

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



BRIDGING
DIVIDES
FOR WATER

16-22 MARCH 2009



Call for Registration

January 2009



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Official Greetings	
From the President of Turkey	1
From the Prime Minister	2
From the Minister of Environment and Forestry	3
From WWC President	4
What to expect from the 5th World Water Forum	5
Forum Components	6-7
Thematic Development	8
Regional Process	9
Forum Programme	10-11
Political Component of the Forum	12-13
Major Groups as a Major Component	14
Water Prizes	15
Water Fair & Expo	16
Water and Arts	17
Call for Registration	18-19
Forum Venue on Waterway, the Golden Horn	20

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).

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.

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CALL FOR REGISTRATION

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



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İSTANBUL 2009



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WATER UNITES US ALL

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 ideal country to fulfil 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.

H.E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



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WATER, THE KEY TO BRIDGING DIFFERENCES

Water is the beginning of life. As it makes its way between cities, countries and continents it brings together the cultures, people and civilisations of the places it has passed through and forms bridges between them. The chemistry of water, which is the key to bridging these differences, is in fact the best example of turning differences into benefits and reconciliation. Hydrogen and oxygen are inflammable and corrosive gases in isolation. However, when combined they turn into water, which endows the world with the gift of life and mankind with coolness.

Gaining inspiration from the ability of water to unite and integrate, it has been decided to hold the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, at the crossroads of two continents, from 16 to 22 March 2009 and to set the main theme of the Forum as "Bridging Divides for Water".

World Water Forum, organized every three years, brings people from different parts of the world together in order to find sustainable solutions to world's water problems. During the Forum the water issues of the world and our country will be discussed and humanity's issue of water will be brought to the agenda.

One of the main themes of the largest water event of the world will be climate change. The importance of water due to the increasing need, climate change and its effects will be taken into consideration in a scientific manner and analyses to solve these problems will be declared as a result of the Forum panels.

With the belief that water is a life right for everyone and a building stone for humanity's development, many regional meetings have been organized both inside and outside of the country in order to provide more interaction between the participants of the 5th World Water Forum, which will establish bridges between people and states.

Regional meetings have been organized by Turkey, in Amman, capital Jordan, in Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan, in Skopje, capital of Macedonia. Then in Nicosia with the Mediterranean countries and in Istanbul with Black Sea countries, we exchanged ideas on the impacts of climate change in these areas. Also, in order to contribute to the regional process of the Forum meetings have been organized in Morocco, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and in many other countries.

All in all, the Forum's preparation process has been a marathon, which has involved hundreds of countries from seven continents.

What is more, the Forum will be used as an opportunity to explain to everybody the importance of water and to increase public awareness generally. The Turkish Republic Prime Minister's Water Prize will be awarded to journalists who contribute news items serving this purpose.

I look forward to meeting everyone concerned with water in Istanbul, where solutions aimed at creating a more beautiful world will be shared.

H.E. Veysel EROĞLU
Turkish Minister of Environment and Forestry



5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



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THE PLANET IS FRAGILE

The Earth is succumbing to its future. We discover problem after problem that humankind has created over the last century: Overly rapid population growth in certain regions of the world and its most visible consequence, the creation of dozens of megacities each with over ten million inhabitants. And the influx of nearly half of the world's population in coastal regions. And the obvious conflicts between different uses of water: for agriculture and its disproportionate wastefulness, for industry and services, whose needs are considerable.

All of this creates scarcity here and there, pollution, and, consequently, tensions in mastering water resources and developing their use.

Given this worrying situation, States are fragile. Often, they are economically and democratically fragile. But, they are also fragile in guaranteeing access to water and, at the same time, in protecting ecosystems and guaranteeing respect for biodiversity.

This is one of the contemporary stakes of water politics. It is one of the essential subjects at the heart of the next World Water Forum of Istanbul organized with our friends from Turkey, whom I would once again like to thank for their commitment.

All must bring forth their contributions to this Forum. All must participate in it in order to make progress on the answer to one of the greatest challenges of this 21st century: that of access to water for all.

Welcome to Istanbul on 16 March 2009.

Loïc FAUCHON
President of the World Water Council

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WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE 5TH WORLD WATER FORUM

With the Istanbul Forum fast approaching, it is an exciting time for the world water community. Istanbul will be a place where the co-organizers of the Forum and the numerous contributors come together face to face for a week of debate, information, learning and experience exchanging, leading to strong decisions. Expectations are high for this Forum, and the positive impact that it can have on the wellbeing of mankind. A successful Forum would be one in which the expectations of these groups can be met, but also surpassed, and that is the challenge faced by the co-organizers.

The 5th World Water Forum's preparatory process has been designed with the aim of meeting these expectations. More than ever before, the key questions that humanity must answer will be discussed with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, and the results of two years of preparatory work will come to a head during the topic sessions. The debate at the sessions will be focused on producing clear political messages that will feed the debate of the four levels of the political process, who will be urged to make strong commitments for future action based on these messages, through specific political outputs. The regional processes will highlight the key water-related priorities within each of the regions of the world, again a major input to the political process.

A number of other components will make sure that this is not just a Forum of multi-stakeholder debate and high-level commitment, but also one of learning and experience sharing. The Learning Centre, the Water Expo and Fair, the High-Level Panels, the Global Water Education Village, the Citizen's Water House, side events, poster presentations, social events, the International Water and Film Events, presentations of the water prizes, and a host of other activities throughout the week will aim to ensure that this Forum is a learning experience for all participants, providing new tools to deal with the water situation after the Forum.

