

“Eastern Nile Capacity Building Forum” Opened its first Session in Addis Ababa from 30 Jan—2 Feb 2006

Organization: The Workshop was organized by the Swiss National Center for Competence in Research (NCCR) North-South “Research Partnerships for Mitigating Syndromes of Global Change”. This is in cooperation with the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Addis Ababa University; Department of Political Science, Khartoum University; ACORD and the Gender Research Center in Khartoum, and the Regional Center for Studies and Research of Water Ethics in Cairo.

The Rationale: The perceptions of the population of the Nile Riparian countries with regard to water rights are often diametrically opposed and highly biased in favor of their own respective countries. The workshop has exposed all to the objective realities of each country's situation in order to foster better understanding and to defuse the prevailing confrontational attitudes.

The Approach: The innovative aspect of this workshop is that 10 participants attended from each of Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia. Participants were Master level students, juniors employees in Water Ministries or Foreign Ministries, employees of Water associations or of water and development NGOs. The workshop had a diverse team from each country (disciplines, institutional backgrounds). A 25% women representation was achieved. Trainers/facilitators came from each country: Prof Yacob Arsano (Ethiopia), Prof Atta El Batthani (Sudan), Dr. Asha El-Karib (Sudan), Ambassador Magdy Hefny (Egypt), Dr Simon Mason (Switzerland).

Aims: Three main aims were targeted in the course: 1) to increase knowledge on hydropolitical cooperation, 2) to increase skills related to communication, diplomacy, conflict analysis, negotiation and conflict transformation, 3) to understand the different Egyptian, Ethiopian, Sudanese country perceptions, and exchange perspectives.

Side Activities: participants visited the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) headquarters in Addis Ababa; where they were familiarized with the various projects and plans of the NBI and the ENTRO. Another visit was paid to the African Union, the department of peace and security; where they were informed of the activities of the department for conserving peace in the continent and resolving conflicts among and between African nations.

Evaluation: After four days of interactive work, the participants are more familiar with each other. As part of networks they will take lessons to their respective countries for a more promising future in the light of cooperation and development.



Participation in Meetings

The Center participated in the **CGIAR CHALLENGE program on Water and Food (CPWF) International Workshop on “Enhancing Human and Ecological Well-Being in Africa through Sustainable Increases in Water Productivity”** in Uganda, November 2005. The paper was entitled **“The Realities and Future Challenges of Water Ethics for Enhancing the Quality of Life in the Nile Basin”**.

The paper emphasized the need for a soft path approach for improving water resources management in the Nile Basin and support the implementation of the NBI; the paper outlined several ideas to strengthen the NBI, if the soft path to water management is followed:

- (1) Deepen the Nile values and Cultural Heritage;
- (2) Learning from Each Other Experiences for Knowledge Transfer;
- (3) Using Dialogue and its Tools;
- (4) Eradicating poverty is the main challenge of the Millennium;
- (5) The Need for a Nile Basin Network for Water Ethics.

Events & Meetings

- Workshop for launching the Arab Network for Water Ethics (5-6 March 2006)
- Workshop on the Code of Ethics for Water Use and Management (30 March 2006)
- Refereeing Committee Workshop on Benchmarking of Best Practices in Water Use Ethics (1st week of March 2006)
- Workshop to present the draft Code of Ethics for Ground Water Use and Management (May-2006)



*Regional Center for Research and Studies
of Water Use Ethics*

RENEW-EGYPT

One of the three regional nodes of

Research Ethical Network Embracing Water: Bergen, Canberra, Cairo

Learning, Knowledge Generation and Creative Thinking



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Solving Arab Water Crisis Needs a Soft Path of Human Dimension

Nowadays, there is a consensus that the reliance on physical and technological solutions, although still continuing to dominate the traditional planning approach, failed in satisfying basic water requirements for human activities on their own, and above all, it has caused several social, economic, and environmental problems. Indeed, there are changes in the way of thinking and approaches in managing water resources.

