

IORA RCSTT COORDINATION CENTRE ON WATER AND SANITATION RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

On the 1st November 2018, in the side line of the 20th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), Durban, South Africa, the IORA RCSTT signed an MOU with the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa to Coordinate the Water and Sanitation Research and Innovation amongst the IORA Member States.

The WRC operates in terms of the Water Research Act (Act 34 of 1971) and its mandate is to support water research and development as well as the building of a sustainable water research capacity in South Africa. The WRC serves as the country's water-centred knowledge 'hub' leading the creation, dissemination and application of water-centred knowledge, focusing on water resource management, water-linked ecosystems, water use and waste management and water utilisation in agriculture.

On the other hand, IORA brings together governments, businesses and academia representatives of the 21 Member States (MS) and 7 dialogue partners (DP) to promote mutually beneficial economic co-operation through a consensus-based and non-intrusive approach. In this respect, RCSTT, as the IORA Specialized Agency is aimed at facilitating joint projects, transfer of scientific information and technology and commercialization in mutual areas of interest with partner countries such as for the water sector with the WRC.

In response to the existing critical demand for innovation in various fields of water to rescue the victim countries from shortage, pollution and misuse of water in IORA region, RCSTT decided to cope with the crisis by linking to one of the potent IORA Member States with sufficient motivation and capacity for cooperation on this vital issue: Water!

The signing of this MoU between WRC and RCSTT will facilitate the strengthening of knowledge sharing amongst the IORA Member States, technology and innovation solutions sharing and transfer, development and implementation of joint research projects, skills transfer, and technical exchanges amongst other things. The cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to this MoU include the following:

- To exchange knowledge and scientific information in the field of water and sanitation;
- To facilitate and jointly fund research and innovation projects in the areas of water resources and ecosystems management, water utilisation in agriculture, and water and waste water management;
- To facilitate capacity building activities between SA and the IORA Member States (training, exchange programme and twinning);
- To share, co-create and transfer technology and innovation solutions;
- To demonstrate water and sanitation innovations through co-funding with interested member countries;
- To facilitate joint scientific publications
- To organise and fund joint workshops and seminars on research, innovation and policy;
- To arrange technical visits to the relevant facilities in South Africa and jointly organise visit to the other IORA host countries;
- To commission research and desktop studies as and when necessary to gather information on the water and sanitation research and innovation activities implemented by the IORA Member States;
- To coordinate other forms of cooperation as may be agreed with other participating Member States.