



AMCOW President and Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Dr Mohamed Bahaa El-Din

opened the Africa Focus Day at the World Water Week with an emphasis on the need to sustain AMCOW's goal to utilize water resources for growth and development in the continent. At the event held Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 in Stockholm, Dr El Din said "Water for Growth – in all of its important and significant connections – should henceforth be elevated to the level of political attention and implementation priority that has been accorded to drinking water and sanitation over the last ten years." Read the full speech.

This year's Africa Focus Day attracted over two hundred and fifty participants including AMCOW Ministers, water experts, development partners, civil society and AMCOW friends. Ministers who graced the occasion included the AMCOW President, Dr Bahaa El-Din of Egypt, Dr Salem Mohamed Rashrash, Minister, General Water Resources Authority, Libya / AMCOW Vice President, North Africa, Dr Laurent G. Sedogo, Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Burkina Faso, Hon Seifdeen Abdallah, Minister for Water, Sudan, and Hon Julien Reboza, Minister of Water, Madagascar. Others were Hon. Betty Bigombe, Minister of State for Water, Uganda, Hon Gersh Kebede, Minister of State, Ministry of Water and Energy, Ethiopia, Hon. Rejoice-Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister for Water and Environmental Affairs, South Africa, and Hon Charles Zulu, Deputy Minister for Water, Zambia.

The Africa Focus seminars explored the themes "Water Security: Opportunities for the 21st Century" and "Managing Africa's Water Resources: Challenges and Opportunities." At seminar 1, AMCOW Executive Secretary, Bai Mass Taal made a presentation on ["Key Messages From Marseille - Cairo- Rio +20"](#) setting the stage for a high powered discussion panel featuring Prof. A Szollosi-Nagy, Rector, UNESCO-IHE Institute, Delphi,

Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Chair of GWP Regional Chairs, and Akissa Bahri, Co-ordinator of Africa Water Facility.

A presentation on [“2012 Africa Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches in Water Resources Management”](#) introduced another lively panel discussion featuring Dr. Khalil M Timamy, (AUC) Maarten Gischler, DGIS, Netherlands, Gustavo Saltiel, (CIWA), Dr. Themba Gumbo (Cap-Net), Mr Andre Fourie, Head: Sustainability, South African Breweries (WEF-WRG), Dr Ahmed Wagdy (Advisor to AMCOW President), and Dr Stephen Donkor, Snr Regional Adviser, WRDM, UNECA.



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