In this way, under its theme "Bridging Divides for Water", the 5th World Water Forum will be much more than an event; it will represent a leap forward in efforts to show the link between water and development, energy, food security and climate change, amongst other questions.

It is expected that the results of the Forum will be linked with other ongoing initiatives, especially at the political level, such as the G8, UN-CSD and UNFCCC. The stated intention is that this Forum will make a difference to the way water is managed in the world.

Be part of these efforts to provide solutions to many of humanity's greatest priorities. Come to Istanbul to help in "Bridging Divides for Water". We look forward to the pleasure of welcoming you here.

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FORUM COMPONENTS

A number of major components of the Forum will be held in parallel to the topic sessions, presentations of the regional process and political processes. Underlining the multi-stakeholder nature of the Forum, these components will be open to those interested in making a difference, sharing their ideas and enhancing their own knowledge base.

Learning Centre

The 5th World Water Forum's Learning Centre will offer participants an opportunity to gain practical skills and new capabilities to deal with water challenges in their home countries. These "how to" practical courses will be located in classrooms at the Feshane site of the venue and scheduled in parallel with the official programme on topics relevant to the six themes of the 5th World Water Forum.

Side Events

To have a further say on issues discussed during the Forum week, side events open up a unique platform for participants to present their latest projects, activities and to discuss issues that are not fully covered during the sessions. While this convivial atmosphere allows Forum participants to engage in networking activities through cocktail parties and receptions, side events will also allow the Forum issues to broaden and deepen.

Side events, which can be organized either in parallel to official sessions, during the lunch breaks or in the evenings, can take place either in the pavilions in the Water Fair or in specific rooms with a capacity of 50-150 people. Side events can be open to everyone as well as closed by a guest list. Side events held in parallel to Forum sessions are free of charge for two hours and a fee of 50 € will be charged for every exceeding hour. A fee of 150 € per hour will be charged for side events held during the lunch breaks and in the evenings. To apply to organise a side event please fill in the application form on the side events link of the Forum website, and send it back to sideevents@worldwaterforum5.org no later than 31 January, 2009.

Poster Exhibition

Posters related to both arts and science will be put on display in the Forum venue. They will be allocated in accordance with their content, whether it is a cultural one or whether it concerns the thematic side of the Forum. Thematic posters, which will complement to sessions, provide a visual form of contribution to the Forum.

Posters, which enable a form of communication among the participants, allow them to share their activities in a clear visual form. They are expected to broaden the debate on the topics. The poster exhibition will enable the Forum to gain both a vibrant atmosphere and more variety in topics covered. For more details and learn about procedures of submitting posters please write to posters@worldwaterforum5.org.

"The 5th World Water Forum must produce results which are morally binding, which can bring politicians, private businesses and civil society to action. Hence, it is good that we have more and more people who can underline the importance of the issue; that is a role for a goodwill ambassador."

How to realise the Millennium Development Goals, how to make people realise that in this affluent world, we cannot ethically and morally live any longer when we know that daily 5,000 people, mainly children are dying due to a lack of proper sanitation or water. Therefore we need a number of direct or indirect goodwill ambassadors to carry out this responsibility"

- Prof. Dr. Klaus Töpfer,
the Forum Ambassador

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I S T A N B U L 2 0 0 9



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Children and Youth World Water Fora

The Youth World Water Forum is an international group of youth organizations with the support of local counterparts and allows young people to experience the challenges of organizing a Forum. Youth can take part and learn to take part in the decision-making process, which will have a long-lasting impact. Both Children's and Youth Water Fora will take place in parallel to the World Water Forum with the active participation of the Children and Youth Groups from all around the world.

The Children's Forum gives the children representatives the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with various stakeholders in dealing with global water issues. Additionally, children from different regions of the world will present their projects for local water problems, which in turn will culminate into global solutions.

Global Water Education Village

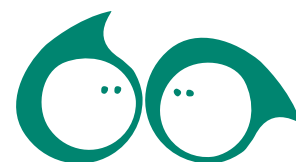
The 5th World Water Forum will include the 2nd Global Water Education Village, highlighting water education programs from around the world, displaying a variety of successful local action projects. The Village will also serve as an intergenerational connection point, encouraging interaction between students and global water leaders and will host events of the 3rd Children's World Water Forum. Other activities related to the Global Water Education Village include the Project WET Water School where students will engage in hands-on lessons teaching about the importance of water in their lives.

Green Forum Initiative

The 5th World Water Forum is the first of the World Water Fora where environmental impacts are being directly addressed in its organization. The Secretariat and Forum organizers are committed to the efficient use of water and energy, the minimization of waste, and the use of green products. The organizers with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry are taking a step to offset the CO₂ emissions of the Forum by planting one tree for every Forum participant. Working with local organizations, the GFI will raise awareness on water and carbon footprints among other activities, which should help to reduce the Forum's impact on the local area.

Istanbul Water Consensus

The Istanbul Water Consensus invites mayors and local government leaders to make a united commitment for water resource management in the face of global changes. The first part of the Consensus is a declaration and the second part is a specific commitment designed to be tailored according to the circumstances of the individual city or local authority.



3rd CHILDREN'S WORLD WATER FORUM
ISTANBUL 12-17 MARCH 2009



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THEMATIC DEVELOPMENT

What will water management look like in 2020 and beyond? How can the Millennium Development Goals be achieved? How are water, energy and food production interrelated and how can they be optimised? How can political decision-makers be encouraged to create policies that anticipate water-related disasters, rather than concentrating on relief efforts? How can stakeholder involvement lead to better management? How will the current financial crisis affect the water sector? How can today's youth be motivated to become tomorrow's water leaders?

