Inspiring Arab Water Leaders

PROFILE AND PROGRAMS
Launched in July 2008, the Arab Water Academy (AWA) is a regional center of excellence for executive education in water. AWA’s focus is on strengthening the knowledge and skills of Middle East and North Africa’s decision-makers to address and manage effectively the region’s water challenges.

Initiated by the Arab Water Council (AWC) and developed through consultation with water leaders and experts from the Arab region and around the world, AWA supports countries as they shift from a focus on water supply augmentation and direct service provision to integrated water management.

AWA finds an ideal base in Abu Dhabi, a vibrant center of learning and innovation about sustainable development. AWA is hosted by Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD) in partnership with the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA). AWA was established with initial financial support from EAD, the Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank. AWA has already earned the trust and support of regional and international donors to develop its programs and services.

AWA is headed by the Director who is supported by a team of academic and logistical staff. Contributors to the courses are world class experts drawn from the regional and international communities.
Arab Water Challenges

Driest region in the world
Average freshwater availability in the region is around 30 percent below the level needed for “water security”. Per capita water share is projected to fall by half by 2050. Today, 11 Arab countries suffer from water scarcity and this number is anticipated to reach 18 by 2025.

Fast growing population
The Arab region has one of the highest population growth rates in the world. For 2005 – 2020 the Arab population is projected to grow at nearly twice the global average.

Growth and diversification driving demand
As Arab economies diversify beyond traditional sectors, new actors will demand water. Greater demand from increasingly affluent citizens is also likely.

Complex connections between water, food security, and climate change
The Arab region is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The International Panel on Climate Change anticipates declining rainfall, declining soil moisture, and increasing evaporation for the Arab world. Without changes in policy and technology, increased water scarcity will reduce agricultural production and threaten regional food security.

Poor water management costs too much to ignore
- Over-extraction of groundwater is undermining national assets at rates equivalent to 1 to 2 percent of GDP every year in some Arab countries
- The environmental problems resulting from poor water management cost between 0.5 and 2.5 percent of GDP every year
- Illness and death related to inadequate wastewater collection and treatment cost can exceed 2 percent of GDP in some countries
- Poorly performing urban water and irrigation systems lose up to 50 percent of water supply.

Arab Water Academy
Executive Education, Leaders Forum, Knowledge Communities, Expert Advice

Strategies for Change

Integrated Water Management in the Arab world means making the most of every drop
We must balance the economic, social, and ecological values of our precious water resources to maximize the well-being of our people and the environment.

Integrated Water Management needs:
- Leaders who champion the strategies for change
- Managers with the latest knowledge and skills
- Public engaged in finding solutions to water challenges
How AWA Can Help

AWA has been created to serve Arab leaders, managers, and the public as they meet the region’s water challenges. AWA goes beyond the conventional training provided by other institutions in the region. Its mission is to:

- Equip participants with new skills, ideas, and tools to develop water strategies and policies based on integrated thinking across sectors
- Support participants as they work to improve enabling environments, institutional frameworks, policies, and organizational capacity in their countries.

AWA Programs and Services

Executive Education
- Boosting knowledge and skills
- Where leaders shape future water policies together
- Sharing ideas and inspiration among all
- Providing practical solutions to pressing problems

Executive Education

Supporting decision-makers from the public and private sectors to meet the region’s water challenges

Targeted programs facilitated by world experts
AWA condenses the most relevant new thinking from around the world into packages targeted to Arab water managers’ key needs. It is the quickest way for managers and policy makers to learn what they need to know to perform at their top level.

Participants from government and business in the Arab world interact with experts from leading universities, research centers, and advisory firms in the region and internationally.

Cutting-edge learning methods
AWA's programs are provided using the latest learning methods and information technologies, including:

