



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Capacity Building Workshop on “Water Diplomacy for Shared Water Resources – Method and Case Role Play Simulation”

25-26 September 2022, Gulf Research Center, Riyadh, KSA

Introduction and Background

Around 70% of the Arab region’s water, such as rivers, aquifers, and seas, is shared across international borders. The lack of water resources and the competition over the shared use of transboundary water resources, including underground shared aquifers, could be a major source of conflict. To avoid conflict, these resources and their distribution must be managed carefully to ensure representation of the interests of both the countries and the stakeholders involved. However, there is no accepted international agreement on the law governing the non-navigational uses of those water resources. Therefore, building capacity in water diplomacy is essential to developing a deeper understanding of the issue.

This training workshop combines the science of water with negotiation instruction methodologies. Interactive lectures, problem-solving method instruction, and role-play simulations help participants learn the techniques and strategies incorporated in the ‘water diplomacy framework.’ The training material is adapted to the Arab region, with a local case study enacted by the participants during the workshop. The workshop is intended for water researchers and professionals in the GCC interested in learning how water diplomacy could be used in their respective professional contexts.

The Water Diplomacy workshop is designed for diplomats, academics, postgraduate students, professionals in the municipalities, water, agriculture, and environmental sectors, and NGOs interested in learning about water diplomacy.

Workshop Approach:

Day 1 of the workshop will introduce participants to the Water Diplomacy approach. On Day 2, participants will be introduced to a case study of shared water resources. The case study materials will contain various roles for the participants. The case study will then be played out in a negotiation simulation setting. Two groups will work on the same case study in parallel, allowing comparisons at the end of the workshop. Throughout the simulation and at the end of the exercise, participants will convene to give and receive feedback and share lessons learned.

The simulation is based on a seven-party, multi-issue negotiation game involving a dispute over inter-provincial water allocations. It explores issues of predictions and monitoring, water sharing, and environmental adequacy of water flows. The game highlights the benefits of a more collaborative, non-zero-sum approach to managing boundary waters.

Facilitation

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, who participated in a Training-of-Trainers workshop in Water Diplomacy at Harvard University, US, in June 2016, will deliver the training.

Language

The course presentations slides will be mainly English as all course materials are in English. Arabic is the language of lectures and presentation.

Registration

Please register your interest by completing the online registration form [here](#)

Costs

The registration fee for the workshop is SAR 5,650. The registration fee is nonrefundable.

Duration and Number of Participants

This is a 2-day workshop. The workshop can be organized for a group of 12-15 participants. The participants will be divided into working groups that will work in parallel on the same role-play simulation case. All participants will receive participation certificates from GRC.

Learning Outcomes

Topics/skills covered and improved through the workshop include:

- Water issues in the Arab World /GCC countries
- Water Diplomacy method and tool
- Managing the science, policy, and politics of water networks through negotiations
- Characterizing and managing water as a flexible resource
- Challenging the conventional water management paradigm
- Key principles of international water law
- Creating value in water negotiations
- Mediating water disputes

Tentative Workshop Agenda Topics:

- Introduction and Expectations
- Introduction to Water Resources in the Region
- Water Diplomacy Framework
- International Water Law and Water Diplomacy
- Managing Water as a Flexible Water Resource
- Challenging the Conventional Water Management Paradigm
- Presentation of the Case Study and Working Groups
- Feedback Workshop Summary, Reflections on Lessons Learned