Many countries are redirecting their approaches towards the soft path approach through developing new methods to meet the demands of a growing population without requiring additional major constructions or new large scale water transfers. Many Arab countries are changing their way of thinking, and particularly those in arid and semi arid regions. They are beginning to shift their focus and explore the possibility for efficiency improvements, to implement options for managing demand and reallocating water among users to reduce projected gaps and meet future needs. They concur that such a change is facing strong internal opposition and it is not yet universally agreed upon.

We concur with the policy approach of demand management. However, our opinion is that actualizing water ethics is pivotal in strengthening water demand management. In this regard special attention is given to the assessment of the severity, magnitude, and complexity of the Arab water crisis by mapping the elements that constitute this crisis, this will result in a big picture as follows:

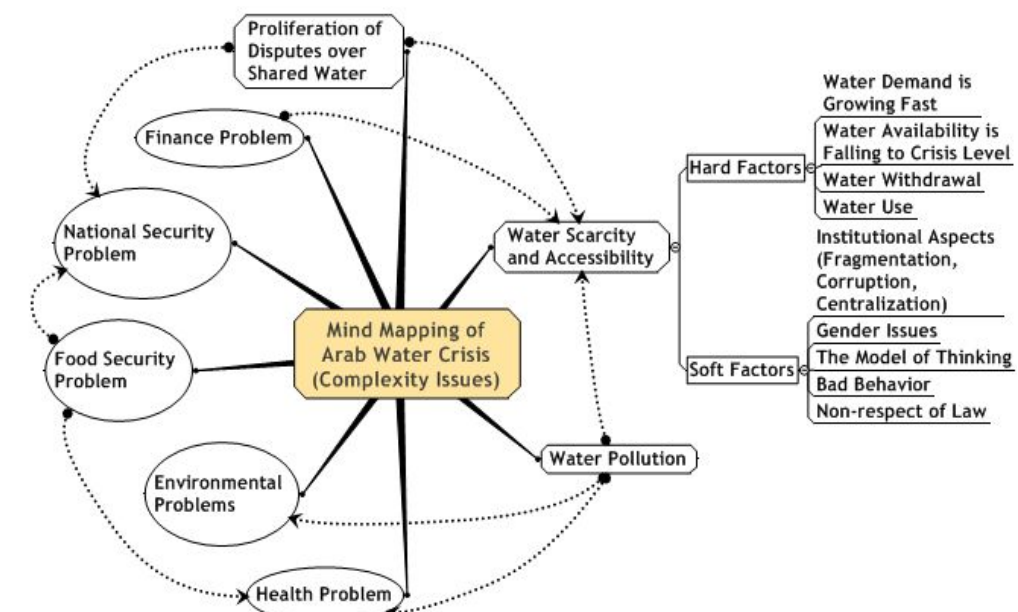


Figure showing Soft and Hard Factors and the Complexity of the Arab Water Crisis

EDITORS

- Dr. Magdy Hefny (Director)
- Dr. M. Rafeek Abd-Elbary
- Eng. M. Hammouda

From the Editor:

Why "Water Ethics Monitor"?

To interact with the readers and encourage them to share their thoughts and knowledge in accomplishing our common goals, it is decided to develop this newsletter. We hope you will enlighten us with your feedback.

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*RENEW-EGYPT
Regional Center for
Research and Studies of
Water Uses Ethics*

**Fum Ismailia Canal
P.O. Box 74
Shoubra Elkheima,
13411, Egypt**

Phone: 4467975

Fax: 2612285

E-mail:

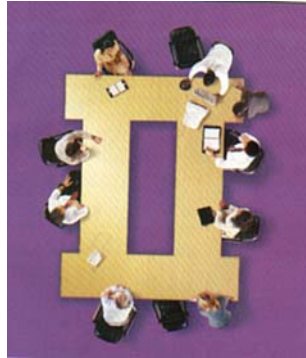
**mhefny14@hotmail.com
magdyhefny@menanet.net**

