



FIRST ARABOPHONE ACADEMIC WATER SUMMIT **Water, Culture and Civilization** **in the Arabophone World**

Marrakech – Kingdom of Morocco
Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization – AMAN
2, 3 and 4 November 2026

An initiative led by the Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE)
co-organized with the Mohammed VI Museum for Water
Civilization – AMAN.

CONTEXT

Water is one of the major challenges of the 21st century for countries across the Arabophone world. Faced with the impacts of climate change, population growth, rapid urbanization, increasing water scarcity, and the need to strengthen scientific and technical capacities, enhanced cooperation among universities, public institutions, river basin agencies, research centers, international organizations, and younger generations has become essential.

The Arabophone world, bringing together twenty-two countries that share a common language, history, and many common challenges, possesses considerable potential to develop academic, scientific, technical, and cultural synergies around water-related issues.

For centuries, Arab civilizations have developed knowledge, techniques, and water management systems that have profoundly influenced human history. Today, Arabophone countries continue to face major challenges that require balancing cultural heritage, scientific innovation, and sustainable water governance.

In this context, the **Ambassade de l'Eau (AdE)**, an international organization founded in France and engaged for nearly twenty years in promoting participatory water governance, has launched an initiative to create a permanent platform for dialogue, cooperation, and exchange of experience among academic and institutional stakeholders throughout the Arabophone world.

The Kingdom of Morocco, the pilot country of the **UMJAE–STRATEAU** program developed by AdE in partnership with the **CEREMA** and the **Sebou Hydraulic Basin Agency**, has been selected to host the first edition of the Arabophone Academic Water Summit.

Morocco currently provides a particularly relevant environment for testing innovative approaches that combine scientific research, citizen participation, integrated water resources management, and youth engagement. The first results of the UMJAE–STRATEAU program demonstrate the ability of students, researchers, and institutions to work together in producing knowledge that supports public decision-making and territorial dialogue.

The organization of the Summit also benefits from the support of the international network of the Ambassade de l'Eau and its regional representations, particularly in Africa, helping mobilize academic, institutional, and civil society partners across the continent and the wider Arabophone world.

The Arabophone Academic Water Summit aims to become a flagship event bringing together universities, research centers, public institutions, basin agencies, international organizations, civil society stakeholders, and younger generations around a shared vision for the future of water in the Arabophone world.

THE ROLE OF THE MOHAMMED VI MUSEUM FOR WATER CIVILIZATION – AMAN

The Mohammed VI Museum for Water Civilization in Morocco – AMAN is a unique institution dedicated to promoting the hydraulic, scientific, cultural, and civilizational heritage of the Kingdom of Morocco.

By hosting the Arabophone Academic Water Summit, the AMAN Museum provides an exceptional setting for dialogue between historical heritage, scientific innovation, and contemporary water governance.

Through this co-organization, the Museum contributes to highlighting the fundamental role of water in the development of civilizations, territorial development, knowledge creation, and rapprochement among peoples.

This cultural dimension is one of the Summit's major distinguishing features, aiming to connect scientific, academic, and technical approaches with broader reflections on the place of water within Arabophone societies.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The Arabophone Academic Water Summit aims to establish the first Arabophone academic platform dedicated to water-related challenges.

Its objective is to strengthen cooperation among universities, research centers, public institutions, river basin agencies, international organizations, civil society actors, and young

researchers in order to promote an integrated approach to water governance based on science, innovation, culture, citizen participation, and intercultural dialogue.

The Summit will contribute to the gradual development of an Arabophone academic water community capable of producing knowledge, developing joint projects, strengthening the capacities of younger generations, and promoting a shared vision of water challenges across the Arabophone world.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen academic and scientific cooperation among countries of the Arabophone world;
- Promote the Arabic language as a vehicle for knowledge transfer, scientific cooperation, and intercultural dialogue;
- Foster exchanges among universities, researchers, students, basin agencies, and public institutions;
- Present the results of the UMJAE–STRATEAU pilot project developed in Morocco;
- Encourage the emergence of joint research, training, and innovation projects;
- Highlight the cultural, historical, and civilizational dimensions of water;
- Promote youth engagement through the World Union of Young Water Ambassadors (UMJAE);
- Provide young researchers and Young Water Ambassadors with a platform for dialogue, expression, and co-creation of solutions adapted to local realities;
- Strengthen links between academic stakeholders and public decision-makers;
- Contribute to international discussions on sustainable water governance, climate adaptation, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Prepare joint contributions for major international events dedicated to water, climate, education, and sustainable development.

PROPOSED THEMATIC AREAS

Theme 1 – Water, Civilization and Heritage in the Arabophone World

- History of water in Arab civilizations;
- Hydraulic heritage;
- Traditional knowledge;
- Water, culture, and identity.

Theme 2 – Water Governance and Integrated Water Resources Management

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM);
- Public policies;
- Territorial dialogue and consultation;
- Transboundary cooperation.

Theme 3 – Research, Innovation and Decision-Support Tools

- Artificial Intelligence and water;
- Modeling and foresight;
- Information systems;
- Presentation of the UMJAE–STRATEAU program.

Theme 4 – Climate Change and Territorial Resilience

- Drought;
- Floods;
- Adaptation;
- Nature-based solutions.

Theme 5 – Youth, Education and Water Citizenship

- World Union of Young Water Ambassadors (UMJAE);
- Youth training;
- Citizen participation;
- Water awareness and education.

Theme 6 – Water, International Cooperation and Science Diplomacy

- Regional cooperation;
- Water diplomacy;
- Water–Energy–Food–Environment Nexus;
- Contributions to international agendas.

EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS

The Summit will bring together:

- Universities and higher education institutions;
- Research centers;
- River basin agencies;
- Ministries responsible for water, higher education, and environment;
- International organizations;
- Experts and researchers;
- Students and doctoral candidates;
- Young Water Ambassadors;
- Local and regional authorities;
- Civil society representatives;
- Technical and financial partners.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Summit is expected to deliver:

- The creation of the **Arabophone Academic Water Network**;
- The establishment of a steering committee responsible for its development;
- The adoption of the **Marrakech Declaration on Water and Arabophonie**;
- The strengthening of the UMJAE network throughout Arabophone countries;
- The development of sustainable university, scientific, and institutional partnerships;
- International recognition of the results achieved by the UMJAE–STRATEAU pilot project in Morocco;
- The development of joint initiatives in research, training, innovation, and participatory governance;
- The identification of collaborative projects between universities, basin agencies, and public institutions;

- The preparation of joint contributions for major international events dedicated to water, climate, and sustainable development;
- Strengthened dialogue between senior experts and younger generations of water stakeholders;
- Enhanced international visibility of the Kingdom of Morocco as a platform for dialogue, innovation, and cooperation in the field of water;
- The consolidation of an Arabophone academic community capable of actively contributing to international debates on sustainable water resources management.

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With the participation and/or the support of :

