

STOCKHOLM

WATER

FRONT

A FORUM FOR GLOBAL WATER ISSUES

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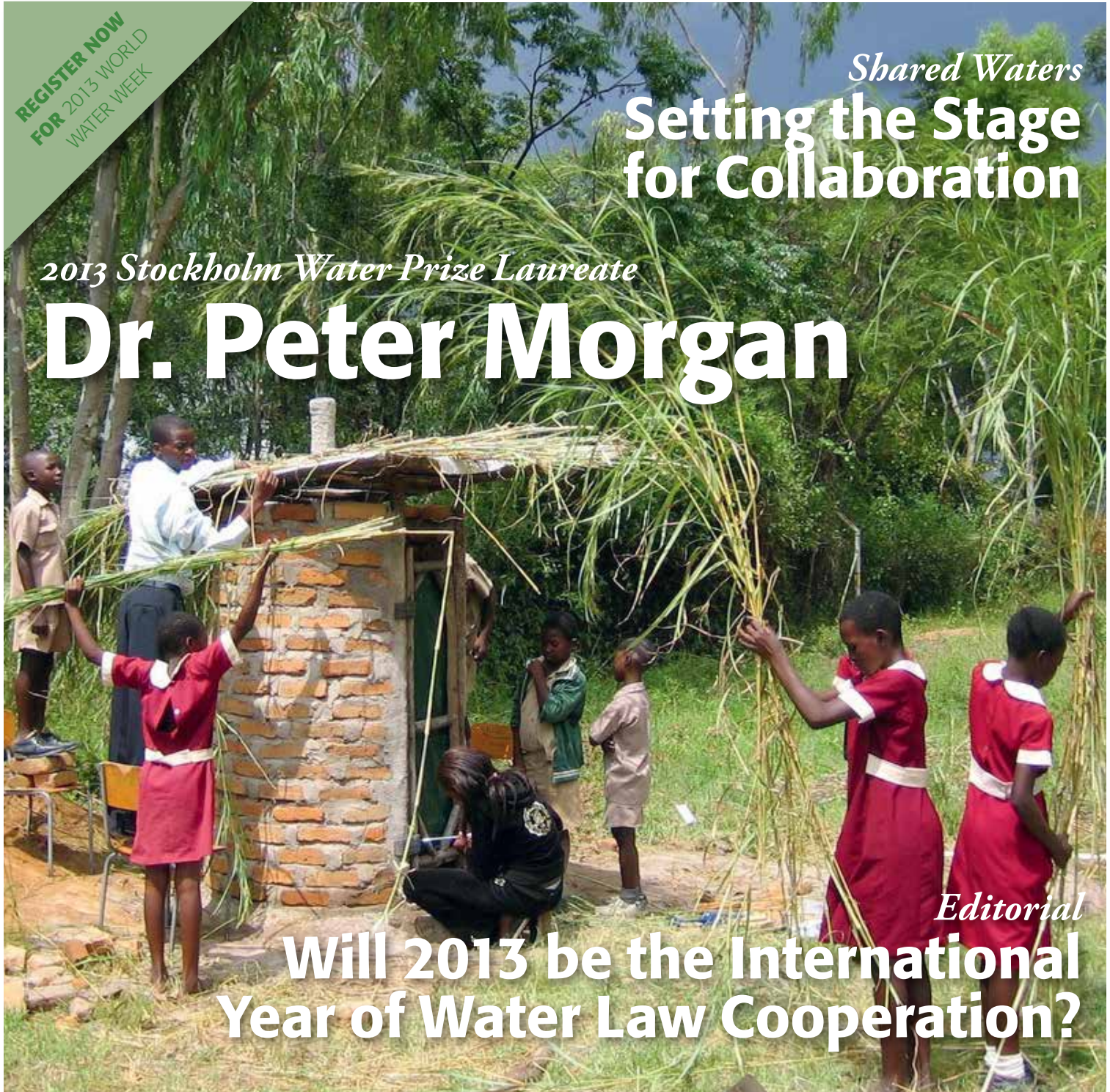
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FOR 2013 WORLD
WATER WEEK

Shared Waters

Setting the Stage for Collaboration

2013 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate

Dr. Peter Morgan



Editorial

Will 2013 be the International Year of Water Law Cooperation?

FILM ON FOOD WASTE

SIWI launched the film *WASTE* on Food Waste on World Environment Day.

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WATER AWARD TO
NETAFIM**

Micro-irrigation pioneer takes the prize.

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BOOK REVIEW

"Water, Christianity and the Rise of Capitalism" by Terje Oestigaard.

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NEWSLETTER



INSPIRATIONAL INNOVATION

Photo: Thomas Henriksson



Outside of his adopted Zimbabwe and the international community of water and sanitation professionals, Dr. Peter Morgan's

heroism is likely relatively unknown to most. He applied his brilliance not to what most pursue as the forefront of innovation, but instead to the backlog of science – the neglected art of creating technical solutions to better the lives of the least affluent so that they can afford access to the simple necessities of clean water to drink and a functioning latrine so they can safely relieve themselves in dignity. In so doing, Dr. Morgan has developed solutions that protect the health and lives of millions of people and has become the very worthy recipient of the 2013 Stockholm Water Prize, which he will receive on September 5 during the World Water Week in Stockholm. You can read more about his inspiring achievements in this issue.

