



4th

The 4th Seminar of the Water for Peace and Climate Change in Myanmar (2024-2025) Seminar Series

Organized by the Transformative Water-Learning Partnership (TW-LP) Consortium

Water for Prosperity and Peace

Thursday, 25 Jul 2024, 7:00 – 9:00 pm Yangon (GMT+6:30)

Prof. Dr. Khin Ni Ni Thein, Co-Lead, Transformative Water-Learning Partnership (TW-LP) Consortium
Founder and Chair, Myanmar Water Academy <https://www.myanmarwatersacademy.com>
G100-Ecocivilisation Myanmar Country Chair
Vice Chair, Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO)

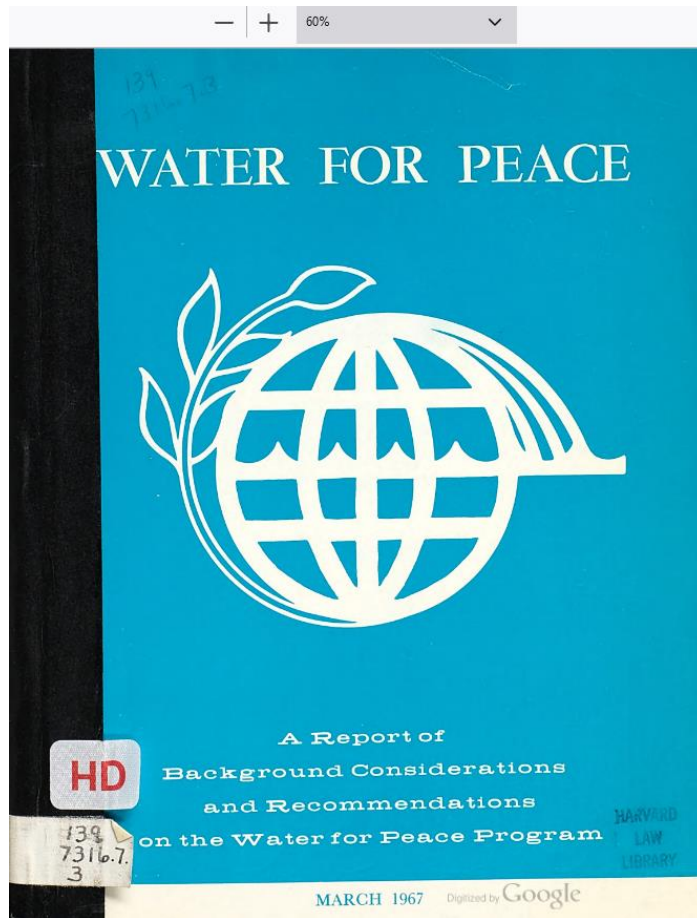
To prime the mood with the Video EXPLAINER

<https://youtu.be/NKli0PWOYOc?si=iZPClx62n3onZumM>

History of Water for Peace

- The idea of "Water for Peace" emerged as a significant concept during the 1960s and 1970s. It gained prominence through international efforts to address the challenges of water scarcity and the potential for conflict over shared water resources. Key milestones include:
 - 1. UN Water Conference, 1977:** Held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, this conference was one of the first major global forums to emphasize the importance of managing water resources to promote peace and prevent conflicts.
 - 2. UN International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990):** This initiative highlighted the need for international cooperation to ensure access to clean water and sanitation, which is essential for peace and development.
 - 3. World Bank and Other International Organizations:** Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the World Bank and other international organizations began to stress the importance of water management in preventing conflicts and fostering peace.
- The concept has since evolved and continues to be relevant, with numerous initiatives and organizations promoting the idea that equitable and sustainable water management can be a catalyst for peace and cooperation.

