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PRESS RELEASE

EU-funded Technical Assistance Project to the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater for Technical Studies and Strategy Development holds its annual conference

Cairo August 16th, 2016: Within the framework of the cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Egypt, the annual conference of the **EU-funded Technical Assistance Project to the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW)** was held today. The event aimed at updating different stakeholders on the project's progress and key milestones. The **EU has allocated 2.4 million Euros grant** for this project.

Ambassador James Moran, Head of the European Union Delegation to Egypt said that "the EU has a steadfast commitment to work with Egypt in this vital area". He added that "water is a key to sustainable development. Indeed it is life itself. Yet, population growth, poverty and climate change bring new pressures every year. One in three people already lives in a country with moderate to high water stress, and by 2030 nearly half the world's people could be facing water scarcity. Egypt faces major challenges: to name but one, over 40 million have no access to sanitation. Best practice and the application of new technology are essential for a better planning for the future and I am confident these talks will make a major contribution to that". The 24-months project is implemented by a consortium of European and Egyptian consulting firms including Atkins, Chemonics Egypt, COWI, HCL Consultants and provides technical assistance to HCWW and 23 Affiliate Companies (AC)s through:

- **Component 1:** Providing HCWW with a strategy and a master plan for Technical Losses reduction, through technical losses diagnosis on Affiliate Companies and Pilot implementation on a selected number of ACs.
- **Component 2:** 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 regulations on this matter.
- **Component 3:** Updating the Rural Sanitation Strategy and to provide HCWW with a diagnosis of the current situation and strategy implementation on pre-selected pilot clusters.
- **Horizontal Component:** Assist HCWW in organizing and implementation Public Awareness activities related to program implementation.

Following the success of the Water Sector Reform Programme (WSRP-Phase I), both the Government of Egypt and the EU have agreed to allocate an additional grant of € 120 million as for phase two of Egypt's WSRP to take place between 2011-2015. This technical assistance project which commenced on the 29th of January 2015 contributes 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



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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.

The conference started by welcome speeches from both Dr. Mamdouh Raslan, HCCW Chairman and Dr. Ayman Ayad, EU Programme Manager for Water and Utilities. An introduction about the project objectives and highlights of its main output today was then made by Dr. Ahmed Moawad, HCWW Vice Chairman and Project Coordinator. This was followed by presentations from project's experts highlighting key milestones, achievements as well as presenting the outline for the main output including the three technical component of the project.

The annual conference of the **EU Funded Technical Assistance Project to the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW)** was attended by the senior and middle management of HCWW, and its Affiliated Companies, representatives of the Ministry of Housing Utilities and Urban Communities and Ministry of Planning, Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, the donor community including the EU as well as media professionals representing different publications and TV channels.

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