

## **Preface of the Editors**

Due to scarce water resources and the resulting acute lack of water, which exists already today, the problem of fresh water is an explosive issue in the Middle East. Besides approaches at the level of politics, also science can be a driving force in the search for strategies to ease the problem. A more efficient use of existing resources, more effective protection measures for water quality monitoring, and improvement of water management with the objective of fair distribution are requirements for a solution of the water shortage in the Middle East. Another requirement is the use of the latest environmental technologies for treatment and reuse of waste water.

„Water of the Middle East and North Africa: Resources, Protection, and Management“ was the topic of the first environmental symposium of the German-Arabic Society for Environmental Studies (DaG-Umweltstudien), which took place in cooperation with the Center for Environmental Research (Zentrum für Umweltforschung, ZUF) on November 25 and 26, 2002 at Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main. More than 120 scientists from different fields of study from universities and research institutes and representatives from different development organizations, the economy, and politics from the Arab countries and Germany participated in this international symposium. The main topics were presented in 25 talks and 15 posters. At the conclusion of the conference, many participants expressed the desire to present the different aspects of the discussed problem in a book.

This book presents a comprehensive overview of the current subject “Water of the Middle East and North Africa”. The water problem is described and discussed in four main chapters and different case studies. The four main chapters are “Water resources“, “Water protection“, “Water management“, and “Water as source of conflict“. 39 scientists from Algeria, Egypt, Germany, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, UK, and West Africa have contributed to this book. Their interdisciplinary articles comprise the most recent research results on the present water situation in the Middle East and North Africa and their importance for a peaceful coexistence of the population. With this topic, the book addresses experts as well as the interested public.

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Resources, Protection and Management

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