

Opening Ceremony



L-R: **Albert II**, Prince of Monaco; **Abdullah Gül**, President of the Republic of Turkey; and **Emomali Rakhmon**, President of Tajikistan



L-R: **Abbas El Fassi**, Prime Minister of Morocco; Prince of Orange **Willem-Alexander** of the Netherlands; **Celal Talabani**, President of Iraq; **Albert II**, Prince of Monaco; and **Abdullah Gül**, President of the Republic of Turkey.



Oktay Tabasaran, Secretary General, World Water Forum, welcomed participants from all “four corners of the world” to the 5th World Water Forum, emphasizing that its main objective is to urgently address the issue of efficient water use



Participants during the opening ceremony



Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council, stressed that while ensuring access to water is a “difficult and long road to be traveled,” it must be addressed



Irfan Aker, World Water Council Board of Governors, on behalf of Turkey’s Prime Minister, presented the Turkish Prime Minister’s Water Prize, which honors media representatives for coverage of national and international water issues.



Delegates attending the Turkish Republic Prime Minister’s Water Prize.



L-R: **Irfan Aker**, World Water Council Board of Governors; **Alison Bartle**, Aqua-Media International; and **Kadir Topbaş**, Mayor of Istanbul.



L-R: **Gurhan Savgi**, Zaman Daily Newspaper; and **Kadir Topbaş**, Mayor of Istanbul.



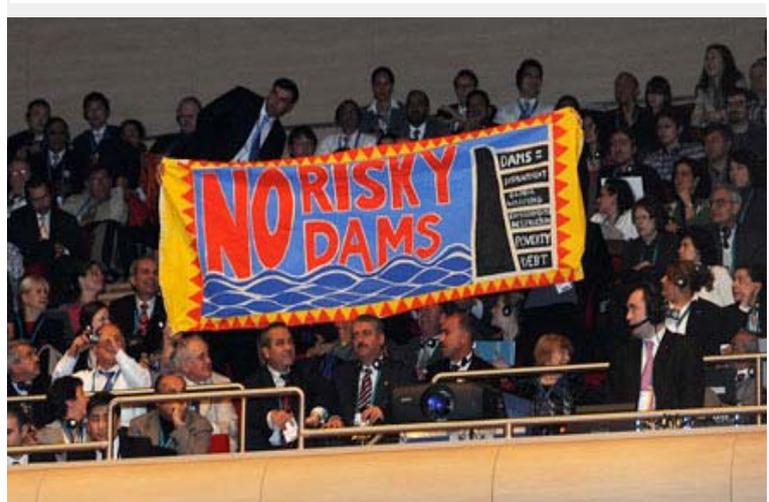
L-R: **Irfan Aker**, World Water Council Board of Governors; **Özgür Coban**, Anatolian Agency; and **Kadir Topbaş**, Mayor of Istanbul.



L-R: **Özgür Yildirim**, Channel 24; and **Kadir Topbaş**, Mayor of Istanbul.



The media during the opening ceremony



Protesters' banner during the ceremony



Abdulatif Yousef Al-Hamad, Director General of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, received the third King Hassan II award for cooperation and solidarity in the fields of management and development in water resources.



Naruhito Kotoishi, Crown Prince of Japan, stressed the need for collaboration in resolving pressing water issues and strengthening initiatives for achieving the MDGs.



UN Undersecretary-General **Sha Zukang**, on behalf of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, highlighted that the World Water Forum facilitates dialogue between the policy community and civil society.



Abbas El Fassi, Prime Minister of Morocco, noted that the Forum precedes the 2008 High-Level Conference on World Food Security, precedes the 2009 UN negotiations on a post-2012 climate regime, and is taking place during an international financial crisis.



Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, emphasized that water is not only a technical issue but a matter that requires attention and priority at the highest level.



Participants listening to **Abdullah Gül's** speech.



Children representing 21 countries came on stage to symbolize cultural cooperation



The Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra, comprised of musicians from 23 countries in the Caspian and Eastern Mediterranean regions, brought the plenary to a close.



L-R: **Oktay Tabasaran**, Secretary General, World Water Forum, and **Abdullah Gül**, President of the Republic of Turkey, at the end of the opening ceremony.



Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, waves to the media.

Session on Health, Dignity and Economic Progress



Participants during the event



L-R: Kenza Kaouakib-Robinson, UN-DESA; Uschi Eid, UNSGAB; Bertrand Charrier, Chirac Foundation; and Elmira Joldosheva, Central Asian Alliance for Water



Kenza Kaouakib-Robinson, UN-DESA



Uschi Eid, UNSGAB



Jon Lane, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council



Participants during the event



L-R: **Milagros Couchoud**, Mediterranean Water Institute; **Marta Moren**, General Director of Water, Spain; and **Hachmi Kennon**, World Water Council



Participants during the event



The dais during the panel discussion



Johan Kuylenstierna, FAO



Doğan Altınbilek, Programme Committee Member, 5th World Water Forum



Participatory response to moderator's question



Mark Smith, IUCN Water Programme

World Water Development Report



The dais during the event



András Szöllösy-Nagy, UNESCO



L-R: **Olcay Ünver**, The United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP); and **William Cosgrove**, Content Coordinator of the WWDR-3



Koïchiro Matsuura, Director General, UNESCO



L-R: **Kenneth Konga**, Minister of Energy and Water Development, Zambia; and **Emomali Rakhmon**, President of Tajikistan

Youth Forum Opening



Around the forum





Photographs prior to the start of the 5th World Water Forum



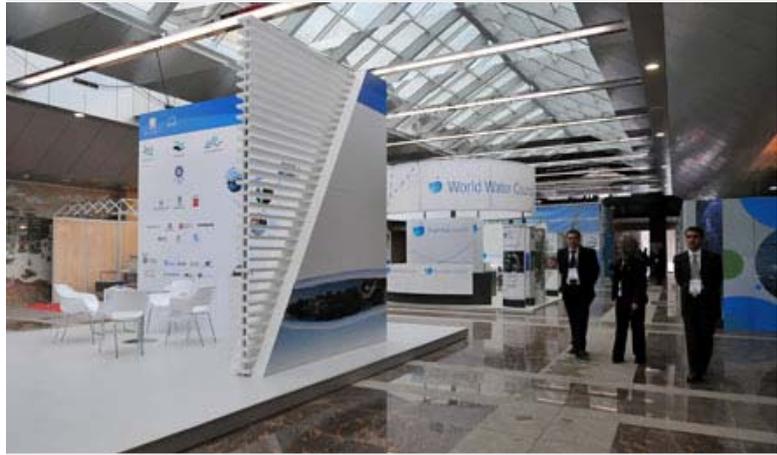
View of the Haliç room, where the opening ceremony will take place on Monday, from 9:30am to 12:00pm



Entrance to the venue



Participants registering for the forum



Stands at the venue