

**Summary of Report of Activities and Work Plan for 2021-2022**

**IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT)**

Presented to:

**1st (virtual) Meeting of**

**IORA Working Group on Science Technology & Innovation (WGSTI)**

Thursday 30 September 2021 from 10:00 – 14:00 (Mauritius time: GMT+4), Cisco Webex Platform

1. **Introduction**

The following programmes were proposed and endorsed at the 22nd Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), 15-16 December 2020 and the Eleventh Bi-Annual Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) 14-16 June 2021. The status is as follows:

1. **Completed Programmes**
2. **Close Cooperation with the Working Group on the Blue Economy**

Per to the 22nd Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), 15-16 December 2020, RCSTT was requested to work closely with the Working Group on the Blue Economy on its upcoming climate change-related activities. Accordingly, RCSTT started to work closely to align its action plan with the agenda of Working Group on the Blue Economy. In the Second Meeting of the WGBE held on 12 April 2021, the proposal of holding a series of webinars on the effects of climate change on marine environment of the Indian Ocean was submitted and noted. The first phase of the above series was completed as:

"The First Webinar on the Effects of Climate Changes on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment" 10 May 2021, Online (Completed)

1. **Cooperation with University of Sistan and Baluchestan: A Conference on Water and Innovation, I.R. Iran, 2021** (Completed)
2. **Collaboration with Water Research Commission (WRC)**
3. As it was indicated in the RCSTT Brief Report submitted to the Eleventh Bi-Annual Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) 14-16 June 2021, considering the termination date of the initial MOU between the RCSTT and WRC, the two parties have reached to an agreement to renew the existing MOU with slight modifications for 5 more years. The MOU was virtually signed by both parties recently. (Completed)
4. On the recommendation of participants in the Workshop on Salts and Chemicals Extraction from Saline Waters for IORA Countries, October 15-17, 2019 Tehran – I.R. Iran, a project was defined on “Dual Purpose Desalination” by RCSTT and later on, due to the close relationships between RCSTT and WRC, a join meeting was held between RCSTT’s scientific panel and WRC’s experts and both parties agreed to work on the project in the discussed and defined framework. (Under Process)

**II. Programmes under Process**

**The Second Webinar in the Workshop Series on "Effects of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment", the Workshop on "The Urgency of Climate Change and its Consideration as a Topic in IORA" 21 October, 2021**

**In cooperation with GIZ**

**III. Future Programmes: Under Consideration**

1. The Third Webinar in the Workshop Series on "the Effects of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment" focused on “Ecology of Marginal Seas” (tentatively) December 2021 (TBF)

2. A Comprehensive Study on Dual Purpose Desalination (simultaneous desalination and salt production) (TBF)

3. The Workshop on the Effects of Climate Change on the Marine Environment of the Indian Ocean (Pending due to Covid-19 Epidemic)

1. IORA Workshop on Desalination and Climate Resilience, A Nexus Approach for IORA
2. **Completed Programmes**
3. **The First Webinar on the Effects of Climate Changes on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment**

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| Name of Event/Activity | **The First Webinar on the Effects of Climate Changes on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment** |
| Status | **Achieved** |
| Objective | The aim of this workshop was to provide a general overview of the impacts of climate changes on the marine environment |
| Activity dates | *Planned dates:* May 10, 2021  *Actual dates:* 10 May, 2012 |
| Progress | The workshop was attended by about 150 participants and speakers from 15 IORA Member States including Australia, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Oman, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania, and, UAE and Yemen.  And four Dialogue Partners i.e. China, Egypt, Germany and Korea attended the webinar too.   * Status of Report: The related reports were prepared in due time and circulated among the participants and the other interested experts and scientists by RCSTT. * Further, the IORA Secretariat circulated the reports among all the Member States and Dialogue Partners.   Status of Accountability Report:   * There is no accountability report because the workshop funded by RCSTT and the Iranian Institute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science (INIOAS) as their service to their region. |
| Outcomes | **Some major points among others:**   * Following the suggestion of the 22nd Meeting of the IORA CSO in December 2020, RCSTT worked closely with the Working Group on the Blue Economy and presented the related report in the second meeting of WGBE. * The unprecedented participation of experts and scholars from the region indicates that this workshop is timely responding to the collective concerns that pervade our region about the very important issue of climate change as a cross cutting subject, affecting all six priorities of IORA, including science and technology. * That encourages the RCSTT to align its future plan with the issue of climate change |
| Next Step | **What is the way forward according to the Organizer?**  RCSTT reaffirms its commitment to work with the group of blue economy on the issue of climate change and its interplay with science and technology |
| Visibility | The high participation of 150 people shows that the webinar draws the attention of IORA region and beyond. The workshop outreached the countries like South Korea and Australia from east and south Africa from the west end of the region. |

