



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



Water Ethics Monitor

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Lessons Learned From Egypt's Experience

The irrigation improvement program (IIP) is one of the large-scale projects in the 21st century in Egypt. It is considered to be a main element in the overall policy of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management. This is to help Egypt sustain its ambitious development plan. The program involves a combination of technical changes and infrastructure investment, together with institutional and organizational reforms in the way irrigation water is managed. The tools used are:

- Egyptian Water Partnership (EWP): this refers to a participatory capacity and empowerment for all stakeholders (farmers, water councils, water users associations, ministries, civil society and nongovernmental organizations, parliamentarians, politicians, media, universities, research centers, private sector, consultants, youth, children, and women). The EWP was launched last year (2003) in a general conference, and hence, it was institutionalized with an agreed plan of action.
- Reform of existing legislation: Although farmers have traditionally cooperated to organize, and pay for, operation and maintenance at the mesqa level, they did not have their own formal organizations for doing this. Therefore, in recognition

that new institutions were required, the government has, through law 213 of 1994, amended Irrigation Law 12 of 1984 to enable the MWRI to:

- * Organize farmer groups to operate and maintain mesqa facilities;
- * Maintain mesqas and tertiary drains at the farmers' expense, should they fail to do so themselves;
- * Implement mesqa improvements and recover the full capital cost of these improvements (without interest); and
- * Establish a special revolving fund within the Ministry of Finance for future mesqa improvement
- The experience of forming WUAs has helped to create a new generation of engineers, technicians, and users, who have become experts in building the trust between both parties. The on-going challenge is to ensure the continuation of mutual understanding on all levels of the irrigation system. Now, dialogue is the basis for communication conducive to bring about shared ideas and decisions.
- A seven-phase process has been developed in the Irrigation Improvement Project (IIP) areas for building sustainable Water Users Asso-

ciations: Most descriptions of the seven-phase process (7PP) state the targeted goals and the way these goals have to be achieved (how it is done).

Lessons Learned:

- There is a body of knowledge that has been tested and piloted which provides underlying strength to the new reforms.
- In order to increase the efficiency as well as the performance of the system, users' participation in management is a must since their decisions and ideas have a great impact on the operation and the modernization process of the system, as well as, its sustainability.
- Increasing the capacity of users, operators and managers require intensive training. Now in Egypt the new generation has accepted the concept of users' participation in the management and the MWRI has legalized the formation of water users' association.

Source Metawie, Abd Elfattah (2003). "[Egypt: the Role of Water Users' Associations in Reforming Irrigation](#)" A case presented to the Global Water Partnership.

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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 to :

- Disseminate and transfer knowledge to stakeholders concerned with water use.
- Promote awareness in water use ethics among the public, .
- Present best ethical practices in water use.
- Develop a Code of Ethics.
- Enhance Regional Cooperation

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Code of Ethics, The Need

“There is a need for a broad ethical framework” H.E. Mrs Susan Mubarak has aptly explained the Ethical Framework as follows: “It is a moral compass, to guide our steps in an increasingly uncertain world, where change is proceeding at

a dizzying pace. The broad ethical framework is fairly simple: to seek equity and fairness, to promote applications of knowledge that will promote well-being now and in the future, to include the excluded, reach the un-

reached and think of the unborn as we take actions today. Our challenge is not just to state the principles but to articulate their translation in certain codes of conduct and general recommendations for action in the various domains”

to include the excluded, reach the unreached and think of the unborn as we take actions today

Code of Ethics, Progress

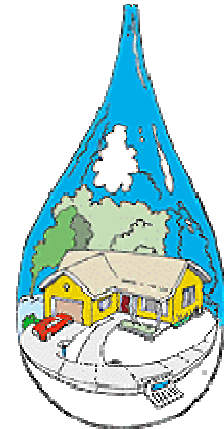
Through extensive work and meetings that lasted 9 month, it was finally possible to prepare a draft version of the water use code of ethics. This work was done by integrating the experiences & thoughts of experts in the water resources field in Egypt. A document is produced, which includes:

- Sources of Ethical Behavior:
- Principles & components of

an Ethical behavior.

- Water Use Ethics.
- Ethics in water resources management.
- Ethical practice in water negotiations and dispute settlement .

The document benefited from Egyptian experience, as well as Arab and International references that provided guidance for its accomplishment.



Code of Ethics, The Next Step

The draft of the code of Ethics will undergo a series of revisions for improvement, which include:

- Presenting the draft copy to the Steering Committee.
- Presenting the revised copy

to the Higher Committee for consideration.

- Holding a workshop for public presentation for compiling feedback for more improvement.
- A final version of the code

will be prepared & disseminated for the benefit of the relevant stakeholders.

Public Awareness in Water Ethics

RENEW identified target groups for promoting their awareness in water use ethics, including communities of: scientific researchers, decision makers, and students, women, youth, etc....

Conducting Water Ethics Roundtable: where issues can be discussed amongst experts and scientists, and other stakeholders.

