

**Lecture #7, Tuesday, 17 July 2001**

**1:30 - 3:00 PM**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT: ETHICS AND  
ETHOS IN IWRPM**

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**HYDRO****TECH**  
I N T E R N A T I O N A L

# **ETHICS**

**THE RULES OF CONDUCT FORMING  
A SYSTEM OF MORAL PRINCIPLES  
AND VALUES RELATING TO HUMAN  
CONDUCT WITH RESPECT TO THE  
RIGHTNESS OR WRONGNESS OF  
CERTAIN ACTIONS. THEY DEAL  
WITH THE GOODNESS AND BADNESS  
OF THE MOTIVES AND ENDS OF  
SUCH ACTIONS.**

# **ETHOS**

**THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTER  
OR SPIRIT OF A CULTURE; THE  
UNDERLYING SENTIMENT THAT  
FORMS THE BELIEFS, CUSTOMS, OR  
PRACTICES OF A COMMUNITY,  
GROUP OR SOCIETY, ETC. AND  
OFTEN DETERMINES A PERSON'S  
ACTION. /////**

**IT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS  
POINT TO BE REMINDED  
THAT IWRPM DEALS NOT  
ONLY WITH 'SOLID' THINGS.**

**IT ALSO INVOLVES  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
LINKAGES -- INCLUDING  
WHO BENEFITS AND WHO  
SUFFERS FROM THE  
PLANNING PROCESS. /////**

**THE DUBLIN CONFERENCE  
(1992) LAID OUT FOUR  
PRINCIPLES FOR ACHIEVING  
INTEGRATED WATER  
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT  
AND MANAGEMENT**

# **•THE FIRST PRINCIPLE:**

- A HOLISTIC APPROACH IS NEEDED TO DEVELOP HUMAN SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES, AND THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS -- AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MAY BE REQUIRED.**

**•THE SECOND PRINCIPLE:  
THERE IS THE NEED FOR A  
PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN  
INSTITUTIONS, REQUIRING:**

- PARTICIPATION OF  
BENEFICIARIES AND THE PUBLIC  
(AND PARTICULARLY WOMEN)**
- RAISE THE AWARENESS OF THE  
IMPORTANCE OF WATER  
AMONG POLICY-MAKERS AND  
THE PUBLIC**

## **PRINCIPLE 2, cont.**

- PUBLIC CONSULTATION**
- DECISIONS TO BE MADE AT THE LOWEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL.**

# **•THE THIRD PRINCIPLE:**

- THE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE CENTRAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE PROVISION, MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDING OF WATER, WHICH HAS SELDOM BEEN GIVEN SUFFICIENT PROMINENCE.**

# **•THE FOURTH PRINCIPLE:**

**WATER HAS AN ECONOMIC VALUE,  
AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN  
ECONOMIC GOOD. IN EVALUATING  
SUCH A GOOD, PROPER REGARD  
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO:**

- THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER TO  
SOCIETY, WHICH SHOULD  
HAVE A RIGHT OF REASONABLE  
ACCESS AT AN AFFORDABLE  
PRICE.**
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

## **PRINCIPLE 4, cont.**

- DEMAND MANAGEMENT FOR EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE RESOURCE USE.**
- ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, TO ENSURE THAT EXTERNAL COSTS AND BENEFITS ARE PROPERLY INCLUDED.**
- FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.**

**SO, WHAT MAKES IT SO  
DIFFERENT FROM  
'MULTIPLE OBJECTIVE  
PLANNING' [M.O.P.]?**

**WELL, FOR ONE THING  
MULTIPLE OBJECTIVE  
PLANNING IS BASICALLY  
ONLY A PROCEDURE TO  
INCREASE THE AWARENESS  
OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE  
PLANNING PROCESS.**

**IN EFFECT, M.O.P. INVOLVES  
AN ITERATIVE INTERACTIVE  
APPROACH TO PLANNING  
AND PROBLEM SOLVING  
THAT TRIES TO IDENTIFY  
NUMEROUS OBJECTIVES  
THAT TOGETHER  
REPRESENT AN  
APPROXIMATION OF  
OVERALL SOCIAL WELFARE.**

**IT GOES BEYOND  
CONVENTIONAL B/C  
ANALYSIS BY ALLOWING  
THE INCORPORATION OF A  
VARIETY OF CRITERIA --  
USUALLY ECONOMIC,  
SOCIAL AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL**

