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Second Circular and Call for Papers

International Conference

20-22 November 2002

IHE Delft, The Netherlands

From
Conflict to Co-operation
in International Water
Resources Management:
Challenges and Opportunities

Preceded by a Pre-conference
Workshop on 'Conflict Assessment
and Resolution for Reservoir
Systems' – 19 November 2002

UNESCO / IHP / WWAP / GREEN CROSS INTERNATIONAL
MOST / IHE



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Background

In the past hundred years, the world's population has tripled while world demand for water has increased seven-fold. The signs of a looming water crisis are evident. Since water is essential to every aspect of life, this crisis affects everything — health, human rights, environment, economy, welfare, politics, culture — and is well beyond the scope of any individual country or sector to deal with unilaterally. The need for integrated, cooperative solutions is particularly urgent in the 261 river basins which are shared by two or more states. These basins include nearly half of the territory and population of the world.

In this context of crisis, the 21st century is often labeled as a period that is likely to experience wars over water. Indeed, given the multifaceted and often transboundary nature of the diminishing water resources of the Earth and their variable occurrence in time and space, tensions have certainly arisen over their use. A growing number of states are experiencing permanent water stress, and the mechanisms and institutions needed to manage disputes over water resources are often absent or inadequate. Many people fear an increase in inter-state tensions, and some even allege that such tensions will inevitably lead to armed conflicts.

This prophecy has no doubt contributed to making water an international political and policy issue. 'Water Security for the 21st Century', the Declaration of the Ministerial Conference held during the 2nd World Water Forum in March 2000 clearly echoes this sentiment.

However, historical evidence shows that water has rarely been the primary reason for armed conflicts between sovereign states. On the contrary, it is precisely due to its essential nature that freshwater can be a powerful incentive and catalyst for co-operation. As an example, the necessity to manage water use and to organize defenses against the unpredictable nature of water was a major factor in the emergence of early riverine civilizations.

Water as a potential cause of conflicts and water as an agent of co-operation can be seen as two sides of the same coin. Yet it requires determination and intervention to have the cooperative side prevail. Otherwise, humanity indeed faces an endless water crisis. Competition among water users will inevitably further increase. Accommodating competing demands is even more complicated in the case of internationally shared basins and aquifers, and requires international co-operation.

In response to these challenges, the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), a UN-system wide effort, was launched in 2000, to develop a scientific assessment methodology for the resource, its use, and its management. Periodic World Water Development Reports will provide policy relevant information to decision-makers and professionals, to monitor humanity's efforts to master the "looming water crisis".

UNESCO and Green Cross International are contributing to WWAP with their joint programme 'From Potential Conflict to Co-operation Potential: Water for Peace' (*PC→CP: Water for Peace*), which strives to examine and foster the potential for shared water resources to become a catalyst for regional

peace and development through dialogue, co-operation and participative management of transboundary river basins. For more details on WWAP and *PC→CP: Water for Peace* please connect to: www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp and www.greencrossinternational.net. Furthermore, in preparation for the 3rd World Water Forum to be held in Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga in Japan in March 2003, Green Cross International and UNESCO have initiated the topical discussion on *PC→CP: Water for Peace* on the Virtual Water Forum. The conference is one of the issues of discussion. You are invited to register for and contribute to this virtual session at www.worldwaterforum.org

Objectives

The international conference 'From Conflict to Co-operation in International Water Resources Management: Challenges and Opportunities' is organized:

- To reflect on the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10) in Johannesburg and its impact on sustainable transboundary water management;
- To introduce the first results of the *PC→CP: Water for Peace* Programme and to discuss them with stakeholders of the 'Water World': water professionals (practitioners, administrators and academia), decision makers, representatives of civil society, diplomats and educators. Both the programme and conference aim to achieve a better understanding of the drivers and mechanisms of co-operation as well as the roots of conflicts and resolutions in the different political and social settings;

- To provide a forum where the stakeholders of the 'Water World' can present their research results, report on case studies, and discuss ideas and initiatives for future action;
- To present good practices in co-operative transboundary water management, and identify alert signals of potential water conflicts and tools for preventive diplomacy;
- To consider the necessary human and institutional capacity building.
The conference is conceived as a major preparatory event of the 3rd World Water Forum to be held in March 2003.

Principal issues addressed

Emerging issues relevant for Water Resources Management are likely to both influence co-operation opportunities and create new conflict potentials. Therefore, to deepen the understanding of the main causes of conflict and identify good co-operation practices, particularly with respect to public participation in international co-operation, the conference will primarily address the following issues:

- Institutionalizing co-operation mechanisms: some means and tools.
- 'Enlarging the pie?': identifying, claiming and creating benefits.
- Private and public actors and partnerships on different scales.
- Political, climatic, social and technological changes and their impacts.
Furthermore, the conference will take stock of legal, ethical and other principles stimulating co-operation, and will examine causes and propose solutions to current implementation deficiencies.

