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Debra Eiland

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EDITOR'S NOTE

My hope for this issue of the *Water Law Review* is that each of our readers will take some time to consider the true status of our most valuable resource. We should all be increasingly concerned about both the quantity and quality of water, not just in Colorado, not just nationally, but globally.

The world's ever-increasing population and corresponding development are simultaneously straining the world's supply of water. Shipping water from far off rivers, streams, and aquifers to meet the need has become increasingly expensive. Today, however, we have to be concerned about another matter that was not in the minds of early water users—water quality. As the population increases, it becomes more difficult than ever to re-purify our finite supply of fresh water.

We must think globally. It is essential that we recognize our environment, and its assorted ecological systems, in the bigger picture of the planet that supports it. We simply cannot continue to waste, to contaminate, and to overuse water. What will happen if we do? Hardin's Tragedy of the Commons comes to mind—water, a common pool resource used to its fullest capacity and, thus, contaminated beyond safe recovery, only to remain available to a privileged few who can afford to pay for it. We all should be very concerned.

Common sense dictates that we cannot keep managing our water resources the way we always have. We nonchalantly accept that water is a commodity; however, unlike a product or service it cannot be duplicated through manufacture, and no human can live more than three days without it. We must use common sense, or "he who has the most pure water" will be the only person who wins, which means no one will win.

In this issue, we are pleased to present our first international water law article—Ali Ahmad's survey of Islamic Water Law. The article presents an interesting history of the evolution of Islamic water law. Rather than focusing on ownership of the resource, Islamic water law focuses on protection and preservation of water for all people. If laws of all nations support sound ecological practices, it should not be as difficult to encourage global protection. Obviously, one cannot be naive enough to ignore all the other factors in the equation (*e.g.*, economics, political institutions and ideologies, *etc.*); however, it is nonetheless comforting to realize that people are people everywhere, and we all have the same basic desire to survive.

Of course, all nations have a seemingly insurmountable enforcement problem. Even the United States, boasting comprehensive environmental protection laws like the Clean Water Act, seems unable to curb our water pollution dilemma. As idealistic as it sounds, lawyers have a professional and ethical responsibility to mold and enforce the law on behalf of all humanity, and are in a unique position to stop the devastation of our water supplies. Don't just sit back—be involved, take notice, and drink each glass as if it were your last. After all, if we continue to pretend that we will always have enough, one day it will be your last!

Debra Eiland
Editor-in-Chief