

Conference Announcement

Theme

**Water and Sanitation in  
Africa and the Middle East**

2 – 3 September 2013  
Bibliotheca Alexandria  
Alexandria, Egypt

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## Background:

In 2010, the UN General Assembly recognised water and sanitation as a human right. Access to improved water and sanitation continues to be a major challenge in both Africa and the Middle East.

Between 1990 and 2012, 322 million people in Africa gained access to an improved drinking water source. The population that has piped drinking water in their premises increased from 147 million in 1990, to 271 million in 2010. The continent still had about 344 million people relying on unimproved drinking water source as of 2010. In 2010, 115 million people directly drew on surface water to meet their drinking water needs. But to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) drinking water target, 215 million people need to gain access over the period 2010 – 2015.

Africa has made limited progress in providing its people with access to basic sanitation. Coverage only increased from 35 per cent in 1990, to 40 per cent in 2010, equal to 189 million people gaining access. With a population growth of almost 400 million people since 1990, the population without improved sanitation facilities increased by almost 200 million people to 612 million in 2010. With a doubling of the urban population over the period 1990-2010, more than 1 in 4 people in urban areas rely on shared or public sanitation facilities. Little over 1 in 5 people in Africa still practise open defecation, down from 1 in 3 in 1990. Africa is not on track to meet the MDG drinking water target of 78 per cent; only Northern Africa already surpassed its MDG sanitation target – all other regions are set to miss it

The Middle East is generally considered to be making adequate progress towards meeting Target 10 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which calls for halving the proportion of the population with inadequate access to drinking water and sanitation. This good picture has, however, been challenged by other studies which fault the assessment method of the Joint Monitoring Programme of UNICEF. These new studies point to a glaring gap between the MDG statistics and the evidence available from national and local reports.

This conference will provide a much needed platform among researchers and practitioners in the field of water and sanitation in Africa and Middle East, to present latest studies, review policy guidelines, share experiences and discuss solutions to the challenges faced. This conference will examine the issue of water and sanitation from a technical and engineering perspective, but also taking into consideration the social, institutional and financial aspects that surround water and sanitation delivery in Africa and the Middle East.

## Conference Objectives

The main objective of the Conference is to build capacity and awareness on water and sanitation issues in Africa and the Middle East and to propose solutions to existing barriers to address these issues. It will also bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners in Africa and the Middle with the intention of fostering closer working relationships and collaborations among them.

It will focus on

- Solutions to current challenges in water and sanitation delivery in Africa and the Middle East;
- Sustainable technical options for water and sanitation development in Africa and the Middle East;
- Management options and the roles of various stakeholders in efficient delivery of water and sanitation lessons from Africa and the Middle East;
- Enabling institutional and regulatory frameworks for the effective implementation and scaling-up of successful water and sanitation programmes.

## Conference Themes

Abstracts submitted for oral and poster presentation should be within at least one of the themes shown below. Strong preference will be given to abstracts that demonstrate approaches which have been successfully implemented and sustained at scale with learning points that can be applied to other countries with similar conditions.

1. Access to clean water and improved sanitation in Africa and the Middle East
2. Agricultural water management, wastewater resource recovery and food production

3. Climate change and water resources and sanitation management
4. International Co-operation in Water and Sanitation Management
5. Water and Sanitation R & D: Issues, challenges and solutions

## Conference Format

The conference will examine, discuss and distil learning points from presentations made by authors on water and sanitation under the 5 main themes. The focus will be on practical solutions and real-life examples of systems that work, and include community, institutional, financial and technical aspects.

Oral presentations will be drawn from the best submissions to the call abstracts, and invited speakers who are leaders in the field of Water and Sanitation in Africa and Middle East.

Poster presentations will accompany oral presentations at the conference to stimulate further learning and discussions.

## Conference Organising Committee

The conference Organising committee is made up of the following:

- Berhanu Abegaz - African Academy of Sciences
- Ismail Seragledin - Bibliotheca Alexandria
- Mohamed El Faham - Bibliotheca Alexandria
- Benjamin Gyampoh - African Academy of Sciences
- Asmaa R. Soliman - Bibliotheca Alexandria
- Esraa Ragab - Bibliotheca Alexandria
- Olivia Osula - African Academy of Sciences
- Peter Abwao - African Academy of Sciences
- Marwa Elwakil - Bibliotheca Alexandria

## Submission of Abstracts

Abstract Submission Guidelines (both Poster and Oral presenters)

Abstracts must contain adequate information to allow a sound review, including; a demonstration of the system implementation; effectiveness and sustainability; supporting statistical figures; learning points for future applications

Authors submitting abstracts for presentation at this conference should consider the following:

1. Abstracts must describe in a succinct manner the purposes and results of the research so that the quality, originality, and comprehensiveness of the work can be evaluated by the review committee.
2. Each abstract should contain:
  - a) an introductory sentence indicating the purposes of the study;
  - b) a brief description of pertinent experimental procedures, if applicable;
  - c) a summary of the new, unpublished data; and
  - d) a statement of the conclusions. Authors must accept sole responsibility for the statements in their abstracts.
3. Titles should be indicative of the content of the abstract. All words necessary to identify the subject matter should be included in the title to facilitate electronic retrieval (if applicable). Avoid non-standard abbreviations in abstract titles.

