Water in the GCC ... Towards and Economic Efficiency & Financial Sustainability

Conference Recommendations
• **Water Management**: a focus shift from “sustainability of supply” to “sustainability of consumption”; policy instruments: structural, socio-political; and economic (most effective, enforcer, enhance cost recovery)

• **Desalination**: localize desalination industry; intensifying R&D to reduce costs (Fin, Econ & Env)

• **Surface and Groundwater**: MAR; GW basins regulations and management (institutional & legislation frameworks, abstraction rights, valuing GW & price-signaling mechanism); SW harvesting & utilization

• **Municipal Wastewater**: maximizing TWW reuse in appropriate sectors; developing required health risk management plans; incentivizing private sector TWW reuse; increase R&D in TWW reuse in other sectors; ensure medical WW separation from municipal WW; research in emerging pharmaceuticals in WW

• **Municipal Water Management**: achieve international best practices in drinking water supply & sanitation

• **Agricultural Water Management**: raising irrigation efficiency through modern farming and irrigation systems; adopting smart farming systems; selecting drought and salt tolerant crops; increase R&D to enhance water productivity and efficiency; integrate drylands curricula into academic programs; provide farmers with appropriate training to adopt modern farming system and increase their participation in decision making

• **CC Impacts**: benefit from technical outputs of RICCAR in vulnerability and adaptation studies of water sector

• **MIS & DSS**: establishing a national, integrated, and comprehensive MIS for the water sector for monitoring, modeling and supporting decision making; taking advantage of modern technologies in all aspects of hydroinformatics (data to information/knowledge to wisdom/Decisions)