WE ARE ON THE WEB

www.mwri.gov.eg/egyptrenew

Work in Progress on Specialized Codes of Ethics

The Regional Center For Research and Studies of Water Use Ethics is working on deepening the issues and topics reflected in the general code of water ethics; this is done through investigating the possibility of issuing specialized codes concentrating on one of the issues dealt with in the general code and handle it from all its aspects. Currently the efforts are concentrated on forming two new codes: the first deals with "Ground Water Use Ethics"; and the second is entitled " Ethics of Water Negotiation". In formulating a code of ethics the center adopts an action research method of work:



- Develop a concept paper in cooperation with experts in the field (Ground Water Research Institute, or Nile Water Sector).
- Displays this paper to the experts in the Ground Water field. / or Water Negotiations field to recommend it/ or appreciate.
- Organize a workshop for all the stakeholders in which we can put third recommendations for the concept paper.
- Formulate experts group to finalize the code to print it out.

GW Code of Ethics
The contents of the code include the following topics:

- Definitions and Principles & components of GW Ethics;
- GW challenges in Egypt;
- GW Use Ethics;
- Ethics in GW resources management;
- Guidelines for GW use and management.

Code of Ethics for Water Negotiation
The contents of the code include the following topics:

- Principles & components of an Ethical negotiation;
- Negotiation and Mediation
- Ethical practice in water negotiations .
- International guidelines and principles.
- Resolving local conflicts

"Ethics in Water Negotiations": Extracts From The Code of Ethics

The code devoted chapter five (pages 41-45) to one of the most important ethical issues of water resources management "Ethical provisions of managing water negotiations and water dispute resolution". This chapter includes:

Three fundamental aspects to consider when resolving a water dispute :



Social Aspects	Economic Aspects	Environmental Aspects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify all stakeholders as well as the incidence of costs and benefits of water production and use among them (including externalities) • Allocate costs and benefits equitably: polluter pays and victim is re-compensated; and gainers compensate losers to help build the consensus • Compromise between two polar extremes for re-allocation of water benefits: grandfathering, based on past usage patterns; and equal right to meet basic human needs (e.g. on a per capita basis) • Costs of supplying water to be adjusted to make basic water needs affordable to the poor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider all costs and benefits of water production and use from the two rivers (including shadow costs of externalities) for each individual nation. • Maximise net present value (NPV) through project and policy interventions in the three countries concerned (water will tend to be allocated to the highest value-added uses in each nation). • Costs of supplying water to reflect full long run marginal costs (LRMC), including externalities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water to be treated as a scarce environmental resource – not generally substitutable • Both depletion and pollution to be minimised based on dynamic/long term considerations.

Compromise between two polar extremes for re-allocation of water benefits: grandfathering, based on past usage patterns; and equal right to meet basic human needs

Internationally accepted principles of conflict resolution

1. The Polluter Pays Principle
2. The Precautionary Principle
3. The Principle of responsibility for transboundary pollution
4. The Principle of institutionalised or mandatory EIA.
5. Principle 24 of the Stockholm Declaration stresses the duty of governments to co-operate through multilateral or bilateral arrangements, or other appropriate means in order to control, minimise or eliminate adverse environmental effects.
6. Principle 21 of the same document states explicitly that: "States have ... the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction".
7. Applying the principle of fair use without causing harm to neighbouring countries.

Local Level Disputes: are usually caused by a narrow sighted interest based individual benefit, often accompanied by aggressive reactions. Nevertheless, based on principles of equity and fairness we can reach acceptable solutions that help pursuing Sustainable development. And the basis for resolving Local Conflicts is Supplying all communities with their basic needs of water resources and sharing the stress if this can't be fulfilled.



Lessons Learned from Morocco: Community Management of Water Resources in the Imlil Valley near Marrakech

Description

The Issue: In a situation of water shortages, seasonal fluctuations, and long distances from rivers and water points, five communities came together to improve availability and regularity of water supply with the support of Amrash, a Moroccan NGO.