4. Abbreviations may be used in the body of an abstract if they are defined at their first mention in the text.
5. The abstract should not exceed 300 words, including the abstract title and keywords. The word limit excludes list of authors and author affiliations
6. The accuracy of the submitted abstract is the responsibility of the authors. Every effort will be made to publish the abstract exactly as submitted. Authors should prepare and proofread their abstracts carefully prior to submission. Errors made on your submitted abstract are likely to appear in print.
7. Authors are strongly encouraged to print a hard copy of their abstract for their records before submitting.
8. Abstract submitters should indicate whether they are submitting for oral or poster presentation.
9. Do indicate the corresponding author with full name and email
10. Abstract submitters will receive an initial notification of receipt. Notifications of abstract receipt will be sent to the corresponding author.

### Further Guidelines for poster presenters:

Poster presenters must submit a draft poster which contains adequate information to allow a sound review, including; a demonstration of the system implementation; effectiveness and sustainability; supporting statistical figures; learning points for future applications

- Dimensions of each poster should be 70 cm (width) X 100 cm (height) mounted vertically.
- The first author of the poster abstract is responsible for the proper assembly, mounting and presentation of his/her poster.
- The poster board surface consists of fabric over cork board. Pushpins can be used to mount the poster. Each presenter must provide pushpins for his/her display.
- The title, author(s) and author affiliations, and logos of institutions should be clearly visible at the top of each poster. Advertising material should NOT be used.
- The official language at the Poster Session will be English.
- Illustrations and texts must be read from a distance of at least one and a half meters away.
- The poster should be understandable without oral explanation. All lines should be heavily drawn.
- The poster should contain an abstract, an introduction, methodology, results and discussion with illustrations (e.g. figures, tables), conclusions and recommendations.
- It is helpful to bring hand-outs of your poster, as well as your business cards, to pass on to those who are interested.

Abstracts should be submitted to [b.gyampoh@aasciences.org](mailto:b.gyampoh@aasciences.org) on or before 26 July 2013.

For further information on abstract submission, kindly contact

**Benjamin Gyampoh**

**The African Academy of Sciences (AAS)**

**Telephone: +254 728 741632**

**Email: [b.gyampoh@aasciences.org](mailto:b.gyampoh@aasciences.org)**

## Review and Selection

On the basis of the abstracts received, a review by the Programme Committee will be undertaken to select papers for the conference and to decide the most appropriate format – oral or poster.

If selected, a maximum 8-page full manuscript must be submitted on schedule for inclusion into the conference proceedings.

At least one author of each selected paper or poster must register and attend the conference to present the paper.

## Support

Selected speakers and poster presenters will be given support to attend and present their works. This may include the conference registration fee, travel and accommodation

## Key Dates

Milestone	Deadline
Commencement of Conference registration	14 July 2013
Abstract submission closes	26 July 2013
Authors notified of selection	5 August 2013
Registration closes	15 August 2013
Submission of full papers	20 August 2013

## Conference Registration:

Academia / Other: EGP 150

Student: EGP 100

For Group Registration (Group of 5 persons or more):

Academia/Other: EGP100/person;

Student: EGP 50/person.

Deadline for registration is 15 August 2013 Interested participants must send the following information to Esraa Ragab ([esraa.ragab@bibalex.org](mailto:esraa.ragab@bibalex.org)) for registration.

- Full Name
- Organisation or Affiliation
- Contact address (including email and telephone)
- Country

For further Information on Registration, please contact

**Ms. Esraa Ragab**

**Center for Special Studies and Programs (CSSP)**

**Bibliotheca Alexandrina**

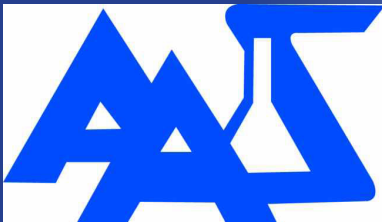
**Tel:+(203) 4839999, Ext: 5155**

**Fax:+(203) 4820469**

E-mail: [esraa.ragab@bibalex.org](mailto:esraa.ragab@bibalex.org)



TWAS-ROSSA is The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) - for the advancement of science in developing countries Regional Office for sub-Saharan Africa. TWAS' mission is to promote scientific excellence for sustainable development in the South. The main objective of TWAS-ROSSA is to coordinate the efforts to promote the activities of TWAS and its affiliated organisations in Africa. TWAS-ROSSA is hosted by the African Academy of Sciences (AAS). [www.nairobi.twas.org](http://www.nairobi.twas.org)



The African Academy of Sciences (AAS), is an Africa-wide, non-profit organization of senior scientists, science policy experts and science managers. AAS' vision is to be the engine driving scientific and technological development in Africa. AAS seeks to honour science and technology achievers and facilitate development of scientific and technological capacity for science-led development in Africa, promoting excellence and relevance in doing so. [www.aasciences.org](http://www.aasciences.org)



The New Library of Alexandria, the New Bibliotheca Alexandrina is non-profit organization dedicated to recapture the spirit of openness and scholarship of the original Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Its mission is to be a center of excellence for the production and dissemination of knowledge, and to be a place of dialogue and understanding between cultures and peoples.

The unique role of the Library of Alexandria, as that of a great Egyptian Library with international dimensions, will focus on four main aspects that seek to recapture the spirit of the original ancient Library of Alexandria. It aspires to be the world's window on Egypt Egypt's window on the world, a leading institution of the digital age and a center for learning, tolerance, dialogue and understanding. [www.bibalex.org](http://www.bibalex.org)



TWAS-ARO is The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) - for the advancement of science in developing countries Regional Office for Arab countries. It aims to promote scientific capacity and excellence for sustainable development in the region. TWAS Arab members include 46 distinguished scientists residing in 12 different Arab countries and abroad. The overall objective of the TWAS-ARO is to promote the activities of TWAS and its affiliated organizations in the region, as recommended by the Academy's current and future strategic plans [www.alexandria.twas.org](http://www.alexandria.twas.org)