

## **FORTHCOMING CES SEMINAR**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 13.00 hours**  
**Room 45A AZ 04**

### **The Red Sea-Dead Sea Conduit: Solution or Disaster for the Dying Dead Sea**

**Dr Clive Lipchin**

**Arava Institute for Environmental Studies**

The Dead Sea is a unique environmental, economic and cultural asset to Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and the world. However, the water level of the Dead Sea is declining at an alarming rate, approximately one meter a year for over the last 30 years. If this trend were to continue the Dead Sea will soon fade almost completely away.

The reason for the sea's decline are obvious to all. Freshwater extraction in the upper region of the watershed by Israel, Jordan and Syria has all but halted the flow of fresh water into the Dead Sea. These extractions have reduced the flow of water from the Sea of Galilee, via the Jordan River and to the Dead Sea by as much as 90%.

The appearance of sink holes along the shore lines of the Dead Sea has all but halted economic development in the region, on both the Israeli and Jordanian sides. But the sink hole phenomena has also galvanized the governments into action in exploring options to save the Dead Sea. Two main options are available. One ecological, the other technological. The ecological option is to attempt to restore the historical flow to the sea. This would require either a drastic reduction in pumping in the upper watershed by primarily Israel and Jordan or bringing in additional freshwater from outside of the watershed and allowing this water to flow uninterrupted to the Dead Sea. This option, although environmentally attractive is fraught with problems which leads us then to the technological alternative- namely linking the Dead Sea to the Red Sea.

This seminar will address the pros and cons of the Red-Dead project and will compare it to the other alternatives being offered. The environmental, social and political dimensions of the project and its significance for regional stability will also be discussed