These are just a few of the key questions of our time that will be debated and discussed during the approximately 100 sessions profiled at the 5th World Water Forum. These issues have been identified, explored and outlined over the past two years with the involvement of hundreds of organizations and over 700 contributions received from individuals through the 5th World Water Forum website and its Virtual Meeting Space.

The Thematic Programme has been designed in such a way as to examine various aspects of 23 different topics, each of which offer 3 to 5 related sessions. Through this approach, concrete solutions to these major questions will be proposed, issuing from the collaborative work on each topic. The overall objective is to then implement these solutions in order to move forward towards a better future for the world's water resources and the populations that need them.

At this point in the development process, session conveners have been assigned to coordinate each session. To ensure that all sessions are balanced in terms of participation, conveners have been asked to identify missing stakeholders that should be represented within their sessions and efforts will be made to reach out to those parties and include their points of view.

In addition, the Virtual Meeting Space (VMS) can be utilized by each topic working group to develop and further clarify their ideas and proposed solutions. Working spaces are already established for each topic, and you are free to react to the work that has been carried out thus far for consideration by the group as a whole. For example, discussion groups are made available precisely for this purpose.

Initial session descriptions can currently be viewed on the 5th World Water Forum website and in the VMS. The detail of each session will continue to evolve through the end of the year and will be published subsequently on the website, VMS and in the 5th Forum's Final Programme.

During the Forum itself, a number of products, such as "session situation documents", and topic and theme reports will summarize in a concise way the state of reflection on each key question and issue, including major recommendations. First framing the debate in writing will enable participants to spend a maximum amount of time during each session exchanging and discussing, rather than describing the state of affairs. In this way, everyone's voice may be heard.

So, come join us in Istanbul to help provide answers to those questions that need to be answered in order to ensure access to water and sanitation for all.

"Water, the source of life, concerns every one and every region. It is necessary to consider different aspects of the issue in order to maintain and realise sustainable water management and planning. The 5th World Water Forum is designed to aggregate these differences.

The 5th World Water Forum will take place in the fascinating city, Istanbul, which has been shaped by water art and water architecture. We gladly are hosting this event and hope to see you in Istanbul!"

- Mevlüt Vural,
General Director of ISKI

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REGIONAL PROCESS

At the Forum itself, regions will have the opportunity to present their findings in a Regional Document, demonstrating their role in bridging divides and their orientations for future progress. Besides the regional plenary sessions, regional contributions will be embedded into the thematic sessions throughout the week. Likewise, regional coordinators have been an integral part of developing the Ministerial Agenda and hence a part of the political process.

The Americas Regional Consortium and its supervising Executive Committee under the coordination of the National Association of Water and Sanitation Utilities of Mexico (ANEAS) are leading the activities in the Americas in close collaboration with all participants the region. Each sub-region, Central, South and North America and the Caribbean, has developed a sub-regional document, which is integrated into the final Americas Regional Document that was presented in November 2008 at the Water Forum of the Americas in Iguassu Falls, Brazil (Region-Americas@worldwaterforum5.org).

The Asia-Pacific Water Forum has led the overall coordination of activities for the Asia-Pacific region. This region has chosen to prioritise the mobilisation of political commitment in this part of the world, as demonstrated by the organization of the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Beppu, Japan in December 2007. The five sub-regions, namely Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia and Oceania and the Pacific, are coordinated by an organization that works jointly with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (Region-Asia-Pacific@worldwaterforum5.org).

The European Water Partnership (EWP), as the Regional Coordinator for Europe, has focused on building connections among countries, organizations and initiatives with an emphasis on the involvement of Eastern Europe. At the World Water Fair, a European Water Area will gather European participants and offer them the possibility to organize their own meetings and activities. The EWP is also striving to connect European politicians to the Forum, principally through the organization of a high-level summit within the European Parliament, held in November 2008. EWP also plans to present a "European Water Vision". (For further information please write to Region-Europe@worldwaterforum5.org)

The African Development Bank, on behalf of the African Ministers' Council on Water, has been working to mobilise stakeholders in Africa in order to catalyze specific African contributions to the Forum. The regional process was launched in August 2008 by the African Development Bank, followed up in October 2008 at a meeting in Addis Ababa (Region-Africa@worldwaterforum5.org).

As one of the special country groups, the region of MENA/Arab countries, under the coordination of the Arab Water Council is diligently completing its analysis. The Arab Water Forum, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in November 2008, was the culmination of the MENA/Arab Countries regional process (Region-Mena-ArabCountries@worldwaterforum5.org). The Mediterranean regional preparatory process was developed under the coordination of the Mediterranean Water Institute over the past years (Region-Mediterranean@worldwaterforum5.org). Likewise, The General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works of Turkey (DSI), which will be host to the 5th World Water Forum, has been organizing meetings as coordinator for the region In and Around Turkey (Region-Turkey@worldwaterforum5.org).



Maglova Aqueduct,
Istanbul Alibeyköy, 1562

"In and around Turkey, starting from World Water Day in March 2007, 24 local meetings, conferences and workshops have been organized by the State Hydraulic Works (DSI). The papers presented have considered practical issues that have a direct impact on daily life, while the messages from discussion groups have been an input as a policy recommendation to the political process. The results of this process are organized as a summary document with concrete outputs, which will serve as a regional contribution to the thematic and political processes of the Istanbul Forum."

