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## M. Ramon Llamas et al. eds., Water Ethics: Marcelino Botín Water Forum 2007

Tracy Taylor

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M. Ramon Llamas et al. eds., *Water Ethics: Marcelino Botín Water Forum 2007*

significant traction in the area surrounding Calgary in that city's struggle to become an economic hub. Matsui offers three examples of early developments on the Bow River downstream of Calgary: (1) the Horseshoe Dam; (2) the Kananaskis Dam; and (3) the Ghost Dam. All three affected the Stoney Native reserve, and each project offered its own distinctive negotiating challenges for the Stoney Nakoda people living there. The 1907 negotiation concerning Horseshoe Falls set an important precedent when the Stoney Nakoda "surrendered" portions of the reserve to the federal government. This effectively established that they had proprietary rights to begin with and allowed them to incorporate the idea of forcing the government to make annual rental payments for waterpower. In 1913, the Stoney Nakoda surrendered what they referred to, significantly, as their "riparian rights" to water and waterpower with respect to Kananaskis Falls. By the 1928 negotiations concerning the Ghost Dam, it was an accepted principle that the Native peoples owned rights in the water for which the government must compensate when they surrendered those rights.

Chapter Seven gives a concise summary of the substantive material and provides a succinct context to the case studies of the previous chapters. It is a useful review because the concepts that Matsui addresses are alternately technical and theoretical. This final chapter does well to connect those concepts.

*Native Peoples and Water Rights* offers a theoretical approach to the historical developments that gave rise to modern day Native water rights in Canada. Matsui writes in two tones; one is a scholarly discussion of colonial approaches and the other is a pointed recitation of case studies. Though limited in its usefulness to the modern day practitioner, it will prove a valuable and insightful read for those interested in Canadian development of Native water rights.

*Robert Westfall*

**M. Ramon Llamas et al. eds., *Water Ethics: Marcelino Botín Water***

**Forum 2007**, Taylor and Francis Group, London, (2009); 368 pp.;

\$149.95; ISBN 978-0415473033; hardcover.

*Water Ethics: Marcelino Botín Water Forum 2007* is a compilation of nineteen papers presented and discussed at the Third Marcelino Botín Foundation Water Workshop held in Santander, Spain, in June 2007. The workshop brought together experts from various cultural, geographic, and religious backgrounds to inspire open and diverse dialogue on the role of ethical considerations in water development and management. The papers cover a wide-variety of topics and are divided into eight sections: (1) Cultural Traditional Approaches on Water Ethics; (2) Ethical Aspects of New Water Management; (3) Water as a Human Right and as an Economic Resource; (4) Water and Poverty; (5) Ethical Aspects of Groundwater Use; (6) Ethics of Water Ownership and Management; (7) Corruption, Transparency, and Participation in the Water Sector; and (8) Ethical Aspects of

### Unforeseen and Extreme Events: Floods and Drought.

The book starts with the keynote address from the workshop, given by Ana Palacio, the Senior Vice President and World Bank Group General Counsel at the time of the workshop. Palacio discusses the many different components of the water crisis, including water shortages, access to sufficient drinking water, poor water quality, and waterborne diseases. The responsibilities to manage these crises fall on different state ministries, agencies, and utilities, but many countries have major elements of water management left unregulated. Palacio asserts that water ethics play an imperative role in managing our water resources to allow sufficient, safe, acceptable, and affordable water for everyone. One approach for addressing the many issues of the water crisis is to determine a global consensus on water ethics to impose on stakeholders at every level, across the world.

Section One, *Cultural Traditional Approaches on Water Ethics*, consists of three chapters. The first, *Water and Wisdom as Embodied in the Works of Thales of Miletus* by Alejo José G. Sison from the University of Navarra, Spain, discusses the connection of water and ethics as related to the work and teachings of the ancient philosopher Thales of Miletus. To the philosopher, water was a metaphor for wisdom, and it is this wisdom, the author asserts, which will quench our human thirst for this important resource. Chapter Two, *Water and Conflict: Whose Ethics to Prevail* by Dipak Gyawali of the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and the Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, addresses the link between the ethical system of South Asia and the water conflicts faced by the region. Just as Hindu ethics have a pluralistic approach to ethical obligations, the author asserts that modern water conflicts must allow engagement of all voices to enable a sustainable water policy to reign. Chapter Three is *Water Management Ethics in the Framework of Environmental and General Ethics: The case of Islamic Water Ethics* by Magdy A. Hefny of the Regional Center for Studies and Research on Water Ethics in Cairo, Egypt. This chapter addresses how populations can use Islamic water ethics to formulate new tools and techniques to promote the ethical use of water. A cultural approach to water use and management ethics, Hefny states, is necessary for the sustainable management of our water resources.

