



Friends of the Earth Middle East



Rehabilitation of the Jordan River: A Commitment of Faith

*November 10-12, 2013
Crowne Plaza Hotel - Dead Sea, Jordan*

Conference Agenda



“We recognize that the Jordan River Valley is a landscape of outstanding ecological and cultural importance. It connects the eco-systems of Africa and Asia, forms a sanctuary for wild plants and animals, and has witnessed some of the most significant advances in human history. The first people ever to leave Africa walked through this valley and drank from its springs. Farming developed on these plains, and in Jericho we see the origins of urban civilization itself. Not least, the river runs through the heart of our spiritual traditions: some of the founding stories of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are set along its banks and the valley contains sites sacred to half of humanity. By any measure, this landscape must be counted as part of the heritage of humankind.”

-- From the Covenant for the Jordan River

**Supported by the Swedish International
Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and
the Osprey Foundation**



Day One

Sunday, November 10, 2013

15:00 - 16:00 Registration

16:00 - 16:45 Welcomes

River Out of Eden: A Short Film produced by FoEME

Jordan River Poem: Presented a Jordanian Water Trustee

Welcome Speakers:

- **Mr. Munqeth Mehyar;** Chairman and Jordanian Director, FoEME
- **H.E Ms. Helena Rietz;** Swedish Ambassador to Jordan

Address Speakers:

- **H.E Eng. Saed Abu Hammour;** Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority
- **Mr. Jerry White;** Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO), United States Department of State

16:45 - 17:45 Laudation for the rehabilitation of the Jordan River:

Speakers:

- **Attallah Hanna;** Archbishop of Roman Orthodox
- **Rabbi David Rosen;** Honorary Advisor on Interfaith Relations to the Chief Rabbinate of Israel
- **Dr. Ikrima Saeed Abdullah Sabri;** Mofti Al Quds and the Holy Land
- **Marse Malki Murad;** Deputy of the Syrian Orthodox Patriarch
- **Yasser Ayyash;** Archbishop of Roman Catholic Melkites in Jordan
- **Al Sharif Al Sheikh Mohammad Al Marryan;** Secretary General for the Arab Forum for literature and Culture
- **Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp;** President and Founder of the Jacob Soetendorp Institute for Human Values

17:45 – 18:15 Rehabilitation of the Jordan River: Achievements and Challenges to come Ms. Yana Abu Taleb; Jordanian Assistant Director of Projects, FoEME

Questions and answers from the plenary

20:00 Dinner

07:00- 08:30 **Breakfast and Registration**

09:00 **Welcome from Mr. Munqeth Mehyar;** Chairman and Jordanian Director, FoEME

09:15 - 09:45 **Water and our River in the eyes of the three Abrahamic Religions**
Introducing version 1 of FoEME's new faith based toolkits: What are they for? How can you use them?

Presenters: **Elizabeth Ya'ari;** Israeli Jordan River Projects Coordinator, FoEME and **Anwar Abu Hammour;** Jordanian Government Relations Officer, FoEME

Questions and answers from the plenary

09:45 - 10:00 **Coffee Break**

10:00 - 11:30 **Putting the Faith based Toolkit to Action: Break Out Sessions**

The conference participants are invited to break into three groups. Each group will explore how to disseminate the toolkits within their faith community. Furthermore, each group is invited to suggest amendments and additions to the toolkits that could be integrated into version 2 of the toolkits.

- **Muslim Break Out Session,** facilitated by **Shahab Hussein;** Member of FoEME's International Advisory Committee and **Yana Abu Taleb;** Jordanian Assistant Director of Projects, FoEME and **Abed Al Kareem Shriateh,** Palestinian Jordan River Rehabilitation Project Coordinator, FoEME
- **Christian Break Out Session,** facilitated by **Mary Alexander;** Member of FoEME's International Advisory Committee and **Elizabeth Ya'ari;** Israeli Jordan River Projects Coordinator, FoEME
- **Jewish Break Out Session,** facilitated by **Rachel Havrelock;** Professor at University of Illinois- Chicago and author of the book *River Jordan* and Member of FoEME's International Advisory Committee and **Rabbi Michael Schwartz;** Regional Director of Resource Development, FoEME

11:30- 12:15 **Reporting back from the working groups**

Moderator: **Nader Khateeb;** Palestinian Director, FoEME

Questions and answers from the plenary

12:30 - 13:30 **Lunch**

13:45 - 15:15 Partnering in Good Faith

Moderator: **Gidon Bromberg**; Israeli Director, FoEME

International Group:

- **Dr. Yahya Hendi**, Muslim Chaplain at Georgetown University
- **Dr. Husna Ahmed**; Alliance of Religions and Conservation/ Green Pilgrimage Network
- **Todd Deatherage**; Executive Director and Co-Founder, Telos Group
- **Elisa Moed**, Travelujah

Questions and answers from the plenary

Local/ Regional Group:

- **Walid Salem**, Director of the Centre for Democracy and Community Development
- **Einat Kramer**, Founder and Director, Tevi Hivri
- **Mohammad Al Hourani**, Director of Licensing Department of the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
- **Dr. Khalid Kareem**, Media & Islamic Thinker

Questions and answers from the plenary

15:15 - 16:15 Launch of the Covenant for the Jordan River

- Recitation of the Covenant by **Mr. Munqeth Mehyar**, President and Jordanian Director, FoEME
- Participants are invited to sign the Covenant
- Group picture with Covenant

16:15 - 16:30 Closing Statements

Speakers:

- **Mr. Nader Khateeb**; Palestinian Director, FoEME
- **Mr. Gidon Bromberg**; Israeli Director, FoEME
- **Mr. Munqeth Mehyar**; Chairman and Jordanian Director, FoEME

19:00

Dinner

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Day Three

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

07:00- 08:30 **Breakfast and Check-out**

09:00 **Departure**

09:30- 11:00 **Tour of Bethany Beyond the Jordan Baptism Site**

11:00 **Depart to FoEME's Sharhabil bin Hassneh EcoPark**

12:30 **Tour of FoEME's Sharhabil bin Hassaneh EcoPark**

13:30 **Lunch**

14:30 **End of tour/ depart for border crossings**

Please note that when crossing from Jordan into Palestine and Israel participants will gain one hour due to the time differences between the countries.