Also in this edition, Mr. Kerry Schneider, explains why patience is a strategic virtue when setting the stage for cooperation over shared waters. As we hit the midpoint of

the “International Year of Water Cooperation”, Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clark reflects on the progress to date and priorities for the coming months to make 2013 a landmark year to strengthen the legal architecture for transboundary watercourses. Water Cooperation will be the focus of the upcoming 2013 World Water Week, which will also include many new features that you can learn about in this issue that we hope will make your trip to Stockholm even more effective and enjoyable. One important item for this year is the 2013 Stockholm Statement online forum (www.siwi.org/stockholmstatement2013), where you are encouraged to share your views on what message the water community should take to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 68) as it develops a roadmap towards the Post-2015 development agenda. We look forward hearing your thoughts on how we together can work towards a water wise world.

Mr. Torgny Holmgren
Executive Director
Stockholm International Water Institute



COVER PHOTO

Dr. Peter Morgan

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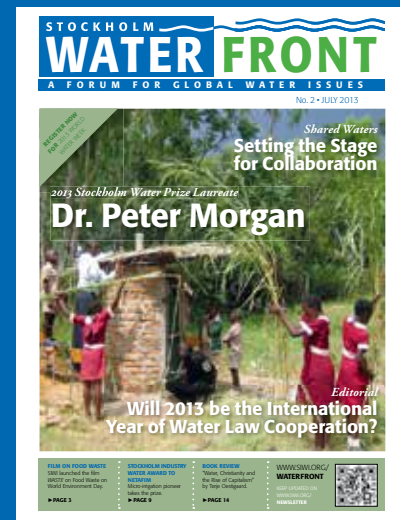
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Photo: Andrea Cuccureddu, www.sxc.hu

Film on Food Waste Launched on World Environment Day

The film *WASTE*, which illuminates the environmental cost of food waste, was launched on World Environment Day June 5.

A tremendous amount of water can be saved by reducing losses and waste of food – as much as ten times the water flow in the Nile. By curbing food waste, energy is saved and the emission of greenhouse gases can be reduced. Equally important, consumers can save a lot of money by not letting their food go to waste.

WASTE is a collaboration between SIWI, UNEP, WWF Germany and FAO, and has been produced by film maker Valentin Thurn. It builds on the film *Taste the Waste of Water*, which SIWI launched last year during the World Water Week in Stockholm. This new version has been translated into eight languages and presents a more com-

prehensive overview of the negative effects of food waste, in relation to a range of environmental aspects.

SIWI has been a pioneer in addressing the issue of food waste, and has together with IWMI and FAO raised the question in the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). In 2008, SIWI released the report *Saving Water from Field to Fork*, which shows how the huge loss and waste of food have significant implications for water, energy, land-use, and contribute to environmental degradation. In the making of the film, SIWI has provided knowledge and advise on the linkages between food waste and water.

► **Read more and watch the film**
www.siw.org/news/film-waste

SIWI Launches Series of Thematic Video Clips

SIWI has introduced a series of short video clips dedicated to our five thematic areas – transboundary water management, the water-energy-food nexus, water governance, climate change and water, and water economics.

► **Watch them at**
www.siw.org/knowledge-services/thematic-videos

Photo: SIWI

Forum Addressed the Need for Extending Reach of Water Integrity

The UNDP Water Governance Facility at SIWI (WGF) co-convoked two workshops at the First Water Integrity Forum, held in the Netherlands on June 5-7. The workshops showcased various water integrity tools designed to support different public and private stakeholders in their work to assess and enhance integrity, to raise public awareness and to support citizen's action and participation. They also aim

to increase the number of actors working with water integrity to support new and existing programmes to combat corruption.

The three day forum called on governments, the United Nations, international organisations, the private sector and civil society to promote water integrity in their operations. "We need to start changing attitudes and behaviour, personal and institutional," participants declared in a

statement issued at the end of the forum.

Organised by the Water Integrity Network (WIN), Water Governance Centre (WGC) and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, the forum gathered professionals and policy makers to share knowledge, approaches and experiences to address integrity challenges in the water sector.



Photo: Hans de Lijser

Photo: Andrea van der Kerk



Photo: Lovisa Selander, SIWI

Swedish Water School of the Year

On May 23, SIWI awarded the Swedish prize "Årets Vattenskola" to Rosenholmskolan at a public prize ceremony in Kungsträdgården in Stockholm. Årets Vattenskola serves to recognise and reward schools that show an extraordinary engagement in water and sustainability issues.

► **Read the full press release (in Swedish):** www.siwi.org/2013AVS

SIWI Co-hosted Events at the UN Climate Change Negotiations in Bonn

SIWI engaged in the UNFCCC meetings in Bonn June 3-14. SIWI organised a Side Event to explore possible future structure and modalities of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP).

The Side Event was organised in cooperation with the Alliance for Water Adaptation (AGWA), the Water and Climate Coalition (WCC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Conservation International (CI), the Netherlands, and Switzerland.