- Dynamic and interactive lectures
- Case study analysis
- Virtual role play and simulation games
- Study and field visits
- Peer-to-peer engagement
- Personal leadership development
- Business and action plan development
- Financial planning and scenario assessment
- Virtual learning, networking, and blogging
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<th>Program</th>
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<th>What Will IT Cover?</th>
<th>Who Should Attend?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Water Governance for Future Leaders</td>
<td>Evolving and complex water problems demand difficult choices by decision makers. Future water leaders require a modern understanding of water governance, and the skills and tools to develop new ideas, instill change, or take decisions that reflect the diversity of needs and interests within and beyond the water sector</td>
<td>Participants will analyze the concepts and practices of effective water governance, and develop ideas and leadership capabilities to change governance to better balance economic, social, and environmental values</td>
<td>Senior advisors and policy makers; heads of departments; leaders of public, private sector, and civil society organizations</td>
<td>Three 5 day modules (15 days total)</td>
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<td>Water Diplomacy: Sharing the Benefits</td>
<td>Around 70 percent of the Arab region’s water is shared across international borders. For antagonism to be avoided, these resources need to be managed and allocated for the shared benefits of all. To achieve these benefits, decision-makers need enhanced knowledge and skills in international water law, geopolitics, negotiation, and communication</td>
<td>Participants will learn principles of international water law, strategies for successful agreement between countries on sharing water, and how to apply diplomatic methods to reduce risk of conflict over water</td>
<td>High level professionals in decision-making positions dealing with water policy or more broadly with foreign policy</td>
<td>Three 5 day modules (15 days total)</td>
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<td>Designing and Implementing Successful Utility Reform</td>
<td>Many water supply and sanitation utilities are locked in a downward spiral of weak performance, insufficient funding for maintenance leading to a deterioration of assets, institutional discrepancies, and high incidences of political interference. Utility managers and executives require a combination of knowledge, skills, and tools for initiating and sustaining reforms</td>
<td>Participants will analyze the influence of the political economy on key decision-making and learn to create and execute a financial and institutional strategy for sustainable utility performance</td>
<td>Executives and senior level management of utilities; senior government officials involved in decision making in water</td>
<td>5 day program</td>
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<td>Private Sector Participation in Water</td>
<td>Private sector participation (PSP) in the water sector has been a widely debated topic. As managers and decision makers in government face increasing challenges to improve services and keep pace with needed investment, all options should be considered. While PSP is not a panacea, it can bring significant benefits provided it is properly implemented</td>
<td>Participants will learn about private management of utilities, BOTs and other schemes for desalination and wastewater treatment plants, small scale local operators, and PSP in irrigation</td>
<td>Top managers from utilities; decision makers in government involved in water, sanitation, and irrigation services</td>
<td>5 day program</td>
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<td>Non-Conventional Water Resources Traveling Workshop</td>
<td>Treated waste, saline, and desalinated water offer managers new resource possibilities for certain water uses. Harnessing such non-conventional water resources (NCWR) will be increasingly important to ensuring water security in the Arab region. This workshop provides a forum to exchange experiences and lessons learnt about NCWR technologies and policies</td>
<td>Participants will be exposed to mature best practice technology and management approaches of NCWR in Abu Dhabi, Singapore, and Australia, and will identify potential NCWR projects in their countries</td>
<td>Senior technical professionals within government, utilities, academic institutions, and civil society organizations</td>
<td>10 day traveling workshop</td>
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Leaders Forum*

National leaders who are serious about improving their countries’ water future and want to work together to achieve it:

- **Face-to-face interaction**
  with other leaders facing the same challenges

- **Briefings**
  on the key water developments affecting the region

- **Resourced**
  by the most qualified and stimulating experts in the world

- **Held in secluded venues**
  to stimulate creative thinking and collaboration.

*Attendance at the Leaders Forum is by invitation only

Knowledge Communities

Helping water professionals solve problems together

AWA alumni can continue to share knowledge and experience via AWA’s virtual communities of practice:

- A utility manager in Egypt wants to know how to get people to use less water

Expert Advice

AWA can draw on its regional and global network of trusted experts to advise leaders on particular water issues. AWA’s facilitation ensures efficient and context-sensitive solutions.

Flexible, expert solutions tailored to the Arab world
AWA – A Record of Achievement

During its first year AWA has trained over 100 professionals from 18 Arab countries. Eighty percent of the participants in AWA’s main programs were top level decision makers and influencers.

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The following organizations have partnered with AWA to deliver courses: USAID, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada, the Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank.

Testimonials

“My experience with AWA was a success story by all means…. The focus on quality control in selecting the experts and learning content and design, as well as the sense of supporting and empowering the participants, made the program highly fruitful.”

Dr. Hammou Laamrani, WaDImena Project Coordinator, International Development Research Centre (IDRC-Canada)

“It was a great pleasure for me to meet the experts to exchange the experiences that could help us manage the water resources in our countries. I want to thank the organizers and everyone who helped with the presentations.”

Joseph Jreige, Planning Director, Ministry of Irrigation, Syria

“It was a good opportunity for all of us to discuss and exchange knowledge regarding Water Demand Management. Nowadays, it is a vital issue.”

Eng. Issam Nofal, Director of Water Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Ramallah, Palestine

“We enjoyed the workshop, the academy and the hospitality of the city.”

Malika Belkouadssi, Regional Director Marrakech, National Water Office, Morocco

“The result of this course was excellent on all levels.”

Khaldon Khashman, Secretary General, Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWA)

AWA Programs and Services

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Leaders Forum
Water Diplomacy: Sharing the Benefits
Module 1
Module 2
Module 3
Non-Conventional Water Resources Traveling Workshop to Australia
Designing and Implementing Successful Utility Reform
Private Sector Participation in Water
Water Governance for Future Leaders
Module 1
Module 2
Module 3

AWA will be happy to provide you with more information on how its programs and services can benefit you.

Coming Up

AWA is continuously developing its exciting range of programs and services. We invite you to join these programs to help further water policy development and management in the Arab region.
To join the AWA’s programs you can:

Complete the application form contained in the pocket of this brochure or visit the AWA website where you can download the application form for your preferred program.

**Arab Water Academy**

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