



CLOSING REMARKS by Dr Hazim El-Naser, September 13th, Riyadh, KSA



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Former Minister of Agriculture, Jordan
Former Member of Jordan's House of Representatives

Excellencies, colleagues, and friends,

On behalf of the organizers of the Future of Desalination International Conference, I am delighted to deliver this closing remark on the success of this conference.

In this context, I would like to thank organizers, participants, speakers, the Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC), and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture of the KSA for providing all support for this conference not only for the Saudis but also for the whole world as the outcomes of importance for water decision makers from all around the globe. The Saudi leadership in desalination something we look at with respect and proud. Special thanks go also to the co-organizers GWi.

I know that there have been many interesting and useful presentations during the last 2 days, with many good experiences have been shared and good lessons learned as well as good practical activities and experiences.

The change in focus from just desalination as a water supply option to a more future valuable vision of its value, efficient utilization, and the need for further innovation, reshapes the future of desalination in the coming years.

Therefore, let me share a brief valuable information regarding the success of the conference and what we learned.

1. We learned what policy makers involved in desalination must get right to ensure cost effectiveness and efficiency e.g., NRW, brine disposal and environmental concerns, existing tariff and needed subsidy, as an integrated part of the water portfolio.
2. We learned the need to accelerate innovation in desalination and how to link it to renewable energy, energy cost and the need for energy supply freedom by developers. This requires a clear policy to reduce cost, enhance affordability and reduce gas emissions to help in achieving SDGs related to climate change.
3. We learned that desalination has a lot to do with food security and looks like that the technological breakthrough in terms of cost/m³ to use it for food production through smart agricultural technologies is imminent which will give the world great chance to reduce hunger numbers.
4. We learned that water positive business is coming soon as desalination is the only option that produces new and additional water source.
5. We learned that desalination and treated wastewater reuse synergy is something doable to maximize water use soon, as well as synergies with green hydrogen.
6. We learned that such a gathering is so important to exchange knowledge and experience and, therefore, would be very much useful to have continuity for such a conference.

To conclude, thank you for the great contribution and looking forward to work with all of you on the new vision for future of desalination.