- Haydar Koçaker,
General Director of DSI

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



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FORUM PROGRAMME *

Please rotate the page clockwise

	MARCH 16 MONDAY	MARCH 17 TUESDAY	MARCH 18 WEDNESDAY	
19:30 - 21:00	YOUTH FORUM OPENING			
17:00 - 19:00	THEMATIC OPENING WORLD WATER DEVELOPMENT REPORT			
14:30 - 16:30	HEADS of STATE SUMMIT	REGION EUROPE PANEL on FINANCE SESSION on WATER MANAGEMENT 2020 THEME 1 GLOBAL CHANGE and RISK MANAGEMENT SESSIONS THEME 4 - GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT SESSION SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING	PARLIAMENTARIAN MEETING LOCAL AUTHORITIES MEETING REGION IN and AROUND TURKEY PANEL on SANITATION THEME 2 - ADVANCING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT and the MDGs SESSIONS THEME 5 - FINANCE SESSIONS SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING PARLIAMENTARIAN MEETING	
13:00 - 14:30				LUNCH
11:00 - 13:00	OPENING CEREMONY	REGION AMERICAS PANEL on WATER and DISASTERS OECD SYNTHESIS REPORT THEME 1 - GLOBAL CHANGE and RISK MANAGEMENT SESSIONS THEME 4 - GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT SESSION SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING	PARLIAMENTARIAN MEETING LOCAL AUTHORITIES MEETING REGION AFRICA PANEL on WATER FOOD and ENERGY THEME 1 - GLOBAL CHANGE and RISK MANAGEMENT SESSIONS THEME 4 - GOVERNANCE and MANAGEMENT SESSION SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING	
08:30 - 10:30				PARLIAMENTARIANS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES
	MARCH 16 MONDAY	MARCH 17 TUESDAY	MARCH 18 WEDNESDAY	

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
ISTANBUL 2009



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MARCH 19		MARCH 20		MARCH 21		MARCH 22	
THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
LOCAL AUTHORITIES MEETING	REGION ARAB		REGION MEDITERRANEAN	THEME 3 - MANAGING and PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES SESSIONS	THEME 6 - EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE and CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS	THEMATIC SYNTHESIS 1 4	THEME 2 - ADVANCING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT and the MDGs SESSIONS
	THEME 5 - FINANCE SESSIONS						



Ayvad Basin,
Istanbul Belgrad Forest, 1765

POLITICAL COMPONENT OF THE FORUM

Addressing the combined effects of changes in the global environment, demand on natural resources and economy is arguably the most important challenge of our time, as evidenced by the amount of press and recent high-level international meetings related to these issues. How climate change, population growth, mass migration to cities, and the current financial crisis and many other challenges relate to the ability of the world's nations to provide their citizens with water and water related services adds a baffling dimension of difficulty to coming up with solutions.

The Political Process of the World Water Forum exists because, simply put, water is a political matter. Politicians at every level need to know every angle of the water issue in order for them to create an enabling environment and the right policies to meet the challenges. This policy mix is increasingly more difficult to determine given the enormous environmental, economic, and social changes that are now prevalent.

Heads of State

Also associated in the 5th World Water Forum Political Process is a meeting with the participation of a limited number of Heads of State. The outcome of this meeting will be a high-level appeal for action to governments around the world citing the importance of water and the role it plays in development and society. The Heads of State Meeting will take place in 16 March 2009.

Ministers

The Ministerial Conference, and the multi-stakeholder process that leads to it, aims to prepare a Ministerial Statement and a Ministerial Agenda attached to it listing priority issues for priority action on water management issues. This process has also built in increased interaction with water stakeholders, including those involved in the regional, thematic and major group processes. As an example, these stakeholders, international organizations and key institutions are given the opportunity to make alternative or complementary suggestions to the Ministerial Process discussion documents. The Ministerial Conference of the 5th World Water Forum will take place between 20-22 March, 2009, and we expect a participation of around two hundred Ministers from all over the world who will adopt the Ministerial Agenda with a clear message on the importance of the matter. At the first of four PrepComs, the gathering officially launched the preparation of the Ministerial Agenda, on the overall theme "Water Management Adaptation Strategies for Global Changes, including Climate Change/Variability". This theme offers the possibility of taking two approaches: How water management has to adapt to changes, but also how water can be used as a tool for this adaptation. The process has evolved in Geneva and will be continued in Rome and Istanbul to prepare and agree on the Ministerial Statement and Agenda, which are envisaged to be concluded during the Senior Officials Meeting that will take place in 18 March 2009.

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
ISTANBUL 2009



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Parliamentarians

The Parliamentarians' portion of the 5th Forum will be a dynamic interaction among members of national assemblies from around the world including discussions on the definition of minimal national legislation for water and sanitation, and sensitive issues to discuss, such as right to access to water and sanitation, transboundary waters, global changes and decentralization policies. The Parliamentarians Days on 18-19 March 2009 will have a major focus on roundtable discussions on these issues as well as conduct a workshop to further develop the "Water Legislation Helpdesk" proposal.

Istanbul Water Consensus

Cities and agglomerations are under increasing pressure to deliver water and sanitation services to citizens. Global changes have led Mayors and local leaders around the world to become increasingly concerned about and committed to ensuring water and sanitation services. Following an inclusive process, in which assistance has been provided by the organizers of the 5th World Water Forum and its partners, the Istanbul Water Consensus (IWC) - an agreement among local authorities across the globe - will bring urban and rural water challenges to the local, national and global agenda to improve actions. Two days will be dedicated to Local authorities during the 5th World Water Forum on 18-19 March 2009.