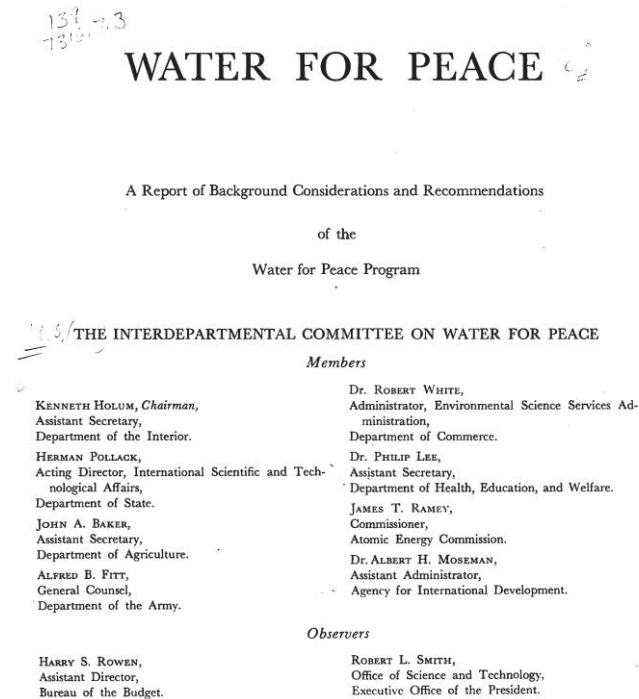
Water for Peace Idea in 1965



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WATER FOR PEACE

A Report of Background Considerations and Recommendations
of the
Water for Peace Program

THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON WATER FOR PEACE

Members

KENNETH HOLUM, *Chairman*,
Assistant Secretary,
Department of the Interior.

HERMAN POLLACK,
Acting Director, International Scientific and Tech-
nological Affairs,
Department of State.

JOHN A. BAKER,
Assistant Secretary,
Department of Agriculture.

ALFRED B. FITT,
General Counsel,
Department of the Army.

Dr. ROBERT WHITE,
Administrator, Environmental Science Services Ad-
ministration,
Department of Commerce.

Dr. PHILIP LEE,
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Commissioner,
Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. ALBERT H. MOSEMAN,
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MEMORANDUM

To: The Secretary of the Interior
The Secretary of State

From: Chairman, Interdepartmental Committee on Water for Peace

Subject: Report of the Committee

President Johnson launched the Water for Peace program in his address of October 7, 1965, in which he pledged United States participation in a "massive cooperative international effort to find solutions for man's water problems." Steps already have been taken to increase U.S. support for water projects within the foreign assistance program. The enclosed report prepared by an Interdepartmental Committee on Water for Peace representing interested agencies of the Federal Government briefly surveys the world's water problems and considers further actions which can be taken to advance this international cooperative effort.

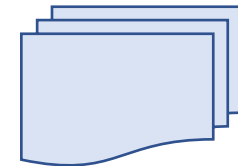
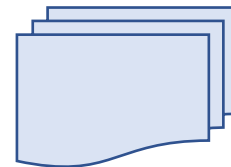
Water is vital to human life and to man's pursuit of happiness. It is essential to man's health, yet almost a billion people in the world lack even the simplest dependable supplies of potable water for personal and domestic use. Most of them suffer or have recently suffered from debilitating diseases that are water borne or that are attributable to a lack of water for personal hygiene; each year an estimated 500 million people are afflicted by such illnesses, and ten million people - about half of them infants - die. Millions suffer undernourishment and starvation because water supplies are not properly used or developed for food production. Water contributes in important ways to commerce and industrial development. Water also is an integral part of the human environment.

All nations have water problems, but they differ in kind and character depending upon the nature and extent of their water resources, the state of technological and industrial development, population density, historical experience, and cultural values. In the industrialized countries these problems revolve around water management, water pollution, and water reuse to serve highly intricate and intensive demands. In the less developed countries the lack of information, skilled manpower, cultural, legal and government institutions, and adequate

ငြိမ်းချမ်းခြင်းကို ရေဖြင့်ဖော်ဆောင်ခြင်း အတွေးအခေါ်
မှာ ၁၉၆၀ခုနှစ်များတွင် စတင်ပေါ်ပေါက်ခဲ့ပါသည်။
The idea of "Water for Peace" emerged in 1960s

To: The Secretary of Interior သို့ - ပြည်ထဲရေးဝန်ကြီး
: The Secretary of State - နိုင်ငံခြားရေးဝန်ကြီး

President Johnson launched the Water for Peace program in his Address of October 7, 1965, in which he pledged United States Participation in a 'massive cooperative international effort to find solutions for man's water problem.'



All nations have water problems, but they differ in kind and character depending upon the nature and extent of their water resources, the historical experience, and cultural values.

planning represent the areas of most immediate need. International river systems in all regions of the world present significant opportunities to the riparian countries for mutual advantage and peaceful cooperation through coordinated development programs.

For these reasons, an international cooperative effort to advance water development throughout the world is aptly named the Water for Peace Program because the water cycle pays no attention to the boundaries men draw on maps; because hunger, disease and misery are everywhere the enemies of mankind; because no one nation has a monopoly of knowledge and talent; and because by working together toward the solution of their common problems, men advance a little down the road to universal peace.

