



For the purpose of the conference held by the Forum for the 21st Century on the 29th November 2011 on:

Global Water Issues

Notes

- ✿ From a pure scientific approach water was one of the basic elements for creating life on planet Earth, among appropriate heat and different chemical substances. Without this source evolution would not have been possible. This theory is mainly based on the knowledge that planets need excessive quantities of water to create life, which is why we are the only planet with visible life on it in the entire solar system.
- ✿ Water makes 70% of the weight of the human body. Our muscles contain 75% of water, our brains consist of 70% to 85% of water, it makes more than a half of our entire blood pool, and even bones consist of 25% water. From this data it has to be clear, that life without water could not even possible. The recommended reference daily intake (RDI) for water is 3.7 litres per day (l/day) for human males older than 18, and 2.7 l/day for human females older than 18 including water contained in food, beverages, and drinking water. The amount of water varies with the individual, as it depends on the condition of the subject, the amount of physical exercise, and on the environmental temperature and humidity. An individual's thirst provides a better guide for how much water they require rather than a specific, fixed quantity.
- ✿ Water covers 70.9% of the Earth's surface, and is vital for all known forms of life. On Earth, it is found mostly in oceans and other large water bodies, with 1.6% of water below ground in aquifers and 0.001% in the air as vapor, clouds (formed by solid and liquid water particles suspended in air), and precipitation. Oceans hold 97% of surface water, leaving fresh surface water 3%, of which 2,4% is kept in glaciers and polar ice, and 0,6 in rivers, lakes and ponds .A very small amount of the Earth's water is contained within biological bodies and manufactured products.
- ✿ Most Africans residing in rural areas use, on average, only 30 to 40 liters of water per day for domestic consumption, the United Nations estimates. In comparison, the average U.S. consumer uses approximately 700 liters of water per day.
- ✿ The UN estimates that by 2025, forty-eight nations, with combined population of 2.8 billion, will face freshwater “stress” or “scarcity”.
- ✿ 1.1 billion people do not have access to safe drinking water. They lack public distribution systems that could provide tap water for they homes, protected wells and springs, public stand posted or rain water collectors.
- ✿ 2.6 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. This number represents mainly 42% of the world population and is represented by third world countries mainly in South-East Asia



and a significant part of Africa. Due to lack of sanitation illnesses and other diseases spread much easier, causing many epidemics and deaths each year.

- ✿ 1.3 million people die of malaria each year, of which 90% are children under the age of 5 years. A better and cleaner source of drinkable water can also reduce the transmission this disease and also many other vector-born diseases
- ✿ 2.1 million children die of diarrhea every year due to impure water they drink which creates an estimate of a child dying every 15 seconds.
- ✿ Because of poor water treatment legislation in the Third world countries and because of the insignificant power of local authorities, wastewater treatment practically does not exist. Therefore many international corporations outsource their production lines to these parts of the world in hope of reducing their costs by using the local cheap labor force and low environmental taxes and treatment costs.
- ✿ The most efficient way to transport and deliver potable water is through pipes. Plumbing can require significant capital investment. Some systems suffer high operating costs. The cost to replace the deteriorating water and sanitation infrastructure of industrialized countries may be as high as \$200 billion a year. Leakage of untreated and treated water from pipes reduces access to water. Leakage rates of 50% are not uncommon in urban systems. Because of the high initial investments, many less wealthy nations cannot afford to develop or sustain appropriate infrastructure, and as a consequence people in these areas may spend a correspondingly higher fraction of their income on water. 2003 statistics from El Salvador, for example, indicate that the poorest 20% of households spend more than 10% of their total income on water. In the United Kingdom authorities define spending of more than 3% of one's income on water as a hardship.

Proposes

- ✿ The first initiative is to direct more financial sources towards creating new sources of water. The African region is in a serious drought problem which is visible mainly in Somalia and Sudan (both Republic of Sudan and South Sudan). This crisis can be also solved by creating new wells with safe drinkable water. One well is estimated to be from 6 500 dollars to 30 000 dollars depending on the amount of people in the area, the terrain and many other factor. Therefore we propose to create a fund which could support the local NGO that already created for this purpose and have experience in this field of expertise.
- ✿ Furthermore we propose to create a committee which would have this agenda in its description and will process propositions of NGOs or from the private sector to create these wells. They will also support the NGOs and private sector with possible legislation problems in the countries, communication with authorities and know-how provided by governments who are represented by officials in the committee.
- ✿ Thirdly we support better wastewater management in the LDCs provided also by the committee to be a force against weak legislation in suffering counties and help with funding local wastewater treatment plants so secure drinkable water and also protect the environment.



The Model Conference Global Environmental Issues

Faculty of International Relations, University of Economics in Bratislava



Modelová konferencia Environmentálna sekcia

Fakulta medzinárodných vzťahov, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave

- ✿ Fourthly we intend to lower the amount of water used in industrial production, promote and support development of new technologies that have an impact on water consumption. This intention can be supported by various tax reductions, help in funding of research or building of such facilities of producers.
- ✿ Last but not least we take a great initiative in creating new sources of fresh water with the method of desalination from salt water. This method of obtaining this source is still very ineffective and need further development. That is why we are ready to help funding this project and if it does not turn out as a source of drinkable water then we are ready to support industry production outsourced to locations with desalination facilities to use this water in production and recycle it thus leaving fresh water for drinking purposes and not contaminate fresh water sources.
- ✿ As mention in the notes the most efficient way to transport and deliver potable water is through pipes. Arising from this note and the fact that most LDCs cannot financially support the creation and maintaining needed water pipelines the Forum suggests the work of the committee would be the financial supporting of projects in these countries that would help distribute fresh drinkable water.
- ✿ Finally we propose the question of financial support to this committee. Our proposition is to direct funds amounting to 2% of the countries GDP that have officials and take part in this committee. Furthermore we support that all countries will have equal numbers of seats and therefore an equal vote in this committee. Finally also counties from LDCs will have their seats as a consultative organ in the committee and will take part in decision making.