



SHARING KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION  
FONDATION "PARTAGER LE SAVOIR"

## From Red Sea to Dead Sea...

*« Towards a sustainable management of water resources in Israel, Jordan, Palestine : The Red Sea – Dead Sea Water Conveyance Project »*

**From 6th to 8th June 2007, Israeli, Palestinians and Jordanians will meet in Geneva and discuss a colossal plan: to save the Dead Sea by connecting it to the Red Sea. A 180 kilometers long channel will also result in access to drinking water, affordable and competitive electrical energy and represent an important symbol of peace and cooperation in the Middle East. In July 2005, the World Bank launched a call for the funding of a feasibility study. To date, France, Japan, the Netherlands and the United States of America have confirmed their contribution to the project.**

Since the 60ies the Dead Sea level has come down 24 meters and its area has decreased one third. Located in what is often considered the cradle of Humanity, the Dead Sea is a fundamental player in the ecological and economical landscape of this part of the world.

Everybody is now convinced about the necessity to save the Dead Sea, but there is no general agreement about how to do it. In the year 2005, Israel Jordan and Palestine reached agreement about the terms of a feasibility study, aiming at if and how it would be possible to supply the Dead Sea with water coming from the Red Sea and if this supply would be sufficient to stop the decline of the Dead Sea and doing so to allow the restoration of its natural and cultural environment. Moreover this project would enable to desalt the Red Sea water to make it drinkable, and also to generate electrical power at affordable prices for all three governments.

To connect the two seas is not a new idea. The 400 meters level difference between them is a well-established source of inspiration for various projects exploiting the natural flow that would be created and the amazing potential for electrical power production. The task is huge. This means to dig a channel 180 kilometres in length, starting in Akaba in Jordan and running along the Israeli border, enabling a flow of 1.9 billion cubic meters per year. The cost of this operation is estimated between 2 and 5 billions USD and brings up numerous ecological and societal issues. What would the consequences be of this combination of the Red Sea and Dead Sea waters, 10 times as salty as those of the oceans? What would be the impact of this water transfer on the groundwater of the entire area? What would be the social repercussions during

the construction steps and the long-term effects generated by the modifications of use of lands and the economical development of the region?

Many questions which the participants at the conference " Toward a sustainable management of water resources in Israel, Jordan, Palestine: The Red Sea - Dead Sea Water Conveyance Project " will try to answer in Geneva from 6 to 8 June 2007

*The conference " Towards a sustainable management of water resources in Israel, Jordan, Palestine: The Red Sea - Dead Sea Water Conveyance Project " is organized by the “**Sharing Knowledge Foundation**” which encourages the dialogue between scientists, particularly between emerging countries and the more developed nations.*

*The Foundation intends to facilitate the contacts between the actors aiming at the realization of concrete projects focusing on the sustainable development and on the reduction of disparities between nations. For that purpose, it organizes multidisciplinary conferences tackling basic needs (such as water, food and energy), access to digital civilization and to fundamental knowledge and other topics dictated by current events such as the prevention of catastrophes.*

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