Chapter II of the enclosed report summarizes the ways in which water can fulfill human needs and promote a better life. Chapter III reviews the programs required to develop water resources to serve these purposes, particularly from the point of view of national and local entities responsible for water development programs. Chapter IV describes the opportunities available to develop international river systems. Chapter V briefly reviews the many interrelated bilateral and multilateral programs and organizations operating to improve water development. Chapter VI discusses several suggested organizational arrangements that should be undertaken to improve mutual cooperation in water development within the United Nations family, at the regional and subregional level, and within the United States to support the worldwide effort.

Chapter VII sets forth a number of specific recommendations which the Interdepartmental Committee on Water for Peace believes are worthy of consideration to stimulate the rate of progress in water development throughout the world and to promote a more systematic framework in which the efforts of individual countries and international organizations can be coordinated to fulfill this end.

This preliminary review of the world's water problems has led the Committee to four basic conclusions: First, that notwithstanding the many significant current international water programs, the worldwide effort is not keeping pace with the worldwide needs. Second, water problems are so varied and the opportunities for development so complex, that water resources development in each country should be fully coordinated with the development of other economic and human resources. Third, that the most urgent need throughout the developing world is for an increased understanding of and capacity to deal with the problems involved in water resources development and management. Fourth, that

4 Points conclusion

From 1967 to 2024: 57 years later . . .



Authors

Fan Zhang and Christian Borja-Vega

Copy of the Book is available from the seminar organizers



The Overview of the Book

Water for Shared Prosperity



Water for Shared Prosperity explores the connection between **water, economic growth, and shared prosperity**.

It highlights the **global inequalities in water access** and recommends pro-poor and inclusive interventions to improve water security and strengthen climate resilience while reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity.

The World Bank's vision of a world free of poverty on a livable planet will depend on achieving water security for all.

[FULL REPORT](#)

[EXECUTIVE SUMMARY](#)

Overview

About the 10th World Water Forum

What is shared prosperity?

Focus of this report

Why water matters for shared prosperity: A conceptual framework

Four building blocks of prosperity

Three primary channels from water to prosperity

Water security challenges threaten development outcomes

Three types of policy interventions to promote equitable and inclusive water security

Outline of the report

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Key Points

Policy Recommendations

Improving resilience to extreme hydro-climatic risks

Set up robust and inclusive early warning systems

Develop insurance programs for weather risks

Develop an inclusive strategy to mitigate flood risks

Scale up social protection schemes for vulnerable communities impacted by floods and droughts

Improving water resources development, management, and allocation

Integrate nature-based solutions into water resources management.

Provide incentives and facilitate information sharing to enable cooperation on and coordination of water allocation

