

1st IWA International Symposium on Water and
Wastewater Technologies in Ancient Civilizations
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Closing Session - Conclusions

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Some statistics

- 80 papers
- 800 pages of proceedings
- Over 200 contributors & participants

An international conference ...

Algeria	2	Greece	92	Libya	1
Australia	2	Hong Kong	1	Mexico	2
Bangladesh	1	Hungary	1	Morocco	2
Belgium	6	Iran	14	Palestine	3
Canada	10	Ireland	6	Slovakia	1
China	2	Israel	3	Spain	8
Egypt	2	Italy	17	Sri Lanka	1
France	1	Japan	2	Turkey	2
Finland	3	Jordan	3	UK	10
Germany	5	Lebanon	1	USA	7

An interdisciplinary conference ...

- Agriculture
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Biology
- Classical Studies
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Engineering
- Environment
- Geology
- Governance
- History
- Hydrology
- Jewellery
- Land Management
- Life Sciences
- Meteorology
- Mineralogy
- Public Health
- Photography
- Physics
- Soil Sciences
- Tourism
- Water Resources

Conclusion 1

History of water science and technology ...

... is currently not widely known

... contains biased, inaccurate or inconsistent bits of information and has a lot of gaps

... is important to know

... should be re-written

Conclusion 2

There is interest on revisiting past water technologies and management practices, which is justified by the understanding ...

- ... of the diachronic similarity of problems
- ... of the deadlocks and intensification of problems in the current situation
- ... that history is the best teacher for future (the past is the key to the future)
- ... that ancient civilizations have developed advanced knowledge, wisdom and sustainable practices

Conclusion 3

History teaches that water management is important for the sustaining of civilizations and that sightless or insufficient management may result in civilization collapses; particularly, civilization collapses have been resulted from ...

- ... inability to deal with climate changes, which seem to have been very frequent in the past
- ... persistent, multiyear droughts
- ... destructive and recurrent floods that destroyed hydraulic infrastructures
- ... negative human impacts on the environment (deforestation, erosion, desertification)

Conclusion 4

History teaches that many civilizations all over the world have developed magnificent technologies and management practices characterized by

- ... sustainability and durability (operation for millennia, as opposed to today's design horizons of 20-50 years)
- ... safety and security (as opposed to today's insecure structures)
- ... wise combinations of small-scale and large-scale projects and measures (as opposed to today's dominance of large- or mega-scale projects)

Conclusion 5

There is a lot to learn from ancient technologies and practices; the current symposium is a successful first step and the continuation of this research will certainly suggest improved solutions for current and future problems