

FOREWORD

Developing countries of today are blessed with an abundance of natural resources, but the reason for their slow socio-economic growth is their inability to make an efficient and sustainable use of these resources. The most important element in this regard is that plans (both short-term and long-term) have not been backed by effective monitoring and concrete follow-up, a situation that has hindered the path of sustainable development.

Among various challenges currently being faced by these developing countries, the issue of water-resources and their effective management has of late emerged as one of the most critical ones, mainly due to the changes in regional and global climatic patterns. This issue has assumed even more significance due to the recent drought-like situation that has had a considerable impact on various sectors of countries in our region. Water Management involves every person on the planet---from the simple act of how water is used by individuals to the more direct involvement of everybody in how water is used in the industry. Therefore, we have to play a proactive role in our respective capacities and should strive to listen to expert opinion on this subject.

In view of the scarcity of water-resources and its attendant problems, the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable development in the South (COMSATS), with the advice of its member countries, held a two-day meeting titled ***“Water-Resources in the South: Present Scenario & Future Prospects”*** on the 1st and 2nd November, 2001. The meeting, which was attended by eminent experts, scientists, researchers and

engineers from member countries of COMSATS, focused on various burning issues related to water-resources, and thought-provoking discussions and presentations were made during the course of the meeting. The topics of the meeting ranged from the existing situation of water-resources in the developing countries to the issues and challenges that they will face in the years to come.

There were a total of five technical sessions, and these sessions had a thematic sequence of topics. The speakers came up with very useful recommendations, which encompassed areas of drought-preparedness and management, hydrological modelling, recycling through bio-filters, seawater pollution, and ground-water salinity. In addition, various strategies for efficient sustenance and management of water-resources were discussed during the meeting. These recommendations and concluding note may be found in the first section of this document.

In the end, I would like to express my gratitude to the member-countries of COMSATS, the diplomatic community, and distinguished speakers and participants of the meeting for their highly valuable support of this effort. I also owe a deep sense of appreciation to my team at COMSATS, whose untiring and dedicated efforts made this meeting a huge success.

In the end, I would like to appreciate the dedicated efforts of the team that worked tirelessly to come up with this compilation. In this regard, the names of Mr. Salman Malik, Mr. Irfan Hayee and Mr. Imran Chaudhry are worth mentioning.

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