



## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP *on* CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

**Current consumption of natural resources in Arab countries is more than double what regional ecosystems can support.** This alarming fact comes from the Arab Forum for Environment and Development's latest report, "Survival Options—Ecological Footprint of Arab Countries." Read the full report [here](#).

Also in this month's newsletter, learn about upcoming RPCD events and webinars, a new White House plan to make public all government research, and the latest research products in the MENA region. Don't forget to send us your updates for inclusion in the next newsletter!



On February 22, 2013 the White House issued a directive that requires federal agencies with annual research expenditures over \$100 million to start making their research available to the public. As a result, everyone will be able to read, download and analyze in digital form published or peer-reviewed documents within 12 months of publication. Agencies are also encouraged to share source data and to strengthen mechanisms for easy public access to research. To read more about this directive, click [here](#).

### Research Highlights



#### [The Arab Water Report 2013 - Towards Water Security in the Arab Region: Issues of Good Governance and Cost Effectiveness](#)

The Arab Water Report 2013 will examine the major obstacles to sound water governance and management in the region with a special focus on assessing the 'real value' of water. It aims to show that

governments in the Arab region need to consider not only the direct costs of water extraction and delivery but also the social and environmental costs associated with its misuse. Key recommendations will be summarized in light of the growing need to reform of water governance and management at the economic, social and political levels across the region. The Arab Water Report 2013 will be published in this spring by the UNDP's Regional Bureau of Arab States. [Click here for more publications on Natural Resource Management](#)



#### [New Technologies, New Identities and the Growth of Mass Opposition in the 'Arab Spring'](#)

This study examines the factors that led to the Arab uprisings, with a focus on the rise of new identities and technologies to spur mass opposition. The authors argue that while the usage

of media, such as Youtube, did not lead to the actual uprisings, it did mobilize mass support within weeks. Videos of protesters in the streets received wider audience and enabled public support of the cause, reshaping the national identity of the people. Author Thomas McGarty claims that "had opposition remained in the domain of social media, the regimes would still be in place." This paper will be published in the upcoming volume of the peer-reviewed journal, *Political Psychology*. The authors are affiliated with the University of Bath and Monash University. [Click here for more publications on Youth Engagement and Development](#)



#### [Political Succession in the Arab World: Constitutions, Family Loyalties and Islam](#)

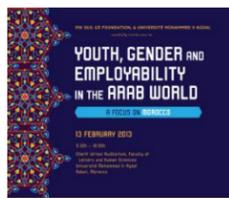
The book discusses the issue of political succession in the Arab World, arguing that tribal codes and other cultural aspects within Arab countries play an even more important role in sustaining regimes than do political repression and powerful security institutions. The book studies the ways family loyalties tend to affect the political, economic and social life in the Arab region, and how rulers pass power to

their family members. The text comes to the conclusion that Arabs generally prefer stability and hence will favor a family-based regime over the possibility of having an Islamist group in power, even if their rule resulted in political change. The book is authored by Anthony Billingsley, a lecturer at the University of New South Wales in Australia, and will be published by Routledge in June 2013. [Click here for more publications on Democracy and Governance](#)

### Recent RPCD and Research News

#### PF Members listed in 2012 Global Go-To Think Tanks Rankings

An important source for public policy research institutes in the world, the [2012 Global Go To Think Tanks Rankings](#) has listed four PF Members in its top 45 think tanks in the MENA region: the Center for Strategic Studies (#10) and the Arab Thought Forum (#14) in Jordan, the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (#12) in Egypt and the Centre d'études et de Recherche dans les Sciences Sociales (#16) in Morocco. Congratulations to these organizations!



#### [Symposium on Youth Gender and Employability in the Arab World](#)

FHI 360, in collaboration with the Université Mohammed V-Agdal in Rabat, Morocco and with support from the GE Foundation, organized a symposium entitled "Youth, Gender and Employability in the Arab World: A Focus on Morocco." The Symposium was held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and gathered participants from academia, civil society, government and the international community. You can watch the symposium video [here](#).



المجلس العربي للمياه  
Arab Water Council

#### [Arab Water Council's General Assembly](#)

The Arab Water Council's 3rd General Assembly took place in Cairo from February 26-28, 2013. USAID's Office of Middle East Programs, with support from RPCD, took part by organizing the session on "Climate Change in the MENA Region." The panel, which included several members from the RPCD Partnership Forum - Dr. Walid Saleh, head of the MENA Regional Programme at the United Nations University's Institute for Water, Environment, & Health (UNU-INWEH) | Dr. Abdelrahman Tamimi, Director, Palestinian Hydrology Group, and Dr. Hussein El Atfy, Secretary General, Arab Water Council. The group discussed the need for closer ties between climate and water scientists, and regional decision makers in order to build adaptive capacity in the water sector. There was a call for better coordination among stakeholders as well as more integrated thinking in the assessment and response to climate change.

### Upcoming Events

#### **Access to Information Webinar**

The Arab Water Council will host its General Assembly meeting on February 26-28, 2013 in Cairo, Egypt. RPCD will bring three experts from the region to present cutting edge research on water and climate change adaptation in the MENA region. PF members from Egypt are invited to attend.

#### **Development Assistance Roadmap Publication in Egypt**

AI-ROWAD and the PF member Beit Al-Karma Consulting are organizing a Seminar to promote membership of grants-making organizations in the first edition of the Development Assistance Roadmap Publication in Egypt (DAPRE), which will serve as a platform that brings together grant-providing and grant-seeking organizations. The event was rescheduled from February 26<sup>th</sup> to the end of March. Exact date will be shared when announced by organizers.



### **Climate Change Adaptation Conference Outcomes**

Our last newsletter mentioned the RPCD workshop “Climate Change Adaptation: The Pivotal Role of Water in the MENA Region”, a huge success thanks to the insights and participation of 34 leading water experts from across the region. One of the workshop’s main outcomes is three exciting Collaborative Research ideas which RPCD intends to fund with grants. The selected research topics, all addressing the topical issue of climate change adaptation and water management, are: “Community

Based Water Resource Management for Water Cooperation across a River Basin;” “Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Cropping Pattern in the MENA Region;” “Rehabilitating Water Distribution Systems as an Adaptation to Climate Change.” Each proposes research as a collaborative inter-regional effort among institutions in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Yemen.

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