

## **Regional Centre for Shared Aquifer Resources Management (RCSARM), Lybia**

During the initial stages following the ratification by the Libyan Government of the Agreement with UNESCO for the establishment of RCSARM, an appropriate office space was allocated to the Centre and was fully equipped and furnished. An operational annual budget was also secured and a minimum number of personnel were appointed to carry out urgent administrative and financial operations. The Board of Directors for the Centre has convened in Tripoli in 2011 and will soon be invited to a second meeting as soon as security conditions permit.

It should be noted that despite the difficulties encountered during the last five years, a program of activities for the period 2014 - 2016 covering the following topics that are previously approved by the Board are under consideration:

- 1- Seminar on the management of shared aquifers;
- 2- Workshop on coastal aquifers;
- 3- Governance of shared aquifers and promotion of economic and social development; 4-Capacity building.

A major obstacle facing the smooth implementation of the ambitious schemes of the Centre is the ongoing internal turmoil under sensitive economic conditions and lack of a stable and effective national government. This situation has had a negative impact on the ongoing programs and the working conditions in general in addition to the unavailability of appropriate funds. An overall improvement is however witnessed in recent months as a result of the UN interference and it is certainly hoped that security conditions will allow the resumption of technical and administrative activities in governmental institutions before the end of this year.

In 2015 we started to activate an agreement with Dr. Jakovs Ganoulis (Salonika University) to construct a database for the shared aquifer systems in Africa and the preparation of an ambitious training program in the field of water resources with IHE.

This year (2016) contacts with Dr. Ganoulis have been resumed in order to proceed with phase II of the database project. Similar approaches are underway to revitalize other projects including the IHE capacity building program.

Finally we highly appreciate your offer to assist in the transfer of knowledge for the development of expert skills in the field of water resources in our region and we look forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with UNESCO.