1. **The 3rd international Congress on Water Desalination: Application of Advanced**

**Technologies in Unconventional Water treatment for Zones under Water Stress, 14-16 September 2021**

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| Project title: | **The 3rd international Congress on Water Desalination, I.R. Iran, 14-16 September 2021** (Virtual)  Organized by University of Sistan and Baluchestan  In cooperation with:  -IORA RCSTT  And  -Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) |
| IORA forum where discussed: | The Eleventh Bi-Annual Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) 14-16 June 2021 |
| **Status** | **Achieved** |
| **Objectives** | • Diagnosis and characterization of sources and causes of water stress  • Assessment of the effectiveness of water stress management measures and development of new tailored options  • Development of supporting methods and tools to evaluate different mitigation options and their potential interactions  • Development and dissemination of guidelines, protocols and policies  • Development of a participatory process to implement solutions tailored to environmental, cultural, economic and institutional settings  • Identification of barriers to policy mechanism implementation  • Continuous involvement of citizens and institutions within a social learning process that promotes new forms of water culture and nurtures long-term change and social adaptivity  • Supporting the policies makers in other fields such as environment, health, energy, regional development, etc.  • Promoting a better understanding of the role of science in modern societies and stimulate a public debate about research-related issues at regional level. |
| Activity dates: | **14-16 September 2021** |
| Progress | This webinar was very well received by the participants and about 170 participants from Iran and other member countries of the international authorities COMSATS, COMSTECH, APCTT and IORA-RCSTT participated in this event.  The participants from Iran, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, the Czech Republic, Spain, Jordan, China, India and Pakistan, as keynote speakers, presented recent developments on the subject of Congress. Participants from countries such as Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Morocco also attended the conference.  In addition to keynote speeches, scholarly articles (orally and in the form of posters) demonstrated the achievements of the research department. In addition to this congress, 16 companies and institutions also participated in the virtual exhibition.  The congress took place in two scientific sections in the form of research papers, and the technology section with the participation of active companies in this field. The technologists also presented their products in the virtual booths of the exhibition. |
| Outcomes | - Alternative approaches have to be found to meet water requirements for development activities.  -It is increasingly necessary to consider ‘unconventional’ water resources in future planning.  -Water reuse (or reclaimed water) is a reliable alternative to conventional water resources for a number of uses, provided that it is treated and/or used safely.  -Desalination can augment freshwater supplies, but it is generally energy intensive and thus may contribute to GHG emissions if the power source is non-renewable.  -Increasing water use efficiency and reducing unnecessary water consumption and water loss both translate into lower energy use and thus lower GHG emissions.  -Wetlands accommodate the largest carbon stocks among terrestrial ecosystems, storing twice as much carbon as forests.  .  .  .  Finally, “The key to climate change is a circular economy”. A circular economy seeks to increase the proportion of renewable or recyclable resources and reduce the consumption of raw materials and energy in the economy, while, at the same time, protecting the environment through cutting emissions and minimizing material losses. |
| Next Step | **What is the way forward according to the Organizer?** |
| 1. Visibility | The high participation of 170 people in the congress shows that the event could draw the attention of IORA region and beyond. The workshop outreached many countries like Iran, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, the Czech Republic, Spain, Jordan, China, India and Pakistan,Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Morocco**.** |

