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**Water Problems in the Mediterranean Countries**

***Hüseyin GÖKÇEKUŞ* • Editor**

**WPMC' 97**

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**FOREWORD**

As bcing a member of water suffering countries in Mediterranean region, North Cyprus is welcomc for an İnternational Conference on Water Problerns in the Mediterranean Countries. Thc conference, held in Near East University, Nicosia, North Cyprus, 17-21 Novcmber 1997, brought together more than 300 scientists from 42 countries with different approaches in 182 excellent presentations.

The conference aimed to be honored by specialists, administrators or other interested participants to provide a forum for discussions and exchange of experience and the information ofa variety of aspects related to the Water Problems in the Mediterranean Countries. Water resources and hydrology, wastewater management and treatment, surface water and management , groundwater modeling and management, salt water intrusion, water quality, limnology, oceanography, and environmental quality have been discussed in the sessions of the conference.

From ıhe discussions at the conference, it is concluded that the Mediterranean region suffers from an imbalance between the demand for fresh water and its supply. it is to be expected that this imbalance will increase unless certain measures, aiming at the sustainability of the water resources, are implemented. This aim will be served by supplying potable water, monitoring and performance assessment of ali water uses, increasing the efficiency of irrigation methods, appropriate use of quality assured models.

It is well known that the never-ending water problems of Mediterranean countries cannot be solved by individual studies. In the face of this, the participants are expressed the wish that such an important initiative should not be isolated but should be repeated in the future with the aim of continuing the collaboration to solve the most urgent water problems. As being the initiative of such.an event, we would be very excited and honored

to see the succeeding conferences arv' ·· ·~d to support such courageous attempts.

The success of the conference is boun, '.JY the self-sacrificing studies ofa large number of peoplc and institutions. Special thanks are given to the members of the technical and organization committee, the scientific committee, the invited speakers, and participants for their invaluable contributions to the first International Conference on Water Problems in the Mediterranean Countries.

21 December 1998, .Near East University, Nicosia, North Cyprus.

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*/*

 *WATER SUPPLY*  . VOLUME il

 ················································· 635

Ancient Water Systems of the Mediterranean-Emphasis on Cyprus,

 *D. W. HENDRICKS* USA ·· 67

Hydroelectric Energy Potential of Turkey and its Development *SPASİN and HDOGAN ALTINBİLEK*

*Tıırkey.........................................................................................................* 665

Water Transportation by Towed Waterbags-Hydrodynarnic Parameters,

 *D. ÜNSALAN* North Cyprus 68)1

Public Drinking Water and Waste Disposal Issue,

 *F. R. WARD* USA 691

Future Water Supply and Demand Predictions in Saudi Arabia,

*A. S. AL-TURBAK* Saudi Arabia...................................................................... *7r*

Models for Water Consumption and Water Unaccountcd in Turkey, *il QASEM. and H D ALTINBİLEK*

North Cyprus-Turkey .

""" 715

Results of Disinfcction Monitoring of Long Distribution Systcms,

*J. KRIS,* O. *CERMAK. M. CERMAKOVA. K TOTHOVA aııd F. BISKUP*

Slovakia 723

An Approach to Construct the Boundary ofa Groundwater Rechargc Area (GRAB) in a Tilted Unit

*t. YILMAZEI? aııd* Ö. *YILMA ZER* Ankara, Turkey 733

Water Rcsources tor Drinking Watcr Supply - Protection Against Pollution and Rchabilitation,

*U.ROTT* Germany 739

An Ovcrview of the Global Watcr Issues,

*A.R.KHATEI?* Bahrain 7--

On thc Search of Optimum Managemcnt of Istanbul Water Supply System,

*ı. DUl?ANYILDIZ. /J. ÖNÖZ aııd 13 OGUZ* Turkcy 763

Watcr Managcmcnt and Transfcrs of Tcchnology: Evidcncc From . the Case of Tunisia,

 *H. M'HENN!* Tunisia *169*

*GROUND WATER MODELLING AND MANAGEMENT .*

Groundwater Budget for thc Güzelyurt Aquifcr (Turkish Rcpublic of Northcrn Cyprus) an Examplc for an Overdraft,

*H GÖKÇEKUŞ, and V DOYURAN* North Cyprus-Turkey .....................................• \_

Supply Ways of Coasting Aquifer System of Annaba-Bouteldja, *A. HANI. L. DJABRI, J. MANiA aııd J. MUDRY*

 Algeria-France 789

Groundwater Quality Problems for Domestic Use,

 *Ş. ABACI* Turkcy 799

Assessment of Regional Groundwater System with Pumbing Test in Denizli Plain,Turkey,