**MULTIPLE OBJECTIVE  
PLANNING IS NOT IWRPM,  
BUT IT COULD BE.**

*//////*

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY  
OF THE DECISION-MAKERS  
TO ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP  
AN AGREEMENT ON THE  
FINAL DECISION. THIS  
REQUIRES JUDGMENT,  
EXPERIENCE, AND  
COMMUNICATION AMONG  
THE DECISION-MAKERS, THE  
PUBLIC AND THE EXPERTS.**

**WITH GREATER  
TRANSPARENCY IN THE  
PLANNING IT IS HOPED THAT  
IT WILL STEER THE PROCESS  
ON TO THE IMPORTANT  
ISSUES AND AWAY FROM A  
FOCUS ON PERSONALITIES  
AND EGOS. /////**

# **TO QUOTE FROM A 1989 ECLAC DOCUMENT:**

**THE REALITY IS THAT BEHIND EACH ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE THERE ARE OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES WHICH ARE INVISIBLE TO THE UNCONSCIENTIOUS OBSERVER, MADE UP OF COMMISSIONS, WORK GROUPS AND GROUPS OF FRIENDS, UNSPOKEN AGREEMENTS AND RULES OF PLAY, SPECIAL INTERESTS IN SOME ZONES OF THE COUNTRY, AND OTHER FACTORS WHICH, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE LOGICAL TO EACH ACTOR OR GROUP OF ACTORS ...**

**... CAN LEAD TO SITUATIONS EXACTLY THE  
REVERSE OF THE EXPLICIT GOVERNMENT  
POSITIONS.**

**THE AWAKENING OF THE PUBLIC TO THESE  
SITUATIONS IS CAUSING THE SYSTEM TO BE  
MUCH MORE OPEN ... BUT IT STILL EXISTS  
TODAY.**

*////*

**IN MOST PARTS OF THE  
WORLD THESE REALITIES  
WORK AGAINST  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT. IF THE  
PLANNING PROCESS IS TO BE  
BELIEVABLE, IT IS  
ESSENTIAL THAT THOSE IN  
CHARGE BE BELIEVABLE.**

**IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL THAT  
THE GENERAL PUBLIC BE  
INVOLVED IN THE OVERALL  
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.  
IT IS, AFTER ALL, THEY WHO  
WILL PROBABLY PAY THE  
BILL IN ONE WAY OR  
ANOTHER.**

**DIFFICULT AS THAT MAY BE,  
IT IS NOT SOMETHING  
MERELY TO BE OVERCOME.  
THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE  
PRESENTED WITH  
INFORMATION IN A FORM  
THEY CAN UNDERSTAND AND  
GIVEN THE TIME TO  
EVALUATE IT BEFORE  
PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE  
HELD.**

**THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO BE  
SERIOUSLY INVOLVED FROM  
THE BEGINNING -- NOT JUST  
THE PLANNERS OR THOSE  
WITH A DIRECT FINANCIAL  
INVOLVEMENT, AND  
CERTAINLY NOT ONLY BY  
THOSE WHO STAND TO GAIN  
FINANCIALLY ...**

**... TO DO LESS IS TO GIVE  
THE IMPRESSION THAT  
SOMETHING IS BEING  
HIDDEN.**

**BUT BE VERY CAREFUL  
WHEN YOU ARE A PART OF  
AN “EDUCATE THE PUBLIC”  
PROGRAM**

**IT ALWAYS HELPS TO  
LISTEN.**

*////*

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT SOMEHOW  
DEALS WITH THE FUTURE.  
THEN WE NEED TO KNOW  
WHAT FUTURE  
POPULATIONS WANT. BUT IF  
IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO  
KNOW WHAT THE PRESENT  
PUBLIC WANTS, HOW CAN  
WE GUESS THE FUTURE?**

**ONE WAY IS FOR THE  
DECISION-MAKERS AND THE  
EXPERTS TO SET UP  
MECHANISMS FOR  
UNDERSTANDING THE  
IMPACTS OF THEIR  
DECISIONS. FOR THAT THEY  
WILL NEED:**

- A CLEAR DEFINITION OF THE AREAS OF CONCERN OR OF INTEREST.**
- INVOLVEMENT OF THE PUBLIC.**

**-- DEVELOPMENT OF A  
SHARED VISION OF THE  
DESIRED FUTURE.**

**-- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
SYSTEM GOALS AND  
OBJECTIVES.**

**-- A REALISTIC  
CHARACTERIZATION OF  
THE PRESENT SYSTEM,  
INCLUDING CULTURAL,  
ECONOMIC, ENVIRON-  
MENTAL, SOCIAL  
CONDITIONS AND TRENDS.**