1. **Programme under Process**

**The Second Webinar in the Workshop Series on "Effects of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment"**

**The Workshop on "The Urgency of Climate Change and its Consideration as a Topic in IORA" 21 October, 2021**

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| Project title: | **The Workshop on "The Urgency of Climate Change and its Consideration as a Topic in IORA" 21 October, 2021** | | |
| IORA forum where discussed: | WGBE | | |
| IORA Member States with whom you are currently cooperating: | **Germany (GIZ), South Africa, Iran, Bangladesh** | | |
| IORA Member States with whom you would like to cooperate: | **All IORA MS and DP** | | |
| Expected starting date: | 8th November 2021 | | |
| Expected date for completion: | 8th November 2021 | | |
| Project summary:  Describe the project  in under 150 words.  Your summary should include the project topic, goals, planned activities,  timing and location:  ***(Summary must be no longer than the area/box provided. Cover sheet must not exceed one page)*** | Committed by the principle of responsible science, the IORA RCSTT welcomed the request of the 22nd Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), held on 15-16 December 2020 to work with the Working Group on the Blue Economy (WGBE) and started to align its annual program with the agenda of this working group. In the Second Meeting of the WGBE, held on 12 April 2021, the proposal of holding a series of webinars on the effects of climate change on the marine environment of the Indian Ocean was submitted and noted.  On the 10th of May 2021, the first phase of the above series was completed as “the Effects of Climate Changes on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment". It was an informational workshop, designed and conducted by the scientists to share their scientific knowledge about the climate change and marine environment.  Cognizant that dealing with such a complex issue does need more than data and information, the RCSTT sought the second workshop to contain the dialogue between policy makers and scientists from different sub-regions, developing an evidence-based policy framework. The RCSTT presented the preliminary idea to the GIZ and through several intense brain storming sessions, the present structure of the workshop was co-created. | | |
| Problem Solving: State the problems your project may encounter? i.e. why is the project required? | Climate change is happening at an alarming pace: temperatures are rising, drought and wildfires are starting to occur more frequently, rainfall patterns are shifting, glaciers and snow are melting and the global mean sea level is rising. Statistical interpretations by scholars show that climate change is likely to have a greater impact on the Indian Ocean region than in other areas because of its geography, population density, large low-lying areas, and many coastal cities. Impacts include sea-level rise, ocean acidification, changing meteorological patterns i.e. increase in severity and frequency of extreme weather events, leading to freshwater concerns and resulting in human migration.  In responding to these challenges, nations in the region have adopted varying strategies, depending on their geography, population density, capacity to respond, proximity to the sea, and respective levels of existing and predicated environmental degradation. While a good number of the world’s top twenty GHG emitters are located in the Indian Ocean region (Australia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Thailand), those who are the least responsible (developing countries and small islands in the region) are in particular the most vulnerable to climate change as they rely heavily on natural systems, and/ or are threatened by the rising ocean level. | | |
| Benefit: How will people benefit from this project? How will the project promote women’s economic empowerment? | That calls for building a collective and resolute determination for a regional policy response. IORA has, from the outset, prided itself on its political, cultural, and economic diversity and its clear sensitivity to regional justice, however, it does not appear to move towards the policy framework of the regional response to mitigate this spatial and intergenerational injustice. | | |
| 1. Visibility | Considering the critical significance of the subject, this virtual workshop will draw attention of the IORA MSs and DPs to itself. | | |
| Longevity: Will the project be continued, or will similar activities continue in the future beyond the project timeline? | This workshop will be continued with the next webinar in the Workshop Series on "the Effects of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment" focused on “Ecology of Marginal Seas” (the date and other details will be finalized in due time.) | | |
| Summary of Proposed Budget (USD): |  |  |  |
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1. **Future Programmes**

**1-The Third Webinar in the Workshop Series on "the Effects of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment" focused on “Ecology of Marginal Seas” (tentatively) December 2021 (TBF)**

