

## ARCEL

### Arab Centre for Environmental Law

On 14 November 2001, the Commission of Environmental Law (CEL) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of Kuwait University, launched the Arab Regional Centre for Environmental Law (ARCEL). This is the first such centre anywhere in the Arab-speaking region.

The launch ceremony was attended by the Deans of 26 law schools drawn from Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman and Syria, as well as the Director General of the Environment Public Authority of the State of Kuwait, Dr Mohammad A. Al-Sarawi.

Dr Badria Al-Awadi, CEL Regional Vice-Chair for West Asia, and first Director of ARCEL, presented ARCEL's first lecture on its origins and scope of work, and invited the participation of legal experts throughout the Arab world in building the region's capacity in environmental law.

The Centre's first project is focused on developing curriculum for environmental law courses in Arab law

schools, through a meeting to be funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It will also, among other things:

- organise a course on environmental law and management for the protection of the Gulf and its marine resources from on- and offshore pollution;
- publish the environmental legislation of Arab countries on the Internet in Arabic, with appropriate translations in English and other languages;
- develop additional inter-regional comparative and international environmental law study projects; and
- undertake projects on legal research and on capacity building in environmental law, along with UNEO, UNESCO and the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Gulf (ROPME).

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Faiza Al-Korafi, Rector of Kuwait University, and Mohammed Al-Haji, Governor of Hawalli, formally open the Centre by cutting the ribbon

Courtesy: Kuwait University