The three-level interaction on 20 March will be a way for Parliamentarians and the local authorities to interact with Ministers in sharing what they have achieved in working towards the 5th World Water Forum, as well as listen to what their counterparts have developed.



"Water, the source of life is no longer at humanity's service due to our own misuse! Unless we take immediate action, we will leave a world of drought to our children. The 5th World Water Forum, which aims to address this tragic fact, is a stepping stone to save the future, which gives me hope. As the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, while we are hosting this Forum, we also are proud to present the "Istanbul Water Consensus". The IWC is designed considering the problem of the lack of water and proposes significant solutions. It is sure that this global challenge can be overcome through global remedies; nonetheless this process requires the cooperation of local authorities. We as the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality are ready to support every step which is for the sake of this planet, hence we say: All the local authorities of the world should unite against the global threat of drought!"

- Kadir Topbaş,
Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan
Municipality

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



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MAJOR GROUPS AS A MAJOR COMPONENT: A COMPREHENSIVE VISION OF PARTICIPATION

A Forum that really 'bridges divides for water' and could claim to have equitable participatory mechanisms which aim to reach out to as many actors as possible, needs to have a comprehensive vision of participation. The 5th World Water Forum's participation vision entails diversity, inclusiveness and quality as its main components.

With the inclusion of the Major Groups Framework from Agenda 21 the Forum co-organizers have acknowledged the need to ensure multi-stakeholder dialogues are conducted at every step of the preparatory process and during the event itself. Yet for the sake of a balanced participation, it is crucial to ensure that not only the well-resourced and powerful members of that group are included but also disadvantaged ones.

Acknowledging the diversity among different major groups also implies that different participation mechanisms would be required for different groups. Thus, various strategies are being developed to make the 5th World Water Forum open for participation.

Means of participation

The major groups are invited to share their ideas and identify their priorities amongst the sessions through discussion fora in the Virtual Meeting Space (VMS) (<http://portal.worldwaterforum5.org>). Further possibilities are being studied to ensure that major groups are recognized at sessions during the Forum. (Contact: thematicprocess@worldwaterforum5.org).

Two seats are reserved for each major group in the Ministerial Process PrepCom meetings to be organized in Rome and Istanbul, as was the case in Paris and Geneva. Moreover, the 5th World Water Forum will allow major groups to lobby for action to be taken at the political level. (Contact: politicalprocess@worldwaterforum5.org).

Major Groups also have the possibility of organizing side events at the Forum to discuss further their perspective and priority action on water-related issues. (Contact: sideevents@worldwaterforum5.org).

The major groups will all have their own private networking spaces in the Forum venue, for them to coordinate their activities throughout the week. (Contact: fair@worldwaterforum5.org).

Major groups may support the green activities by adopting and promoting the Green Forum Initiative's principles, or by providing fresh ideas. (Contact: gfi@worldwaterforum5.org).

In parallel to the World Water Forum, the Children's and Youth Water Fora will take place with the active participation of children and young people from around the world. (Contact: childrenforum@worldwaterforum5.org and youthforum@worldwaterforum5.org).

Acknowledging the need to ensure balanced participation, less financially capable representatives of major groups can apply for the financial support scheme, PAID, to participate in the Forum free of charge of registration, accommodation, food and transportation. (Contact: financialsupport@worldwaterforum5.org).

Major Groups as defined by Agenda 21:

- Women
- Youth and children
- Business and industry
- Local governments
- Science and technology
- Workers and trade unions
- Indigenous people
- Farmers
- NGOs

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
I S T A N B U L 2 0 0 9



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WATER PRIZES

King Hassan II Great World Water Prize

The King Hassan II Great World Water Prize is awarded to an institution, organisation, 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 contribution of the applicant should always reflect cooperation and development.

The prize will be awarded during the opening ceremony and the value of the prize is \$100,000.

The Kyoto Grand World Water Prize

The Kyoto Grand World Water Prize aims to honour a distinguished individual or organisation whose grassroots activities work towards addressing the critical water needs of communities and regions. The prize money must be used by the winning organisation to continue the award-winning exercise or initiate similar ones.

The prize will be awarded during the closing ceremony and the value of the prize is JPY 3,000,000.

Turkish Republic Prime Minister's Water Prize

Turkey, as the host country of the 5th World Water Forum, aims to honour individuals who have contributed to society's increased awareness of water-related issues, through the endowment of a prize. The importance of the media in fostering a paradigm shift in public opinion cannot be underestimated. Within this context, the Turkish Republic Prime Minister's Water Prize will be an award to journalists.

The Prize will be offered to one local and one foreign journalist for their excellent published works on water-related issues, in the Turkish and non-Turkish press. Each winning journalist will receive a prize of €20,000. Please send your application through the VMS by no later than 15 February 2009.

"Compromiso Mexico" Water Prize

This Award acknowledges the genuine concern voiced by national and international citizens and governments, regarding the increasing global water crisis as well as current practices in water supply, sewerage and sanitation services; which demand the collective attention and joint endeavour of the nations of the world.

The Alliance's immediate pursuit is to propose institutional measures based on truly notable water utility practices which, having followed innovative local public policies for fresh water supply and wastewater management and treatment, have rendered clear and identifiable social benefits.

First place will be granted an award of \$ 15,000, while second place will be awarded \$ 10,000 and the third \$ 5,000.



