1. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE PERIOD JUNE 2014 – MAY 2016

1.1 Meetings of the IHP National Committee

1.1.1 Decisions regarding the composition of the IHP National Committee

Iran IHP National Committee is composed of representatives of governmental water-related Ministries and organizations including Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Environment, Meteorological Organizations, Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) as well as representatives from Non-Governmental Organizations, universities, Directors of UNESCO Category II Centres and also UNESCO Water-related Chairs.

The secretariat of the IHP Nat. Com. is located at Iran National Commission of UNESCO with two full-time staff. All IHP Nat. Com members have been appointed by Minister of MSRT. The honorary chair is Minister of Energy of Iran. IHP Iran National Committee has been organized 12 Nat. Com regular meetings (bi-monthly, once in two months) chaired by H.E. Mr. Meidani, Deputy Minister in water and wastewater affairs of Ministry of Energy from May 2014 to June 2016.

The activities of Iran IHP Nat. Com have been endorsed by Cabinet Office of Iran based on a Bill passed in 1985. A revised version of the Iran IHP Nat. Com bylaw is under preparation in order to provide more support to IHP VIII and SDGs (in particular goal No. 6) as well as Paris Declaration on Climate Change and also Sendai Framework for Action. The new bylaw will be approved by September 2016.

1.1.2 Status of IHP-VIII activities

IHP-VIII is the main agenda of the Iran IHP Nat. Com. IHP-VIII main themes and sub-themes have been introduced in the committee meetings as soon as they have been approved in UNESCO IHP. All members of IHP Nat. Com have been requested to report their activities regarding IHP VIII to the secretariat. Particular attention has been paid to theme 2 (Groundwater in Changing Environment) and theme 4 (Water and Human Settlements of the Future). A few major outcomes of Iran IHP Nat. Com in the framework of the IHP VIII have been described in the coming sections of this activities report.

1.2 Activities at national level in the framework of the IHP

1.2.1 National/local scientific and technical meetings

I. Celebrating World Water Day by organizing scientific and technical meetings in March 2015 and 2016. The latest
event of such has been organized in March 2016 in collaboration with Iran Chamber of Commerce to promote World water Day of “Water and Job” in Iran. The following is a sample poster of World Water Day published on 2 March 2016.

Fig 1. Poster of World Water Day on “Water and Jobs”

II. Training workshop on “the necessity of preservation and maintenance of historic hydraulic structures” on 8 and 9 October 2014.

III. Training course on UNESCO world heritage was held at ICQHS in 2014 for the consulting engineers companies. This course was aimed at promoting the knowledge of some consulting engineers companies who are working on the nomination projects of Iranian qanat in order to facilitate their studies.

IV. International Summit of “The role of Water Diplomacy in Solving Urmia Lake Problem”, Mar.2016 in University of Tabriz, Iran

V. International Summit of “Water Crisis in Zayandeh rood River”, Mar. 2016 in Isfahan, Iran

VI. Several short-term training courses and workshops at national and local levels e.g. training workshop on “Water

![Fig 2. Short-term training course at ICQHS](image)

1.2.2 Participation in IHP Steering Committees/Working Groups

I. Participation in the 21th session of the UNESCO-IHP intergovernmental council in Paris from 18 and 20 June 2014

II. Contribution to the Regional workshop on “Promoting Interaction and Knowledge Exchange between UNESCO Natural Sciences related Centers and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific”, Malaysia, 26-27 May 2015

III. Participation in UNESCO IHP-RSC in Medan, Indonesia, Nov. 2015 and organizing joint session of IFI/IDI to joint efforts of two UNESCO Initiatives on extreme hydrology (flood and drought) on theme 1 of IHP-VIII on Water-related Disasters and Hydrological Changes

IV. Participating in the first water-related UNESCO Category II Directors meeting in Koblenz-Germany, December 2014

V. Active participation in the 3rd Governing Board Meeting of the International Centre on Water Resources and Global
Changes, (UNESCO Category II Centre in Germany), June 2015

VI. Participation in the meeting of UNESCO Water Centres and Chairs: a vision to the 2030 Agenda, UNESCO Paris, 3 Dec. 2015

VII. Participation in the first UNESCO Science Directors Meeting in Beijing, May 2016 as in the blow photo:

![Group photo of the UNESCO Science Centres Meeting](image)

**Fig 3.** Group photo of the UNESCO Science Centres Meeting

1.2.3 Research/applied projects supported or sponsored

I. Nature-oriented Urban River Restoration in Tehran conducted by Regional Centre on Urban water Management (RCUWM-Tehran, UNESCO Cat. II Centre) and Tehran Municipality in accordance with the theme 4 of IHP-VIII. The ultimate goal of the project to increase safety of urban rivers as well as providing safe access to clean water in human settlements.