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| Project title: | The Third Webinar on in the Workshop Series on "the Effects of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment" focused on “Ecology of Marginal Seas” December 2021 (TBF) | | |
| IORA forum where discussed: | WGBE | | |
| IORA Member States with whom you are currently cooperating: | Iran, South Africa, Germany | | |
| IORA Member States with whom you would like to cooperate: | All the interested countries and in cooperation with the following international organizations:  -Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO),  -The Regional Education and Research Centre on Oceanography for West Asia (RCOWA) under the auspices of UNESCO,  -IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO) for their outstanding work | | |
| Expected starting date: | December 2021 (TBF) | | |
| Expected date for completion: | December 2021 (TBF) | | |
| Project summary:  Describe the project  in under 150 words.  Your summary should include the project topic, goals, planned activities,  timing and location:  ***(Summary must be no longer than the area/box provided. Cover sheet must not exceed one page)*** | The workshop series entitled as "Effects of Climate Change on the Indian Ocean Marine Environment" will focus on the effects of climate change on the physical, chemical, biological and meteorological properties of the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. The workshops will aim to bring together scientists and policymakers with an interest in climate change and marine environments. Participants from IORA region will have the opportunity to discuss and formulate new issues and research areas focused on the followings:   * [Atmospheric](https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/sea-surface-temperature)-oceanic parameters * Extreme events * Dissolved gases * [Coastal flooding](https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/coastal-flooding). * [Ocean acidity](https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/ocean-acidity) * Marine ecosystem | | |
| Problem Solving: State the problems your project may encounter? i.e. why is the project required? |  | | |
| Benefit: How will people benefit from this project? How will the project promote women’s economic empowerment? |  | | |
| 1. Visibility |  | | |
| Longevity: Will the project be continued, or will similar activities continue in the future beyond the project timeline? |  | | |
| Summary of Proposed Budget (USD): |  |  |  |
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1. **A Comprehensive Study on Dual Purpose Desalination (simultaneous desalination and salt production)**

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| Project title: | **A Comprehensive Study on Dual Purpose Desalination (simultaneous desalination and salt production)**  (As follow-up of the Workshop on Salts and Chemicals Extraction from Saline Waters for IORA Countries, held on 15-17 October, 2019) | | |
| IORA forum where discussed: | To be discussed in the AG Meetings and its related Working Groups | | |
| IORA Member States with whom you are currently cooperating: | **Iran, South Africa** | | |
| IORA Member States with whom you would like to cooperate: | **Oman and Italy** | | |
| Expected starting date: | **TBF** | | |
| Expected date for completion: | **TBF** | | |
| Project summary:  Describe the project  in under 150 words.  Your summary should include the project topic, goals, planned activities,  timing and location:  ***(Summary must be no longer than the area/box provided. Cover sheet must not exceed one page)*** | **The Related IORA Priority Area**: Academic, Science and Technology Cooperation  **Topic:** In general, this proposal is organized to cover all technological, environmental, and social aspects of these integrated processes in a comprehensive feasibility study.  **Aims and Objectives:** Through facilitating the cooperation of the scientists and technologists of the IORA Member States, the following objectives will be obtained:   1. Providing information on the current technological status of the simultaneous water desalination and salt extraction from desalination brine in the IORA Member States. 2. Seeking the latest technologies on the process of dual-purpose desalination. 3. Identification of advanced technologists in the related area in IORA Member States for technology transfer. | | |
| Problem Solving: State the problems your project may encounter? i.e. why is the project required? | Several IORA Member States have faced shortage of freshwater under the impact of climate change. Therefore, water desalination from seawater/saline waters are on their water production agenda. Amongst, some Member States have to use desalination technology to obtain fresh water. The activities related to desalination are an important element of global sustainability and should be carried out with utmost care not to harm environmental balance. | | |
| Benefit: How will people benefit from this project? How will the project promote women’s economic empowerment? | By carrying this project, the Member States would be able to find sustainable technological processes for producing fresh water as well as the valuable salts from saline waters. Therefore, the environmental problems of brine discharge to the environment diminish**.** | | |
| Visibility | The Issue is highly regarded by the researchers from the perspective of environmental consideration. That will boost IORA’s visibility in the Academia and NGOs and the people who are interested in the environmentally sound technologies. | | |
| Longevity: Will the project be continued, or will similar activities continue in the future beyond the project timeline? | The project can be continued as workshops and/or expert meetings in the future. | | |
| Summary of Proposed Budget (USD): | IORA funding | Self-funding | Total |
| **USD 30000/-** | **USD 30000/-** | **USD 60000/-** |

**Note:** The proposal was submitted to the IORA Secretariat on 31 March 2020 and the Secretariat recommended RCSTT to discuss the matter with India as the Coordinating Country for the Academic Science and Technology priority in the IORA Action Plan. Thus, RCSTT submitted a formal letter to NFP India on 20 April 2020 and provided them with the draft proposal and other related products to seek their advice and assistance to move forward on the way. Further, later on, the subject was discussed in all the annual and bi-annual meetings of IORA including CSO, AG and WGSTI and etc. However, RCSTT has not received any feedback from India NFP in this connection. We need advice on the procedure for receiving related approvals through IORA AG and/or any other related functional body.

