



## Joint Communiqué

The Jordan River that flows through the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Palestine and Israel, with increasing degrees of pollutions by uncontrolled disposal of sewage waters and industrial effluents, has lost its erstwhile beauty.

Also, the mountain aquifer, which supplies about 30 percent of the water supply for the State of Israel, and most of water supply for the Palestinians, is under real threat from uncontrolled pollution sources, including illegal dumping of waste materials and untreated industrial effluents throughout this region. As the results, polluted drinking water and agricultural products have been endangering the health of people in this region, especially that of senior citizens and infants.

If this situation is left unattended, the West Bank of the Jordan River, which supports the Palestinian population of approximately two and half million, will turn into “the Land of Disaster” and the disaster will probably spread to the neighboring states of Israel and Jordan.

Although Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli governments well understand that this issue is a very important one they should join forces to tackle the present political situation and insufficient resources that have been preventing them from having thorough discussions and taking specific steps for the solution.

We suggest that joint initiatives with support from the Government of Palestine, Jordan, Israel, NGOs, the United Nations Center for Regional Development and Al-balqa Applied University, as well as other governments and organizations, to be in place to deal with the common environmental issues.

As an initiation, we have organized “Training of Trainers Workshop under the Tri-lateral Environmental Peace Plan (TEPP) in the Middle East” with the following outcomes. We appreciate the substantial contribution of ACE, among others, including its efforts materializing funding from a Japanese funding organization.

1. We have recognized the issues of solid wastes and wastewater in Palestine and of water pollutions in the adjoining Jordan River basin as the

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environmental issues common between Palestine, Jordan and Israel and we have also recognized the magnitude of seriousness of the issues.

2. We have also understood that solving these issues is securing health and security for the people living in the relative areas and that the promotion of programs for the solution of environmental problems will create job opportunities as well as promote industrial development in the related areas, contributing to the creation of society that is peaceful and stable.
3. By positioning the Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop-2003 held in Aqaba, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as part of the Tri-lateral Environmental Peace Plan (TEPP), we propose to continuously address the following programs in the future to:
  - Hold the follow up workshop regularly
  - Implement the Tri-lateral Environmental Peace Plan (TEPP) in the Middle East
  - Study the adoption of basic philosophy and development of laws and regulations related to environmental management and maintenance
  - Plan and implement environmental improvement and restoration in the form of sustainable business models
  - Mobilize fund raising activities for the implementation of this project
  - Regular follow up on this project
4. Also, for the continuing promotion of the Tri-lateral Environmental Peace Plan (TEPP) in Middle East, we will support the establishment of establish liaison offices at NGOs participating this time, such as Asia-pacific Coalition for Environment (ACE, Japan), the Center for Environmental diplomacy (CED, USA and Palestine), Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME, Jordan), the Westbank Environmental Clean UP Project (WECUP, Israel) and the Water and Environmental Development Organization (WEDO, Palestine).

In order to attest that this joint communiqué is reflecting the consensus of all the parties that have attended this workshop, the signatures of the hosting organizations shall be affixed below.

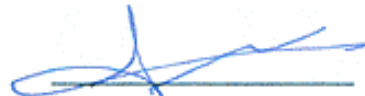
# TEPP

Tri-lateral Environmental Peace Plan



  
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