



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Book Release:**

Hillel Shuval, Israel; Hassan Dweik, Palestine (Eds.):  
***Water Resources in the Middle East:***  
***Israel-Palestinian Water Issues – from Conflict to Cooperation***  
(Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer-Verlag, 2007).

The book authored by leading Palestinian, Israeli and international water experts is a unique and timely document illustrating the importance of mutual understanding, respect and amity among peoples during a difficult period of stress, whose leaders have not yet found the way of resolving the conflicts between them and of living in peace with each other. It is a book which demonstrates hope, optimism and belief that people with good will can help contribute to finding the way to peace and mutual cooperation in solving shared problems essential for their mutual survival and welfare. The book is based on contributions to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Israeli- Palestinian International Conference on Water for Life in the Middle East in Antalya (Turkey) that was organized by the *Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPRCI)*.

This book represents joint efforts of Israelis and Palestinians working closely together. All aspects of the conference and the book were planned, managed, organized and edited by joint Palestinian-Israeli teams working in a spirit of cooperation.

The water crisis facing the Middle East today will become more serious over the next twenty years, unless dealt with energetically and in good time. Populations are growing and the standard of living is expected to increase, leading to increased demand for domestic and urban water supplies required to meet vital human needs, while the amount of the natural water resources available remains fixed. Water from additional non-conventional sources such as recycling, desalination and import are all possible particularly in an era of peace and cooperation.

This is true for the water short Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians and is particularly true for the Palestinians who are the most water deprived peoples on the Jordan River Basin. This situation requires urgent action on the part of the countries of the region, the international community and civil society generally. The human suffering and economic stress resulting from the evolving water crisis can be alleviated and even resolved in the framework of equitable reallocation of water resources, regional cooperation, peace promoting water projects and promising new technologies such as desalination and advanced water recycling and reuse for the benefit of all peoples of the area living side by side in peace.

The present situation as regards resolving the water issues through a much needed and much wanted long term peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians is far from encouraging. Many people feel frustrated and impotent as a result of recent events. At Antalya some 200 water scientists from 25 countries including about 120 Israelis and Palestinians joined by other leading water experts from the Middle East and the rest of the world shared with the editors the

belief and conviction that there is a sign of hope on the horizon, even if distant, and there is something that each one of us can and should do to further this hope in his or her own way.

Many chapters in this book contain frank and outspoken comments and critical statements on the conflicting positions of Israelis and the Palestinians on shared water issues. No papers were censored and the views in each case represent the personal views of the authors. They will stimulate discussion and at times heated responses. However, it is the view of the editors that all these conflicting views should be brought out frankly for open discussion so that both groups know what are the deep feelings, fears and concerns of the other.

The editors believe that this way will lead to understanding and resolution of conflicts. They trust that this will further the preparation for the peace process that is sure to come. They feel that this book and those who participated in the process of promoting peace through dialogue among scientists played an important role in the “second track diplomacy”. They believe that this has helped shape a community of those who are directly concerned with water issues and helped develop closer personal relations between them.

This book includes 44 texts selected from the 80 papers presented at the Conference as well as other invited papers. All chapters were all reviewed by an Academic Editorial Committee. The proceedings are divided into these parts: Part I: *Geopolitical Israeli-Palestinian Water Issues*; Part II: Trans-boundary Regional Issues: Jordan River and Dead Sea; Part III: Water Trade and Water Markets; Part IV: Water Imports In The Middle East; Part V: Water Co-operation and Conflict Resolution; Part VI: International Water Law; Part VII: Water Resource Management; Part VIII: Impact of Climate Change; Part IX Water and Wastewater Technology in the Middle East

The two coeditors from Jerusalem, a distinguished Israeli and a Palestinian professor, believe that this book with studies of leading Palestinian, Israeli and international water experts will provide valuable sources for water scientists, engineers, economists, lawyers, administrators, managers and policy makers as well as security and environmental experts interested in understanding, developing, managing and protecting the scarce shared water resources of the Middle East and for the promotion of “Water for Life” for the benefit of all the

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*UNU-EHS Fellow Hans Günter Brauch who produced and contributed to this book is available for interviews after the press conference and on the phone. For schedules, please contact him by Email.*

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## UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)

Supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Science and Research of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and MunichRe Foundation, UNU-EHS has an initial focus on flood plains and deltas, with emphasis on urban centres and explores threats to human security arising from natural and human-induced hazards. The Institute spearheads research, capacity building and policy-relevant advisory activities relating to the broad interdisciplinary field of 'risk and vulnerability'. In addition to natural calamities, the Institute focuses on 'creeping' environmental hazards – including climate change, land degradation, degradation of the social environment, population displacement, and changing resource availability and quality – which imperil communities in a more gradual but equally detrimental and multifaceted way. UNU-EHS has initiated or planned joint projects and activities with a host of national and multilateral organizations and has a Cooperation Centre at the Nizhny Novgorod State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering in Russia. A Cooperation Agreement between UNU and the University of Bonn provides a strong link to the local academic community. See: >[www.ehs.unu.edu](http://www.ehs.unu.edu)<

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Established by the U.N. General Assembly in 1973, [UNU](http://www.unu.edu) is an international community of scholars engaged in research, advanced training and the dissemination of knowledge related to pressing global problems. Activities focus mainly on peace and conflict resolution, sustainable development and the use of science and technology to advance human welfare. The University operates a worldwide network of research and post-graduate training centres, with headquarters in Tokyo. See:<[www.unu.edu](http://www.unu.edu)>.

## Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI)

IPCRI is a joint institution of Israelis and Palestinians dedicated to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of "two-states for two peoples" solution. IPCRI seeks to serve as an intellectual platform for Israelis and Palestinians (and others) to create and develop new concepts and ideas that enrich the political and public discourse in order to influence decision makers and to challenge the current political reality with the aim of advancing the political solution of two-states for two-peoples. IPCRI was launched in 1988 to promote dialogue at various levels between the Israeli and Palestinian civil societies. It was founded on the principle that it should be a joint partnership between Israeli and Palestinian intellectuals, academics, professionals, politicians, and others, reflecting a conviction that peace-making and peace-building must be a joint and bi-partisan efforts. See: <http://www.ipcri.org/>

## Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace

This peer reviewed book series includes monographs and edited volumes that cross scientific disciplines and develop common ground among scientists from the natural and social sciences, as well as from North and South, addressing common challenges and risks for humankind in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The 'hexagon' represents six key factors contributing to global environmental change – three *nature-induced* supply factors: *soil*, *water* and *air* (climate), and three *human-induced* demand factors: *population change*, *urban* (habitat, pollution) and *rural systems* (agriculture, food). The series covers the complex interactions among these six factors and their often extreme outcomes (hazards/disasters, internal displacement and migrations, crises and conflicts), and key social science concepts. This book series offers a platform for scientific communities dealing with global environmental and climate change, disaster reduction, human, environmental and gender security, peace and conflict research, for the humanitarian aid and the policy community in governments and international organizations. See: <<http://afes-press-books.de/html/hexagon.htm> >

## AFES-PRESS

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