German Fountain,
Istanbul Sultanahmet, 1898

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



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WATER FAIR & EXPO

The World Water Expo is an inclusive space in the 5th World Water Venue, where all the components of the water world can showcase their water related activities, thus facilitating the bridge between supply and demand. In this sense it offers new business opportunities, while it creates an advantageous atmosphere for networking opportunities.

The Water Fair on the other hand, offers an open venue for the presentation of different types of cultural, social and educational activities on water-related subjects, and hence builds up a convivial environment. Within the PAID scheme, the fair venue provides a certain free area for organisations in need, to achieve broader participation and representation. (To apply for the PAID program please visit the website <http://www.worldwaterforum5.org>)

There are three options for stands in the Expo:

a) Shell Scheme Stand

Stand Size	Dimensions	Total
9 m ² Shell Scheme Stand	3 m x 3 m	EUR 2750
18 m ² Shell Scheme Stand	6 m x 3 m	EUR 5250
27 m ² Shell Scheme Stand	9 m x 3 m	EUR 7450
36 m ² Shell Scheme Stand	6 m x 6 m	EUR 9500

(Includes: Shell scheme stand, entry in the official catalogue, exhibitors badges, 10 Expo invitation tickets for each 9 m².)

b) Fitted Stand

Stand Size	Dimensions	Total
9 m ² Fitted Stand	3 m x 3 m	EUR 3000
18 m ² Fitted Stand	6 m x 3 m	EUR 5700
27 m ² Fitted Stand	9 m x 3 m	EUR 8100
36 m ² Fitted Stand	6 m x 6 m	EUR 10450

(Includes: Shell scheme stand, entry in the official catalogue, exhibitors badges, 10 Expo invitation tickets for each 9 m², 1 table, 3 chairs, paper basket, wall coat hanger for stands greater than 26 m², 1 information counter, and 2 m² storage room.)

c) Own stand structure:

Fees for each m² are given below.

Stand Size	€/m ²
Row stand (1 side open) min. 27 m ²	EUR 240/m ²
Corner stand (2 sides open) min. 27 m ²	EUR 250/m ²
Head stand (3 sides open) min. 72 m ²	EUR 230/m ²
Island stand (4 sides open) min. 144 m ²	EUR 220/m ²

(Includes: Raw space, ground marking, entry in the official catalogue, exhibitors badges, and 10 Expo invitation tickets for each 9 m².)

Non-commercial organisations receive a 10% discount for space in the Fair area.

WATER AND ARTS: REFLECTIONS ON WATER

During the week of the 5th World Water Forum, many social and cultural events are being planned to complement the discussions and debates that are to take place in the Forum's agenda. Our intention is to observe how different works from different cultures can be reflected on a similar basis. The effect will be to bind the arts and expressions of these different cultures; and build bridges over the metaphor of water: the life source of all cultures.

As the crossroads of continents, as a passage where all waters mingle, Istanbul offers a wide range of opportunities to the Forum participants in terms of arts and culture. Our guests will have the chance of being a part of different exhibitions, concerts and shows that will highlight the importance of water in our lives, its healing power and its magical journey through time. The events that will be taking place during the 5th World Water Forum will be held with the cooperation of Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency. We would like to thank Istanbul 2010 European Capital of Culture Agency for their valuable contribution and support.

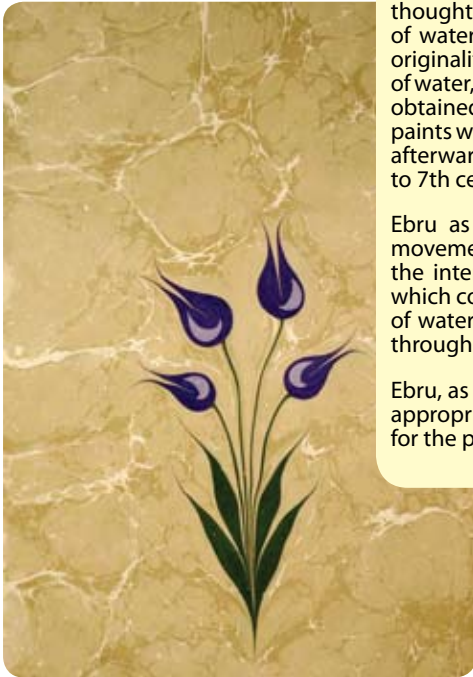
As the 5th World Water Forum Secretariat, we cordially thank all of those who were interested in and have applied to be a part of the arts and cultural events during the Forum week. The application process ended as of November 31, 2008.

The Art of Ebru:

"Ebru" is described as an art, where the feelings and thoughts of the artist come to be embodied on the surface of water. Each practice, never possible to reoccur, has its originality and secrecy within the unpredictable movements of water, which gives the pattern its last shape. The pattern is obtained through dripping and sprinkling handmade natural paints with brushes onto the surface of thickened water and afterwards transferred to paper. The art of Ebru dates back to 7th century, approximately.

Ebru as a word is a metaphor evoking the notions of movement, flexibility, permeability, variability and suggests the interaction and integration of diverse cultures. Ebru, which comes into being through the colourful aggregation of water and paper, is the symbol of the course of history through engagement and permanence.

Ebru, as a metaphor describing Turkish culture in the most appropriate way, has been used as the ultimate inspiration for the program of arts and culture.



Water Exhibition

It is created by American Museum of Natural History in 2006 – 2007 and will be displayed in ITU Maslak Campus Natural History Museum between 4 March 2009 – 14 June 2009. Exhibition with its live animals, hands-on exhibits and immersive dioramas invite the whole family to explore the beauty and wonder of water and reveal the challenges to protecting Earth's most precious life-giving resource.



