



**Minutes of the INECO Cyprus
2nd Stakeholder Workshop
(May 15th 2008, Pegeia, Cyprus)**

Prepared by AEOLIKI Ltd

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Contents

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Major Outcomes	2
3. Discussion Summary	2
4. List of Participants	4
5. Event Programme	5

1. Introduction

This document summarizes the discussions of the INECO Cyprus 2nd Stakeholders Workshop. The workshop was held in the afternoon of May 15th 2008 in Pegeia, Cyprus.

The event focused on discussing with local stakeholders issues relevant to the focal water management problem of the Pegeia Aquifer.

2. Major Outcomes

The following issues were discussed and agreed upon during the event:

- The proposed technical solutions for the water problem at Pegeia focused mainly on desalination (with the question who pays for the higher cost), the use of recycled water for irrigation (when the waste water treatment plant of Pegeia will be in operation), the reduction of losses, and the use of grey water at houses;
- The proposed economic tools focused on water pricing, taxes, decentralization of water management operations and subsidies
- There is still lack of information on the water issue of the area and the subsidies that the WDD is promoting for water conservation, use of grey water, etc;
- All participants filled in the questionnaire on evaluating the feasibility and applicability of economic and institutional instruments for addressing groundwater overexploitation in the Pegeia area. The regional partner (AEOLIKI Ltd.) will review the results and prepare a summary report to be distributed to the participants and the Pegeia residents prior the next Stakeholder meeting;
- A next Stakeholder Meeting will be held after the Tunisia Stakeholder Assembly.

3. Discussion Summary

Introduction

The meeting started with a welcoming address from Dr. Ioannis Glekas (Director of AEOLIKI Ltd) summarizing the discussions and results of the previous meeting in October 2007.

Dr. Glekas then presented in brief the agreed causes of the water problem in Pegeia as well as the objectives and alternatives as proposed by the stakeholders.

Discussion on the causes of the problem of groundwater overexploitation and depletion in Pegeia and the proposed objectives and alternatives

The introductory presentation of Dr. Glekas initiated the discussion among the participating stakeholders. The participation of the greek-cypriots was substantially greater than in the 1st Stakeholder Workshop in October (half of the participants were Greek-Cypriots and half British) thanks to the help of the Municipality of Pegeia. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Glekas with the help of Ms. Maria Christodoulou-Pyla.

The participants identified a number of issues for discussion and elaboration:

1. Building permits should be limited since the existing ones exceed the capacity to provide water in Pegeia and have a major impact on the depletion of the aquifer;
2. This issue was challenged by some of the greek-cypriot residents who expressed the view that measures towards the direction of loss reduction and water conservation in swimming pools are needed;
3. Water desalination is an option but there is a big concern regarding who will bear the cost, and so this is an issue to be studied prior to the decision to adopt this option. However although it sounds as a good solution questions raised regarding the environmental impacts in the area;
4. The transfer of water from Turkey was another discussed option although it was not well welcomed by the locals due to the existing national problem after the invasion of Turkey in the island in 1974;
5. Introduction of grey water in the water system to irrigate the gardens. The majority of the participants were not aware that the WDD is subsidizing for many years now the introduction of such systems. The introduction of the water pricing option is needed in order to make people less reluctant to use the grey water;
6. The introduction of water conservation measures and water recycling should be obligatory in order to issue any new building permit. Reference was made to the new concept of the "Water Clever Houses";
7. Lack of water conservation culture amongst the Pegeia residents, resulting in water wastage. Until now very little legal actions are taken against them. There is a need for a change;
8. Integrated Sustainable Water resource Development in the area and in Cyprus generally. This is the way for the solution of the water problems;
9. Increase price on water is one option that can promote the water conservation, although some participants expressed the view that it did not have the expected results when it was applied in the past (consumers did not pay the water bill);
10. There is a lack of a National Water Management Policy (water is a national resource);

Questionnaire on objectives and alternatives

The second session of the workshop opened with a brief review by Dr. Glekas on the issues discussed in the previous session and continued with an open discussion (moderated by Dr.

Glekas and Ms. Maria Christodoulou-Pyla) amongst the participants on the issues identified and discussed previously.

The issue of rapid development rates in Pegeia was again raised as the main cause of water problems that need a lot of concern (at least amongst the non-local residents). The representatives from the Pegeia Municipality who have the responsibility of providing water to all its residents, expressed the view that the development cannot be stopped although there must be a control on building permits together with the introduction of measures to conserve water.

Mr K. Spanos (WDD district engineer) presented an overview of the current water situation in the area and the government policy to reduce water supply by 30% from the government water works (Asprokremmos Dam and water treatment plant).

Finally, the 2nd questionnaire was distributed among the participants and explained by Dr. Glekas. All participants filled in the questionnaire.

It was decided that the local participant will prepare a review report on the results of the questionnaire, which will be discussed during the next Stakeholder Workshop.

The next Stakeholder workshop was decided to be organized after the Tunisia Stakeholder Assembly. The local partner has proposed to two local participants to participate in the Tunisia meeting, based on their availability at the time of the meeting.

4. List of Participants

Project Partners

Dr. Ioannis Glekas (Aeoliki Ltd.)
Mr. Solomon Ioannou (Aeoliki Ltd.)
Ms. Maria Christodoulou - Pyla

Local Stakeholders

Ms. Linda Leblanc, Pegia Council Member
Mr. Pantelis Pantelides, Pegia Municipality (Engineer)
Mr. Charis Kassioulis, Pegia Municipality (Engineer)
Mr. Savvas Simeou, Pegeia Municipality (WaterBoard)
Mr. Andreas Socratous, Pegeia Municipality (WaterBoard)
Mr. George Chabalis, Pegeia Resident
Mr. Dimos Leonidou, Pegia Resident
Mr. Andreas Akourdalitis, Pegia Resident
Mr. Denis Oharel, Pegia Resident
Mr. Janet Barry, Pegia Resident
Mr. John Knowles, Pegia Resident
Ms. Keith Barret, Pegia Resident
Mr. Michael Barry, Pegeia Resident
Mr. David Ball, Pegeia Resident
Mr. Richard Morgan, Pegeia Resident
Ms. Shirley Morgan, Pegeia Resident
Ms. Maria Neofytou, Pegia Resident
Mr. Richard Hughes, Pegeia Resident

Mr. John Hall, Pegeia Resident
 Ms. Hazel France Hall, Pegeia Resident
 Mr. Neophytos Panteli, Pegeia Resident, Secretary of Cooperative Farmer Association
 Mr. Kyriakos Spanos, Water Development Department
 Mr. George Ioannou, Water Development Department

5. Event Programme

16:00	Registration	
The Focal Problem of Groundwater Overexploitation and Depletion		
16:15 – 16:45	Groundwater overexploitation in Cyprus: Effects and underlying causes Summary of the October 2007 meeting	Dr. Ioannis Glekas, Aeoliki Ltd.
16:45 – 18:00	Discussion on the available options	All participantants (moderated by Dr. I. Glekas and Ms. Maria Pyla)
18:00 – 18:30	Reporting of discussion outcomes	Moderators All participants
18:30 – 19:00	An alternative approach – Economic and institutional options	All participantants (moderated by Dr. I. Glekas and Ms. Maria Pyla)
19:00 – 19:30	Questionnaire for evaluating the feasibility and applicability of economic and institutional instruments for addressing groundwater overexploitation in the Pegeia area	All participantants (moderated by Dr. I. Glekas and Ms. Maria Pyla)
19:30 – 20:00	Reporting of discussion outcomes	Moderators All participants
20:00	Dinner – END OF WORKSHOP	