Bench Marking & Bench Learning Seminars: where knowledge and experience acquired from success stories and best practices can be disseminated among stakeholders.

Hosting International Lecturers and Experts: where innovative ideas in promoting ethical behavior in water use can be presented.



Lessons Learned From South Africa

A new legal framework for local governance's good practice

The Issue

Governance relates to the problem of who is really in charge of the common good.

Transparency is a necessary condition for good governance.

The Problem

Water is a scarce resource of highly variable availability in South Africa. In addition, poverty strikes people in eThekweni (South Africa).

The Aims

“By 2020, eThekweni Municipality will enjoy the reputation of being Africa’s most caring and liveable city, where all citizens live in harmony. This vision will be achieved by growing its economy and meeting people’s needs so that all citizens enjoy a high quality of life with equal opportu-

nities, in a city that they are truly proud of.”

The Actions

The *National Water Act* included an innovative part, the *Human Rights Reserve* aimed at implementing the distribution of water in adequate quantity and quality to all the citizens of South Africa.

The Municipality’s *Long Term Development Framework* is designed to run over twenty years in a flexible manner so that local communities and other *stakeholders can be involved*.

When the Peoples Budget was approved by the Municipality Council in June 2002. It was a historical moment: for the first time, the citizens of eThekweni (Durban) participated in the preparation of the budget, and the municipal

budget was allocated according to their local needs.

Water users associations were created to ensure *inclusiveness* and *stakeholders’ interaction with the water catchment agencies*. Some associations’ forums are getting formalized as advisory committees, thus evolving into more *transparent and accountable users groups*. This system helps the municipality to establish and improve participatory governance.

The Outcomes

From 1997 to 2002, the Municipality improved its service to meet the needs of the previously disadvantaged communities, to the extent that a survey held in 2001 showed that approximately 75% of all households had access to adequate basic services.

Water Ethics Monitor

National Contest for Best Ethical Practice

There are many examples of effective water governance and good practice. It is hoped that the analysis of best practice case studies will contribute to enlarge the dialogues among decision makers and users. Our common future rests not only with scientific discoveries and technological knowledge, but also with faith in ethical values, good will and proactive imagination.

Recognizing the importance of learning from best ethical practices, RENEW launched initiated a program for best

practices which include applications that have ethical and moral components.

Presentations of the projects will be done in the presence of a peer reviewing committee led by H.E. Dr./ Mahmoud Abu Zeid, Minister of Water Resources & Irrigation.

The choice of a best ethical practice will be based upon several criteria that should be assessed to form an opinion of the presented cases, these are:

Equity, Integration, Participation, Transparency, Accountability, Solidarity, Common good, Stewardship, Human dignity, Empowerment, Responsiveness, Inclusiveness, Conflict resolution, Good governance, Self sufficiency, Rights to water and health, Respect for cultural diversity, Effective clean low-cost technologies, Human development, Environmental justice.

An honorary shield in recognition of the good example set by the best ethical practice will be awarded.

Regional and International Cooperation

In an attempt of promoting regional cooperation between RENEW node and anticipated partners in the Arab/African region, a proposal was handed to the UNESCO Cairo Office,

and discussed RENEW’s node strategy & vision towards regional cooperation, as well as, its activities for the year 2004/2005.

The meeting concluded that a

Regional workshop could be held to activate the Arab Network and to discuss the future activities for the next two years (2005/2006).

Our common future rests not only with scientific discoveries and technological knowledge, but also with faith in ethical values, good will and proactive imagination

Entities willing to participate in the contest are welcome to contact the Center.

Historical Background of the Regional Networks (RENEW Nodes)

By the year 2001, "Global Research and Ethical Network Embracing Water" (RENEW) had been created as part of UNESCO's World commission on Ethics of Science and Technology (COMEST). These node points of RENEW started to take shape in the three geographic regions: Bergen for the Scandinavian region, Canberra for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and Egypt for the Arab Region. The program of these nodes would embrace all aspects of water , and have "Bottom-Up" education / communication functions , as well as "Top -Down" high level research aspects with industry participation .

RENEW is also expected to work in tandem with the parallel UNESCO International Hydrological Program (IHP) proposal to create a Global Organization of University for Teaching and Training on Ethics of Water (GOUTTE)



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VISION

*A*ctualizing water use ethics among various stakeholders and formulating indicators and standards of responsible social conduct to better serve the region.

MISSION

*K*nowledge and experience exchange and dissemination, as well as benchmarking and bench learning of best practices and success stories. Studies, research and training programs should include a component of ethics. A monitor to this end will be established.

WE ARE ON THE WEB

www.nwrc-egypt.org/rcwe

Events to be Announced

- African Regional Conference on Drainage (ARCOD) Cairo (6-9 Dec.-2004)
- Water Ethics Roundtable, Cairo (Jan-2005)
- Lecture by Prof. Terje Tvedt (Jan-2005)
- Bench Marking & Bench Learning Seminar (Mar-2005).
- Simulation on Water Negotiation by Dr. Simon Mason jointly with Dr. M. Hefny (Apr-2005)