Eng. Khalil Al Absi, Director of Planning and Regional Water Unit, Jordan Valley Authority
(replacing H.E. Eng. Saed Abu Hammour)

[Transcription] Good Morning. I would like, on behalf of His Excellency engineer Saed Abu Hammour to express his apologies for not being here, and he greets you from Amman.

Regarding the question here, always the Jordanians are looking seriously for the rehabilitation of the Jordan River and the ecological situation in the basin. We do lots for this at the national level and have started cooperating with EcoPeace in order to achieve our objectives regarding this important topic. Really, we are taking all the efforts to restore the Jordan River because we believe that the Jordan River is deteriorated and since 1955 no governmental or international organization took care of this important thing. The result was that there is a huge deterioration of the ecological system in the river.

Nowadays, as water is very vital for us, not only for the Jordanian, Israeli, and Palestinian people, but all nations and people and future generations. We make our efforts in order to restore this river by adopting a bundle of projects. The projects articulated in the master plan are important for Jordan, in particular those that deal with wastewater and solid waste management. Among the priorities of the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation, we will do our best to implement these projects through the donor agencies and some of the projects will be financed maybe through the government of Jordanian. If we have available funds, we will implement the projects, but our main concerns are in donations.

We believe that water itself, water flow is at the heart of the rehabilitation of the river and assistance will be vital for the project on the Jordanian side. For this purpose, we formed a national committee consisting of all relevant organizations in Jordan to deal with this important project and we have a small committee to deal with parts of the project lying in Israel. In the future we hope that there is a trilateral cooperation in order to deal with this important issue.

Lastly what’s our opinion about the master plan? The master plan is a very comprehensive master plan and the projects in the plan are very vital if implemented. It will directly affect the restoration of the river if we find the proper funds and start implementing it as soon as possible. Thank you.