Section Two of the book consists of three chapters that discuss ethical aspects of new water management. The first chapter in the section is *Water Rights and Water Governance: A Cautionary Tale and the Case for Interdisciplinary Governance* by Charles Sampford from the Institute for Ethics, Governance, and Law located in Australia. Sampford discusses water governance, or lack thereof, on the dry continent of Australia. The author uses experiences from Australia's largest cities to provide lessons on how to effectively develop and manage water resources. The next chapter is *Ethics and Uncertainty in Integrated Water Resources Management with Special Reference to Transboundary Issues*, by Janusz Kindler from Warsaw University of Technology in Poland. The author discusses integrated and sustainable water resources management and how uncertainty affects our ethical

obligations to future generations. Kindler also discusses ethical issues in transboundary water management, concluding that we must figure out a cooperative approach to water management beyond political and administrative boundaries. The final chapter in Section Two is *Water and Ethics in Food Production and Provision – How to Ensure Water and Food Security and Equity into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The author, Karen G. Villholth from the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, writes about water ethics specifically related to food production and food security. Villholth states, given that the food demand of the world is estimated to double by 2050, it is imperative that the developed part of the world take responsibility for the uneven distribution of global resources such as food and water.

Section Three is *Water as a Human Right and as an Economic Resource*. The section starts with a chapter titled *Water: A Human Right or an Economic Resource?* The author, Luis Veiga da Cunha from Universidade Nova de Lisboa in Portugal, analyzes whether water is an economic resource or a social good. The paper concludes that if we are to accept that humans have a right to water, we must put into place effective water governance to make water both an economic resource and a social good. The next chapter, *Water as a Human Right and as an Economic Resource: An Example from Mexico*, discusses the downfalls of declaring access to water a human right. The paper looks specifically at Guanajuato, Mexico, where the state raised taxes on water 60% to 200% over six years. The money raised allowed capital and infrastructure improvements, and meant fewer subsidies for urban areas, but more money for rural areas.

Section Four addresses the topic of water and poverty and what, if any, link exists between them. The first chapter, titled *Poverty and the Ethics of Water Development*, is by Caroline A. Sullivan from the Oxford University Centre for the Environment. Sullivan looks at the role of water in the rise of poverty, including how inequitable water management decisions can affect poverty. The paper stresses the need for basin-scale management strategies to decrease disparities between human populations. The next chapter is *Monitoring Water Poverty: A Vision from Development Practitioners*, written by three authors from Engineering Without Borders in Spain. The chapter recognizes the drawbacks to current methodologies for measuring access to water, and pushes for the adoption of “EASSY” (Easy to get at the local level, Accurately defined, Standard and internationally applicable, Scalable at all administrative levels, and Yearly updatable) variables that are collected at the local level to monitor the water sector. The authors stress the need for EASSY indicators to make information on water distribution, development, and infrastructure readily available and transferable between developing countries. The final chapter in Section Four is *Water and the Twin Challenge of Feeding Three Billion New People and Ending Rural Poverty*. The authors, Paul Polak and Stephanie Fry from International Development Enterprises in Colorado, discuss the challenge and possible solutions to feeding the increasing world population. The paper highlights the need for new

investments, the creation of affordable irrigation tools, and attainable green revolution technologies for small farmers. When development agencies start working at the level of the small farmer, new markets will serve poor customers and provide opportunity for people to move out of poverty.

