



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



WORLD WATER DAY 2008

5th WORLD WATER FORUM

Political Process Kick – off Meeting for Local Authorities

21 – 22 March 2008, İstanbul

Venue: Harbiye Military Museum

World Water Council (WWC)



President of the WWC:
Mr. Loïc Fauchon

The World Water Council is an international multi-stakeholder platform, 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 WWC'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*.



Executive Secretary:
Mr. Daniel Zimmer

WWC Headquarters:

World Water Council

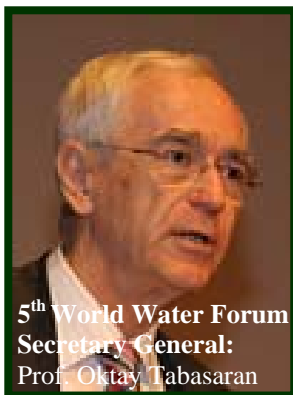
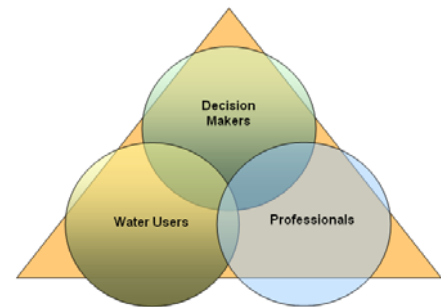
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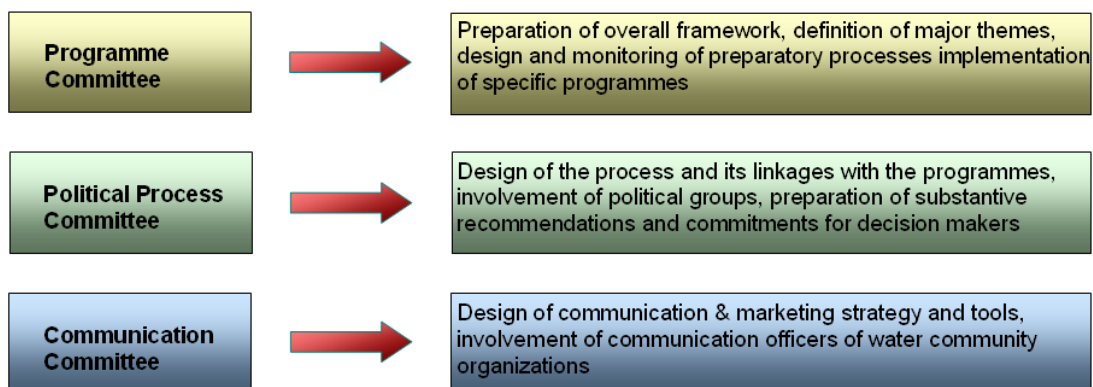
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Held every three years, the World Water Forum strives to gather people from every horizon to find sustainable solutions to the water challenges that the world faces daily. The Forum is a paramount platform where individuals from both inside and outside 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.



World Water Forum's biggest achievements involves clarifying the *World Water Vision* and putting sustainable preservation of the water resources and developing of the policies and methods to dramatically increase the access to clean water into the agenda of world leaders, policy makers, international organizations, local administrators, NGOs etc. in conformity with the UN Millennium Development Goals while raising awareness to the whole issue all around the world. More has to be done to ensure that human life and world peace is not going to be threatened by water scarcity and climate change along with growing political, social and economic unrest resulting in intra and inter-regional conflicts and global instability. Following the World Water Fora held in Marakesh (1997), The Hague (2000), Kyoto (2003) and Mexico City (2006); Istanbul will be hosting the 5th World Water Forum in 2009. The overarching theme of the Forum "Bridging Divides for Water", inspired by Istanbul sitting at the crossroads of continents and civilizations, signifies the need for setting bridges between states, local authorities, experts and people of the world from different cultures, nations, regions and cities to focus on the ways to promote shared solutions for our common problems and countervailing actions to reverse the deteriorating water situation and enhanced cooperation for taking in advance the necessary measures for future challenges including the worst scenario, *Water Crisis* of 2025.



In order to build on the lessons from the previous Fora and foster increased commitment from the global water community, WWC and the Turkish co-organizers have worked out an improved framework for the preparation phase of the 5th Forum. This framework relies on three strategic components of the Forum, namely the *Programme*, the *Political Process* and the *Communication*. These three committees are composed of an equal number of representatives of Turkish and WWC members. They all report to a higher managing board, the *International Steering Committee*.

The World Water Day 2008 (WWD2008)

21 – 22 March 2008, Istanbul

World Day for Water or in common form World Water Day, occurs each year on March 22, as designated by United Nations General Assembly resolution and being celebrated in different parts of the world with a growing observance since 1993. Every three years since 1997, the WWC has drawn thousands to participate in its World Water Forum during the week of WWD. Participating agencies, specialists and NGOs have highlighted issues such as a billion people being without access to safe water for drinking and the role of gender in family access to safe water.

The WWD2008 in Istanbul will be a 2-day event that is going to be celebrated together with the *World Forestry Day* and *World Meteorology Day*. The organizers of the 2-day event are WWC, **Turkish General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works** and the **Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality**, while the 5th World Water Forum General Secretariat is serving as the coordinating unit for organizing WWD2008 and developing its conceptual and thematic content.

This years WWD in Istanbul, will host a mayoral debate, which is called the *Political Process Kick-off Meeting for Local Authorities* on the afternoon, March 22. Mayor of Istanbul, Mr. Kadir TOPBAS convokes some 30 cities from different parts of the world by special invitation to take part in the political process of the World Water Forum 2009 and to get involved in shaping the political agenda of the World Water Forum 2009 at the local level. The participating delegates will have a say and contribute on the major issues that concern their cities and regions as well as on the outline of the political decisions and commitments for the coming years.

5th World Water Forum General Secretariat:

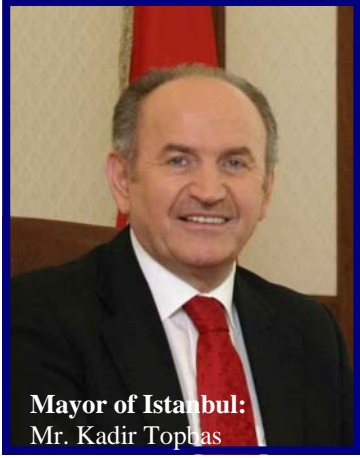
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Mayor of Istanbul:
Mr. Kadir Topbas

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality is the local administration that governs Istanbul, the former capital of Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires, the heart of Turkish economy and socio-cultural life; and a city where more than 12 million people live. At the top of the authority an elected Mayor represents the Municipality and he makes the local political decision as determined together with the municipal council and the executive committee. General Secretariat of the Municipality, is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day running of the work

The Municipality approves the Municipal Master Plan, supervises the district municipalities, conducts construction and management of major infrastructures (water, sewerage, drainage, solid waste, gas and central heating systems) and the construction and maintenance of streets, highways, bridges and squares, runs the Fire Department, provides social services and healthcare, ensures environmental protection etc. Due to the dual governance structure of the Turkish local administrative organization, there is another local authority, which is called Istanbul Provincial Government, and it is in control of the Police Department, Schools and Higher Education, Airports and monitors the overall performance of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

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