Photo: Jan Golinski, UNFCCC

► **Read more:** <http://unfccc.int>

NEWS FROM COLLABORATORS

SCANDIC CUTS WATER CONSUMPTION

Scandic is the first hotel chain in Europe to be awarded a Gold Medal by the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA). Scandic received the award for its international sustainability programme, which ensures that sound environmental, economic and social considerations are incorporated into everyday decisions within the business. Since 1996, Scandic has cut its water consumption by 21 per cent, energy consumption by 24 per cent and carbon dioxide emissions by 65 per cent.



► **Read more:** www.scandichotels.com/settings/Side-foot/About-us-Container/Press-and-media/#/pressrelease/view/scandic-receives-gold-medal-for-its-environmental-work-867972



Photo: Renee Nyberg

FAO, IFAD and WFP calls for food security to be put at centre of Africa development agenda

Following the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama, FAO, IFAD and WFP have sent out a joint news release requesting that food security and nutrition should be placed at the centre of the international agenda for African development. Special attention should be given to supporting small holder farmers and empowering rural women.

► **Read the full release:** www.ifad.org/media/press/2013/26.htm

KPMG VOTED SUSTAINABLE FIRM OF THE YEAR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW



Photo: Istockphoto

For the second consecutive year, KPMG has been named "Sustainable Firm of the Year" by the International Accounting Bulletin. KPMG received the award for its global leadership across a range of sustainability initiatives. Highlights include the Global Green Initiative for environmental sustainability, in which KPMG has reduced emissions and increasing energy efficiency, as well as the Global Development Initiative.

► **Read more:** www.kpmg.com/global/en/issuesandinsights/articlespublications/press-releases/pages/accounting-bulletin-awards-2013.aspx

SETTING THE STAGE FOR COLLABORATION OVER SHARED WATERS

TEXT & ILLUSTRATION Mr. Kerry Schneider, Programme Officer, Knowledge Services, SIWI

PHOTO Andrea Cuccureddi, www.sxc.hu

Rome was not built in a day and neither were the Mekong River Commission or the Nile Basin Initiative. The comparisons between Rome, which arguably once sat atop the pinnacle of human civilization, and two water resource management (WRM) institutions should not be stretched too far, although those who were closely involved in their development might also argue that the challenge of establishing them was equal to that of building the Eternal City.

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) and Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) may not stand as examples of absolute perfection in transboundary water management (TWM) but they do represent substantial progress towards making cooperation possible between countries that have not always seen eye to eye. While the process involved in each organisation's development has been time consuming and difficult at times, it is hard to imagine a worthier endeavor than efficiently managing and developing two of the world's largest and most precious river systems.

There are currently more than 260 river basins that cross the political boundaries of two or more countries. These rivers account for roughly 60 per cent of the global freshwater flow and approximately 40 per cent of the world's population lives within international river basin boundaries. Beyond surface water, there are approximately 2 billion people who depend on the groundwater sourced from over 300 transboundary aquifer systems. There is also a concerning lack of developed infrastructure that could greatly benefit the populations within these basins.

The need to cooperate over these shared resources is easily seen, but unfortunately only one-third of these river basins feature any cooperative agreement. Even fewer feature basin-wide agreements that in-



clude every riparian nation within the basin boundaries.

As sobering as these statistics are, they only tell half of the story. There has been a trend within the water community to focus on establishing a comprehensive cooperative framework agreement (CFA) before any further steps towards development are taken. While basin-wide CFAs are always desirable, the tangible outputs of development such as hydropower production and flood/drought management are often put on hold until agreements are reached. There is no guarantee that having a basin-wide CFA will result in substantial development projects of a high quality. If attention and resources are solely ap-

propriated to creating framework or management structures, there is a risk of them becoming empty shells with little or no effect on the long-term vision of healthy and useful cooperation within a basin capable of producing the tangible outputs and outcomes that are sorely needed. Thus the process of building frameworks and management institutions of a high quality, those that feature equitable sharing of risks and responsibilities along with accrued benefits, should be prioritised even it means moving forward without a basin-wide CFA. A sub-basin agreement can be better than having no agreement.

2013 has been designated as the "year of water cooperation" by the United Nations and as the international community rallies for a final push to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, the efforts to achieving these goals must be bolstered through supporting the development processes of transboundary waters at every scale.

Taking one step at a time

There is no clear roadmap for riparians within a basin to achieve ideal levels of cooperation over shared waters. Each basin is unique and the steps taken to develop a cooperative approach to managing transboundary waters should reflect the individual concerns and priorities at play.

Painting with broad strokes, TWM involves the three closely linked stages depicted in the illustration. The intent to cooperate at the transboundary level is usually but not necessarily formalised by establishing a CFA. The process required to reach a mutually agreeable framework within the basin always requires negotia-

tions between the riparian stakeholders so that risks are identified and mitigated and trust between all parties can be established. In most cases, the development of a CFA involves a balancing act between recognising state sovereignty and working towards what works best for the entire basin at large. The national interests of up-stream riparians are often diametrically opposed to their down-stream neighbors so reaching an agreement that satisfies all parties can be extremely difficult – and in many cases highly unlikely. The political risks to cooperation, either real or perceived, by riparians should not be discounted. In many situations, less wealthy nations or those with less access to information are hesitant to cooperate with their neighbors for fear that they will be taken advantage of or even ‘bullied’ into agreements that aren’t equitable. This can be a major impediment to cooperation and is a prime example of why there is a need for external support early on to catalyse cooperative efforts. If one riparian perceives the risk to cooperation to be too great, the process can stagnate or deteriorate. An obvious result of this

would be the lack of a basin-wide CFA, which could hinder attempts to leverage funding for further development activities.

