



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة · 联合国环境规划署

PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT · PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC)

Press Release

3 December 2004

For information only. Not an official record.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) supported Iraqi Marshlands Training Courses to begin Monday 6 December

UNEP/DTIE/IETC implements the following Training Courses as the activity of the project “Support for Environmental Management on Iraq Marshlands” from Monday 6 December to Friday, December 17, 2004.

Training Course on Water Quality Management, Shiga, Japan

Training Course on Sustainable Sanitation, Osaka, Japan

Training Course on Phytotechnologies for Wetland Management, Cairo, Egypt

Two courses, in Osaka and Cairo, provide practical technical information for sustainable sanitation and wetland management, in preparation for the pilot implementation of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) in the Marshland area. The course in Shiga provides policy and institutional-relevant information on water quality management. The courses will take place in cooperation with International Lake Environment Committee (ILEC), Global Environment Centre Foundation (GEC), and Cairo University respectively.

Approximately eighty trainees consist of nominated officials from Iraq's Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Water Resources, and the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, and representatives from the Environment Directorates of the Southern Governorates in Iraq as well as academia. The importance of raising Iraqi capacity was agreed at the UNEP Roundtable on Iraqi Marshland Management held in Amman, Jordan in September 2004

1. Training Course on Water Quality Management in Shiga (6-17 December 2004) – This course covers policy-relevant subjects for water quality management, such as water quality criteria and international standards.

The need for policies and regulations aimed at sound water quality assessment and monitoring programmes, sanitation practices and information exchange have become imperative.

2. Training Course on Sustainable Sanitation in Osaka (6-17 December 2004) – This course focuses on sustainable sanitation, and addresses small and large scale sanitation systems, technical options for sanitation provision, operation and maintenance, project design and management training

The course has been designed to develop technical and managerial expertise in sustainable sanitation, in preparation for the pilot implementation of sanitation systems in the Marshland areas.

3. Training Course on Phytotechnologies for Wetland Management in Cairo (6-16 December 2004) – Phytotechnology utilizes plants to improve water quality, reduce pollution and sanitation problems, while enhancing environmental conditions and the livelihoods of the riparian communities. The use of phytotechnology, such as artificial constructed wetlands, is an example of environmentally sound technology (EST) that the project intends to implement on a pilot basis in the Marshland area.

This training course is designed for the “Train-the-Trainers” concept, mainly focusing on the scientific and technical aspects related to the suitability, design, application, and socio-economic components of constructed wetlands for water quality and marshlands management.

Following the three training courses in December 2004, UNEP, through its office in Japan, the International Environment Technology Centre (IETC), plans to hold additional training courses in 2005. All courses will be designed to reflect the needs identified by relevant Iraqi institutions, building the Iraqi capacity needed to implement the UNEP-led Marshland project.

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Arabic training materials are also being prepared to support the future implementation of pilot projects in Iraq, when conditions permit.

For specific information on the UNEP DTIE IETC training courses, please contact Chizuru Aoki, Iraq Project Coordinator in Shiga and Junko Ochi, Senior Liaison Officer in Osaka of UNEP DTIE International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC). IETC Shiga Office, tel. +81-77-568-4581, IETC Osaka Office, tel. +81-6-6915-4581, email at ietc@unep.or.jp, and Website at www.unep.or.jp/marshlands.

For more information about UNEP's marshlands project see: <http://marshlands.unep.or.jp/>

For more information about UNEP's work in Iraq, please contact Robert Bisset, UNEP Spokesperson in Europe, on tel. +33-1-4437-7613, email at Robert.Bisset@unep.fr

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