

**IRAN NEWS Expresses Its
Condolences to All Shiites Over the
Anniversary of the Martyrdom of
Imam Zein-ul Abedin(A)**

IRAN NEWS

**Iran Has Imported Some 4.5 Million
Tons of Wheat in the First Eight
Months of Current Iranian Calendar
Year Which Began on March 20**



Urmia Hosts Intl. Urmia "Strategies and



**ENG. MOHAMMADIZADEH, HEAD OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT**

Urmia Lake International Seminar entitled "challenges and strategies" was held in Urmia in the presence of Dr. Rahimi First Vice President, and some thinkers and university lecturers of both domestic and foreign universities.

In the inaugural ceremony of this seminar, attended by the head of Department of Environment (DoE), governor general of W. Azarbaijan Province, Leader's representative in the province and Friday prayers leader of Urmia, representatives of people of Urmia in the Islamic consultative Assembly, general managers of the Department of Environment, a great number of domestic university lecturers as well as senior officials of W. Azarbaijan Province, Dr. Rahimi First Vice President pointed to the significance of safeguarding and protecting Lake Urmia and said: "This lake is considered as a bio reserve in the Earth in international level."

If drying operation of Lake Urmia is continued, not only west Azarbaijan Province but also neighboring provinces will incur irreparable losses in climatic terms, he observed.

He termed this prestigious seminar as a giant step towards attaining fruitful scientific ways and taking advantage of constructive views of thinkers and environmental activists and added: "Enlightening public opinion will play a leading role in encouraging and participating people in executive projects of the region in this field."

The critical condition of Lake Urmia promoted officials to set up Watershed Management Headquarters as headed by First vice President and DoE was appointed as secretary of the headquarters.

First Vice President termed compilation of emergency

short- and mid-term projects and ceasing construction operation of dam construction as major programs of the Headquarters and added: "Prioritized plans were put atop agenda of the executive programs of Lake Urmia due to the critical conditions of the lake with the cooperation of the responsible organization within a previous year."

At the end of his speech, Dr. Rahimi urged Majlis representatives to adopt specific budget line for this lake.

Remarks of Head of DoE in Lake Urmia Intl. Seminar:

Eng. Mohammadzadeh Head of the Department of Environment (DoE) was the next speaker who pointed to the significance of this lake in the world, as large as 5,000 square kilometers, and said: "This lake should continue its life gorgeously with the wise and logical management."

Reducing rainfalls as much as 60mm and changes in climatic condition and incessant droughts, as well as reduction of running waters of the region over the previous 35 years have caused reduction of Lake Urmia, he observed.

Existence of rich mines of salt, potassium, magnesium sulfate, embedded in this lake, is a giant national wealth with high economic value, he said, adding: "Ecological specifications in bio terms, and existence of *Artemia* as the sole living organism in the lake and migratory and native birds of the regions in 239 species, etc. have turned this lake into one of the rare marshlands in the world."

He pointed to the significance of the marshland in the lifecycle and said: "We consider Lake Urmia and this valuable lagoon as cultural heritage and important reserve of life and also climax of the creation and burden

a Lake Seminar Entitled and Challenges"



**JALALZADEH, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF
W. AZARBAIJAN PROVINCE**

great responsibility to safeguard it."

Mohammadzadeh also referred to the negative aftereffects of Lake Urmia as follows: turning 200,000 ha land area of the lake to salty lands and evacuating 40 villages of the region and increase of unemployment rate, etc.

The head of the Department of Environment termed the following factors as the main reasons behind critical conditions of the lake such as immethodical and unprincipled development of agriculture, and reduction of water in underground water tables, etc.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the significance of saving Lake Urmia and called on responsible officials and organizations to take effective steps in order to revitalize the lake.

Governor General of West Azarbaijan Province:

Critical Condition of Lake Urmia, Our Major Concern

In Lake Urmia Intl. Seminar, Jalalzadeh Governor General of W. Azarbaijan Province pointed to the grave situation of the lake and said: "All of us are worry of critical situation of the lake and effective steps should be taken in this regard in order to save the lake."

Jalalzadeh described commissioning water conveyance line from southern part of this province to the Lake Urmia as "important" and added: "The feasibility studies of water conveyance projects from southern province to the Lake Urmia are underway in three main lines and necessary credits have been allocated to implement these projects."

The provincial governor general pointed to the anticipated projects with regard to the Lake Urmia and added: "Over 15000 billion rials project is underway with regard to the Lake Urmia and we urged responsible officials to order acceleration of these projects."

He also termed optimal consumption of water especially in agricultural purposes as "important".

Representative of People of Urmia in Majlis:

Salt Winds Resulted from Drying Lake Urmia Have Jeopardized W. Azarbaijan and Neighboring Provinces

Jahangirzadeh representative of people of Urmia in the Islamic Consultative Assembly pointed to the saving Lake Urmia as one of the most valuable God-given blessings in the region and said: "Danger of salt winds, as a result of drying Lake Urmia has jeopardized West Azarbaijan and neighboring provinces seriously and problems facing Lake Urmia should be considered as a national problem."

Description of Objectives of Seminar:

Eng. Abbasnejad The director general of Department of Environment of W. Azarbaijan Province, And who undertakes secretariat of Lake Urmia Intl. Seminar, pointed to the objectives behind organizing this get-together, including promotion of public know-how and taking advantage of public and national capabilities as well as presenting fruitful strategies in order to improve the situation of the lake.

He pointed to the hydrology, climatic, water and agricultural conditions and geo-technique, economic, social discussions as the main topics of this seminar and added: "This seminar will be held for three days in Urmia in the presence of university lecturers from domestic and foreign universities."

Of total 400 papers submitted to the secretariat, 35 of which is foreign papers.

In this seminar, effective strategies will be taken in this regard in order to solve problems facing Lake Urmia, he ended.



ENG. ABBASNEJAD THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT OF W. AZARBAIJAN
PROVINCE, AND SECRETARIAT OF LAKE URMIA INTL. SEMINAR



