

IORA RCSTT signed an MOU with the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa to Coordinate the Water and Sanitation Research and Innovation amongst the IORA Member States,

1 November 2018 in Durban, South Africa

On the 1st of November 2018 during the IORA Senior Officials' Meeting, the IORA RCSTT signed an MOU with the Water Research Commission (WRC) of South Africa to Coordinate the Water and Sanitation Research and Innovation amongst the IORA Member States.

The WRC operates in terms of the Water Research Act (Act 34 of 1971) and its mandate is to support water research and development as well as the building of a sustainable water research capacity in South Africa. The WRC serves as the country's water-centred knowledge 'hub' leading the creation, dissemination and application of water-centred knowledge, focusing on water resource management, water-linked ecosystems, water use and waste management and water utilisation in agriculture.

On the other hand, IORA brings together governments, businesses and academia representatives of the 21 Member States (MS) and 7 dialogue partners (DP) to promote mutually beneficial economic co-operation through a consensus-based and non-intrusive approach. In this respect, RCSTT is aimed at facilitating joint projects, transfer of scientific information and technology and commercialization in mutual areas of interest with partner countries such as for the water sector with the WRC.

In response to the existing critical demand for innovation in various fields of water to rescue the victim countries from shortage, pollution and misuse of water in IOR region, the IORA RCSTT decided to cope with the crisis by linking to one of the potent IORA Member States with sufficient motivation and capacity for cooperation on this vital issue: Water!

Following a relatively long negotiation, the WRC and RCSTT drafted an MOU which was circulated among all the Member States for their consideration. Receiving no objections and contradictory comments, the two sides decided to sign the MOU in the sideline of the 20th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO), Durban, South Africa, 1 November 2018. Finally, the MoU was signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the WRC, Mr. Dhesigen Naidoo and the Director of IORA RCSTT, Dr. Tahereh Miremadi.

The signing of this MoU between WRC and RCSTT will facilitate the strengthening of knowledge sharing amongst the IORA member states, technology and innovation solutions sharing and transfer, development and implementation of joint research projects, skills transfer, and technical exchanges amongst other things.

The IORA RCSTT has already signed two other MOUs for the establishment of Coordination Centres in China and India respectively as follows:

- 1- IORA RCSTT Coordination Centre on Desalination Technology hosted by the Institute of Seawater Desalination and Multipurpose Utilization (ISDMU), SOA, (Tianjin) in the margin of the 14th COM Meeting in October 9, 2014, in Perth Australia.
- 2- IORA RCSTT Coordination Centre on the Medicinal Plants hosted by the Central Institute for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow in February 25, 2018, Tehran, I.R. Iran.



The event was followed by a 3-hour workshop on the elaboration of the next year WRC work plan for the newly founded Coordination Center. In this workshop, the CEO of WRC and Director of IORA RCSTT presented their views for the audience who were from WRC, Durban University and Durban Mayor Office.