A second stage of TWM can be described generally as water resource management (WRM). Gathering and sharing basin data, developing decision support tools, establishing a river basin organisation, ecosystems management, and dispute resolution are all examples of typical WRM features. It should be noted that the processes involved in both of these stages of TWM could take place concurrently and are mutually reinforcing. There are no rules that disallow one step being taken before the other in order to reach the third stage of cooperation, which would be the development of water resources within the basin. However, if any meaningful process is to be made in a basinwide approach there needs to be at least a minimum level of trust between the riparians – at technical as well as political levels.

This third stage might include building water storage infrastructure or energy production/transmission systems that would lead towards tangible benefits of cooper-

ation within a basin. In a well-developed basin it may entail concrete steps towards improving and maintaining ecosystems and the services they provide. While the first two stages of cooperation can occur simultaneously or at differing paces, the third stage usually requires some form of CFA and management structure within the basin even if they aren’t basin-wide. The sustainable development of water resources within any basin in an efficient and equitable fashion is the ultimate goal and represents the product of cooperation and the reason it should be encouraged in the first place. High quality water resource development projects have life changing and life saving potential through their impacts across a range of sectors from water/food security, environmental management, and energy production. When development projects stall, for any reason, the potential for change remains untapped.

To handpick just one indicator, energy production, it can be noted that the entire continent of Africa has only harnessed 3 per cent of the economically viable hydro-electric potential. For some African basins,

“In some situations, the challenge to cooperation is simply getting the right group of people to communicate with each other – this does not have to be incredibly expensive”

this may be due to the absence of a CFA or well-functioning management institutions that prohibit outside infrastructure investment from risk-adverse banks and donor institutions that require basin-wide consent (at minimum in the form of a “no objection” statement). However, there are instances where infrastructure investment has been made in the absence of a basin-wide consensus that should receive greater recognition from the TWM donor community. One such example is the Kariba dam between Zimbabwe and Zambia. The Kariba has generated electricity for millions of people in the region and has displayed an incredible resiliency through times of violent conflict and economic collapse while largely being the product of cooperative efforts between only two of the eight riparian countries (World Bank Group, 2009).

The Rhine River has long been pointed to as a model of basin maturity and how riparians should cooperate. In fact, the Central Commission for Navigation on the Rhine (CCNR), established in 1815, is the oldest European organisation still

active today. However, it is worth noting that the cooperative management of the Rhine progressed for years without a basin-wide cooperative framework agreement that included all aspects of international water governance. An all-inclusive CFA has been established, fairly recently, with the adoption of the EU Water Framework Initiative in 2000 but the waters were managed and developed for years without basin-wide participation on every issue and were still able to provide tangible benefits from drinking water to hydropower for millions of people (Frijters and Leentvaar, not dated).

Whether a basin features a CFA, a capable river basin organisation, or exists in a less advanced state along the cooperation spectrum, there is a great need for continued support to help the basin achieve its maximum potential for the benefit of the public good. The academic community involved with TWM has published a significant amount of research that supports the notion that cooperation is direly needed; the response hasn't been as forthright as one might expect. While there are initiatives, such as the UNDP Shared Waters Partnership hosted by SIWI, that are willing to provide TWM support at every scale, there are many institutions who either can't or won't.

Beyond the lack of CFAs in the majority of basins around the world, there are a number of reasons donor institutions and development agencies balk at providing support to the processes linking basin cooperation and development. One major

issue is that these processes can be incredibly time consuming.

Donors have to be willing to provide support for periods of time that often extend beyond traditional funding cycles for outcome or output based initiatives. A second reason has to do with the challenge of supporting actions that could be directly and clearly attributable to progress. Donors expect clear outcomes and outputs from their project portfolios, which can be difficult to predict in the processes of cooperation. It can be equally difficult to point to any individual activity as the single tipping point that leads to substantial progress. A third reason is that many of the larger donor institutions are used to supporting projects with budget lines of millions of dollars. In some situations, the challenge to cooperation is simply getting the right group of people to sit around a table and communicate with each other – this does not have to be incredibly expensive.

Making a lasting commitment

The key to supporting cooperative processes involving shared waters is in understanding that every basin is intrinsically unique in the type of support needed and the amount of time that will be required to establish the high quality and long-lasting frameworks and institutions that lead to effective development. There needs to be a flexibility and willingness on behalf of the donors to engage basins, even if there is not unanimous support, and to continue providing support for the long haul. Remember... Rome was not built in a day. ■

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DR. PETER MORGAN WINS STOCKHOLM WATER PRIZE



About Dr. Peter Morgan

Dr. Morgan currently serves as Director of Aquamor, a not-for-profit company working in the rural water supply and sanitation sector in Zimbabwe. He has previously served as Chief Research Officer and acting Director of the Blair Research Laboratory and as Advisor to the Ministry of Health in Zimbabwe. Throughout his career, Dr. Morgan has shared his designs and innovations freely and ensured that they can be implemented and improved by the local communities where they are used.

Born in 1943 in Wellingborough, United Kingdom, Dr. Morgan is a naturalised citizen of Zimbabwe. He holds a PhD in Marine Biology from the University of Hull and was awarded Member of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1991.