 *H. M. ÖZLER* Turkey 805

Use of Groundwater Three-Dimensional Flow Models For Aquifer Management and Environmental Impact Assessment: The Example

ofa Closcd Valley Volcano-Sedimcntary Aquifer in Southern Peru, *D.GOMES,N.CUICUER.R.ROJAS,C.PALZA.* O. *AVALLOS S.& L. ARACUAS*

 Canada - Peru 813

Isotopic und Chcmical Trends in Chaj Doab Area, Pakistan,

 *N. AHMAD aııd* Z. *ŞEN* Turkey - Pakistan 827

Groundwater Utilization for Irrigation Purposes in Arid Regions. A Case Study,

 it'. *ALI.* Germany 835

Groundwatcr Pollution and Control in İzmir,

*A. TÜRKMAN* Turkey 843

Managemcnt of Scarce Resources,

*A. HAMDY mu/ C.LACIRICNOLA* Italy 851

Some Considerations on Firıite Element Solution Of The Unsteady Convection Diffusion Equation and Application on Water Pollution,

S. *OSMAN!* Albania 863

Growing Dcmarıds on the Groundwater Resources and Land Use in the Perth Mctropolitan Arca Western Australia and Their Hydrogcological Implicatiorıs,

*A. Q. RATHUR aııd S.SHARAFI* Australia 871

*INDUSTRIAL WATER* & *WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT •......•.......•.•........•••.......•••* 885

Mercury Pollution of the River Nura in Central Kazakstan,

*A. KARAZHANOVA, E. P. YANIN. M. A. ILYUSHCHENKO, T. W.*

*TANTON aııd S.HEA VEN* Kazakstan .; 887

Quulity Asscsmcnt for Lcather Tanning Wastcwaters, *D O!U!Oı\. LJ/CENCEU.* C. *YIL/JIZ and E.AVC!OCLU*

Turkey , 895

Removal of Hcavy Metal Ions From Aqueous Solutions by Chitin:

Kinctic and Upıakc Pararncters,

*H. BENA!SSA. aııd P. OZIL* Algcria-France 903

Industrial Watcr Proccssing Technologics and Flow Schemes lmproving Economics and Excluding Environmcnt Contamination,

*H. FEVZ!YEV, A.A.JA VADOVA mu! G.H.FEYZIYEVA* Azcrhaijan 911

A Review of Microbial Systems for the Dcgradation of Glyphosate in Industrial Waste Water and the Development ofa New Single Process Approach,

*S.GLENWR!GHT. aıul R.1.G. EDYVEAN* UK 917

Anaerobic Digestion of Organics in Aqueous Phases Obtained from Liquefaction of Cotton Stalk with Acetic Acid and Sodium Hydroxide at 5 MPa,

*F.TANER, F.FÖZTÜRK. T.ÖNCELandA.ÜNYAYAR* Turkey 925

Design of Adsorption Systems for thc Treatment of Coloured Aqueous Eflluents,

*A. J. SMITH.* C. *J. WILLIAMS aııd R .. J.* G. *EDYVEAN* UK 933

Thermocheınical Treatment of Sea-Grass with Sodium Hydroxide and Anaerobic Biodegradation of Compounds in Aqueous Phases

*F.TANER.F.F ÖZTÜRK, T.ÖNCEL aııd A.ÜNYAYAR* Turkey 941

Extraction and Separation of Ni(II), Cu(Il) and Zn (il) on Activated Carbon: Application to Wastewater Treatment,

*Y. BAL, aıul K.E. BAL* Algeria ................•....................................................... 949

Pollutant Loads from Industries in Elmalı Watershed Area

*F GERMİRLİ J3 .. lf3UJ\'.1I.. S. Ml:.RİÇ aıul* O. *TÜNAY* Turkey 955

Soil Contaıniııalioıı und Plaııt Growth Dcprcssion Under Irrigation witlı Polluted River \Vatcr,

*il. Çı\ K ıu* Turkey ..............................•.•........•...•.•......•.................................. 963

Applicatiun o!'Matcrials Textilc Tcchnic "Aqua-Textiles" for Scparation of Polyplıasic Fluids,Treatment Waste Water Individual Domcsric: Tlıc Possibilitics and Hydraulic Properties,

 K. E. BAL. and D. SIGL!. Algeria. Francc.... 969

Control of Wastc Watcr Gcncration in Chcmical Proccsscs by Pinch and Mathcmatical Approaclı,

