

**Sustainable Development of Drylands  
in Asia and the Middle East:  
Jordan Component**

**Jordan Visit Report**  
February 5 to February 14, 2006  
**DRAFT**

**Report Number**  
**2006-001**

**Jordan & Egypt Preparation Trip**  
Implementation of Anaerobic Sewage Treatment in the  
Middle East with a focus on Jordan and Egypt:  
A low-cost, low-energy alternative  
March 13-15<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
Cairo Sheraton Hotel - Cairo, Egypt

**Prepared**

By

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## **I. Executive Summary**

## **II. Objectives of the Trip**

Dr. Tamimi traveled to Amman, Jordan to work with the Badia Research and Development Center (BRDC) on the different activities the Sustainable Development of Dry Lands Project is performing in Jordan. In addition, Dr. Tamimi and Dr. Saad Al-Ayyash from BRDC traveled to Cairo, Egypt to coordinate and organize the workshop entitled “Anaerobic Sewage Treatment in the Middle East with a focus on Jordan and Egypt: A low-cost, low-energy alternative” to be held in Cairo Sheraton Hotel - Cairo, Egypt between March 13-15th, 2006.

In this report the details of the trip and the meetings held in Jordan and Egypt will be presented.

## **III. Hotel and Hotel Reservations**

Dr. Tamimi and Dr. Al-Ayyash flew from Amman, Jordan to Cairo, Egypt late in the evening on Sunday February 5, 2006. They were met with the National Research Center (NRC) public relations officer and were driven from the airport to the Cairo Sheraton Hotel late and had to wait from 10:30pm until 12:00 midnight to get a room. They were presented with an alternative of staying together in one room because the hotel was over booked by 30% of its occupancy rate. Both turned the offer down and waited until midnight to get the rooms.

The hotel is a 5-star hotel with reasonable accommodations. It has good food, good and clean rooms, good fitness center that opens from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. with an outdoor swimming pool. Breakfast can be ordered in the room or can be eaten at the “Tea Garden”. The breakfast has many varieties including fruits, cheeses, yogurts, cereals, bread, made to order eggs including omelets. The food is clean and the service is good. Reservations have breakfast included with the room. All charges include a 22% service and tax charge and hence tip is not expected but is appreciated. The Tea Garden is open around the clock for reasonably priced sandwiches, drinks, salads and ice cream.

The hotel is fairly quiet except when they have weddings that start around 9:00 p.m. and stay a little after midnight. The hotel is located on the Nile which can be viewed from the hotel.

If high clipper officials from Jordan will be attending the workshop in March, the project (BRDC) needs to make sure that they get an upgraded room, perhaps a suite. BRDC is making reservations for the rooms through a travel agent in Jordan to save about \$40.00 per night per room. The hotel has many multi purpose halls and one will be used as the venue for the workshop. The venue is being contracted through NRC to make sure it is guaranteed and to make sure the workshop will get the best service.

The hotel’s name and address are as follows:

Sheraton Cairo Hotel  
Galaa Square  
Giza, Cairo, Egypt  
Tel: +20-1-336-9700 or 336-9800  
Fax: +20-1-336-4601 or 336-4602

## IV. National Research Center (NRC)

On Monday February 6, 2006 Dr. Tamimi and Dr. Al-Ayyash were picked up by Dr. Fatma Al-Gohari from the Hotel at 9:00am. Both were give a tour and a little explanation of what the Center does.

The first meeting took place with:

Professor Osama Al-Shabrawy, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research Projects Affairs  
TeleFax: +20-2-337-1718  
Home Tel: +20-2-304-2678  
Cell: +20-010-143-6899  
Email: [osmashabrawy304@yahoo.com](mailto:osmashabrawy304@yahoo.com)

He was acting as the Center's president since the President was out of town.

Dr. Tamimi presented a brief introduction about IALC, the Sustainable Development of Dry Lands Project and some of the previous and recent activities being conducted in the Jordan component of the project emphasizing the anaerobic workshop in Egypt. Dr. Tamimi thanked Dr. Fatma for her assistance and willingness to make the workshop happen.

It was agreed that NRC will make the venue reservations and will be responsible for arranging the field trip and the Nile Cruise workshop dinner activity. Dr. Al-Ayyash presented the contract and requested that Dr. Al-Shabrawy sign it.

After that Dr. Al-Ayyash, Dr. Al-Gohary and Dr. Tamimi moved to the contracting offices within the Center and met with contracting officer. All necessary information was obtained for BRDC to transfer the funds and specifically the bank name, address, account number and swift number.

Dr. Al-Ayyash requested that Dr. Tamimi or the project director Mr. Bob Freitas send an email to Mohammed Shahbaz authorizing the transfer of the first installment to NRC for the workshop. BRDC will be able to use some of its funds to transfer the funds on the email guarantee that the money will be transferred from The University of Arizona when all the paper work is completed.