



Thematic Week Seven
“Water Economy and Finance”

1st Day: “Scarcity and Conflict”

July 28th, 2008

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Zaragoza, 29 de Julio de 2008

1st Session: “Future Scenarios: The Impact of Climate Change and Droughts on Transboundary Water Dispute and Management”

- Climate change is impacting negatively precipitation and river basin runoff, adding further pressure on water supply.
- Drought and climate change impacts over river basins are forcing new orientations in water policy, as well as actual water policy is having an impact on drought events.
- Awareness of climate change is forcing modifications on actions to confront its impacts, which were already here.
- Reliable climate data needs to be available.

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1st Session: “Future Scenarios: The Impact of Climate Change and Droughts on Transboundary Water Dispute and Management”

- Under new climate scenarios, the importance of planning for water scarcity and drought will increase. Long-term planning adds resilience.
- As a response to scarcity and uncertainty, prospective analysis is needed to have scenarios and strategic planning on Integrated Water Management.
- Local conditions are too relevant for water policy and hydropolitics on transboundary river basins, since there have to be tailored solutions.

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1st Session: “Future Scenarios: The Impact of Climate Change and Droughts on Transboundary Water Dispute and Management”

Debate:

- Conflict management and transboundary river basins are discussions generates needs to confront it- we cannot look to the other side any more.
- The decisions on river basin management need to be adaptive, in order to fit within a broader base the future availability of water.
- Undefined water rights are a source of conflict and a barrier to sound water management.

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2nd Session: “Scarcity and Competition: The Challenges for Institutions to Promote Cooperation, Conflict Prevention and Resolution”

- Water modelling is an important source of information. Conflicts originate institutional changes.
- Stakeholder participation is important on institutional changes. Governments need to be aware of the part taken by all stakeholders.
- Water institutions must balance economic development and environmental conservation, looking too for improvement on social welfare.

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2nd Session: “Scarcity and Competition: The Challenges for Institutions to Promote Cooperation, Conflict Prevention and Resolution”

- Water conflict must be considered within its circumstances. A broader perspective gives insights that otherwise are ignored.
- Water management is usually done through productive sectors, losing efficiency and effectiveness as a whole.

Debate:

- The concept of water markets as an instrument and not as an objective.
- The duality among power and authority, and the need for governance.

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3rd Session: “Confronting the New Policy Scenarios: The Future of Water Policies and Institutions in California”

- California is expecting a rise on water scarcity but it already reached its supply limits. There is a battery/menu of options including the search of non-conventional sources, and demand-side efficiency are options to augment supplies.
- The water crisis in California has created the need to find new alternatives and policy proposals, as well as new mechanisms for public participation.

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3rd Session: “Confronting the New Policy Scenarios: The Future of Water Policies and Institutions in California”

- The portfolio approach provides a series of alternatives, able to deliver much needed water. It must be evaluated by costs, reliability, environmental impact assessment and social contexts.

Debate:

- Water demand –among other things- is not questioned in California.
- Water management in California under current conditions is unable to deliver what it is supposed to do.
- Fragmentation of institutions not able to respond to new scenario of uncertainty. Still it works?

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