

Royaume Du Maroc  
Ministère d  l  gu   aupr  s du Ministre  
de l'  nergie des Mines de l'Eau et de l'Environnement  
charg   de l'Eau



المملكة المغربية  
الوزارة المتتعبة لمرى وزير  
الصاقة و المعادن و الماء و البيئة  
المكلفة بالماء

***SYMPOSIUM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 84<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
LARGE DAMS***

***MINISTER DELEGATE IN CHARGE OF WATER'S SPEECH***

***JOHANNESBURG, MAY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016***

- ***Madam Minister of Water and Sanitation of the Republic of South Africa***
- ***Mr. Vice-Minister of Water Resources of the Republic of China***
- ***Mr. President of the International Commission on Large Dams***
- ***Ladies and gentlemen***

It is a real honour for me today to be taking part in the opening ceremony of the symposium organized in conjunction with of the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Commission on Large Dams.

I would like first of all, to give my heartfelt thanks to the International Commission on Large Dams for inviting me to this event as an important opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience in the field of dam engineering.

My sincere thanks also go to the South African authorities for their warm welcome.

I would also like to congratulate the organizers for the theme of this Symposium, namely "Appropriate Technology to Ensure Proper Development, Operation and Maintenance of Dams in Developing Countries."

## **Ladies and gentlemen**

As I am sure you are aware, the advantages and benefits of major hydraulic development projects with regard to water security in any country are well established.

Bearing in mind the importance of dams, Morocco has been engaged for more than five decades in control and water resource mobilization policy.

Today, the Kingdom of Morocco has 140 large dams with an overall storage capacity of more than 17.6 billion m<sup>3</sup>.

This important natural water resource has enabled us to secure the supply of drinking water to populations, develop irrigation to contribute to food security for the country and meet the need for water of productive sectors. This infrastructure also made possible the development of hydroelectric

power and the protection of several cities and plains of farmlands from floods in addition to mitigation of the negative effects of drought.

Morocco has therefore managed to build a country-specific efficient model for mobilization and water management and developed the know-how used as an example regionally and even internationally, especially in regard to engineering design, operation and maintenance of dams, in terms of construction companies to execute and complete of these projects.

As part of South-South cooperation, our country initiated partnerships with African friends to share this expertise and know-how. We are ready to extend it as far as possible in the African continent.

## **Ladies and gentlemen**

Today, and to consolidate the progress made and address the challenge of the continual increase in demand for water among user sectors, this choice to implement a dam policy as ambitious, is still continued. In fact, 14 large dams are under construction and forty dams will be completed by 2030. Therefore, the overall storage capacity will be 25 billion m<sup>3</sup>.

To promote these dams, Morocco has developed the production of hydroelectric power since the completion of the first projects. Today, hydroelectric power stations represent 25% of the national installed capacity and contribute to about 10% of domestic production from all sources.

In the future and with the sectors of water and energy policy strategies, the development of this clean and renewable energy will be significantly easier.

The energy strategy aims to increase to 42% the contribution of renewable energies in the electricity production of the Kingdom in 2020 and to 52% in 2030 with one third as hydro-electric power.

To promote the development of hydroelectric power, very favourable regulations were put in place, encouraging private sector investment under public-private partnership.

I would also like to inform you that the Moroccan Government will support Conférence AFRICA 2017, which will bring together the world community in the field of Hydropower. The conference will take place in Marrakech from 14 to 16 March 2017.

## **Ladies and gentlemen**

We cannot address today the issue of water management, and water in general, without mentioning the issue of climate change.

In this context, it is important to mention that large dams, for their major role in regulating inter-seasonal and inter-annual water flows, are increasingly recognized as a measure of excellence in resilience and adaptation to climate change, particularly in regions characterized by a semi-arid climate and irregular rainfall in time and space.

Being fully aware of this, the Kingdom of Morocco has always actively participated alongside the international community in the adoption and promotion of various mitigation actions and resilience to climate change.

In this context, Morocco, and especially the city Marrakech will host in November COP22 meetings. This gives a real opportunity for Morocco to present and promote their efforts and commitments for mitigation and adaptation to climate change and management of extreme climate phenomena.

In preparation for this great event, I am pleased to inform you that the Minister Delegate in Charge of Water will hold on 11 and 12 July 2016 in Rabat, an international conference on water and climate in partnership with the French Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea and the World Water Council.

The conference, which has a particular interest in the issue of water in Africa, will be an opportunity to take a stand for water to the COP22, as a solution to climate change and not only an affected area.

I take this opportunity to invite you to participate actively both in the International Conference on Water and Climate and to the COP22, which will also be a platform to share the Moroccan experience and knowledge, particularly with the African brothers and friends.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, I conclude by wishing success to this symposium and hope that the outcomes and recommendations will contribute to the development of dam engineering in a sustainable way.

Sincere friendship and see you soon in Rabat in July and in Marrakech in November.