Dr. Morgan is also renowned as one of the leading creators and proponents of ecological sanitation solutions, which enable the safe reuse of human waste to enhance soil quality and crop production. His 'eco-san' toilets are now in use in countries across the globe, centred on converting a sanitary problem into a productive resource. ■

TEXT Mr. Josh Weinberg, Programme Officer, Knowledge Services, SIWI

PHOTO Dr. Peter Morgan

Dr. Peter Morgan has been named the 2013 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate for his work to protect the health and lives of millions of people through improved sanitation and water technologies.

Over the past four decades, Dr. Morgan has invented and advanced low-cost practical solutions to provide access to safe sanitation and clean water that are being used by millions of people worldwide.

"Many currently existing solutions to provide clean water and sanitation are unaffordable, impractical and out of reach for the world's poorest people," said the Stockholm Water Prize Committee in its citation. "As a result of Dr. Morgan's pioneering work to develop practical water and sanitation technologies for those most in need, countless communities now enjoy safer water, a cleaner environment and quality of life."

A world class inventor and problem solver

Dr. Morgan has invented a wide range of simple, smart and low-cost water and sanitation technologies. Several of his most prominent innovations, including the "B" type Bush Pump and the Blair Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) Latrine, have been adapted as the national standard by the

government of Zimbabwe. Huge numbers of Blair VIP latrines designed for both families and schools have been built and serve millions of people in Zimbabwe alone, and many more have been built worldwide. Dr. Morgan also created the 'Upgraded Family Well', a concept where families can support themselves ("self supply") which now helps half a million people improve the quality of water obtained from traditional wells.

Dr. Morgan has an unwavering commitment to creating solutions that local communities can build and sustain themselves. For each of his technologies he also developed a wide range of training and educational materials that enable local practitioners to install, maintain and improve them. The Blair VIP latrine, for example, has been restyled so that it can be upgraded in a series of steps as the need or opportunity arises. In Zimbabwe today, variants of the Blair VIP, the "B" type 'Bush Pump' and the promotion of upgraded wells form the backbone of the rural water and sanitation programme.



Students built a simple Blair VIP at the school

NETAFIM RECEIVES STOCKHOLM INDUSTRY WATER AWARD



TEXT Mr. Josh Weinberg, Programme Officer, Knowledge Services, SIWI
PHOTO Netafim

Netafim, a pioneer and leading provider of drip and micro-irrigation technology worldwide, has been named the 2013 Stockholm Industry Water Award Laureate.

Netafim is the global leader in drip- and micro-irrigation solutions and water-saving technologies. Founded in Israel in 1965, Netafim today provides equipment and services in over 110 countries that enable farmers to produce more with less water.

Currently, more than ten million hectares of farmland are irrigated with drip irrigation, a technology pioneered by Netafim, that dramatically improves water, energy and labour productivity. The use of drip irrigation typically halves water use compared to other irrigation solutions and at the same time increases crop yields.

“Globally, seventy per cent of our finite freshwater is used for irrigation and with rapidly expanding demand for agricultural products there is a dire need to improve water productivity. Netafim’s remarkable achievements, helping farmers across the world to ‘grow more with less’, are directly contributing to a more water and food secure world,” said the Stockholm Industry Water Award Committee in its citation.

Upon receiving the news, Igal Aisenberg, Netafim President and CEO said, “We are truly honoured to receive the Stockholm Industry Water Award. As the global pioneer and leader in drip irrigation, we have always focused on saving water. With water and land scarcity topping the list of today’s major global challenges, we’re leveraging our expertise and experience in drip technology to help combat food price



inflation, ensure food security, and achieve water sustainability. This prestigious award is testimony to our efforts and inspires our work to continue to help reduce water usage and make the world a better, more sustainable place.”

Building stronger family farms

Netafim has designed a specific solution for small holder farmers in developing areas. The Family Drip System™, a gravity-based drip irrigation system, eliminates the need for labour-intensive bucket irrigation, while also saving water. Beyond innovating technical systems, Netafim provides training, capacity building, and knowledge transfer in cooperation with local organisations to help farmers in developing countries

maximise yields with existing resources. In, Niger, for example, application of the Family Drip System enabled farmers to more than triple their production of select fruits and vegetables. In India, Netafim’s community irrigation systems and training programmes in sustainable food production have helped over 40,000 small farmers reduce waste on their farms and increased their incomes by twenty per cent over three years. Netafim also regularly holds seminars to educate farmers on water saving techniques in locations around the world. Beyond agriculture, they are also a leading provider of water saving solutions for mining and landscaping, improving their productivity while reducing the environmental impact. ■

2013 WORLD WATER

– WHAT'S NEW

TEXT Ms. Sanna Gustafsson, Communications Officer, SIWI

PHOTOS Edelpix

At the 2013 World Water Week in Stockholm, decision-makers, international organisations, business leaders and scientists from across the globe will once again gather in the Swedish capital to discuss the world's most pressing water challenges. Find out what's new for this year's conference, which will take a closer look at "Water Cooperation – Building Partnerships".

Each year, we strive to make the World Water Week a place where participants can find new ways to share knowledge, develop projects, and establish partnerships. This year is no exception; the 2013 World Water Week is filled with fresh and interesting features. Make sure not to miss out!

