Summary Report on the Visiting International Fellowship
By: Marwan Haddad

1. Introduction

The application to the 2004/2005 Visiting International Fellowship was applied first through my host, Professor David Eaton from LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin, Texas early summer, 2004. The application won the 2004/2005 VIF and I was officially notified of the award by the IC committee.

I successfully used the IC committee letter to apply for entry visa to the US. Later I reserved my flights to the Anchorage Alaska, USA (where the 2005 EWRI congress took place) in coordination with my host who was very cooperative in setting a pre congress activity program in Austin.

During the days of my leave of the Palestinian Territory and the first days of the congress, the Israeli army imposed a total ban on Palestinian movement within the territory, resulting in me not able to attend the meeting. I notified the IC committee of the matter and the IC committee took later a decision of extending the VIF to the next year congress (2005/2006) to be held in Omaha Nebraska.

Fortunately I was able this time to attend the meeting.
I arrived to the US on the evening of May 18th and to Omaha Nebraska on the early morning of May 19th. I stayed in Omaha until the evening of May 24th. The visit to Austin started from the evening of May 24th to the morning of May 28th.

2. Summary of Activities

The World Water and Environmental Resources Congress was held between May 21st to May 25th, 2006 at the QWEST conference center in Omaha, Nebraska. It was organized by the Environmental & Water Resources Institute (EWRI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

Several activities took place during the period of my stay in the US and within this VIF program including:

- May 21st, 2006 (6:00 to 8:00 pm) the International Fellowship reception and ice breaker which took place at the QWEST conference center – Peter Kiewit –Grand Ballroom A. At the reception I received the VIF, got introduced to the IC committee, and met with very good old fellows and friends and much new people. I addition I had the chance to meet companies and organization representatives in the exhibit Hall.

- May 22nd, 2006 (9:00 am to 5:00 pm) sitting in and listening to various presentations within the concurrent technical sessions - at the QWEST
conference center – Peter Kiewit –lecture rooms. It was a good opportunity to discuss various technical research issues and get introduced to US and international researchers.

- **May 23rd, 2006 (9:00 am to 5:00 pm)** sitting in and listening to various presentations within the concurrent technical sessions - at the QWEST conference center – Peter Kiewit –lecture rooms. I participated in the International Issues/VIF Panel Discussion session (11:00 am to 12:30 pm). During the session I gave a presentation on water management in Palestine. The session was rich in attendance and discussions and the moderator extended the discussion for an additional 15 minutes beyond the scheduled session time.

- **May 24th, 2006 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)** sitting in and listening to various presentations within the concurrent technical sessions - at the QWEST conference center – Peter Kiewit –lecture rooms. I participated in the applied research in water, wastewater, and storm water session (9:00 am to 10:30 am). During the session I gave a presentation on the evaluation of constructed wetland as a secondary wastewater treatment, source for tertiary treatment, and a reuse system. The session was also rich in attendance and discussions.

- **May 25th, 2006;** The morning was spent at LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin, meeting with some faculty and finishing up some financial matters related to my travel to and stay in Austin. In the afternoon (12:15 pm to 14:00 pm), I gave a seminar at the center for Middle Easter Studies at the University of Texas in Austin with the title “Sustainable development of natural resources in Islam.” The seminar was followed by very good active discussion.

- **May 26th, 2006;** The morning was scheduled to meet with Dr. Nadiran Kabir and Mrs Rima Petrossian from LCRA, Austin. The meeting did not take place due to missing the meeting place at the time. The rest of the morning and afternoon was spent at LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin, and UTA PCL library searching for new literature.

- **May 27th, 2006;** was a free day

- **May 28th, 2006;** 8:00 am leaving Austin

3. Conclusion

The VIF was an excellent proposal by my host and exceptional opportunity for me to (1) attend the EWRI congress, learn about current and future research
development in my field, meet with much fine researchers, EWRI members including the IC committee, and visit the exhibition, AND (2) visit UTA Austin and meet with many faculty and students, and (3) present my research and research ideas and get feedback and new proposals for potential future joint work.

4. Word of Appreciation and Acknowledgement

Many thanks and appreciations are to due to many persons who helped and supported me during this visit including my host Prof. David Eaton, Prof. Laurel Saito and the IC committee, Ms Lori O’Neal and Ms Katie Gorscak.