Adopt water accounting to inform water allocation decisions

Improving equitable and inclusive access to water services

Expand access to safely managed water supply and sanitation

Enhance agriculture water management

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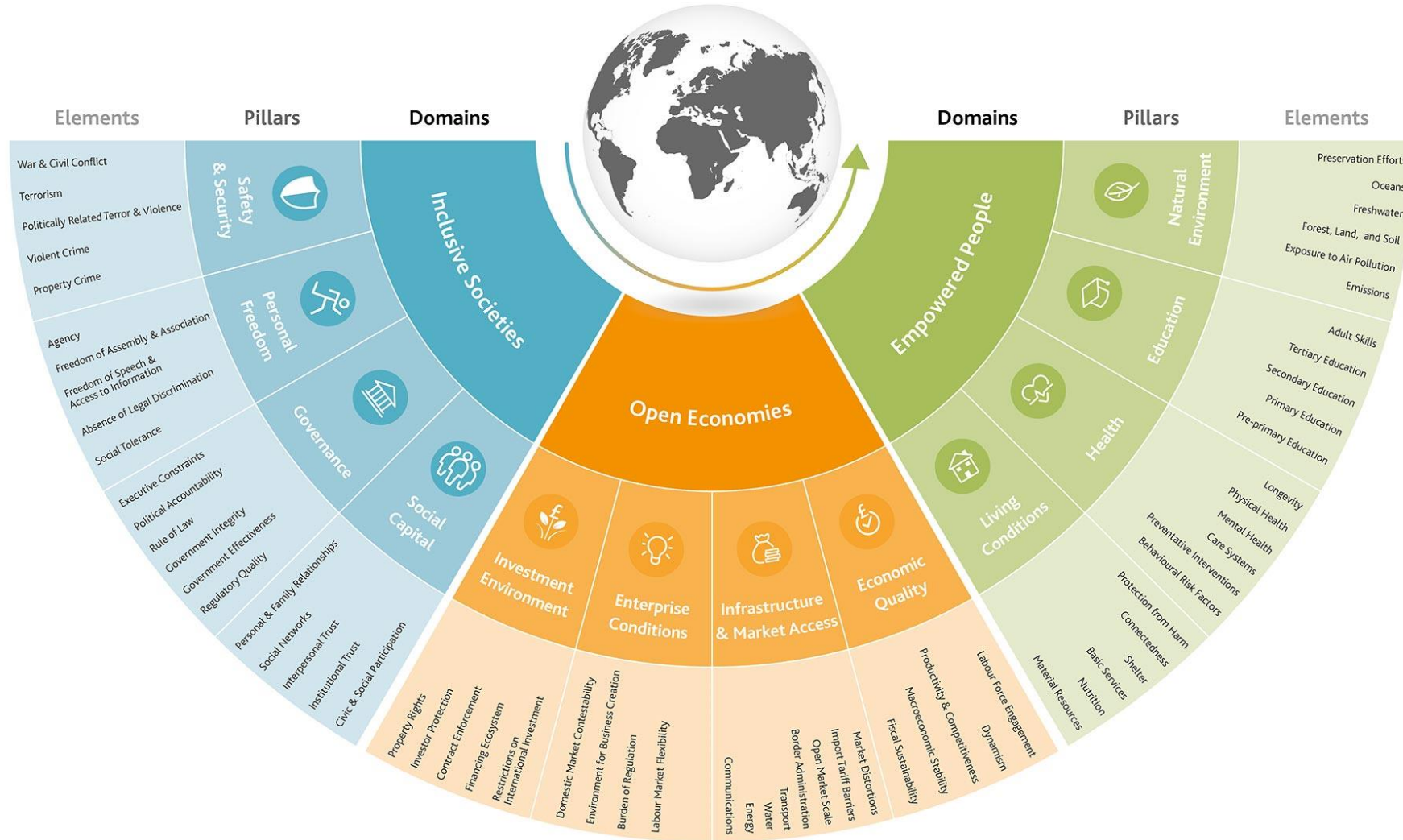
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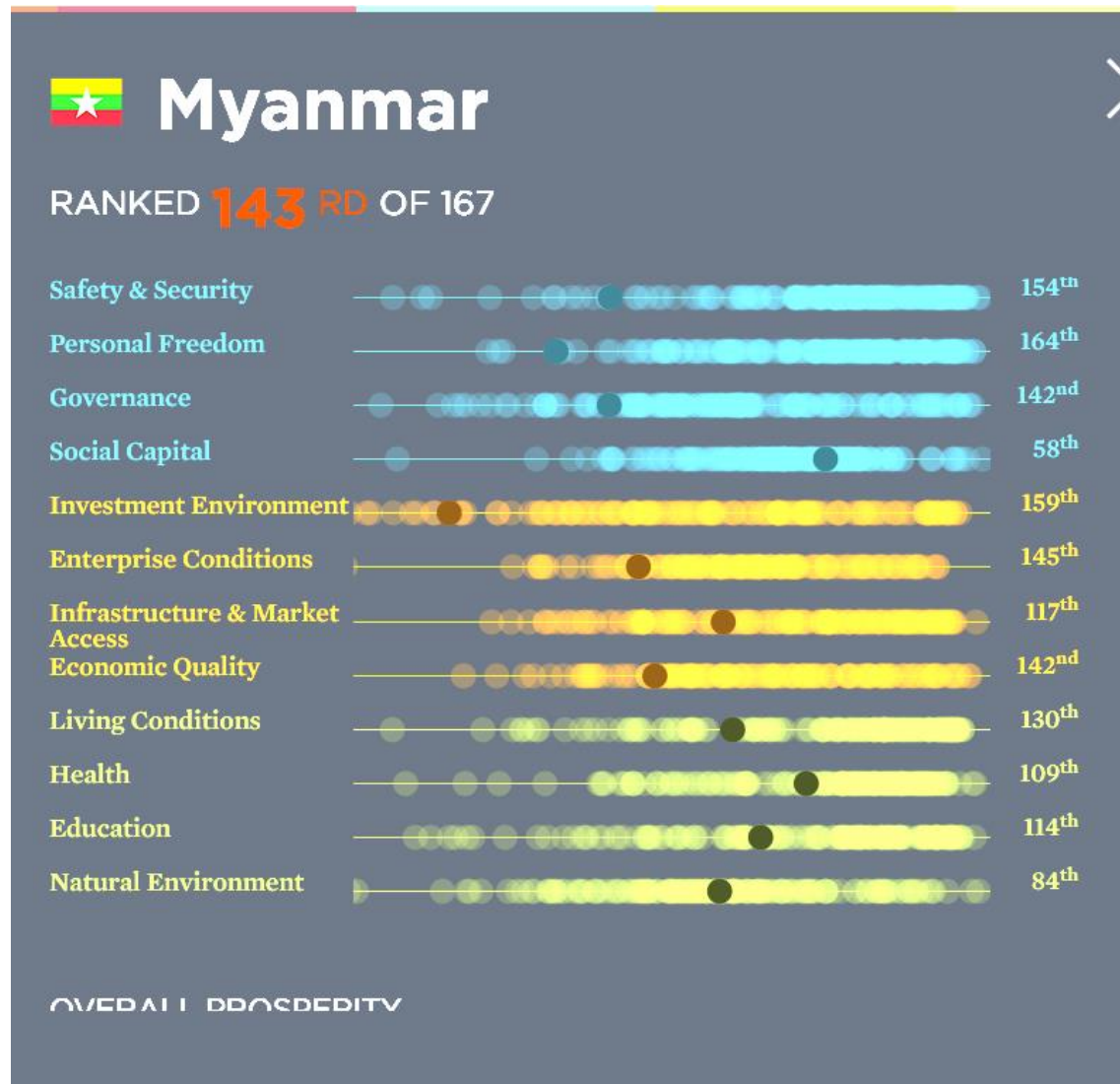
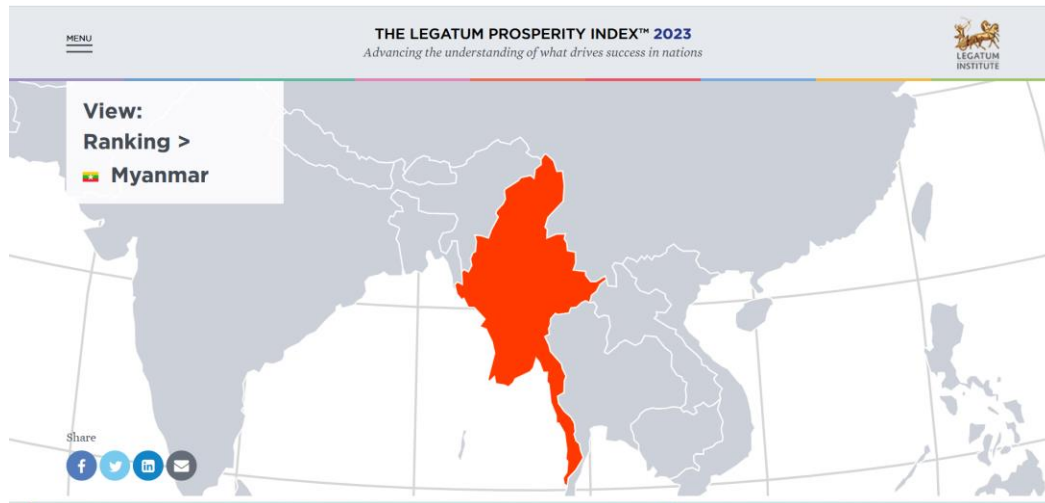
Does prosperity mean peace?