 *S. CESUR. Z. Ö'1-(.TLIK.* !'. *ÖL.ÇEUK. aııd 13. KURYEL* Turkcy 977

Investigation of Opcrational Prohlcnıs in Wastcwatcr Trcatmcnt of Tcxtile Industry,

 *N. TÜFEKÇİ, İ TC,\OZ. M. DUIVIN aııd Y. SılHİN* Turkey '. 985

*SALT WATER INTRUSION ...*...................•...•.•.....•.......................•.•...........•..... 993

Simulation of Sea-Water lntrusion lnto lnhomogcncous Mcdia:

Layered Aquifers and Subsurfacc Barrier,

*M.* G. *KHUBLARYAN, A. P. FROLOV, ı. O. YUSIJMANOV*

 *aıul O. N. VELICIJKINA* Russia 995

Salt Water Intrusion and Arlilicial Rccharge Modclling in the Coastal Aquifers System of Capotcrra (Southcrn Sardlna).

G. *BARROCU. M.G. SCIABICA,* G. *URAS, A. CORTIS. aııd*

 *E. VERNIER* Italy 1001

Salt Water Intrusion into Microtidal Estuaries and Environmental Consequences. The Algerian Example,

*H. PAUC* France 1009

Salinization of Groundwater in Mediterranean Coastal Aquifers of Morocco, *K. WALRAEVENS. N. EL HALIM/, A. CHAOUNI AL!A, A. LAMRINI.*

*E. BEEUWSAFRT aııd W. DE BREUCK* Bclgium l 021

Modclling of Seawatcr Intrusion in the Coastal Carbonate Mesozic Aquifcr ol" Murgia (Puglia Southern Italy), Ensuing Deep Recharge With Trcatcd Wastc Water,

*G. SPILOTRO aııd F. CAPORALE* Italy 1029

*WATER RECLAMATION* & *REUSE •..............................•..•.•.•.•.•.•...................* 1037

Utilization of Wastewaters for Agricultural Irrigation Purposes,

L *l:'RENLER 1111<1 E. A VCIOGLU* Gcrmany-Turkey l 039

Thc Estimation of the Nonrcturnablc Consumption of Water in Irrigation Agriculture,

N. A. SHUMOYA Russia 1047

Irrigation Applications in Southeastcrn Anatolian Project (GAP),

*A. ATAÇ aııd F. VOLKAN* Turkey 1055

Comprchensive Considcrations in Eftlucnt Reusc for Crop Irrigation,

*G. OIWN, L GILLERMAN, 111. SALGOT,* C. *CAMPOS, aııd L. KATS* lsrael-Spain 1063

Ground Water Quality Degradation in Coastal Aquilers, Case Study:

OUED Nudor and OUED Mazafran Aquifcrs, ALGIERS Region,

*M.MESSAHEL. A. BOUDJADJA, 13. HADJ-KADDOUR aııd R. M. KHOUL!* Algeria 1071

The Equipmcnt for Dcsalination of Sea Watcr Through Reverse Osmosis,

*N. PERiDE aııd T. POPA* .Romania ...,, l 08v

Tlıc Use of Yortical Ejectors in Desalination Equipmerıt,

*T POPA. aııd K. Ô. IZET* Romania 1085

Applicatioıı of Solar Stills for the Purilication of Sca Water at

North Cyprus Environmerıt, . /

*M. A. YÜKSELEN* Turkey 1089Y ,

Multi El'fcct Solar Dcsalination,

*M. M. MISELLA Ti, S. A. ALGARYANI aııd A. A. HOWARS*

Libya 1095

A Fcasibility Study on the Dcsalination of Sea Water in the Turkish '/

Republic of Norlhcrn Cyprus, ~

*IJ. 1131?:1!/IM* UK 1103

The Influence of the Specific Weight of the Sea Water Concerning the Ship Stability,

*M.CHITU-GRET! and R. 7AGAN* Romania 1111

*WATER QUALITY ................•........................................................................* 1119

About the Water Demand in North Cyprus, , /

*H GÖKÇEKUŞ* North Cyprus 112v

The 1996 Protocol Amending the London Dumping Convention 1972,

*J.J. RUIZ* Spain 1135

Land - Based Sources Pollution: Recent Legal Trends for the Mediterranean Sea Area,