5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



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CALL FOR REGISTRATION

Registration for the 5th World Water Forum is carried out on-line, through the 5th World Water Forum's website <http://www.worldwaterforum5.org>. The registration process has been designed to be quick and easy-to-use. In around five minutes, participants will be able to confirm their participation in Istanbul in March 2009. Participants can easily pay for their registration fees, with payments made through internationally-accepted secure payment facilities.

As well as the simple registration site, the co-organisers have made available a series of measures to ensure your participation in the 5th World Water Forum:

- Staggered registration fees
- A simplified procedure to facilitate your Turkish visa
- The Virtual Meeting Space (VMS), to take part in the debate before the Forum

Reduced Registration Fees for Broader Participation

The registration fees have recently been further reduced to facilitate even broader participation in the 5th World Water Forum. These fees are shown below:

Category / Period	Early Bird registration, up to January 15th, 2009	Registration after January 16th, 2009
Developed Countries / UN Organisations	€ 400	€ 500
Developing / Least developed countries	€ 240	€ 300
Young participants-students (aged between 16 and 25)	€ 80	€ 100

Member organisations of the World Water Council, up to date with the payment of their membership fees, also receive a 20% discount on these prices.

Three-day and one-day packages are also being offered, with a fixed price irrespective of the category, time period or membership of the World Water Council. The prices are:

3-day registration	€ 250
1-day registration	€ 100

Registration fees include taxes, and are payable in Euros. All registration packages include an electronic and an optional hard copy of the Forum documents, admission to the Water Expo and Fair, and daily lunch.

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
I S T A N B U L 2 0 0 9



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Further Support for Participation: PAID

In addition, a participant aid programme (known as PAID) has been set up to fund the participation of a number of individuals in the 5th World Water Forum. The application form has been available from the 5th World Water Forum website. Selection preference is given to applicants who have been actively involved during the 5th World Water Forum's preparatory process, who show great motivation and provide concrete justification for participation as well as those who commit to work beyond the Forum via evaluation reports, conveying the Forum's messages in their regions and institutions afterwards. Gender balance of the applicants is considered while distributing funds. Applicants selected for funding will have their registration fees, lodging in Istanbul, internal travel and meals covered for the duration of their stay in Istanbul.

Visa Facilities for Participants

The procedure to obtain a visa in order to attend the Forum has also been simplified. All visas for Forum participants will be free of charge. After registering, you will receive an invitation letter by e-mail, which can be used to obtain your visa. Participants will be separated into three categories as regards their visas, and the list of countries in each category will soon be found on the Forum website under Logistics.

- Nationals of countries where Turkey has an embassy or a consulate should apply for their visa in these representations, with their invitation letter confirming their registration and payment. These visas must be obtained before leaving for Turkey.
- Nationals of countries where Turkey does not have a diplomatic mission will be able to receive their visas at the airport upon their arrival. After registering, their names will be delivered to Istanbul International Atatürk Airport, where a special Forum desk will be set up to meet the participants and deliver their visas.
- Nationals of countries that normally need to pick up their visa at the border will still need to follow that procedure.

If Forum participants are planning to register onsite, the visa arrangements are under the responsibility of them

Prepare the Debate Through the Virtual Meeting Space

When registering, you will be asked to create a user account, which will allow you to go back to the registration site at a later date to make any changes, as well as providing you access to the 5th World Water Forum's Virtual Meeting Space (VMS), available on <http://portal.worldwaterforum5.org>.

The VMS is a collaborative space for all those interested in taking part in the debate prior to the Forum, finding out more about the latest developments, and planning their participation in the Forum. It will also be used to disseminate information during the week of the Forum, to those within and outside the Forum venue.

Media Accreditation

Press accreditation will be provided by the Office of the Prime Minister Directorate General of Press and Information. On the website, www.byegm.gov.tr, the registration form will be available from February 2nd to March, 2nd for foreign press.

Arrivals to Istanbul:

As the official airline of the 5th World Water Forum, Turkish Airlines is providing a 20% discount on flight prices for Forum participants, to travel to Istanbul in March. This discount is effective for tickets purchased from Turkish Airlines offices all around the world. To make the discount effective, passengers should be able to show a confirmation of their participation when booking their ticket. Turkish Airlines 5th World Water Forum account code is BB601A.

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



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FOR WATER



Sütlüce Congress Centre



Feshane

FORUM VENUE ON WATERWAY, THE GOLDEN HORN

The subject of water will be discussed for the first time in a place so close to water at the 5th World Water Forum. The 5th World Water Forum will be the first time that the Congress and Cultural Centre at Sütlüce, and the Feshane facility in the Golden Horn will be used for such a purpose. There will be regular ferry boat services to provide access to these two venues from the city centre, as well as from the opposite side of the Golden Horn. The Golden Horn in this sense provides a waterway venue for the Forum, while it bridges the two conference centres on each side.

The Sütlüce Congress Centre

The former Sütlüce Slaughterhouse has been transformed into a Congress Centre containing a concert and congress hall, cinemas, exhibition and meetings facilities, a theatre and multi-storey car park. The Sütlüce Congress Centre will host thematic process and regional and political process sessions during the Forum and will also fulfil the role of press centre.