Structure of the Conference

The conference aims to encourage discussion and exchange of views from as many disciplines and backgrounds as possible. In order to strengthen this interdisciplinary approach and to strive towards the emergence of coherent conceptual and practical recommendations, the conference is conceived without parallel sessions. To stimulate the debate in plenary sessions, the principal issues will be analyzed in invited keynote speeches and illustrated in a subsequent issue-related case study. These presentations, in the form of moderated discussion, will be made by panels of practitioners from the basin in question and representatives of important stakeholder groups. In the ensuing open debate, selected contributions will also be presented. Fact sheets outlining the keynotes and associated case studies will be sent to all registered participants before the conference.

As a consequence of the before-mentioned structure, the number of papers accepted for full oral presentation will be limited.

Invited rapporteurs will summarize the debates and papers accepted for publication in the Proceedings. Other authors will be invited to prepare poster presentation of their papers for the respective sessions of the conference. Poster specifications will be sent together with the acceptance note. Keynote lectures, rapports, papers and poster papers will all be included in the Proceedings.

Contributions

Contributions are invited to address:

- Ethical aspects of water sharing and co-operation;
- Changes in technology and water use and their political and policy reflections in regulations and laws at international and national levels, including assessment of institutional adaptability;
- The whole complex of potential water-related conflicts, their roots, history, mitigation and resolution through various processes: bilateral and multilateral diplomatic actions, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and litigation, with and without the use of mathematical models and other systems analysis tools;
- Climate change as a potential factor influencing the development of conflicts and co-operation;
- Conflicts and co-operation in the evolution of national and international regulations and regional integration processes;
- Water conflicts and economics: roots, reasons and possible remedies including the concept of virtual water, and the question of privatization;
- Educational, training and public awareness raising aspects, including techniques and experience with human and institutional capacity building in international and national context;
- Assessment and incorporation of traditional knowledge and experience;
- Integration of civil society in international co-operation around water;
- Case studies dealing primarily with international water systems. Case study papers dealing with conflicts and co-operation at smaller scale are also welcome if their conclusions are of broader relevance.

Special Event

Pre-conference workshop on 'Conflict Assessment and Resolution for Reservoir Systems' – 19 November 2002, UNESCO-IHE Delft, The Netherlands

None of the major hydraulic infrastructures or other type of human intervention provokes as much controversy as reservoirs. The international conference 'From Conflict to Co-operation in International Water Resources Management: Challenges and Opportunities' will be preceded by a one-day-long workshop focussing on conflicts and their resolution regarding to reservoirs. The following themes are selected to reflect several dimensions of potential conflicts. Related issues will be highlighted in keynote presentations, followed by debate:

- A. 'Water Resources Conflict Assessment and Resolution – the IJC Experience'
- B. 'After the World Commission on Dams – Opening the Window Wider'
- C. 'Crisis... or Opportunity? The choice is yours'

Participants are invited to submit papers also to the below themes to be included in the workshop's proceedings:

- 1. Alternatives to dams and reservoirs:**
 - viability of alternatives, alternative strategies in different climatic and environmental settings, strategies for flood protection, life-time comparisons.
- 2. Risk related conflict around reservoirs:**
 - successes and failures, natural hazards, role of reservoirs.

3. Environmental and socio-economic effects and features of reservoirs:

- flow regimes, ecosystems, aesthetics, landscape preservation, sedimentation, resettlement and compensation, water quality, public relations.

4. Reservoir and water resource system related conflict assessment and resolution:

- conflicts between: different water uses and users, resource management, flood alleviation, environmental implications and water resource system operation,
- resolution of operational conflicts.

5. Historical development of solutions of conflicts related to reservoirs.

Convener: Prof. Venkat Rao, City University, London, UK.

Deadlines

Prospective contributors are invited to send an abstract (maximum two pages) no later than 31 May 2002 to the Organizing Committee.

Notification will be given together with format requirements before 30 June 2002. The maximum 10 page long manuscripts will then be due prior to 15 October 2002, in order to be included in the Conference Proceedings.

Organizers

The Conference is organized jointly by the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Programme on the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) of UNESCO, and Green Cross International within the framework of the World Water Assessment Programme.

Venue

The Conference will be held at the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education International (former International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering) Delft, 2611 AX Delft, Westvest 7, The Netherlands. The Institute, which is in the forefront of international efforts of human capacity building worldwide, provides with its international student population and staff a stimulating atmosphere for the event.

Language

The working language of the Conference will be English.

How to register

Those who intend to participate or wish to receive further information on the conference or the programme *PC→CP: Water for Peace* are kindly invited to pre-register either through the electronic registration desk on the WWAP's website mentioned above, or send the attached form to:

Alexander Otte

WWAP – *PC→CP: Water for Peace*
Division of Water Sciences
UNESCO

1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France
e-mail:
pccp@unesco.org

Fax: +33 (0)1 45685811

Registration

No registration fee will be charged. The organizers will help in securing grants to facilitate participation from developing countries provided the applicants have papers accepted.

