

‘وجعلنا من الماء كل شيء حي’

القرآن الكريم، سورة الأنبياء آية 30

“We made from water all living thing”

The Holy Quran, Al-Anbiya [The Prophets] verse 30

## PREFACE

“Thousands have lived without love, not one without water.”

W. H. Auden (1907-1973),

American Poet

In his speech on 22 March 2005, addressing World Water Day, the United Nations Secretary General described Water as “a source for life” confirming that the world needs to respond much better in making water not a source of conflict but instead a catalyst for cooperation. This speech comes while people in many countries around the world are facing serious problems ranging from a shortage of potable water to inadequate distribution, due to monopolies over water resources. This has adverse consequences on all aspects of life. Hence, unless used in equitable and efficient ways, water could become the most serious factor impeding the socio-economic development of countries and a dominant source of conflict between and within countries, as has been expressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights did not explicitly mention the right of people to basic water needs. However, this was certainly implied when assuring in Article 3 that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person” in that this logically entails access to water, as without water life is not possible. Access to water is certainly not only a human rights issue. It is considered as a scientific and technological challenge that “unites” scientists over the globe in transforming their talents into new technologies that can sustain water and make it available for humans as well as for natural eco-systems. Decision-makers should therefore facilitate and support the role of science, technology and innovation not only within each country but also among countries by strengthening scientific cooperation, especially for issues of cross-border effects.

The aim of the International Conference on “Water: Values and Rights” was to provide the scientists and water experts with a platform to share their expertise in the diverse water related fields. Peer reviewed papers presented essentially addressed the following themes: water resources management, wastewater management, water rights and international water law, and lastly, water: development, strategic planning and regional cooperation.

The Proceedings contains all full reviewed papers submitted to the Conference, and constitute, therefore, an invaluable source of information and reference for all those who are involved in water issues within the context of the four themes mentioned above. In addition, other papers of descriptive work that have been presented as posters are added in the proceedings and marked with “ This paper was shown in the poster session of the conference.”