

## WORLD WATER DAY

### WATER AND FOOD SECURITY



Country Water Partnership NGO together with its partner organizations- SPRING GROUP Strategic PR Initiative Group, DEMO Production, Coca Cola Hellenic Company, has implemented numerous activities in order to celebrate the World Water Day and raise public awareness on it.

The series of events was commenced by the **press conference** held on 6th of March, where a series of events on “Let’s care – World Water Day 2012- Armenia” project and the current situation with water safety and related issues in Armenia were presented.



More than 15 correspondents were present to the press conference, who latter have illustrated the project with various media keys (TV, radio, newsletters.)

TV and on-line interview series have been held with the invited specialists, which aimed to present the activities and projects of the program to the wide auditorium, also to inform about the aims and the issues of the World Water Day.

A series of **photo sessions** with public figures and representatives of show business were implemented aiming to inform the wide community and the youth the current situation with water resources and related issues in Armenia, as well as highlight the main issues on water.

An open **Photo Contest** was announced to present the social, environmental, esthetic and other kind of issues connected to the water resources from the view point of the public. The winner of the Photo Contest was awarded with a prize.

**Professional discussions** were held, where experts discussed the main issues of the water sector and the further steps to address them.



It is designed to publish **thematic articles**, based on the results of studies and viewpoints of the conference participants.

The program was accomplished on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March with a **Conference** held in “Armenia Marriott” hotel. Representatives of Ministry of Nature Protection RA, Ministry for Territorial Governance of RA, Ministries of Agriculture and Health Protection, private sector, international organizations and also mass media were present to the conference.



The speakers of the Conference went into the issues of water resources contamination (both household and industrial, specially mining waste water), which are crucial for Armenia and need both political, and legislative and institutional solutions.

The Climate Change Challenges connected with protection of water resources, also the developed action plan for adaptation were also presented at the Conference.

Summarizing the speeches and discussions of the Conference, the participants highlighted following issues:

There are no standards for irrigation water quality in Armenia, so it is impossible to irrigate with waste water jeopardizing the safety of agricultural products, in some cases also dairy products and meat products.

The standards for waste water treatment are rather strict and huge investments are needed to fulfill them, which is not achievable for the country and the local market.

As a result, the waste waters flow into the surface and underground water basins without treatment.

The waste water is not considered as water resource and there are no encouraging mechanisms for waste water treatment institutions.

The government does not have any clear policy and strategy for waste water treatment and to review the treated water as an additional water resource for reuse.

Considering the issues, there is a need to develop:

- ✓ a clear policy and a new strategy for industrial and house hold waste water treatment and treated water reuse – to develop new and modern methods for waste water treatment in Armenia,
- ✓ to develop irrigation water standards, in accordance with European standards and regulations,
- ✓ to review the existing standards for waste water treatment and develop a step by step strategy for waste water treatment – allowing the local market institutions achieve the final phase of waste water treatment in a corresponding period.
- ✓ To develop encouraging mechanisms for local market – to foster the waste water treatment process,
- ✓ To implement a corresponding legislative and normative changes into the existing laws and orders.

The participants of the Conference have come to a conclusion, that water resources protection and careful attitude to the water resources will allow our country to resist both the Climate Change and meet the existing food safety challenges.