Plan and personalise your schedule

Check out our new and interactive online programme in which you can search for events by theme, type or day. Browse through the broad range of events – sessions, seminars, workshops, award ceremonies, social events and exhibition activities – and make your personal schedule. Each event also includes feeds from social media, making it easy to follow online discussions on the various topics.

A greener week

Promoting sustainability is an essential part of the World Water Week. Participants receive free public transportation cards, organically produced food and refillable water bottles. In 2013 and beyond, we strive to continue working towards an even more sustainable event by selecting food with minimal water use and low environmental impact, measuring the amount of waste resulting from the conference, as well as actively promoting carbon offsetting.

Cultivating young professionals

The World Water Week aims to stimulate future leaders in the water community. This year we take this commitment one step further by introducing the Young Professionals' Day – an entire day of activities

focused on at those at the start of their careers. On Wednesday September 4, enthusiasts between 16 and 35 years old will get free access to the Young Professionals' activities, which include two seminars, career coaching by water professionals, as well as guided tours of the exhibition. The Stockholm Junior Water Prize expands with three new countries – Belgium, Hungary and Thailand – making room for even more bright young minds to share their ideas and innovations. The winner will be announced at the ceremony on Wednesday September 4 during the Week.

Share project ideas and build partnerships

The World Water Week has since its inception functioned as a dynamic platform for exchange between a wide diversity of perspectives. True to its spirit, the 2013 World Water Week launches the Ideas Marketplace – a new feature that will function as an exhibition space completely dedicated to ideas and projects. On Wednesday September 4, the Ideas Marketplace will provide you with an opportunity to discuss ideas, projects and future ventures with the wide range of delegates attending the conference.

Connect with different regions

For the past five years, the World Water Week has featured focus days for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia. This year a new focus day for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will complement these. The regional focus days will cover issues such as river basin management, climate change adaptation and green infrastructure. We will also facilitate an inter-

Link up to World Water Week in Social Media!



TWITTER

Use the week's official hashtag #wwweek to access and contribute to discussions.



FACEBOOK

"Like" World Water Week on Facebook to receive the latest updates.



YOUTUBE

View video clips from the plenary sessions, seminars and events.



FLICKR

Follow the photo stream from the events, award ceremonies and other activities.



INSTAGRAM

Use #wwweek to contribute with your own live photo updates.



NEW PROGRAMME ONLINE!
programme.worldwaterweek.org

WEEK IN STOCKHOLM

regional dialogue where the different regions can learn from each other's realities, experiences and find ways of collaborating across continents. Welcome to a series of in-depth sessions at the regional focus days at the World Water Week!

Digital and interactive posters

Make sure to visit the exciting exhibitions as well as poster sessions at the World Water Week. The poster sessions will be digitalised, and will be displayed on interactive touch screens.

Reaching further

This year participants will once again be able to follow the action live with web-streaming from our opening and closing plenary sessions and award ceremonies. Via our social media channels, the debates can go beyond the seminar rooms where people from around the world can contribute their thoughts and ideas, post photos from the week's activities, and much more. ■

Register now!

[www.worldwaterweek.org/
registration](http://www.worldwaterweek.org/registration)

Press registration

[www.worldwaterweek.org/
media](http://www.worldwaterweek.org/media)

WILL 2013 BE SEEN AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF WATER LAW COOPERATION?

TEXT Mr. Alistair Rieu-Clarke, Reader in International Law, University of Dundee

PHOTO Ilker, www.sxc.hu

2013 – the UN Year of Water Cooperation – is a big year for international water law. The UN Watercourses Convention, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1997, may well enter into force before 2014 – only five additional ratifications are required. In addition, the amendment to the UNECE Helsinki Convention, which would allow non-UNECE States to join, is likely to become operational by the end of the year. Last but not least, this year sees States debate the fate of the 2008 Draft Articles on Transboundary Aquifers within the UN General Assembly.

This growing momentum in the advancement of legal instruments designed to facilitate equitable and sustainable water cooperation raises two central questions: Firstly, what is the added value of these legal instruments; and secondly, how compatible are they?

The value added of global water law instruments can be seen from both a legal and political perspective. From a legal standpoint, many of the rules and principles embodied in the Watercourses Convention, the Helsinki Convention and the Draft Articles are part of customary international law and therefore already binding upon States, e.g. the principle of equitable and reasonable use, or the duty to notify of planned measures.

However, codifying these existing legal norms within global texts can add greater detail and clarity. For instance, while it might be accepted that there is a general customary international law obligation to notify other States of a unilateral planned measure on an international watercourse, the Watercourses Convention complements this general obligation by providing more detail. Part III of the Convention therefore sets out when and who should be notified, and provides a detailed process by which to deal with any negotiations, consultations and, if necessary, disagreements amongst States. By providing such clarity and detail, the likelihood of misinterpretations, differing expectations and political tensions amongst States sharing rivers, lakes and aquifers are lessened.

Additionally from a legal standpoint, widespread formal State endorsement of these global legal instruments, e.g. through ratification, would strengthen the status of emerging rules and principles of customary international law. Principles such as the obligation to protect the ecosystems of international watercourses would therefore become part of customary international law. This is significant because customary international law is binding on all States, whereas a State must explicitly consent to be bound by legal agreements (Conventions, Treaties, etc).

