

In the name of God

**Integrated River Basin Management – Towards Sustainable Land/Water
Development
Proceedings of the Workshop at the Human Resources Development Centre-
CAPIC, Mahmud Abad, Iran
11-13 June 2006**

Text of Official Opening

**Eng Abbas. Sadreddini
CLO Director**

- 1- Hon. Parliament Representative**
- 2- H.E. Mazandaran Governor**
- 3- Hon. Deputy Governor**
- 4- Deputy Minister, MOJA & MOE**
- 5- National & Local Director General**
- 6- Distinguish W.B. Mission**
- 7- Researchers & Scientists**
- 8- Dear National & International Firms & Consultants**

Ladies & Gentlemen

Alborz Integrated Land and Water Management Project (AILWM) aims at comprehensive and sustainable development of the catchment and watershed areas of Alborz Dam through focusing on the land, water, and agricultural activities within the project boundaries.

In this regard, and considering the modern criteria included in the design of the project, it was decided to implement the project jointly with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. Accordingly, we have had continuous meetings and negotiation with WB and, eventually, in July 2005, the project was finalized in a face to face meeting in Lebanon and its official inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of local and national authorities.

In appreciation of the work of the designers of the irrigation and drainage network of the project, it should be stated that, besides inclusion of up-to-date and global state-of-the-art criteria for technical aspects of different structures, they have also paid special attention

to the human community in the project. Indeed, although the budget share of the human component of the project is small compared with the construction works, the designers have put more emphasis on the issues related to human life and living environment. The reason is that humans, as builders and utilizers or beneficiaries of the structures, should fully observe the three general principles of **proper construction, proper operation, and proper maintenance**. This is the very secret and the key to sustainable development in the project area.

In order to ensure participation of the public and to honor the people's opinion, including the opinion of those government employees that are attempting to provide new sources of income or help increase optimum use of the available natural resources, as well as the private sector and the cooperatives that utilize the income sources, the project prescribes its special recommendation: Formation of the **Basin Soil and Water Committee**.

From the view point of the designers, the **Basin Soil and Water Committee** is a forum where all the stakeholders of the basin gather together and present their views, designs, and opinions. It is also a place where priorities of actions to be taken are determined by taking into account the benefits and needs of each individual beneficiary and optimizing the total requirements of the whole basin in the shortest time. In fact, one of the important objectives of the project designs is the establishment of a participatory, uniform, effective, and coordinated system to make full use of the technical capabilities of all the institutes, offices, companies, community based organizations, and, in short, all the beneficiaries and stakeholders of the basin and catchment of Alborz Dam.

The present consultative workshop will try to provide an open forum for the airing of all expert opinions and prepare the ground for the establishment of this effective institution. It has been our intention to invite all the experts who can contribute to this establishment in one way or another. We have even invited distinguished colleagues and experts from overseas so that they would help us in this venture with their valuable knowledge and experiences. We are honored to be your host and hope that we could be at your service in every respect so as to benefit from your advisory opinions and be able to successfully wrap up the workshop during the next 3 days. Thank you.