

Decentralization of Authority Works

Newly formed Integrated Water Management Districts are energized by their new authority and are demonstrating strong leadership capabilities. The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) is supporting the transformation, and is definitely pleased by a variety of achievements demonstrated by these restructured district offices to date.



One recent example was the initiative taken by Eng. Essam Abdel Aziz Mohamed, IWMD manager from Berket El Sabaa, to organize an awareness raising conference in his district.



Recognizing the potential of cross-sector cooperation, the conference was held to highlight the importance of integrated water resources management in addressing the country's water needs, and to foster

partnerships with other local authorities for collaborative action. The conference was held at the Sports Club in Berket el Sabaa on Wednesday, Dec 7, 05 with support from the LIFE-IWRM Project.

After welcoming addresses by the IWMD manager, and the MWRI General Director, two videos were presented, one on the MWRI policy of integrating districts into IWMDs, and another on Branch Canal Water User Associations (BCWUAs), and their benefits for both water users and MWRI staff. Dr. Mohamed Abdel Khaled, head of the Water Quality Unit, and Eng. Maher, former head of the Irrigation Sector and now Regional Advisor for the LIFE-IWRM Project gave presentations focusing respectively on the responsibility of all in preventing water pollution and improving water use efficiency.



The 100 plus attendees included:

- 18 members of BCWUA Boards in the District;
- 1 member of Parliament, and 9 representatives from the local Council;
- 20 local dignitaries including Mayors;
- 28 representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Education, Health, Youth, and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency;
- as well as 20 engineers and managers from the MWRI.

District Managers acknowledge that the more other community leaders know about Integrated Water Management Districts and the establishment of BCWUAs, the greater the potential for support; and the greater the network of support, the greater the likelihood of achieving success, particularly in the areas of improved water quality and stakeholder participation.