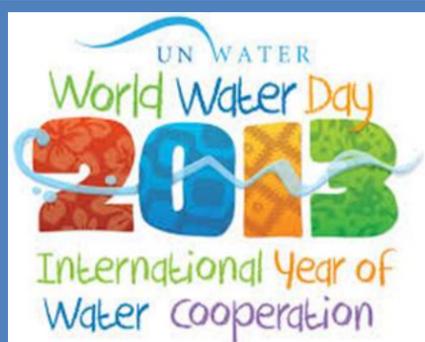




## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP *on* CULTURE & DEVELOPMENT

**86% of Palestinians would like immediate legislative and presidential elections for a unified West Bank and Gaza Strip.** Read more results from the opinion survey conducted by PF member, the Arab World Research and Development Center (AWRAD), below.

Also in this month's newsletter, learn about upcoming RPCD events and webinars, and the latest research products in the MENA region. Don't forget to send us your updates for inclusion in the next newsletter!



### World Water Day 2013

March 22 marked the United Nation's World Water Day, which was this year dedicated to the theme of water cooperation. The day was commemorated by civil society and environmental groups across the MENA region. In addition, the UNESCWA Committee on Water Resources held its 10<sup>th</sup> Session in Beirut, Lebanon, adopting 24 recommendations for member countries in support of "Regional Cooperation in the Field of Water Resources." For more on the outcomes of the meeting click [here](#).

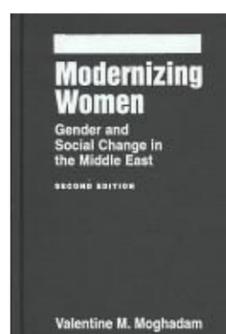
## Research Highlights



### [Renewable Energies in the Middle East and North Africa: Policies to Support Private Investment](#)

Coming out this month is the OECD study "Renewable Energies in the Middle East and North Africa: Policies to Support Private

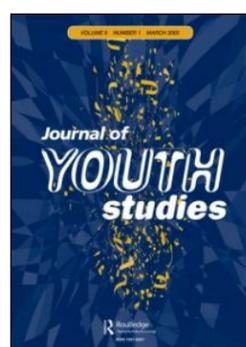
Investment." The expansive report examines the potential for renewable energy in the MENA region and evaluates the current policy environment. Based on examples and best practices from OECD countries, the report suggests regulatory tools are needed to increase private investment flows. It argues that policies supporting the life cycle of renewable energy projects (such as feed-in tariffs) are more effective than subsidies or cost reductions at the initial investment stages. [Click here for more publications on Natural Resource Management](#)



### [Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East](#)

First published in May 1993, this book's third edition will be released in July 2013. *Modernizing Women* examines gender dynamics within political and social processes in the Middle East. The latest edition is updated to reflect the changes that took place over the last decade. This includes a greater emphasis on the impact of globalization and democratization on gender issues, particularly in the light of the Arab Spring. The book is authored

by Valentine M. Moghadam, Director of the International Affairs Program at Northeastern University, and will be published by Lynne Rienner Publishers. [Click here for more publications on Democracy and Governance](#)



### [New agendas for Youth Research and Youth Studies](#)

This upcoming conference organized by the Journal of Youth Studies will take place from April 8-10 at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. A major aim for the conference will be to set a future agenda for youth studies. The outcomes will offer important insights for youth researchers worldwide as well as in the MENA region, promoting a better understanding of young people's experiences. The three main

conference themes will be a) reflection on past experiences of youth research and future opportunities b) the impact of research on social theory, policy and public understanding and c) major youth trends to guide future research needs. [Click here for more publications on Youth Engagement and Development](#)

## Recent RPCD and Research News

### [New Opinion Poll by AWRAD Measures Palestinian Perceptions](#)

RPCD PF member, Arab World Research and Development Center (AWRAD) has published the results of its most recent opinion poll about the perceptions of the Palestinians towards a number of issues, such as the UN Palestine vote, the confrontations in Gaza and the elections. Read the full results [here](#).



### [Water Footprint Assessment Training in Amman](#)

Professor Arjen Y. Hoekstra from the University of Twente, the Netherlands, led an RPCD training on the water footprint assessment technique in Amman, Jordan last month. The training taught Jordanian water professionals to measure and assess water footprint at the local and national scales and was organized in collaboration with the Water & Environment Research & Study Center (WERSC) at the University of Jordan.

The workshop topic was well received by participants, and post-tests showed a noticeable improvement in participants' knowledge of the training topics.

### [Research Methods Workshop in Beirut](#)

The RPCD workshop, "Methods for Gathering Data from Official Sources: Access and Applications" took place on March 17-18, 2013 at American University for Science and Technology in Beirut. The event was attended by Partnership Forum members in Lebanon, civil society and government representatives, and is part of an ongoing effort to build the capacity of local research institutions. The workshop discussed the state of a proposed freedom of information law in Lebanon and what can be done to pass it.

### [Arab Council for the Social Sciences - Regional Conference](#)

Last month, the Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS) hosted its first regional conference titled "Arab Transformations: Interrogating the Social Sciences" in Beirut, Lebanon. The conference brought together

## Upcoming Events

### **Varieties of Democracy**

The American Political Science Association (APSA) and the American University in Cairo will be organizing a two-week workshop titled "Varieties of Democracy", from September 8-21, 2013 in Cairo, Egypt. Applications are open for early-to-mid career faculty from across the MENA region.

Participation costs will be covered by the organizers. The workshop will be conducted in English. This is the first in a new series of annual APSA workshops to take place in the MENA region.

For more info and the application, click [here](#).

Deadline for applying is Friday May 3, 2013.

### **The 4th Annual Solar Maghreb Congress and 2nd Annual Wind Maghreb Congress**

will be taking place from 21-22 May 2013 in Rabat, Morocco. The parallel events are North Africa's leading solar and wind power conferences. Click [here](#) to register.

### **The Partnership Forum**

**Sustainability Meeting**, organized by RPCD, will be held from May 28-30, 2013 in Amman, Jordan. Forum members will be able to elect the organization that will house the network after the RPCD project ends date in early 2014. If you would like to present a research technique or finding at the event. Please submit an abstract of your proposed topic to [melattar@fhi360.org](mailto:melattar@fhi360.org). More information to come!

### **Research into Action: Upcoming Series of National Workshops by RPCD.**

The workshop series will share practical knowledge on bridging the gap between evidence and policymaking to better utilize research results in development. The first three workshops will be held in:

- Rabat, Morocco – April 6-7
- Amman, Jordan – April 27-28
- Erbil, Iraq – May 1-2

specialists and academics from across the region to discuss the diverse social science issues facing a transitioning MENA region. Among the presenters were RPCD's Projects Manager Sherine El Taraboulsi and Research Liaison Officer Nazek Saleh.

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