Section Five presents papers on the *Ethics of Groundwater Use*. The section starts with a chapter titled *Specific Aspects of Groundwater Use in Water Ethics* by M. Ramón Llamas from the Royal Academy of Sciences in Madrid and Luis Martínez-Cortina from the Spanish Geological Survey. The authors write that the current water crisis is due to a crisis in water governance, not water scarcity, and sustainable and ethical groundwater development may be the answer. The chapter gives an overview of the hydrological and ecological impacts of groundwater development, as well as the economic, socio-political and institutional, and essential ethical aspects. The next paper in the book is *Economics, Ethics, and Politics of Groundwater: Evidence from West Bengal, India*. The author, Aditi Mukherji from the International Water Management Institute in Sri Lanka, tells how groundwater irrigation made an agricultural transformation in the state of West Bengal. Mukherji asserts that the story of West Bengal is an excellent example of the benefits of encouraging further expansion in groundwater irrigation.

Section Six provides discussion on *Ethics of Water Ownership and Management*. The first chapter, titled *Achieving Ethical Business Conduct in Public and Private Water Enterprises – Troublesome Challenge or Enhanced Opportunity*, is by Reinier Lock and Kathy S. Shandling from the International Private Water Association. This chapter discusses the shortfalls of the public sector and the failures of the private sector in providing universal access to potable water. The authors analyze the role that ethics play in the water industry, as well as emerging solutions to maintain the role of ethics in infrastructure industries. The next chapter addresses *Water Ethics and Business*. Written by Jack Moss from Aquafed in Paris, France, the paper looks at the roles of government, business, and civil society in the challenges to modern water and wastewater management. The author offers numerous approaches that stakeholders can take to ensure both public and private benefits in managing the world's water.

Section Seven covers *Corruption, Transparency, and Participation in the Water Sector*. The first chapter, *Corruption and Transparency in the Water Sector*, is by Donal O'Leary from Transparency International in Berlin, Germany. According to the World Bank, corruption and deceitful management cause a 20-30% loss of water finances. The author uses case studies from Cambodia, Japan, Columbia, and Pakistan to show the importance of fighting corruption in the water sector. Tools for fighting corrupt practices include business principles for countering bribery, international conventions against corruption, and national integrity systems. The next chapter addresses *Public Participation to Promote Water Ethics and Transparency*. The author, William J. Cosgrove from Ecoconsult Inc. in Quebec, Canada, pushes

for a systematic public consultation program that opens the door for public debate about important water governance decisions. Cosgrove points to a similar successful process adopted by Quebec in 1978 for sustainable development. When the decision-makers take into account the values and voices of citizens, the author argues, the public will see water as more than merely something given to us by water providers.

*Water Ethics* concludes with a section titled *Ethical Aspects of Unforeseen and Extreme Events Management: Floods and Droughts*. The first chapter, *Water Disasters and Ethics*, by Janos J. Bogardi from the Institute for Environment and Human Security at United Nations University in Germany, discusses whether we have comprehensive and common ethics to deal with water disasters. The author concludes that ethics do play a role in disasters, but usually on a subconscious level. A coherent water ethics is almost nonexistent, and therefore researchers should focus on developing a guide to water ethics in the face of extreme water events. The book concludes with *Identifying Actions to Reduce Drought Impacts* by Enrique Cabrera from Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain, and José Roldán from the University of Córdoba, Spain. The authors highlight the importance of putting a drought plan into place that includes both proactive and reactive measures. The authors assert that in the face of drought, improvisation will only be detrimental and having a plan in place is the key to ultimately helping affected areas.

*Water Ethics: Marcelino Botín Water Forum 2007* includes nineteen papers covering eight topics on water ethics. The authors provide insight from all over the world, giving specific examples of the important role that ethics can and do have in water management, development, infrastructure, and use. Overall, *Water Ethics* gives an in-depth look into the need for a comprehensive ethics code for the world's water.

Tracy Taylor

**Elli Louka, *Water Law & Policy: Governance Without Frontiers*, Oxford University Press, New York (2008); 462 pp; \$85.00; ISBN 978-0-19-537413-1; hardcover.**

Elli Louka's *Water Law & Policy: Governance Without Frontiers* focuses on the problem managing water. Because water in many instances crosses state borders, Louka asks the questions: can governments manage water based on national borders, and, if not, is water management without frontiers possible? In answering these questions, Louka analyzes the European Union's Water Framework Directive ("WFD") and its application of Integrated Water Resource Management ("IWRM"). Louka believes that IWRM may be the political answer to managing shared water sources between states. In her analysis of the European Union's management of water, she hopes to provide an example of effective water management for the rest of the world.