

# **Minister of Water and Environment to open Water Summit**

**April 13 - 2009**

**H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Muhammad Bin-Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water UAE will be opening this year's WaterTech Summit in Abu Dhabi.**

The 2nd Annual WaterTech event which is endorsed by the Ministry and Arab Water Council takes place 3 - 6 May 2009 at the Sheraton Abu Dhabi, Hotel and Resort will tackle the impending water crisis facing the region.

The four-day summit will address key water resource and infrastructure challenges that the region is such as reducing water resources, high water usage and infrastructure leakage.

Highlights include Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Al Mulla, Acting Deputy Minister of Water the UAE uncovering the UAE's first water resources database and Dr. Mohamed Dawoud, Manager of Water Resources Department, Abu Dhabi Environment Agency discussing water resource management during climate change.

Kelly Grant, Event Director at IQPC said, 'Water scarcity is one of the most critical roadblocks to the continued economic, social, and environmental development of this region. However the policy, research, and opinion that will be discussed and developed during WaterTech 2009 are a positive sign for the future.'

The 2nd Annual WaterTech summit will bring together regional and international experts to brainstorm solutions and develop action points for the management of water resources and infrastructure in the Middle East. Throughout the four days over 100 stakeholders will converge on the Abu Dhabi in what is important event for the industry and region as a whole.

Miss Grant added, 'By 2011 water needs will be double what they are today. The threat of water scarcity means investment into developing freshwater supply, along with the recycling and reuse of waste and seawater is an urgent priority across the region. With over 25 expert speakers from government, academia and the private sector, WaterTech 2009 is an ideal opportunity for all stakeholders to contribute to the discussion and produce solutions to the region's challenges. We look forward to welcoming the world's water experts to Abu Dhabi.'

Key international experts to be addressing the summit include; Dr. Radwan Al-Weshah, Regional Hydrologist for the Arab States, UNESCO, Dr. Ahmed Ali Uleimat, Director Water Resources Protection Department, Water Authority of Jordan, and Omar Al-Wahaibi, Chief Executive Officer, Oman Wastewater Services Company.

A streamed conference agenda allows participants to customize their WaterTech experience by choosing from four afternoon streams. These streams include the management of groundwater resources, desalination, wastewater treatment and reuse, and water conservation.

Two technical workshops, and a full day masterclass will allow attendees to develop practical skills to implement in their home countries and alleviate water scarcity in arid regions.

WaterTech 2009 is a key component of the regions goal of creating sustainable water resource management plans, and reliable infrastructure and water treatments capable of keeping up with the region's rapid development.

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