II. Promotion of public awareness activities such as adding Qanat-related topics in school text books, utilizing mass media to emphasize importance of indigenous water management methods and historic hydraulic structures by International Centre on Qanat and Hydraulic Structures (ICQHS-Yazd, UNESCO Cat. II Centre), community-based activities to reduce water demand and keep surface water clean and safe in urban and rural areas, publishing simple books for less-educated people to realize value of water, etc.

III. Establishment a new academic laboratory for water and wastewater in University of Tehran

1.2.4 Collaboration with other national and international organizations and/or programmes

I. Supporting representative of the Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization in order to complete the dossier of Persian Qanat for its nomination for the UNESCO world heritage list
ICQHS conducted a comprehensive study in 2014 on 11 prominent Qantas across Iran

II. Developing a close inter-linkage and collaboration between three UNESCO category II Centres that has been established in Iran.

III. Iran National IHP Nat. Com members are active members of several IOs/ROs such as ‘International Water History Association’, ‘International Water Association (IWA)’ and World Water Council (WWC).

IV. Sign and exchange MoU with UNESCO cat. II Centres e.g. ICHARM-Japan, HTC-Kula Lumpur, WSDAC-Serbia, IKCEST-China, Koblenz-Germany by directors of the UNESCO Cat. II Centres and member of IHP Nat. Com of Iran.

1.2.5 Other initiatives
The International Drought Initiative (IDI) was approved by the 19th IHP Intergovernmental Council held in Paris, France July in 2010. Regional Centre on Urban Water Mangamnet (RCUWM-Tehran) is acting as the secretariat of IDI as in the following picture:

**Fig 4.** A brief introduction of IDI
main activities of IDI is:

- Providing drought information based on multiple indicators and data sources including satellite observations and local ground-based data
- Providing multi-model multi-index seasonal drought prediction information
- Develop a user-friendly system for dissemination of the Drought information
- Organizing IDI expert Group meeting
- Enhance collaboration with other INESCO-IHP initiatives in particular with IFI
- Conducting Multivariate Standardized Drought Index (MSDI) using Copula concept
- Developing Drought Risk Map using PAR Method for Iran

1.3 Educational and training courses

1.3.1 Contribution to IHP courses
Participating and delivering lectures in the UNESCO-IHP International Expert Symposium “Coping with Droughts”, Santiago, Chile, November 2014

1.3.2 Organization of specific courses
   I. ICQHS (UNESCO Cat. II Centre) organized a two-week workshop on qanats and architecture in November 2014 in cooperation with Ecole Spéciale d’Architecture (ESA), National School of Higher Studies in Nature and Landscape Architecture (ENSNP) from France and School of Art and Architecture of the University of Yazd. This workshop tried to bring innovative solutions to local city officials and the public for the preservation of the active qanats and the revival of the abandoned ones.

   II. Holding an International Workshop on Evolution of Qanat Technology and other Relevant Hydraulic Structures in Yazd with the collaboration of UNESCO and IWA on 8-10 November 2015. This workshop was attended by 22 international (Germany, USA, Algeria, Tunisia, France, Italy, Canada, Netherlands, Morocco, Greece, China and Iraq) and 12 Iranian scholars. (ICQHS under the auspices of UNESCO)

   III. Conducting 17 short-term training courses (from one day to two weeks) at national level in various topics by ICQHS and RCUWM (both UNESCO Cat. II Centres) as well as UNESCO Chairs and National IHP Nat. Com and its affiliated organizations

1.3.3 Participation in IHP courses
N/A
1.4 Cooperation with the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and/or international/regional water centres under the auspices of UNESCO

I. Signing an MoU between UNESCO-IHE, Ministry of Energy of Iran and University of Tehran in March 2016 after long discussion in order to establish regional training Centre of UNESCO-IHE in Iran (All members of IHP Nat. Com has been involved in particular Ministry of Energy of Iran)

II. Active participation at UNESCO-IHE Governing Board meetings by elected representatives of Asia/Pacific region to the GB, H.E. Mr. Daemi, Deputy Minister of Energy and member of the Iran IHP Nat. Com

III. Organizing a technical session on ‘Drought Monitoring ns Prediction’ at WWF7 in Korea in April 2015 together with UNESCO-IHE (Organized by RCUWM and IDI Secretariat)

IV. Organizing training course on ‘water good governance’ in from 15 to 17 February 2016 in joint collaboration between UNESCO-IHE and University of Tehran (All members of IHP Nat. Com has been involved in particular Ministry of Energy of Iran)

1.5 Publications


A. Chavoshian: “Large-scale Flood Policy Book”, Sep. 2014, Published by PWRI-Japan

A. A. Semsar Yazdi: “Qanat of Zarch”, Nov. 2014, published in 3000 copies in Persian


M. Labbaf and A. A. Semsar Yazdi : “Qanat Tourism” Nov. 2015, published in persian in Iran

ICQHS chapter in ICOMOS Book: “Overview on Technical and Cultural Heritage of Qanats in Bam Region (Iran)”, ICOMOS book on Cultural Heritages of Water, 2015, 301 pages