*M. BADANES* Spain 1139

A Comprchcnsivc Mathematical Model for Coastal Watcr Pollution Studics,

*L. f!APOGLU-BALAS. aııd E. ÖZHAN* Turkey 1149

Prcvcntion of Offshorc Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea,

*V. BOU* Spain 1157

Pollution of Watcr

*H.ATUN Nortlı Cyprııs* 116~

Water Quality Modeling and Management of Nilüfer River,

*A. PALA* Turkey 1173

Turkish Laws Rclatcd with Coastal Zoncs and Thcir lmplemcntations,

*A. NURAY* Turkey 1187

*L!MNOLOGY OCEANOGRAPHY COASTAL PJWCESSES*

*AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ........*.......................•.....•.................•........ 1195

Oceanography of the Cilician Basin,

*i. SALİHOGLU and A. YILMAZ* Turkey 1197

Water Conservation Programmes in thc Eastern EQSl.3 Section of lzmit-Kocaeli Industrial Zone,

*S. AYBERK,M. TÜRKEL, A. KABATEPE aııd K.OKTOR* Turkey 1207

Hcalth Statc of Agadır Bay Ecosystcms Evaluated by thc lliomarkers of Pollution,

*MOUKRIM,A.BOUHAIMI, A. LAGHBOURI aııd A. ZEKHNINI* Morocco 1211

Nutrimcnts Watcr Pollution of the Oucd Scybousc and the Guelma, Bouchcgouf and Annaba Aquifcrs (Eastern Algeria),

*L. !JJAIJRI. J.MANIA. D. MESSADI. A. HANI a11d*

*S. /J/:NHARKAT* Algcria-Francc 1:!:!5

Towards a Clean İlzmit Bay,

*E. MORKOÇ,O. S.OKAY.L.EGESEL,V.TÜFEKÇi,HTÜFEKÇi*

*& T.LEGO VICH* Turkey-Croatia...... .. . .. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . ... . .. .. .. .. .. . . . . . .. .. .. . . . . . . . . .. . . . . 12 37

Optimum Control ofEutrophication in the İzmit Bay,

 *T. LEGOVICH* Croatia : 1245

Environmental Evaluation ofa Highly Urbanized and lndustrialized Catchment area: A Case Study From Turkey,

*A. TANIK, B. BELER BAYKAL aııd E. GÖNENÇ* Turkey 1249

Morphological Effects on Coastal Environment,

*Y.YÜKSEL. E ÇEViK, Y, ASARandT. BOSTAN* Turkey 1259

Contamination Problems in Coastal Aquifers,

Ö. *1\I. )'AVA(* Turkey .' 1265

Coastal Pollution by Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in thc Eastern Mediterranean,

*F. TELLi KARA KOÇ. A.F. GAINES. D. PHILLIPS.* G. *YÜREG}R*

*aııd 1. SALİI10GLU* Turkey 1273

Coral Growth in Terms of Dynamic Systems,

Z. KIZNER and L. V AKY Israel. 1281

Alga) and Microbial Variation in Lakes of Cordoba (Argcntina), C. *RODRIGUEZ, M. MANCINI. A. WEYERS, M. ALCANTU*

*aııd* C. *PROSPERI* Argentina 1285

Design Aspccts Ior the Sea Outfall of Mersin City-Turkey,

*M. OGUZ aıul H. MUHAMMETOGLUTurkey ...............••.......•.•.•.•.•....•...••....•...* 1291

Pcriodicity and Toxin Production by Cyanobactcria in an Argcntinian Lake,

*R. D'ANGELO. A. RUl/JAL CONTI, D. LERDA aıul* C. *PROSPERI*

Argcntina 1299

Evaluation of Domcstic and Agricultural Quality of the

Güzelyurt Groundwatcr Basin (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus), /

*il. GÖKÇI:KUS. aııd V DOYURAN* Turkey 1305 *V*

Nitrate Conccııtration in Groundwater in thc Northern West Bank,

*A. MAREI aııd M. HADDAD* Palestine................. 1315

Chcmical Asscssment of the Groundwater Pollution of the Shallow Aquifer of Thc Northern West Bank,

*Q.1-J.A/JDUL-JABER. S.HUSARY,S. WISHAHl,S.RIHAN &*

*A .. ALIEWI* Palestine - UK 1323

Solutions fora Coast Urıder Threat,

*A. TERFOUS, A.IJOUANANI aııd M. IJENSLIMANE* Algeria ....

.................... 1337

Water and Wastcwatcr Treatmcnt by Natura! Systcms

*L.AKCA, 1-J./JAYHAN,D.A.ALTAY aııd S.ÖVEZ.* Turkey 1343

*CONCLUSSION AND RECOMENDATIONS*

*OF \VPıHC'97 CONFERENCE*  .

............................ 1351