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PREFACE

The present volume contains the papers presented at the 4th International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management, held in Kos, Greece in May 2007. Previous conferences of the series were held in 2001 in Halkidiki, Greece, in 2003 in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, and in 2005 in Algarve, Portugal. The fourth conference was organized by Wessex Institute of Technology, UK and was sponsored by WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment, the ASCE UK International Group, and the Prince Sultan Research Center for Environment, Water and Desert of Saudi Arabia.

Nowadays, water consists one of the most important natural resources in the world. Therefore, population growth and higher living standards will cause ever increasing demands for good water quality in the future, exerting an extreme pressure in water resources. Water is essential for supplying domestic, municipal, industrial, and agriculture needs. Furthermore, while growing populations and increasing water requirements are a certainty, it is not known how climates will change and at what extent they will be affected by man's activities. Climate changes (both natural and anthropogenic) are essentially unpredictable, As a direct result water resources management should be flexible and ready to cope with changes in availability and demands for water. Integrated water management on a local scale is thus imperative and all pertinent factors should be considered in the decision-making process. This integrated approach evaluates supply management demand management, water quality management, recycling and reuse of water, water economics, public involvement, public health among many other parameters.

Therefore, effective strategies for integrated water resources management both on local and national scale should be implemented in every country, taking in mind the aforementioned factors. This conference provides a common forum for all researchers specialising in the range of subjects included in sustainable water resources management.

The scientific topics presented at Sustainable Water Resources Management 2007 conference included:

- Water management and planning
- Hydrological modelling
- Water quality
- Groundwater flow problems and remediation

- Waste water management
- Waste water treatment and management
- Water markets and policies
- Pollution control
- Irrigation problems
- Urban water management
- Decision support systems
- Coastal and estuarial problems

The editors would like to thank all the authors for their contribution, as well as the members of the International Scientific Advisory Committee for their invaluable help in reviewing the papers.

The Editors,
Kos, Greece
2007

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