ICQHS contributions to the Journal of “Culture of People” in order to publish special issue of Qantas, June& July 2015

RCUWM chapter contribution to the "River Technologies for Innovations and Social Systems", published by Science Council of Japan, 88 pages, November 28, 2015

ICQH Book Series in 2014~2016 : "Verbal History of Nahreyn Tabas", "Rain Claiming Legends" and "Amazing Hydraulic Structures in Qayen"

1.6 Participation in international scientific meetings

1.6.1 Meetings hosted by the country


II. Co-organizing with the International Committee on Red Cross (ICRC) a Regional Workshop and Roundtable Discussion on Exploring Different Approaches aimed at Overcoming Environmental Sustainability Challenges”, Tehran, November 2015

III. International Summit of Water in Islamic World: ‘Water, Health and Sustainable Development’, March. 2016 in University of Tehran, Iran (Organized by UNESCO Chair on Water Reuse)

IV. Co-organizing regional meeting on Climate Change by inviting introduced lecturer from UNESCO-IHP in March 2016 (Contribution by Secretariat of Iran IHP Nat. Com. at Iran National Commission for UNESCO, Science Depratmenet)

1.6.2 Participation in meetings abroad


II. Participation in the Regional workshop on “Promoting Interaction and Knowledge Exchange between UNESCO Natural Sciences related Centres and Chairs in Asia and the Pacific” on 26-27 May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
III. Participation in ‘Big Data Technology Application and Knowledge Service’ organized by International Knowledge Centre for Engineering Sciences and Technology (IKCEST) under the Auspices of UNESCO in Dec. 2015 in Beijing-China

IV. Participation in the international conference on water history, Delft

V. Participation in a round table on qanat and natural tourism in Paris. At this round table, ICQHS tried to bring up its recent findings regarding qanat and tourism

VI. Contribution to the national congress on irrigation and drainage in Mashhad, Iran, 13 May 2015

1.7 Other activities at regional level

1.7.1 Institutional relations/cooperation
I. India City Heritage Network through UNESCO Delhi Office asked the Iran IHP Nat. Com and International Center on Qanats and Historic Hydraulic Structures (ICQHS) to take part in the first phase of a study project on preservation and restoration of Qanats in Karnataka state in India from 11 to 20 February, 2015.

II. RCUWM active participation in various events organized by UNESCO-Jakarta Office

III. Organizing short-term training courses in water-related topics for countries in the region

1.7.2 Completed and ongoing scientific projects
I. Comprehensive Studies on the several Qanats. Theses studies are planned to be conducted in order to prepare a file for nomination of these Qanats for UNESCO world heritage list.

II. Study project on reinforcing Qanats in urban areas since June 2015. This project is aimed at finding feasible technical solutions to the problem of qanats being damaged by urban sprawl.

III. Nature-oriented river restoration in urban areas

IV. Non-revenue water reduction in five cities in Iran and arranging necessary training courses

2. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

2.1 Activities planned until December 2016
I. Adopting IHP NATCOM revised bylaw until September 2016 and organizing a special task team in the IHP NATCOM for IHP-VIII in order to promote NATCOM activities and also a better coordination among NATCOM member regarding IHP-VIII

II. Participation in the 22nd IHP-IGC in Paris in June 2016 and deliver IHP NATCOM report
III. Organizing Governing Board meeting of the UNESCO Cat. II Centres and supporting their activities including evaluation process

IV. Participation in the G-WADI meeting in Beijing-China in October 2016 in order to develop a better synergy between IDI and G-WADI

2.2 Activities foreseen for 2017-2018

I. Developing a concrete mandate in order to improving contribution to SDGs in particular Goal No. 6 and 11 as in the below picture

![Fig 6. Mid-term projects in line with SDGs No. 6 and 11](image)

II. Deliverable contributions to the theme 2 (groundwater and qanat) and theme 4 (urban water management) of the IHP Phase V-III

III. Promote IDI visibility by fund raising from the Government of Iran and other international donors as well as working on joint agreement between UNESCO and WMO to provide mutual support to IHP-IDI as well as WMO/GWP- IDMP

IV. Celebrating World Water Day by organizing national events

V. Contribution to WWAP annual book

VI. Enhance IDI activities by signing joint agreement between UNESCO and WMO

VII. Active participation in UNESCO Regional Steering Committee and expanding its geographic scope to west Asia

2.3 Activities envisaged in the long term

I. Promoting IHP-related programs and initiatives

II. Supporting applicable scientific research according to the IHP Phase VIII

III. Organizing training courses and networking