- In their definition, prosperity is more than finances, success, or thriving; **it is about peace, health, mutual support, and respect for all people**. From their viewpoint, it seems that a truly prosperous world could be a world that works for every person, rather than a select few. Jan 23, 2023
- Prosperity is far more than wealth; it is **when all people have the opportunity and freedom to thrive**. Prosperity is underpinned by an inclusive society, with a strong social contract that protects the fundamental liberties and security of every individual.

The domains, pillars and elements of prosperity



The Legatum Prosperity Index 2023



About the **2019 Legatum Prosperity Index**

<https://youtu.be/-QMtTvvfMOM?si=BIU9-HNHcVW7feqa> (1:52 minutes)

**Is prosperity Around the World Converging or Diverging? -
Legatum Prosperity Index 2023**

<https://youtu.be/gZHBezErXPE?si=f6Bsrr6wSNfycDwa>

Water for Peace, SDGs and Issues at Mar 2024

SDGs

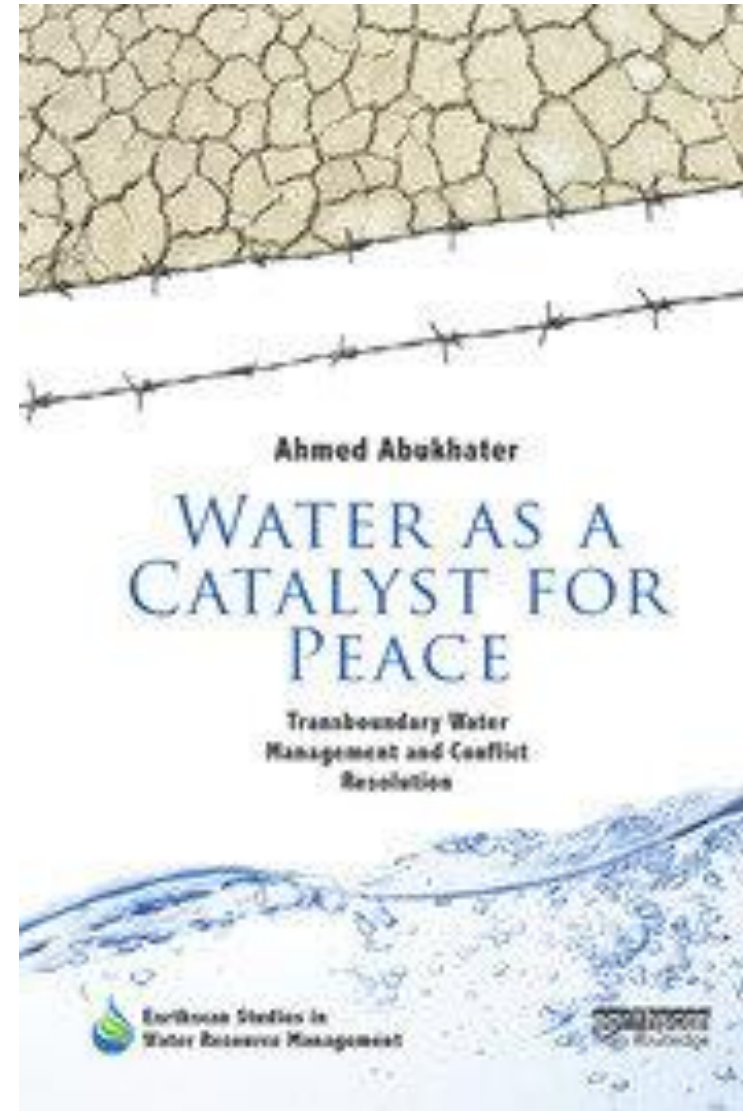
Goal 6 – Clean Water & Sanitation

Goal 16 - Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Issues

Climate Change, Water & Sanitation



Transboundary Water Cooperation

- The main theme of World Water Day 2024 is "Water for Peace." This year's theme emphasizes the role of water cooperation in fostering peace and stability globally. The UN Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the urgent need for increased transboundary water cooperation, noting that many countries share water resources but only a few have formal cooperation agreements. This theme underscores the importance of collaborative efforts to manage shared water resources sustainably and to use water as a tool for building a more peaceful world ([UNECE](#)) ([World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)) ([Global Water Partnership](#)).

SDGs

Goal 6 – Clean Water & Sanitation

Goal 16 - Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Issues

Climate Change, Water & Sanitation



Sub-national level transboundary rivers needs River Basin Organizations supported by systems approach (example: Source to Sea approach).



Implementing the source-to-sea approach

A GUIDE FOR PRACTITIONERS



Water as a Catalyst for Peace (Book)

- Examining international water allocation policies in different parts of the world, this book suggests that they can be used as a platform to induce cooperation over larger political issues, ultimately settling conflicts. The main premise is that water can and should be used as a catalyst for peace and cooperation rather than conflict.
- Evidence is provided to support this claim through detailed case studies from the Middle East and the Lesotho Highlands in Africa. These international cases – including bilateral water treaties and their development and formation process and aftermath – are analyzed to draw conclusions about the outcomes as well as the processes by which these outcomes are achieved. It is demonstrated that the perception of a particular treaty as being equitable and fair is mainly shaped by the negotiation process used to reach certain outcomes, rather than being determined mechanistically by the quantitative allocation of water to each party.
- The processes and perceptions leading to international water conflict resolutions are emphasized as key issues in advancing cooperation and robust implementation of international water treaties. The key messages of the book are therefore relevant to the geo-political and hydro-political aspects of water resources in the context of bilateral and multilateral conflicts, and the trans-boundary management of water resources, which contributes insights to political ecology, geo-politics, and environmental policy.

