

Blue Peace

IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Greetings to all members of the Blue Peace Community!

We hope that you and your families are keeping healthy and safe in a time that is both frightening and challenging for many. Over the past two months, the coronavirus has spread throughout the Middle East, with far-reaching consequences for every aspect of economic and social activity across the region.

While the activities of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative have also been impacted, the different partners are trying to adapt as best they can, continuing to plan ahead for trainings and activities later in the year.

We are delighted to present you our first newsletter that provides a snapshot of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative events in the first quarter of 2020 and looks ahead to upcoming activities. Read on to find out more!

Regional Mechanism experts discuss progress

Technical experts of the Blue Peace Middle East Regional Mechanism met in Istanbul in January to discuss the initiative's progress and ongoing projects and activities.



The Blue Peace Middle East Regional Mechanism is part of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative. It aims to strengthen cooperation on water among member countries, by stimulating dialogue, encouraging knowledge exchange and organising regional trainings and meetings. *Read more...*

OBITUARY



Prof. Dr. Hasan Z. Sarikaya (1945-2020)

Chair of the Blue Peace Middle East Managing Committee

It was with great sadness that the members of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative learnt of the sudden passing of Dr. Hasan Sarikaya on 23 January 2020. *Read more...*

Water Open Eye Award - Lebanon

Lebanese journalist Ali Awadah has won the Blue Peace Media Lab's 'Water Open Eye Award – Lebanon' for his article on the mismanagement and pollution of the Litani River.

On 13 March, jurors from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, BORDA, Media in Cooperation and Transition and cewas selected Awadah's piece from a shortlist of four articles. *Read more...*



Details of regional WUE training announced

The Blue Peace Middle East Coordination Office has announced details of the water use efficiency in agriculture training that is to be held in Izmir, Turkey.

The training course is being organised by the Turkish Water Institute (SUEN), which serves as the Coordination Office for the Blue Peace Middle East Regional Mechanism.

Entitled 'Planning and design for efficient irrigation', the course will adopt a train-the-trainers approach, combining theory, group discussions and field visits to encourage exchange of knowledge and experiences from across the region. *Read more...*



BPME partners explore closer cooperation

Six partners of the Blue Peace Middle East Initiative met in Istanbul in January to discuss how the different programmes can work together to promote closer cooperation over water in the region.

The meeting, which was organised by the Turkish Water Institute in cooperation with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, was attended by members of the Managing Committee from Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, as well as programme representatives of SUEN, cewas/Media in Cooperation and Transition (MiCT), cewas Middle East, the Geneva Water Hub and the University of East Anglia. *Read more...*



Yarmouk Futures holds first training



The Yarmouk Futures programme hosted its first training course for Jordanian and Syrian water experts at the Water Diplomacy Centre in Jordan from 8 to 10 February.

The training, entitled Transboundary Hydro-Governance and SDC Certificate Programme, was the first of a number of certificate trainings to be held at the Water Diplomacy Centre. *Read more...*

In Other News

Our quarterly pick of water-related articles from regional & international media.

NASA, University of Nebraska Release New Global Groundwater Maps and U.S. Drought Forecasts, NASA, 31 March 2020

Show with the flow: elevation maps reveal world rivers, The Guardian, 30 March 2020

Poor water infrastructure puts world at greater risk from coronavirus, The Guardian, 22 March 2020

The Mighty Nile, Jeopardized by Waste, Warming, Dam, Asharq al Awsat, Friday, 20 March, 2020

'Wash Our Hands? Some People Can't Wash Their Kids for a Week.' New York Times, 19 March 2020

Tackling the growing threat of water conflict, Deutsche Welle, 19 March 2020

Working together on water makes sense for region's economies, The National, 18 March 2020

Cleaning up corruption along Lebanon's longest river, Lebanese Transparency Association, 17 March 2020

Water Conflicts Will Intensify. Can We Predict the Worst Problems Before Conditions Boil Over?, The Revelator, February 28, 2020

Water Crises Again Ranked a Top Global Risk in World Economic Forum Report, Circle of Blue, 16 January 2020

Water-related violence rises globally in past decade, The Guardian, 31 December 2019