Feshane

Feshane, the fez (a popular type of hat in Ottoman Empire) factory of Ottoman times, will be the main registration centre. There will be regular ferry boat services from the city centre taking passengers to the waterfront in front of the building, where Forum registrations will be realised. At the same time Feshane will host a Fair, Exhibition, Learning Centre, Global Education Village, Major Groups and also Thematic Process sessions of the Forum.

Accommodation

"The list of hotels and the map showing their locations will be indicated on the webpage. Furthermore and beginning third week of January a section will be dedicated in the online registration process for hotel reservation."

Transportation in Istanbul

Buses will be operating between congress centres and hotels, as well as between the airport and the hotels, on a regular basis and throughout the week. Mornings, 07:00-10:00, evenings, 17:00-20:00, every 30 minutes, and from 10:00 to 17:00 every one hour, busses will be providing the transportation, as the ferry boats will be within the same timing schedule. Ferry boat transportation will enable passengers to travel from/to Kadıköy, Yenikapı, Kabataş to/from the two ports of the venue, Sütlüce and Feshane, while at the same time continuous ferry boat service between Sütlüce and Feshane will be available as well.

5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



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BE A PART OF THE FORUM AS A SPONSOR!

The 5th World Water Forum is an organisation open to sponsorship, providing a strategic opportunity to companies. You can contribute to the 5th World Water Forum, and let your brand be heard and seen by a wider audience. Through several sponsorship categories you can reach key individuals including ministers, mayors, CEOs, representatives of the world as well as by the whole water community. To learn more about the sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Forum organizers via e-mail at sponsorship@worldwaterforum5.org.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our current sponsors for their support.



5th WORLD WATER FORUM
İSTANBUL 2009



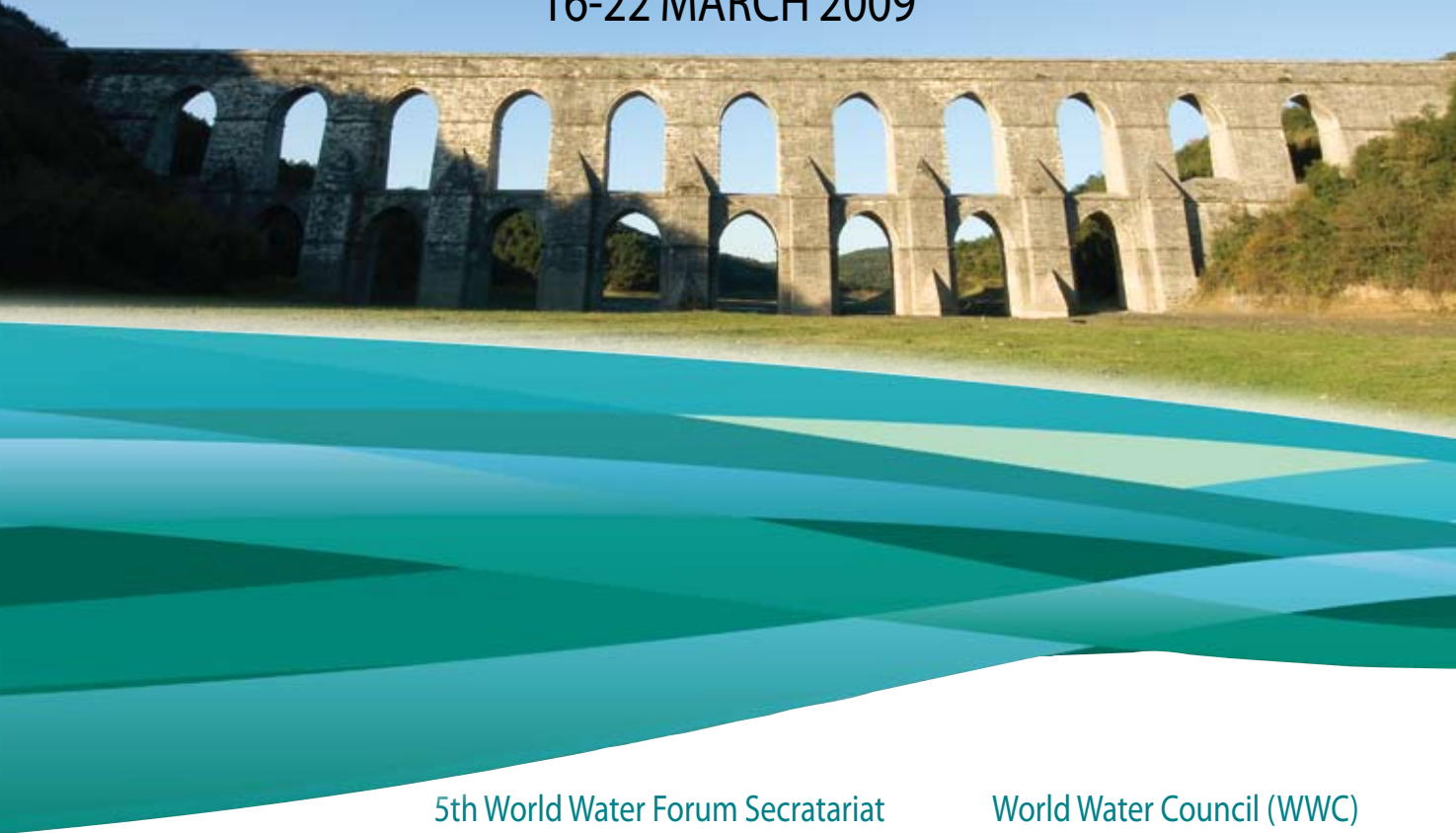
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16-22 MARCH 2009



5th World Water Forum Secrariat

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