<https://www.routledge.com/Water-as-a-Catalyst-for-Peace-Transboundary-Water-Management-and-Conflict-Resolution/Abukhater/p/book/9781138574755>

Critics Reviews

- **"We tend to think of scarce natural resources as generators of conflict. This book turns that idea on its head and urges us to think of co-riparians as more than just rivals. Abukhater's principles of process equity help us tame the wicked problem of cross-border water allocation."** – *Paul C. Adams, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Director of Urban Studies, University of Texas at Austin, USA*
- **"It is often thought that water issues are divisive and a likely source of war. Many water experts consider this mistaken and that water can and should be a source of cooperation. Abukhater's book examines various water disputes and shows that water treaties can indeed lead to cooperation and mutual benefits."** – *Franklin M. Fisher, Jane Berkowitz Carlton and Dennis William Carlton Professor of Microeconomics, Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA*
- **"A good addition to the many existing water negotiation frameworks, especially for those practitioners who desire to link equity, in its myriad forms, into the process of governance. Written through the direct experience of a native Palestinian, the book introduces another transformative approach to conflict resolution that integrates rules of engagement, mechanisms of engagement, and neutral third-party mediation that is worthy of serious consideration by Middle East scholars in water diplomacy."** – *W. Todd Jarvis, Director, Institute for Water & Watersheds, Oregon State University, USA*

Critics Reviews (contd.)

- **"Water breathes life into landscapes. Water binds people together and divides people from one and other. Water enables some people to prosper while others struggle. Water divides rich from poor, the healthy from the ill, the leafy from the dusty. This is especially evident in times and places of aridity. The fair allocation of water lies at the heart of Ahmed Abukhater's *Water as a Catalyst for Peace*. The author views water as a potential "venue for cooperation" and suggests useful strategies to pursue this course. Furthermore, Dr. Abukhater argues that water can be a catalyst for cooperation, peaceful interactions, and regional stability. As a result, his book offers a clarion framework for those interested in equity, environmental sustainability, and a peaceful planet."** – *Frederick Steiner, Dean, School of Architecture and Henry M. Rockwell Chair in Architecture, The University of Texas at Austin, USA*
- **"When I think about recent research on water security, the key process lessons Dr. Abukhater highlights fit quite nicely... It is vital to the long-term success of transboundary water management that water professionals and water users give more attention to the issues raised in this book."** – *from the Foreword by Lawrence Susskind, MIT and Harvard Law School, USA*
- **"This is a well-written and useful book for anyone interested in transboundary water management, conflict resolution or bilateral management of natural resources. It skillfully demonstrates the potential to use 'low' politics (i.e. hydro-diplomacy) as an entry point into 'high' politics (e.g., international relations)."** – *Yasmin Zaerpoor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA*

HUMAN & FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS HEALTH

CLIMATE
RESILIENT
SANITATION:
SOLUTION



Damaged sanitation discharges into communities and freshwater ecosystems.

Exposure in drinking-water, irrigation and recreational water.

Larger, more widespread and more deadly outbreaks of Cholera and Dengue globally.

Eutrophication, toxic cyano-



Related subjects

Related Subjects

- Q Middle East Studies
- Q Water Industries
- Q Environmental Studies
- Q Political Ecology
- Q Political Geography
- Q Environmental Law - Law
- Q Conflict Resolution
- Q Area Studies
- Q Energy Industries & Utilities
- Q Industry & Industrial Studies
- Q Economics, Finance, Business & Industry
- Q Environment and Sustainability
- Q Human Geography
- Q Geography
- Q Law
- Q Security Studies - Pol & Intl Relns
- Q Politics & International Relations

Standing on the Giant's Shoulder

1. Science
2. Research
3. Innovation
4. Adaptation



New Water Management/ Governance Paradigm for Sustainable Development

WATER MANAGEMENT PARADIGMS

Past => Five Paradigms

- 1st Paradigm – 1850 – Premodern
- 2nd Paradigm – 1885 (approx.) – Industrial Modernity
- 3rd Paradigm – 1900 – Green
- 4th Paradigm – 1995 – Economics
- 5th Paradigm – 2000 – Politics and Institutional

(Reference for 5 Paradigms Allan Hall (2005))

Present => 6th Paradigm (2-ply)

Hydroinformatics Tools + Systems Thinking

Eg. Source to Sea, Future Dams, etc.

