

***Summary Report of ‘the Second IAHS Panta Rhei International Conference on Water System Knowledge Innovation and its Practices in Developing Countries’  
November 20 - 22, 2017, Gorgan, Iran***

*The Second IAHS Panta Rhei International Conference on Water System Knowledge Innovation and its Practices in Developing Countries* was held on November 20 - 22, 2017 in Gorgan, Iran, organized by Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and supported by the Iran National Mega Project on the Integrated Watershed Management, the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), Golestan Provincial Government, Golestan Province Central Office for Natural Resources and Watershed Management, Golestan Province Regional Water Authority, Watershed Management Society of Iran, and the Iran Organization of Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Management.

The conference which was a follow up to the ‘First International Conference on Hydrological Knowledge Innovation and its Practices in Developing Countries, November 2016, Shenzhen, China’, reflected a common interest among the participants to address the challenges of understanding and managing the hydrological systems.

A fundamental theme of the conference was to understand the available hydrological knowledge and to brainstorm on hydrological innovations to meet the grand water challenges worldwide, in particular in developing countries. The conference was also a response to the IAHS Panta Rhei Program which aims to reach an improved interpretation of the processes governing the water cycle by focusing on their changing dynamics in connection with rapidly changing human systems.



**The Second IAHS Panta Rhei International Conference  
on Water System Knowledge Innovation and its  
Practices in Developing Countries**  
**November 20-22, 2017**  
**Gorgan, Iran**



**دومین کنفرانس بین‌المللی پانتا ری**

**در زمینه نوآوری دانش سیستم‌های آبی و کاربرد آن در کشورهای در حال توسعه**  
**۲۹ آبان تا ۱ آذر ۱۳۹۶. گرگان. ایران**

**Organisers**

- \* Iran National Mega Project on the Integrated Watershed Management, the High Council of Sciences, Research, and Technology of Iran
- \* The International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS).
- \* Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources of Iran

**پروگزار کنندگان**

- \* طرح کلان ملی مدیریت جامع حوزه‌های آبخیز، شورای عالی علوم، تحقیقات و فناوری کشور
- \* انجمن بین‌المللی علوم هیدرولوژیک (IAHS)
- \* دانشگاه علوم کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی گرگان



Save water. Save our Future



**Themes:**

- 1: Integrated water management master plans and experiences
- 2: Trans-boundary water system management
- 3: Caspian Sea hydrological system
- 4: Participants country reports
- 5: Cooperation framework and statement (Gorgan declaration)

**موضوعات:**

- ۱- طرح‌های کلان مدیریت جامع آب و تجارب جهانی
- ۲- مدیریت سیستم‌های آبی مشترک بین کشورها
- ۳- سیستم هیدرولوژیکی دریای خزر
- ۴- گزارش کشورهای شرکت کننده
- ۵- چارچوب و بیانیه همکاری (بیانیه پایانی گرگان)



۰۱۷-۳۲۴۳۶۴۰۹

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Co-chaired by the president of Gorgan University of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Dr. Ali Najafinejad and the president of Society for Ecological Rehabilitation of Beijing, Prof. Junguo Liu at Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), the conference brought together about 100 scientists and experts of different backgrounds from all over the world, in particular from developing countries.

Keynote addresses and oral presentations were given by 30 presenters in six topical sessions within 2 days. The topic presented mainly focused on integrated water management plans: practices and lessons, trans-boundary water system management, the Caspian Sea hydrological system, and the participants country reports. Extensive discussions were held during the conference. Tables 1 and 2 show distribution of the presentations by country and topic, respectively.

Table 1. Distribution of presentations by countries

| Country     | Number of presentations |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Australia   | 1                       |
| China       | 2                       |
| France      | 1                       |
| Germany     | 1                       |
| India       | 2                       |
| Indonesia   | 3                       |
| Iran        | 15                      |
| Kazakhstan  | 1                       |
| Morocco     | 1                       |
| Russia      | 3                       |
| Switzerland | 1                       |
| Vietnam     | 1                       |

Table 2. Distribution of presentations by themes

| Topic  | Number of presentations |
|--|-------------------------|
| Key-note speeches  | 6                       |
| Session 1: Integrated water management plans: Practices & lessons                                | 4                       |
| Session2: Trans-boundary water system management   | 3                       |
| Session3: The Caspian Sea hydrological system  | 3                       |
| Session 4: Participants country reports  | 8                       |
| Session 5: Miscellaneous topics  | 7                       |
| Session 6: Cooperation framework and statement with a concrete working plan (Gorgan Declaration) | 1                       |





During the last session, secretary general of IAHS, Prof. Christophe Cudennec, gave a live online presentation through Skype. He regarded the conference as a crucial meeting in the Panta Rhei process.

After the oral sessions, the Gorgan Declaration was announced. The declaration emphasized on the importance of close collaboration of scientists from various disciplines, national and international research and education institutions to address the water challenges especially in developing countries. Several recommendations were put forward at the end of the declaration, which included: strengthening multi-disciplinary collaboration; adopting Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) approach and change management models, and establishing the national working committee for IAHS-Panta Rhei at Gorgan University as the premier institute of Iran in the field of natural resources management and engineering and as the main director of "the National Mega Project on the Integrated Watershed Management".

### **Full day excursion**

A full day excursion was organized on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The program included a visit of the Negarestan dam, the Inche playa, and the coastal areas of the Caspian Sea. The excursion aimed to provide the participants with some information about some of the water-related issues dealing with in Golestan Province as well as some cultural aspect of the province.