Tuesday, 19 November 2002**Pre-conference workshop on 'Conflict Assessment and Resolution for Reservoir Systems'**

09.00 - 13.00	Opening 'Water Resources Conflict Assessment and Resolution — the IJC Experience' Keynote and debate 'After the World Commission on Dams — Opening the Window Wider' / Keynote and debate
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 - 17.00	'Crisis ... or Opportunity? The choice is yours' Keynote and debate

Wednesday, 20 November 2002**International Conference 'From Conflict to Co-Operation in International Water Resources Management: Challenges and Opportunities'**

08.00 - 10.00	Registration
10.00 - 11.30	Opening Session Welcome by Mr. W. Van Vierssen, Rector of IHE Address by Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director General UNESCO Address by Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, President GCI
11.30 - 12.00	Coffee break
12.00 - 13.00	Presentation of <i>PC→CP: Water for Peace</i> Mr. Bertrand Charrier, GCI, and Mr. Janos Bogardi, UNESCO IHP
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch

14.00 - 15.45	'Institutionalizing co-operation mechanisms: some means and tools' / Keynote, panel and debate
15.45 - 16.15	Tea break
16.15 - 18.00	Paper presentations and discussion
18.00 - 19.00	Poster session and Icebreaker

Tuesday, 21 November 2002

09.00 - 10.45	'"Enlarging the pie?": identifying, claiming and creating benefits' / Keynote and debate
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 - 13.00	'Private and public actors and partnerships at different scales' / Keynote and debate
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 15.45	'Climatic, social and technological changes and the impacts' / Keynote and debate
15.45 - 16.15	Tea break
16.15 - 17.00	Synthesizing debate

Friday, 22 November 2002

09.00 - 10.45	Presentation: Summaries of issue debates Discussion
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 - 13.00	'Implementing water agreement' / Keynote and debate 'What legal, political, ethical and cultural incentives does Water offer for co-operation' / Keynote and debate
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 15.30	'International support for co-operation around water: education, awareness raising; advisory panel' Keynote and debate 'PC→CP: Water for Peace quo vadis? Ideas for the 2 nd phase' / Debate
15.30 - 16.00	Closing Session

16 Conference Advisory Committee

(confirmed members in alphabetical order)

Janos Bogardi
UNESCO IHP

Stefano Burchi
Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)

Bertrand Charrier
Green Cross International
(GCI)

William J. Cosgrove
World Water Council (WWC)

Ashim Das Gupta
Asian Institute
of Technology (AIT)

Jean-François Donzier
International Network
of River Basin Organisations
(INBO)

Rainer Enderlein
UNECE

**Christina
von Fürstenberg**
UNESCO MOST

David Grey
World Bank (WB)

Munther Haddadin
Water Expert, Amman

Fekri Hassan
University College London

**Margaret
Catley-Carlson**
Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Valentine V. Naidenko
UNESCO Chair
Nizhny-Novgorod

Hideyaki Oda
Secretariat 3rd World Water
Forum (3rd WWF)

Jerry Delli Priscoli
US Army Corps of Engineers
(USACE)

Shammy Puri
Commission for Transboundary
Aquifers (TARM),
International Association
of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

Huub Savenije
UNESCO-IHE Delft

Uri Shamir
Water Research Institute,
Technion

Pal Tamas
Institute of Sociology,
Hungarian Academy
of Sciences

Le Huu Ti
UN Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and
the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Aaron Wolf
Oregon State University
(OSU)



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MOST / IHE

Title: _____

Name: _____

Institute / Organization / Company: _____

Mailing address: _____

Tel.: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

- I intend to participate in the Pre-conference Workshop
- I intend to participate in the Conference
- I intend to submit a paper on the following subject:

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please fill in legibly or with a typewriter and send to:

Alexander Otte

WWAP – PC→CP: Water for Peace
Division of Water Sciences
UNESCO

Fax: +33 (0)1 45685811

1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France
E-mail:
pccp@unesco.org

Contacts:

UNESCO

Division of Water Sciences

1, rue Miollis
F-75015 Paris, France

Tel.: (+ 33) 1 45 68 41 80

Fax: (+ 33) 1 45 68 58 11

E-mail: pccp@unesco.org

Website:

www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp

Green Cross International

Water Conflict Prevention
Programme

160a route de Florissant
1231 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel.: (+ 41) 22 789 1662

Fax: (+ 41) 22 789 1695

E-mail: waterforpeace@gci.ch

Website:

www.greencrossinternational.net

Credits:

Text: IHP/UNESCO – GCI

Photo:
UNESCO / André Abbe

Graphic design and layout:
Atelier Takavoir – Paris

Printed by: CL2

© UNESCO
Printed in France
on chlorine-free paper



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