Future => A New Paradigm (3-Ply) (Socio-technology + Systems Science +

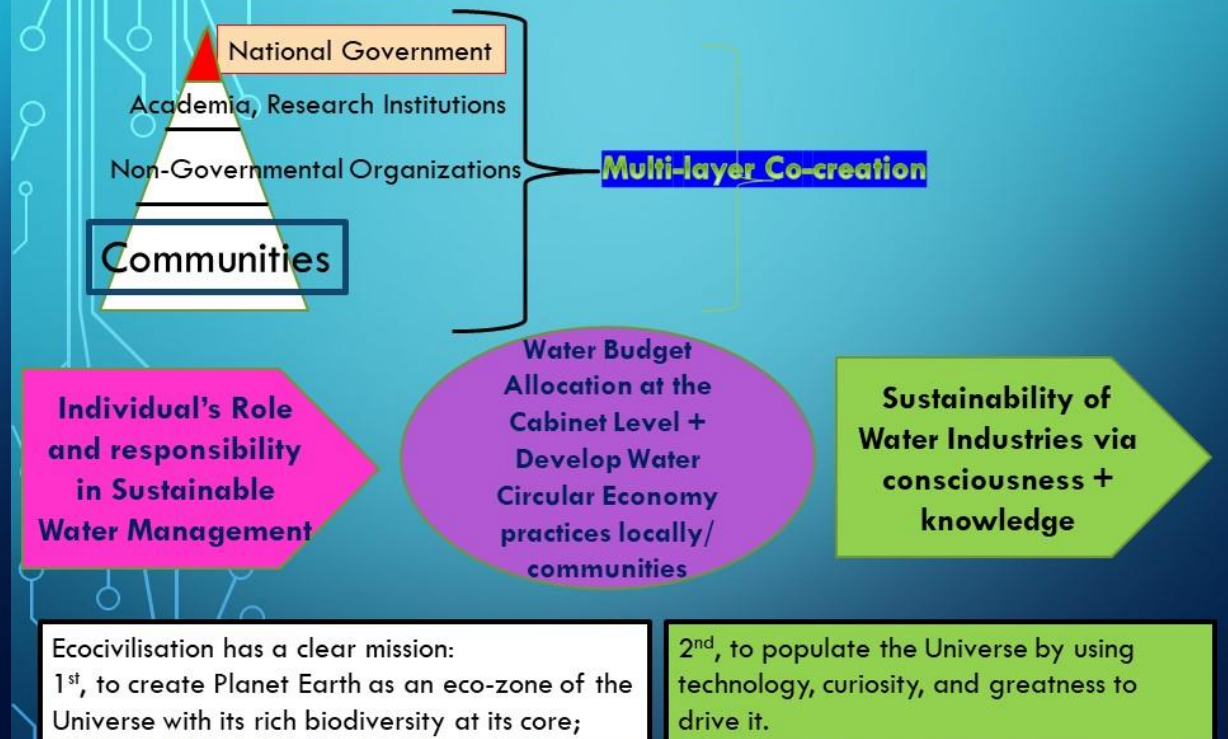
Spiritual transformation begin with leadership principles)

(Hydroinformatics Tools + Systems Science + AEIOU Leadership)

To revive Human Greatness and Nature together!

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CO-CREATION



12

Ways and Means to Localize the Global thinking in order to earn TA and FA Think Global: Act Local



Source to Sea



WATER MANAGEMENT PARADIGMS

Past => Five Paradigms

- 1st Paradigm – 1850 – Premodern
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Hydroinformatics Tools + Systems Thinking

Eg. Source to Sea, Future Dams, etc.

Future => A New Paradigm (3-Ply) (Socio-technology + Systems Science +

Spiritual transformation begin with leadership principles)

(Hydroinformatics Tools + Systems Science + AEIOU Leadership)

To revive Human Greatness and Nature together!

How Modern Technology Is Revolutionizing Agriculture in Indonesia?

Innovation & Sustainable Farming

- <https://youtu.be/Elc6ZzYI9TA?si=ZQywlHNhoG-MzO6N>
(2 minutes and 55 seconds)

It is OK: ကိုယ့်အထွာ နဲ့ ကိုယ်လေ



'Where are we going' vs 'what are we doing'

Management is Efficiency in climbing the ladder of success. Leadership determines whether the ladder is leaning towards the right wall.

STEPHEN COVEY



Thank You for your time and attention!