**3- The Workshop on the Effects of Climate Change on the Marine Environment of the Indian Ocean (Pending)**

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| Name of Event/Activity | **The Workshop on the Effects of Climate Change on the Marine Environment of the Indian Ocean** |
| Status | **Pending** The event has been postponed to a later date due to force major of Covid-19 Pandemic. |
| Objective | **Main Objectives:**   * To promote sharing information and knowledge on the effects of climate change and ocean acidification on various aspects of the marine environment and ecosystems; * To enhance capacities and skills of IORA Member States on the sustainable management and conservation of the marine biodiversity; * To increase awareness and resilience of IORA Member States on climate change driven disasters and damages; * To design an action plan to address the impacts of climate change on marine environment and ecosystems, as well as its implications on food security.   **Who is the target audience?**  Experts/scientists/researchers in the various fields of climatology and weather systems and related studies from IORA Member States |
| Activity dates | ***Planned dates:*** April 2020 |
| Progress | RCSTT reaffirms its commitment to hold the workshop as soon as the pandemic is over. |
| Expected Outcomes | **Expected Outcomes:**   * To establish a network of experts in the IORA countries for exchanging the knowledge and experience on the climate change in the Indian Ocean environment. * Influencing policy decisions related to the marine environment in the region and promoting the mainstreaming of climate change mitigations and adaptation measure across the various sectors in the Indian Ocean environment. * Sharing the action points to combat climate change and achieve sustainable development in the Indian Ocean margin.   **Is there a gender component? If yes, what is the expected outcome?**  Climate change affects negatively the livelihood of the vulnerable groups of population including women living out of small size fisheries, in the marginal areas. Every attempt to mitigate the challenge of climate change will improve the life of these groups |

**4-I****ORA Workshop: Desalination and Climate Resilience, a Nexus Approach for IORA**

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| Project title: | **IORA Workshop:**  **Desalination and Climate Resilience, A Nexus Approach for IORA** | | |
| IORA forum where discussed: | To be discussed in the AG Meetings and its related Working Groups | | |
| IORA Member States with whom you are currently cooperating: | **Iran and Germany** | | |
| IORA Member States with whom you would like to cooperate: | **Oman and Italy** | | |
| Expected starting date: | **TBA** | | |
| Expected date for completion: | **TBA** | | |
| Project summary:  Describe the project  in under 150 words.  Your summary should include the project topic, goals, planned activities,  timing and location:  ***(Summary must be no longer than the area/box provided. Cover sheet must not exceed one page)*** | **IORA Workshop:**  **Desalination and Climate Resilience, A Nexus Approach for IORA**  The overall objective of this event is to identify affordable and practical solutions for environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable green technologies for the desalination of sea water which are state-of-the-art, have already been successfully applied, or are applicable in the Indian Ocean Rim countries. The specific objectives of the workshop are defined as following:   * + - To facilitate knowledge transfer among experts from technical, social, economic, political and environmental fields working on different desalination and water treatment technologies by using renewable energy solutions.     - To create a platform for the exchange and collaboration between scientists, technologists, policy makers and stakeholders from various sectors to discuss the suitability of different green technologies in the fields of desalination and climate resilience, including with respect to their affordability and practicality.     - To build networks among different regional stakeholders directly and indirectly involved in green technologies for desalination.     - To identify potential collaborators and funding possibilities to develop a nexus desalination project benefitting the IORA region. | | |
| Problem Solving: State the problems your project may encounter? i.e. why is the project required? | One case study will be assessing the details of successful examples of desalination all around the world and especially in IORA-Region, by Member States and/or Dialogue Partners, for improving the efficiency and climate resilience towards water security. Re-known experts will be invited to reflect on the existing desalination technologies and an integrated innovative nexus model that increases the economic feasibility of desalination technologies at lower environmental cost compared to less sustainable alternative solutions that are still widely applied. | | |
| Benefit: How will people benefit from this project? How will the project promote women’s economic empowerment? | With this, the workshop will stimulate the creation of a couple of task-forces which will be tasked to develop technical reports for the Member States to be used as Policy Guidelines, Action Plan and Roadmap. | | |
| 1. Visibility | What are the steps to be taken to increase the visibility of the Association?  The event will be noted by the interested audience in the MS and DP and it will be covered by the specialized mass media, as it is about one of the hot issues of environmentally sound technologies for non-conventional water. | | |
| Longevity: Will the project be continued, or will similar activities continue in the future beyond the project timeline? | The project can be continued as workshops and/or expert meetings in the future  With this, the workshop will stimulate the creation of a couple of task-forces which will be tasked to develop technical reports for the Member States to be used as Policy Guidelines, Action Plan and Roadmap.  Some of these Taskforces can be:  1-Climate Change Taskforce (Adaptation and Mitigation)  2-Nexus and SDG Taskforce to work on the positive and negative interlinkages between and amongst resources sphere and socio-economic-political sphere and develop Nexus Innovation and Business Roadmap for the region  3-Roadmap and Action Plan Taskforce  Regional Policy Taskforce to work on the regional two-level Win-Sets | | |
| Summary of Proposed Budget (USD): | IORA funding | Self-funding | Total |
| **Not finalized** | **Not finalized** | **---** |