**-- DEVELOPMENT OF AN  
ACTION PLAN TO  
ACHIEVE THE GOALS  
AND OBJECTIVES.**

**-- MONITORING OF  
CONDITIONS AND  
EVALUATING THE RESULTS.**

**-- ADAPTATION OF THE  
MANAGEMENT SCHEME  
ACCORDING TO  
DEVELOPING  
INFORMATION.**

*////*

**WE CAN SET UP THE  
MECHANISM TO TAKE INTO  
ACCOUNT THE CHANGES  
THAT WILL INEVITABLY  
OCCUR IN THE FUTURE --  
AND THEN MAKE THE  
NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.  
THAT IS KNOWN AS  
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT.**

**SO, EVEN IF WE ‘GOT IT  
WRONG’ THE FIRST TIME,  
WE CAN ADJUST IT THE NEXT  
TIME ... IF WE ARE DOING IT  
ALL HONESTLY.**



**IN ANY CASE THERE ARE  
ALWAYS GOING TO BE  
CONFLICTS AMONG THE  
PUBLIC, PLANNERS AND  
DECISION-MAKERS.**

**THERE WILL BE:**

- DISAGREEMENTS ON  
FACTS,**
- CONFLICTING GOALS AND  
OBJECTIVES,**
- RELATIONAL PROBLEMS  
(FUNDAMENTAL MISTRUST  
OR EVEN POWER  
STRUGGLES)**

**THESE WILL INEVITABLY  
LEAD TO:**

**DISAGREEMENTS ON THE  
COURSES OF ACTION**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS  
NOT A SIMPLE PROCESS. /////**

**SHOULD YOU AS A PART OF  
THE PROFESSIONAL  
PLANNING TEAM OR  
PROCESS BE GUIDED BY A  
MORAL CODE?**

**WHAT IF YOUR  
ORGANIZATION DOES  
SOMETHING THAT YOU  
BELIEVE IS WRONG?**

**SHOULD YOU RESIGN?**

**WHAT IF YOU, AS A  
CONSULTANT, ARE ASKED TO  
PERFORM A DUTY YOU  
BELIEVE IS WRONG?**

**SHOULD YOU REFUSE THE  
CONTRACT TO DO THE  
WORK?**

**WOULD YOUR REFUSAL  
SIMPLY MEAN THAT  
SOMEONE WHO WON'T  
REFUSE WILL BE FOUND?**

**WHAT THEN?**

**IS IT NOT TRUE THAT EVEN  
'EXPERTS' MAKE MISTAKES?**

**EVEN WITHOUT HAVING  
MADE MISTAKES, IS IT NOT  
TRUE THAT EXPERTS WILL  
SOMETIMES (OFTEN?)  
DISAGREE?**

**DO YOU AS A SCIENTIST  
HAVE THE RIGHT [OR,  
PERHAPS, THE OBLIGATION]  
TO SET ASIDE ‘MORAL’  
JUDGEMENTS IN REACHING  
OBJECTIVE CONCLUSIONS?**

**IS IT NOT TRUE THAT GIVEN  
A SET OF 'FACTS' OPINIONS  
AS TO THE DIRECTIONS  
ACTIONS SHOULD LEAD  
COULD VERY WELL DIFFER?**

**A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION  
DOES NOT NECESSARILY  
SUGGEST A 'CONSPIRACY'  
TO DEFRAUD THE PUBLIC.**

**BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE UP  
YOUR OWN MIND. NO ONE  
CAN TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.**

**DOES THE EFFECT OF SCALE  
NOT SOMETIMES MEAN  
THAT SOME AREAS MUST  
LOSE SO THAT THE OVERALL  
RESULT WILL BE POSITIVE?  
IS THAT A CORRECT  
POSITION TO TAKE?**

**BUT YOU DO HAVE THE  
RIGHT TO EXPECT HONESTY  
TO RULE IN THE DECISION-  
MAKING PROCESS -- THE  
PUBLIC, THE EXPERTS, THE  
PLANNERS AND THE FINAL  
DECISION-MAKERS.  
POLITICIANS ARE NOT  
EXEMPT. /////**

**BUT WHAT IS ‘HONESTY’?**

**ARE WE ALL ENTITLED TO  
OUR OWN DEFINITIONS?**

