

WORLD WATER DAY

UAE faces chronic problem

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Dubai Today is World Water Day 2007 and the theme for this year's events is "Coping with Water Scarcity" — something the UAE knows about with nearly 90 per cent of water here desalinated due to minimal resources underground.

The water problem in the UAE has often been described as chronic by Dubai-based experts. Statistics show that individual daily consumption of water in the GCC is 300 to 750 litres, which is the highest in the world. The amount of water available per person is less

than 500 cubic metres per year, according to Mohammad Raouf, senior environment researcher from the Gulf Research Centre.

According to Azm S. Al Homoud, Professor of Civil Engineering at the American University of Sharjah, the three priority issues that dominate water resources in the UAE are water shortages as the country is arid; the degradation and depletion of water resources; and the public and private sector resource management performance.

Al Homoud outlined these issues in a study entitled *Water Resources Challenges Facing UAE in the 21st Century*, released last year.

The study identified that the main objective of the UAE is to develop more efficient use and improved quality of water resources as well as improving public management, including appropriate policies and increased wastewater treatment and water reuse by public and private sectors and the increased use of pollution prevention techniques.

Have your say

What measures do you take to help conserve water?
How can more awareness be created? Tell us at

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