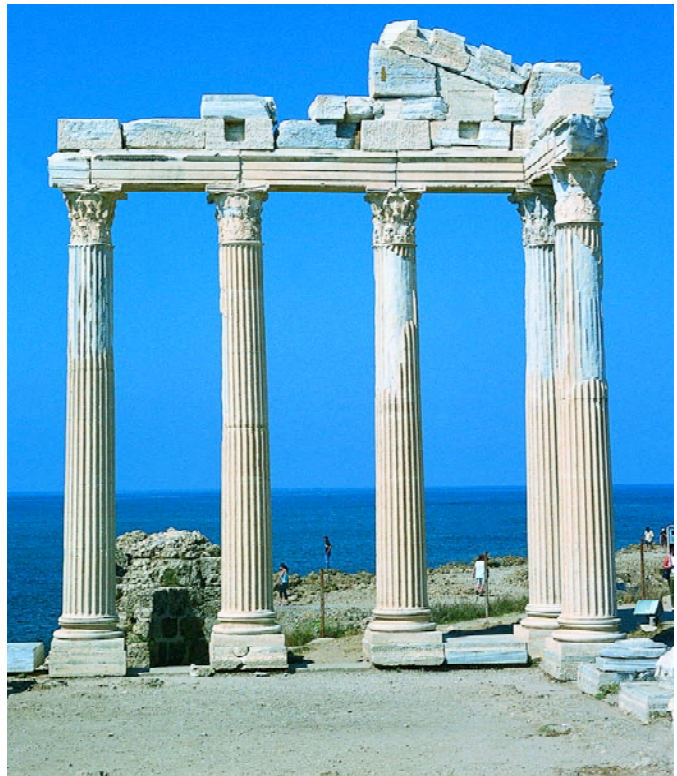
**BRIDGING
DIVIDES
FOR WATER**

Turkey

The Turkish Landscape has witnessed the birth of many civilizations through out its history. It has a priceless heritage, dating back to ancient times. This precious land attracts millions of people every year

who are keen to see the historical richness of the Hittites, Persians, Seljuk Sultanate, Ancient Greeks, Romans, Byzantine, Ottoman Empire and the current republic.





Istanbul

The former capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires is a fascinating mixture of the past and present, old and new, modern and traditional. The museums, churches, palaces, mosques and bazaars, and the sights of natural beauty seem inexhaustible. As you recline on the shores of the Bosphorus at sunset contemplating the red evening light reflected in the windows and slender minarets

on the opposite shore, you understand, suddenly and profoundly, why settlers so many centuries ago chose to build on this remarkable site. In addition to its unique historical and cultural background and innumerable attractions, modern hotels, exclusive restaurants, nightclubs, cabarets, bazaars and shops make Istanbul a superb site for meetings, conferences and conventions.





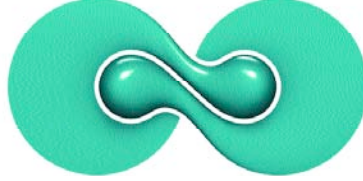
Forum Venue

The Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar Convention & Exhibition Centre doubles the capacity of congress facilities in Istanbul and is ideally located in the modern district of Harbiye, at the centre of the city's business, cultural and commercial life, surrounded by some of Europe's top quality hotels. This center is equipped with many services, such as: satellite and digital links, videoconferencing, closed-circuit televisions, independent electricity systems, multimedia, voice and data transmission, fiber optics, and broad band inter-

net. It also has advanced security systems with video surveillance and ideal spaces for holding events such as the Forum.



5th WORLD WATER FORUM İSTANBUL 2009



BRIDGING
DIVIDES
FOR WATER

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