Cairo, The European Union (EU) and the Holding Company for Water & Wastewater (HCWW) held the Final Conference of the Technical Assistance Programme for “Establishing Leadership Development Programmes (LDPs) for the HCWW & Developing its Financial Strategy” on Wednesday 18 January. The LPD is a two-million-Euros project funded by the European Union as a grant under the second phase of Water Sector Reform Programme (WSRP-Phase II).
Commenced on 19 January 2015, as the first integrated Leadership Development Programme, this two-years-programme aimed at building capacity of the HCWW and the Affiliated Companies (ACs) in order to develop the next generation of utility managers. The programme has remarkably strengthened institutional capacity by developing Operation, Maintenance and Project Management skills; thus supporting HCWW plans to identify and promote future leaders. The programme has also developed a financial model and financial sustainability roadmaps to enable decision-makers at HCWW and the ACs to determine the best possible options for achieving financial stability.

"Water is essential to sustainable development and needed for our health, food security and economic progress. Yet in Egypt rapid population growth, poverty and climate change add to the pressure on the limited water resources every year", said Mr. Reinhold Brender, Charge d' Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation to Egypt. The EU had a long lasting commitment to work with Egypt in this vital sector. "We continue to provide significant funding for improving the quality of life and supporting the socio economic development of the country," Brender added. Through the Leadership Development Programme, the EU was helping to address these challenges by supporting the establishment of the first integrated Capacity Development Programme. This programme was building capacities in the water sector in Operation, Maintenance and Project Management skills. It would also build a sound and robust financial model for achieving financial stability in this domain.

The conference was attended by the EU Head of Cooperation, the HCWW Chairman and Vice Chairmen, HCWW staff, and nine Water & Wastewater Companies, as well as the donor community including the European Union.

The programme has three Components:

**Component 1: Leadership Development in O&M of WWTPs (5 ACs, 5 technologies, 83 participants)**

- Qalyubia (Qaha WWTP) Extended Aeration
- Beni Suaf (Abu Shahba WWTP) RBC
- Sohag (Kolaa WWTP) Activated Sludge
- Canal Governorates – Ismailia (Sarabium WWTP) Aerated Lagoons
- Sharkia (El Qurein WWTP) trickling Filters

**Component 2: Leadership Development in Project Management for Infrastructure Investments (4 ACs, 5 knowledge areas, 62 participants)**

- Sohag, Sharkia, Damietta, Dakahlia
- 5 Knowledge areas: management of procurement, cost, time, quality, claims
- Development and implementation of a web based PPMS

**Component 3: Financial Sustainability Reform (3 ACs, 12 participants)**

- Development of financial model and roadmaps for Aswan, Fayoum, Sharkia
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