



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

Forum for 21st Century proposes creating a world wide committee that would be dealing with global issues and would be an effective tool in enforcing the results that would come out of the negotiations.

✿ **Funding**

For the purpose of creating a functional enforcing body a certain amount of finances is going to be needed. The Forum proposes a shared input from the World Bank, that has environmental protection in its agenda, state governments and last but not least the private sector represented by the largest trans-national corporations that also take part in water pollution. 1.5% of the GDP shall be directed to the funds created by the committee by each signing member country. Furthermore a 2% of the net earnings by each signing TNK shall be directed to the funds created by the committee. Last but not least the World Bank has pledged to finance the rest of each year's budget that will be created the year before.



Representation

The committee will consist of a board in which all the member countries will have one seat in stable representation and decision making. These representatives are going to be located in the committee and are going to carry out day to day decisions. They will be supported by staff members that are going to carry out day to day work. Every half a year there will be a general assembly where the heads of the government responsible for environmental issues are going to take part in evaluating the past year the upcoming year and approving the budget for the upcoming year. The representation of corporations will be only advisory to the representatives of member countries. The representation of TNK will be mainly in the general assembly where they will have their vote in the most important decisions and creating budgets of the next year. The general director would be in charge of the functionality of the committee and will be appointed from the World Bank to ensure its effectiveness.

Agenda

Last but not least is the question of the work of the committee. The main idea is that this body will undertake the leading role in dealing with global issues concerning water pollution and support in water protection:

Firstly the main role is to support various NGOs and the projects they are carrying out. For illustration 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. With the help of the committee we can direct funds directly to this project and therefore accelerate the process.

Secondly it is up to the committee which projects it will support and which will be set aside to be dealt with later as some projects and concerns are more crucial then others. Also a factor would be how much projects would be possible to be dealt with within one budget year, mainly because of the duration of each project.

Thirdly the committee will create a form of legislations that would advise to implicate into the law of each country to support the enforcement of certain types of laws, which would deal with environmental issues. For illustration today many countries don't have the legislation power to force large corporations in building cleaner and more efficient factories and plants and therefore destroying the environment. The committee would have the authority to show upon such problems and deal with them on a more international level.



The Model Conference Global Environmental Issues

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Fourthly the committee would be an advisory body in various projects carried out by individual government projects by local governmental institutions. It would help in administration, on a knowledge base and also supporting it with finances or equipment if necessary.

Last but not least is the question of the budget. Each year, no later than November, the budget for the next year would be approved for the following year so it would be clear how many projects the committee is able to keep funding and how many new projects can start or must end.