



Water Science and Technology Association (WSTA)

Introduction

The Water Sciences and Technology Association (WSTA) was formed as a result of individual efforts of some of those concerned with water affairs in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Countries with an objective mainly to encourage and promote interest in water sciences and strengthen scientific ties among water professionals, encourage scientific research, training programs, and the development of local capabilities in the different fields of water sciences and technology.

The Government of Bahrain consented to register the Association in Bahrain, and the Association was formally founded in September 1987, to be the first scientific association in the field of water sciences and technology in the Arabian Gulf region. WSTA is a non-government organization and its membership is open to all water professionals in the GCC, water-related national and international organizations, educational institutes, consultants, and companies.

Activities and Achievements

A. Conferences

WSTA has organized a series of conferences under the title **Gulf Water Conference:**

- 1st** October 10–13, 1992, Dubai. UAE Water and Development in the Gulf Region. Challenges of the Nineties
- 2nd** November 5–9, 1994, Bahrain. Water in the Gulf. Towards an Integrated Management
- 3rd** March 8–13, 1997 Muscat, Oman. Towards Efficient Utilization of Water Resources the Gulf
- 4th** February 13–19, 1999 Bahrain. Water in the Gulf. Challenges in the 21st Century
- 5th** March 24–28, 2001 Doha, Qatar. Water Security in the Gulf
- 6th** March 8–12, 2003 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Water in the GCC. Towards Sustainable Development
- 7th** November 19–23, 2005 Kuwait. Water in the GCC. Towards an Integrated Water Resources Management
- 8th** March 3–6, 2008, Bahrain. Water in the GCC Towards an Optimal Planning Economic Perspective
- 9th** March 22–25, 2010, Muscat, Oman. Water Sustainability in the GCC Countries. The need for a Socio-Economic and Environmental Definition
- 10th** April 22–24, 2012, Doha, Qatar. Water in the GCC. Water-Energy-Food Nexus
- 11th** October 20–22, 2014, Muscat, Oman. Water in the GCC States. Towards an Efficient Management
- 12th** March 28–30, 2017, Bahrain. Water in the GCC States. Towards an Integrated Strategy
- 13th** March 12–14, 2019, Kuwait. Water in the GCC: Challenges and Innovative Solutions

B. Symposia and Workshops

WSTA organized many symposia and training workshops:

October 1996, Kuwait. Symposium on Water Supply Fluoridation

March 8, 1998, Bahrain. Future of Desalination in the GCC Countries Workshop

The following workshops on the subject of The Future of Desalination Research WSTA organized in co-operation with the European Desalination Society (EDS)

1st September 8–11, 2002, L'Aquila, Italy. Operation and Maintenance: Performance Problems Workshop

2nd August 24–27, 2003, Amsterdam, Holland

3rd December 1–2, 2004, Bahrain. Capacity Building Workshop

On 3–4 April 2013, Al-Ain, UAE Environmental Impact Assessment workshop was held in collaboration with UAE University.

On 20–22 April 2015, Bahrain, WSTA organised a training course on Water Footprint Assessments for GCC and Arab Countries in collaboration with AWARENET, Arabian Gulf University and MENA NWC.

Moreover, WSTA conducted many training workshops, either during its conferences or separately. The Association recently held a workshop and training course on the “Quality of Irrigation Water in Oman” for a group of workers in the field of agriculture in April 2018, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the Sultanate.

C. Affiliations

The Association is affiliated with a number of Regional and International NGO's and Institutions addressing the global water issues, most notably the European Desalination Society EDS. International Desalination Association IDA, Arab Countries Water Utilities Association ACWUA and Oman Water Society OWS. In addition, WSTA has established strong ties with many UN organizations (UNESCO, ESCWA, UNDP, UNEP, FAO and many more) working in the water sector to enforce its position as a pioneer in addressing the importance of conserving water and protecting water resources in the Gulf Region.

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For further information, please visit the WSTA website at: www.wstagcc.org



Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research

KISR is a pioneering, independent, national institute of scientific excellence. It was established in 1967 by Japan's Arabian Oil Company Limited, in partial fulfillment of its obligations under an oil concession agreement with the government of the State of Kuwait. KISR's initial role was dedicated to developing three fields of national importance: petroleum, desert agriculture, and marine biology. Since then, KISR's role and responsibilities have expanded greatly to include the advancement of national industry and the undertaking of studies to address key challenges, such as the preservation of the environment, sustainable management of Kuwait's natural resources, responsible management of water and energy, and development of innovative methods of agriculture.

KISR was restructured by an Amiri decree issued in 1973, under which it became directly responsible, via its Board of Trustees, to the Council of Ministers. The main objectives of the institute, as specified in the decree, were to carry out applied scientific research. In 1981, KISR's status was further reviewed, and its role reconfirmed in the development of scientific research and technology in the country. In addition, the law broadened the mission and entrusted the institute with undertaking research and scientific and technological consultations for both the governmental and the private sectors in Kuwait, the Arabian Gulf region and the Arab world, and encouraged collaboration with international institutes.

KISR's approach to meeting challenges is distinguished by a culture of openness, a commitment to our clients, and an integrated, cross-disciplinary approach. KISR routinely embarks on strategic partnerships with other regional and international institutes, agencies, and academic bodies, allowing an exchange of knowledge and expertise. Today, KISR is home to over 580 researchers and engineers and over 100 laboratories, housed at 9 locations, with growth expected through the implementation of a new strategic plan. KISR conducts scientific research and performs technological consultations, often in partnership with other regional and international institutions, for governmental and industrial clients in Kuwait, the Gulf region, and the rest of the world. These partnerships, driven by a philosophy of collaboration that runs deep within our culture, help build up our knowledge base, and facilitate the free flow of information, data, and expertise.

At KISR, we take pride not only in our scientific achievements, but our diversity as well. We are a melting pot of cultures, ideas, and disciplines, all dedicated to one common goal: putting science in action.

Vision

By 2030, KISR will be acknowledged internationally as the region's most respected science, technology, and innovation (STI) and knowledge gateway, and recognized as a driving force for sustainable economic prosperity and enhanced quality of life.

Mission

KISR leads and partners internationally to develop, deploy, and exploit the best science, technology, knowledge, and innovation for public and private sector clients, for the benefit of Kuwait and other countries facing similar challenges and opportunities.



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