From a political standpoint, widespread support for these legal instruments sends a clear message that international law

requires States to cooperate over international rivers, lakes and aquifers. There would be less scope to question the status or exact content of particular rules and principles, which in turn would promote equity, security and predictability in transboundary water cooperation. Moreover, entry into force would raise the profile of these global instruments, and would likely lead to additional State ratifications. This is particularly crucial given that awareness raising has been identified as a central factor impeding the ratification process for the Watercourses Convention. Widespread formal support for these instruments would also strengthen the mandate of UN institutions to promote equitable and sustainable water cooperation based on sound rules and principles of international law.

Of course, the value of bilateral and multilateral agreements pertaining to particular rivers, lakes and aquifers must not be undermined. Global agreements should play a supplementary role to any arrangements within a particular international river, lake or aquifer. The successful record in the implementation of the Helsinki Convention – covering multiple basins across the UNECE region – demonstrates that there is much to be gained by ‘upscaling’ this framework approach to the global level. Such a supplementary role has greatest value in three scenarios, namely where no basin agreement exists; where not all states are party

to a basin-wide agreement; or where an existing agreement only partially covers matters addressed in these global instruments. These three scenarios are commonplace across the world. For instance, 153 of the 263 international river basins in the world lack any type of cooperative management mechanism. Similarly, UN-Water cautions that: "Existing agreements are sometimes not sufficiently effective to promote integrated water resources management due to ... shortcomings in the agreements themselves (for example, inadequate integration of aspects such as the environment, the lack of enforcement mechanisms, limited – sectoral – scope and non-inclusion of important riparian States)."

While there is therefore a need to strengthen the legal architecture (UN Water, 2008) for transboundary resources, and global legal instruments might play a role both in legal and political terms, why do we need three instruments?

In comparing the Watercourses Convention, the Helsinki Convention and the Draft Articles it appears that – although there are differences within the text – there is tremendous merit in treating these three instruments as a mutually reinforcing package. For example, the Helsinki Convention has generally more detailed requirements than the Watercourses Convention. Yet, certain provisions in the latter supplement the former, e.g., those on planned measures and the factors relevant to equitable and reasonable use.

Additionally, effective implementation of each one of these instruments is strongly contingent on the other two instruments. Unilateral approaches to the promotion and implementation of the Watercourses Convention, Helsinki Convention or the Draft Articles are likely to lead at best to duplication of effort, and at worst to confusion amongst States potentially considering ratification. The risk of con-

fusion is that States may be reluctant to support any of the three instruments. A coordinated strategy is therefore needed to promote the benefits of the three instruments as a mutually reinforcing package; which in turn has the greatest potential to help address the current shortcomings in the legal architecture for transboundary waters. Such a coordinated strategy requires joint awareness raising efforts, e.g. national, regional and global workshops, training and promotional materials, and so forth amongst those with a remit to support the promotion and implementation of international water laws. If such a coordinated effort can be garnered, 2013 might well be seen as a monumental year for international water law cooperation. A new interactive learning website for the UN Watercourses Convention has been launched recently, which includes easy online navigation, video commentary, fact sheets, quizzes, maps and FAQs,

www.unwatercoursesconvention.org ■

FURTHER READING

- ▶ Loures, F. & Rieu-Clark A. (eds.) *The UN Watercourses Convention in Force Strengthening International Law for Transboundary Water Management*. Routledge press. (In press)
- ▶ Rieu-Clarke, A., Moynihan, R., & Magsig, B. (2012). *UN Watercourses Convention – User's Guide*. University of Dundee. ISBN, 978-0.
- ▶ Stephan, R. M. (2009). *Transboundary aquifers: Managing a vital resource: The UNILC draft articles on the law of transboundary aquifers*. Available at www.hydrology.nl/images/docs/ihp/ILC_transboundary_aquifers_182431E.pdf
- ▶ UNECE (2012). *The Water Convention: Serving the planet*. United Nations. Available at www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/publications/brochure/Brochures_Leaflets/A4_trifold_en_web.pdf
- ▶ UN-Water (2008). *Transboundary Waters: Sharing Benefits, Sharing Responsibilities*. Available at: www.unwater.org/downloads/UNW_TRANSBOUNDARY.pdf



WATER, CHRISTIANITY AND THE RISE OF CAPITALISM

BOOK WRITTEN BY Mr. Terje Oestigaard

REVIEWED BY Mr. Len Abrams, SIWI Associate

This is not a book for the faint hearted. The popular wisdom of avoiding the topics of religion and politics in polite conversation is not without good reason! Water has always been an integral part of human experience – both as blessing and as curse. It is not surprising therefore that it is deeply embedded in the holy writings and faith traditions of the world's religions.

