

Prague Water Workshop

At the Institute of International Relations, Prague, 10th October 2005

Summary

The Prague Water Workshop Meeting on October 10th 2005 followed the Brainstorming Meeting in Berlin on 15th July 2005. It took place within the frame of a Forum 2000 conference and focused specifically on water issues as one of the three main subjects of the Energy, Water and Environment (EWE) Project in the MENA region.

A small round table of experts coordinated by Dr Pavel Seifter from London School of Economics and Political Science concentrated on water conflicts and solutions in the MENA region and specifically on finding solutions between Israel and Palestine. The overall purpose of the Prague workshop meeting was first to prepare the EWE project, to get feedback for presented projects and to prepare the ground for the specific task of the EWE project which is based on the “Community” (regimes as well as networks) idea. A second, more specific, aim of the workshop was to discuss the issues of water markets, alternative water resources and strategies, desalination, the role of international law and the transboundary environmental policy. The specific projects presented and discussed were the Red/Dead Sea Canal and the Gaza Project. The discussion aimed not only to find ways of approaching water scarcity but also water conflicts, including the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Presentations

“Approaches for an Equitable Resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian Water Conflicts”

Prof. Hillel Shuval, Kunen-Lunenfeld Emeritus Professor of Environmental Sciences, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem

“Economic Regional Cooperation: A Key for Resolving the Middle East Water Problem?”

Dr Fadia Daibes-Murad, International Water Law Research Institute, Dundee/Jerusalem

“The Red-Dead Sea Canal” Project

Dr. Khaled Elshuraydeh, Secretary General of the Higher Council for Science and Technology, Amman

“A Solar Water and Power Source for Gaza. A Project for Recovery of Gaza, Global Climate Stability and Transnational Cooperation.”

Dr. Gerhard Knies, Coordinator of TREC (Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy Cooperation), Hamburg

The participants also joined the Forum 2000 panel “Water in the Middle East: Prospects for Conflict or Cooperation?” dedicated to the crucial position that water occupies in politics, economy and societies of the Middle East. (See: 9th Annual Forum 2000 International Conference, www.forum2000.cz)