

*Water Resources Management in the Asi (Orontes) River Basin:  
Issues and Opportunities*

*Co-Organized by*

**MEF University, Istanbul  
&  
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva**

*In Cooperation with*

**Global Program Water Initiatives  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**

**13-14 November 2014**

**Istanbul, Turkey**

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*Conference Venue*

**MEF University**  
Ayazağa Cad. No.4  
34396 Maslak, Sarıyer, İstanbul  
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*Accommodation*

**Crowne Plaza Harbiye**  
Dolapdere Cad. No: 163/1  
34375 Harbiye, Şişli, İstanbul  
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## Program

13 November 2014, Thursday

09.00 **Welcome Remarks** Prof. Dr. Muhammed Şahin, Rector, MEF University, Istanbul

### **Session 1**

**Chair:** Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Kibaroğlu, Dept. of Political Science and International Relations, MEF University, Istanbul

- "Blue Peace Water Security in the Middle East"  
Dr. Christophe Boesch, SDC
- "Orontes (Asi) River Basin: Assessment of Issues and Opportunities"  
Prof. Dr. Ronald Jaubert, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
- "Syria: The impact of the conflict on population displacement, water and agriculture in the Orontes River basin"  
Mr. Ahmed Haj Assad and Mr. Omar Shamaly (Geoexpertise - GIIDS)

10:15-10:30 Q&A

10.30 *Coffee Break*

11:00

### **Session 2**

**Chair:** Prof. Dr. Hasan Z. Sarıkaya, former Undersecretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Turkey

- "Water resources development and management in Turkey with specific reference to the Asi river basin"  
Dr. Bülent Selek, Head, Investigation, Planning and Allocations Department, State Hydraulic Works (DSİ), Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, Ankara
- "Objectives of the Asi river basin protection plan and the role of the Asi river basin management committee"  
Cengiz Han Kılıçaslan, Head, Basin Management, Monitoring and Allocations Unit, 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Directorate, DSİ, Adana

12:00-12:15 Q&A

12.15 *Lunch*

13.30

### **Session 3**

**Chair:** Prof. Dr. Necat Ağca, Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, Mustafa Kemal University, Hatay

- "Sustainable Land Use Planning of Lower Asi River"  
Asst. Prof. Aysel Güzelmansur, Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Mustafa Kemal University, Hatay
- "Land-use and Land-Cover Changes in Amik Plain,"  
Prof. Dr. Şeref Kılıç, Dept. of Environmental Engineering, Ardahan University, Ardahan

14:45-15:00 Q&A

15.00 *Coffee Break*

- 15:30 **Session 4**  
**Chair & Discussant:** Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ekmekçi, Hydrogeology Dept., Hacettepe University, Ankara
- “Assessment of pollution parameters in groundwater in Amik plain and Orontes (Asi) river,”  
Prof. Dr. Necat Ağca, Soil Science and Plant Nutrition, Mustafa Kemal University, Hatay
  - “Agricultural water management in the Orontes basin,”  
Assoc. Prof. Berkant Ödemiş, Dept. of Biosystem Engineering, Mustafa Kemal University, Hatay

16:30-16:45 Q&A

**14 November 2014, Friday**

- 09:00 **Session 5**
- Chair:** Prof. Dr. Meriç Albay, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, Istanbul University
- “Water quality issues in the Asi basin”  
Prof. Dr. Ayşe Bahar Yılmaz, Dean, Faculty of Marine Sciences and Technology, Mustafa Kemal University, Hatay
  - “Hydrographical features of Asi river basin,”  
Asst. Prof. Atilla Karataş, Dept. of Geography, Mustafa Kemal University, Hatay

10:15-10:30 Q&A

10:30 *Coffee break*

- 11:00 **Session 6**
- Chair:** Prof. Dr. Ayşegül Kibaroglu, Dept. of Political Science and International Relations, MEF University, Istanbul
- Discussant:** Asst. Prof. Vakur Sümer, Selçuk University, Konya
- “Climate change and disaster risk reduction in the river Asi”  
Prof. Dr. Sevilay Topçu and Assoc. Prof. Jeroen Warner, Çukurova University & Wageningen University
  - “Friendship/Dostluk Dam and benefit sharing approach”  
Dr. Waltina Scheumann, German Development Institute (DIE), Bonn

12:15-12:30 Q&A

12:30 *Lunch*

- 14:00 **Session 7**
- **Panel:** “Challenges and opportunities for integrated water resources management in the Asi basin”  
Ahmed Haj Assad, Omar Shamaly, Ronald Jaubert, Necat Ağca, Sevilay Topçu, Ayşegül Kibaroglu