**Notes**:

* While we are working closely with WGBE to synergize our effort on every important topic of climate change, RCSTT’s efforts to get in touch with the Working Group on Science and Technology Innovation (WGSTI) has been inconclusive.
* Since inception, the IORA RCSTT tried to establish relationship with the institutes/organizations/ministries in charge of management of and policy making for Science and Technology in the IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners. Accordingly, with kind cooperation of IORA Secretariat, RCSTT could recognize the related contact points in different countries and make an effective network of S&T focal points. However, due to passage of time, the list of mentioned focal points has been obsolete and many of the contact details are out of work and it has become difficult for us to reach out to the this network properly. It is appreciated if the IORA Secretariat or the Working Group on Science and Technology Innovation (WGSTI) will help us to update the list of S&T for the benefit of all IORA MSs and DPs.

**سابقه فعالیت های مرکز در زمینه نمکزدایی که آخرین آنها کنگره سیستان و بلوچستان است:**

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| 1. **The 1st Regional Experts Meeting and Training Workshop on "Desalination of Brackish Sea Water and Wastewater Treatment"** jointly organized by Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST), Abbaspour University of Technology, IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (IORA RCSTT) in Tehran, I.R. Iran on June 19-21, 2012. |
| 1. **The “Second International Training Workshop, Conference and Exhibition on desalination, IORA Perspectives for Cooperation”**  held in Tehran, I.R. Iran during 20-22 October, 2014. This meeting was jointly organized by the IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT), the Iranian Research Organization for Science and Technology (IROST) and Regional Desalination and Environmental Center (RDEC) hosted by IROST.   Note 1: The meeting was attended by the participants, resource persons and private sector representatives from IORA region including Australia, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Oman, Sri Lanka and Yemen and a few participants from other countries such as Canada, Italy, Korea and Spain.  Note 2: The participants at this Workshop recommended continuing the workshops, conferences and/or expert meetings on Desalination annually and each time hosted by one IORA country and China proposed to host the next upcoming event. |
| 1. **International Expert Meeting / Workshop cum Exhibition on Desalination Technologies, IORA Members Perspectives for Cooperation May 5-9, 2015, Tianjin, China**   The meeting was attended by representatives from Bangladesh, China, Iran, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Thailand.  The programme was mainly focused on helping the participants in forming deeper understanding of seawater technology and laying the foundation of technical cooperation and transfer on seawater desalination among the member states through the region for the benefit of all the involved countries.  On the basis of the endorsement of IORA Council of Ministers for signing the MoU between the RCSTT and the Institution of Seawater Desalination and Multipurpose Utilization, SOA (Tianjin) (ISDMU) to establish the IORA RCSTT Coordination Center for Desalination Technologies, this Coordination Centre was inaugurated in the sideline of the above Workshop.  Note: At the end of the above Workshop, the participants expressed their support that a technical visit in countries with potential demands for desalination technologies should be annually arranged by IORA-RCSTT Coordination Center for Desalination Technologies to bring consultant service and solutions to relevant problems. It was proposed that the first such visit should take place to Sri Lanka to explore the possibility of installing the desalination unit for water purification for public use through support of Chinese government. However, in spite all the efforts done in this regard by RCSTT, IORA Secretariat and ISDMU, this proposal did not come to any result. |