The Solution:

1. The project called for elaboration of a water code, drawing on the J'maa tradition of community-based water organization. The new code defined conditions of access to and use of water either orally or through a written form and defined priorities of water users, lists of water committee members, rights and responsibilities, and fines.
2. Consultation helped to resolve conflicts over the location and type of water supply systems, between private and collective lands, and the type of organization that should be in charge of water management.
3. Training was provided to local associations which gained knowledge and skills in technical, legal, health and communication matters. As a result of payments, local associations were able to provide credit facilities to villagers.

Problems encountered:

- Increasing demand for water due to better availability created stress on water resources during the dry season
- Women were insufficiently involved in decision making
- Improved availability of water was not linked to management of wastewater and created diseases and filth
- People from higher mountains are migrating to the valley so there is a larger population to be served by the water resources.

Some conflicts arose when a foreign NGO overcame the Jmaa'a system and installed a water point in the house of the president of the association. Amrash NGO did not have enough experience on integrated water management.

Lessons learned

This experience shows both positive and negative lessons; **on the positive side:**

- It shows the importance of setting up clear regulations at the outset (water codes) and building on existing institutions such as Jmaa'a, mutual aid and solidarity mechanisms.

On the negative side:

- It demonstrates the importance of looking at water resource management from a river basin perspective and not on a village base, and to link water supply and management of wastewater
- Gender issues were not dealt with early in the process, because of resistance from elders and conservative segments of villages, which meant that women were little involved.

Importance of case for IWRM

The experience highlights the need to plan for increased water consumption when water supply is improved, and to set localized reforms in a wider socio-economic context.

Source: GWP, IWRM Toolbox, Case Studies

Mohamed Mahdi and Leila Tazi; E-mail: info@i-s-w.org

Generic Issues: Right to Water

A **Workshop on Water as a Human Right for the MENA Region** was held in the Regional Center for Training and Water Studies, 6th of October city, from 11-12 February 2006. The workshop was sponsored by the International Development Research Center IDRC and the Third World Center for Water Management. Participation in the workshop included renowned experts: Dr. Asit K. Biswas; and Dr. David B. Brooks, and from IDRC.

Participants from Egypt included: Dr. Shaden Abdel-Gawad, chair of the National Water Research Center; Dr. Dalal Elnaggar, director of the Regional Center for Training and Water Studies; Dr. Hossam Fahmy, director of the Drainage Research Institute; Dr. Ahmed Khater, Director of the Institute for Ground Water Research; and Dr. Khaled Abou Zeid, Director of the Egyptian Water Partnership; Dr. Magdy Hefny, Director of the Regional Center for Research and Studies of Water Ethics (see the workshop themes).

The workshop stressed on the human right to water as an ethical principle. The human right approach to water puts the peoples needs first regarding water use and promotes human-centred water resource development. This is based on a coherent framework of binding legal norms and accountability. It aims to empower individuals to achieve their full potential of and the freedom to take up opportunities in using water.

Categorization of governmental obligation with regard to the human right on water

Respect. The obligation to respect requires that States Parties refrain from interfering directly or indirectly with the enjoyment of the right to water.

Protect. The obligation to protect requires that States Parties prevent third parties such as corporations from interfering in any way with the enjoyment of the right to water.

Fulfill. The obligation to fulfill requires that States Parties adopt the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of the right to water.



Consultation helped to resolve conflicts over the location and type of water supply systems

Workshop Themes:

- Rights to water; what is new and what is not; what is important and what is not?
- Actualizing the right to water in Egypt.
- Water as a human right: towards civil society globalization.
- Envisioning a human rights approach to water in Lebanon.
- EMPOWERS: A regional approach to improving access to water resources.
- Who cares for water? Water rights and accountability.
- Water as a human right in Palestine.
- Extended access to water services for all.
- Role of NGOs in promoting access to drinking water.