



## PRESS RELEASE

Launching of a two-year EU funded Technical Assistance Project to the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW) for Technical Studies and Strategy Development.

Cairo- June 4th, 2015: The European Union offered a 2.4 million Euros fund for the Water Sector Reform Programme – Phase II (WSRP-Phase II). This TA project commenced on 29th of January 2015 and will significantly contribute to all three specific objectives of the WSRP-Phase II,: a more robust and coherent institutional framework with clearly defined water supply and sanitation policy and strategy, and with better performing water supply and sanitation service providers; better use of existing water resources by improving operational efficiencies of the affiliated companies, reducing water losses and reusing treated wastewater as well as protect public health and the environment.

Ambassador James Moran, Head of European Union Delegation to Egypt said that “the EU has a sustained commitment to work with Egypt to ensure proper and adequate service. We have been here for many years, working hand in hand with the government to support this vital sector and we will continue to provide our support in improving the quality of life and the socio economic development of the country”. “I firmly believe that Water is the key to sustainable development. We need water for health, food security and economic progress. Yet, each year brings new pressures. One out of three people already live in a country with moderate to high water stress. It is anticipated that by 2030 nearly half the global population could be facing water scarcity, with demand outstripping supply by 40 percent. In Egypt 50 percent of the population, 40 million Egyptians, have no access to sanitation,” he added.

The TA project aims to achieve specific objectives such as:

- Providing HCWW with a Strategic plan for Technical Losses Reduction, through technical losses diagnosis methodology and pilot implementation on a selected number of ACs.
- Improving the management of Reverse Osmosis Plants Brine Disposal through building capacities inside the HCWW Planning Department to enable them to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment Studies (EIAs) on brine disposal; and promote the adoption of suitable regulation on this matter.
- Updating the National Rural Sanitation Strategy based on in-depth analysis and diagnosis of current situation, and a strategic planning methodology for implementation of Governorate-level rural sanitation programs.

The TA project is structured around three discreet components to accomplish the set objectives:

- Component 1: Technical Losses Reduction Strategy and Master Plan
- Component 2: Improvement of management of Reverse Osmosis plants brine disposal
- Component 3: Updating of the Existing National Rural Sanitation Strategy

The workshop to launch the programme is held at the Conrad Cairo Hotel on Thursday 4th of June 2015 from 09.30 to 14.30 and attended by the HCWW Chairman and Vice Chairmen, HCWW staff, and Affiliated Companies, as well as the donor community including the European Union.