

## THE 5th WORLD WATER FORUM ENDED ON SUNDAY, MARCH 22nd 2009



**S**tarted on March 16th 2009, the 5th World Water Forum ended on last Sunday, March 22nd 2009 in Istanbul, the Turkish economic capital city. Coming from the whole world, more than 28,000 people especially Government representatives, United Nations agencies, inter and non government organisations, media, universities and the civil society took part in this great and worldwide event punctuated with several relevant addresses, the-

### ■ THE AFRICAN PARTICIPATION WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL

**L**ed by the African Development Bank by express request of the African Ministers Council of Water (AMCOW), the World Water Council and other international partners, Africa actively participated in the 5th World Water Forum held in Istanbul, Turkey. Aware of its gloomy water and sanitation situation, Africa succeeded in using this forum as real platform awareness as regards the water and sanitation related issues. Seizing the opportunity of the Africa Day during that 5th World Water Forum (Wednesday, March 18th 2009), the spokespersons of the oldest continent were big news by presenting the official document of the Africa region. This 61 pages document clearly

identifies the Africa water resources development challenges and proposes some actions in order to face them. In fact, the figures included in that document exactly show the statement of progress of the African continent and the solutions to reach the goals of the African water vision, to wit: "An African continent where there is a usage and a fair and sustainable management of the water resources in favour of poverty reduction, socio-economic development, regional cooperation and environment". The Africa Day during the 5th World Water Forum was really very successful through the quality and relevance of the contributions and the organisation of the Africa stand as well.

"Overcoming the difference for water". And this theme was discussed through six sub themes, namely: Global change and risk management; Promotion of human development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); Management and preservation of the water resources; Governance and management; Financing and development of education, knowledge and capacities. At the opening of this Forum and the closing as well, the various contributors insisted on the necessity to provide an access to drinking water for all. And this can be possible, as mentioned by the Chairman of the World Water Council in his welcome address, through a necessary efficient management of water, a protection of the poorest populations as well as the necessity to take into consideration the principle of virtual water.

### THE AFRICAN WATER ASSOCIATION:

#### ■ A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE AFRICAN PARTICIPATION

**P**laying the key role in the Africa's global participation in the 5th World Water Forum, the African Water Association was a very important element. It played several roles as session's reporter, panelist, facilitator and chairperson of sessions in the organisation and animation of the various technical sessions at the highest level. The African Water Association also pre-

sent a paper on the professional associations by its General Secretary, Mr USHER Sylvain. The participation of the AfWA was also remarkable through the presence of one of its corporate members, namely the National Board for Drinking Water (ONEP) from Morocco which stand was many times the place for professional meetings and technical exchanges.