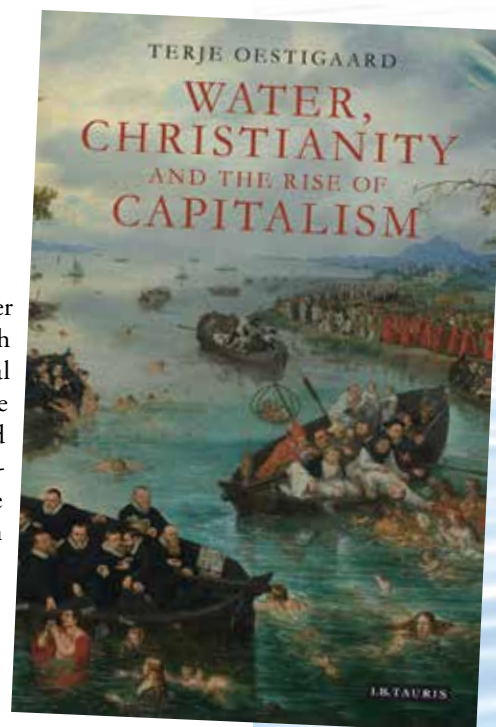
Oestigaard undertakes a brave and fascinating venture in tracing the role of water in the Hebrew scriptures of the 'Old Testament', in the Christian scriptures and through two thousand years of ecclesiastical history and tradition. The work provides a thorough analysis of the role of water in scripture both as an instrument of judgement and of blessing. Water (or the lack of it) plays a key role throughout the history of Israel against a backdrop of the climatic conditions of the Ancient Near East. In particular the rite of baptism and the nature of the waters of baptism is discussed, ranging from the baptism of Jesus to the changing characteristics of the sacrament of baptism in the Catholic and Protestant traditions.

Different perspectives on water, whether it is believed to inherently possess spiritual qualities (for good or evil), or only reflect such qualities symbolically, are indicative of the primary fault lines between the Catholic and Reformed traditions. This is illustrated with specific reference to beliefs surrounding holy water and holy wells in England. For the ordinary lay person water was regarded as a defence against evil and a means to induce blessing, fertility and protection. As the Enlightenment brought greater understanding of the natural universe, including the physical

properties of water and phenomena such as the Hydrological Cycle, water became 'de-mystified' and regarded as an amazing part of divine creation, rather than as a substance with intrinsic magic or spiritual abilities.

Oestigaard traces the movement from superstition to rationalism through the reformation, emphasising that this was both a political and religious process. Whether or not changing beliefs and the elimination of magic and superstition as reflected in the changing views on the nature of water were a cause of the rise of the protestant work ethic, is moot. That the Reformation resulted in an ethic which regarded economic success as religious merit, leading to the Industrial Revolution and capitalism is clear.

No doubt not everyone will agree with what the author regards as Christian doctrine and beliefs in relation to water and other matters, but all serious readers will be impressed by the thorough treatment of the topic. ■



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Terje Oestigaard is a researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden. Apart from Scandinavia, he has conducted fieldworks in Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Greece, Jordan, India, Nepal, Palestine and Tanzania. Oestigaard's main research interests are death rituals and cremations, water and religion, and political archaeology.

His current project is "Rainmaking and Climate Change in Tanzania: Traditions, Rituals and Globalisation".

► oestigaard.com

Open for comments!

2013 STOCKHOLM STATEMENT: ADVOCATING WATER

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TEXT Ms. Maya Rebermark, Communications Officer, SIWI

PHOTO Ms. Susanna Todorovic, IT Officer, SIWI
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The Stockholm Statement advocates on key issues and governance priorities from the water community to stakeholders worldwide. Coordinated and steered by SIWI, the Stockholm Statement aims to raise water higher up on the political agenda, both as a human right and as an essential productive resource. SIWI intends to elevate the status of water issues on the Post-2015 development agenda.

In September 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 68) will convene and discuss initial findings from the Open Working Group on the SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda consultative processes. SIWI believes that this assembly presents a critical opportunity to champion and safeguard the unique role played by water towards sustainable global development. With the aim of encouraging deeper and clearer integration into sustainable development, SIWI will be submitting the 2013 Stockholm Statement to the UNGA 68.

Contribute to this paper on our new digital forum

In the spirit of wide collaboration, during the UN International Year of Water Cooperation, SIWI is collecting views and opinions from all sectors and disciplines to contribute to the content of the 2013 Stockholm Statement paper. An interactive digital forum has been purpose built for this activity and organised into the five different themes that we believe are necessary in guiding sustainable development; *Sanitation and Drinking Water, Productivity, Vulnerability, Quality and Governance.*

The forum is formally open until July 14 and we want to hear what stakeholders of all types think and feel about these subjects. Users are able to login and take part in discussions via a simple registration process or by using existing google, facebook or twitter accounts. As we aim to build an open platform for debate and the opportunity to air all views, it will be possible to post anonymously.

In late July, all comments will be reviewed and considered whilst SIWI writes the first draft Stockholm Statement. This draft statement will be available online for review and comment by forum users during the month of August. The final Stockholm Statement will be presented to participants at World Water Week in Stockholm during September 1-6 before being submitted to UNGA 68 in September.

Through the Stockholm Statement online forum, we hope to create a head start in forming constructive, candid and continuous collaboration towards the realisation of water wise global goals. We look forward to hearing from you and the diverse voices throughout the water community. ■

www.siwi.org/stockholmstatement2013



WORLD WATER WEEK
 in Stockholm,
 September 1-6, 2013

2013 WORLD WATER WEEK WATER COOPERATION: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

NEW ONLINE PROGRAMME

For event descriptions and related resources, visit www.worldwaterweek.org
 Use our online programme to browse the events and to plan your own schedule.



SUNDAY



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY