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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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