

**5TH WORLD WATER FORUM
SIDE EVENT ON “WATER AND ETHICS”
HOSTED BY
M. BOTIN FOUNDATION WATER OBSERVATORY
AND
UNESCO IHP**

**DAY: 20TH MARCH, 2009: 11:00-13:00
VENUE: SUTLUCE/KIMPASA 1 HALL**

INTRODUCTION

**By:
PROF. M. RAMÓN LLAMAS
M. BOTÍN FOUNDATION WATER OBSERVATORY**

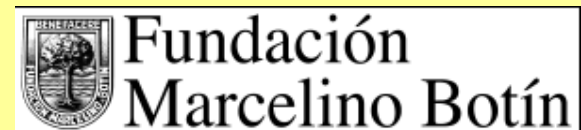


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. THE M. BOTIN FOUNDATION WATER OBSERVATORY**
- 2. THE THIRD B.F. WATER WORKSHOP**
- 3. THE BOOK WITH THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 3BFWW ON ‘WATER AND ETHICS’**
- 4. FORMAT OF THIS SIDE-EVENT**
- 5. BRIEF CONSIDERATIONS: KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ETHICS**

1.- THE M. BOTÍN FOUNDATION WATER OBSERVATORY

- **CREATED IN SEPTEMBER 2008.**
- **A SMALL THINK-TANK TO DEAL WITH GLOBAL WATER ISSUES.**
- **IT IS INTERDISCIPLINARY (HYDROLOGY-MRL; ECONOMICS-AGC; POLITICAL SCIENCES-ELG; ECOLOGY-MMA).**
- **NEXT WORKSHOP (SEPTEMBER 2009): RE-THINKING WATER AND FOOD SECURITY.**

2. THE 3RD B. F. WATER WORKSHOP

- **TOPIC: ETHICAL ISSUES IN WATER RESOURCES GOVERNANCE.**
- **TWENTY EXPERTS FROM DIFFERENT PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS (PHILOSOPHY, LAW, ECONOMICS, HYDROLOGY AND OTHER); CULTURES AND RELIGIONS (CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM, HINDUISM,...)**
- **WRITTEN MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED BEFOREHAND WERE DISCUSSED OVER THREE DAYS.**

3.- THE BOOK WITH THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 3BFWW

**THE BOOK CONTAINS THE TWENTY FINAL MANUSCRIPTS
SENT BY THE PANELLISTS TO THE EDITORS.**

KEY SUBTHEMES WERE

- I. Some cultural traditional approaches on water ethics*
- II. Some ethical aspects of new water management*
- III. Water as a human right and as an economic resource*
- IV. Water and poverty: Is there a link?*
- V. Ethics of groundwater use*
- VI. Ethics of water ownership and management*
- VII. Corruption, transparency and participation in the water sector*
- VIII. Ethical aspects of unforeseen and extreme events
management: Floods and droughts*

4.- THE FORMAT OF THIS SIDE-EVENT

- **TEN PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING THIS) (7 MINUTES EACH).**
- **ALMOST ONE HOUR FOR DEBATE AMONG THE PANELLISTS AND WITH THE AUDIENCE.**
- **ONLY HALF OF THE AUTHORS COULD ATTEND THIS SIDE-EVENT.**

5.- BRIEF CONSIDERATIONS ON SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ETHICS (I)

- **SOCIAL ETHICS FOCUSES ON RELATIONS AMONG HUMAN BEINGS.**
- **IT IS CONCERNED WITH THE ACCEPTED VALUES IN ALL RELIGIONS AND CULTURES.**

5.- BRIEF CONSIDERATIONS ON SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ETHICS (II)

- **IN WATER, ETHICS HAS IMPORTANT ASPECTS.**
- **FOR EXAMPLE: RIGHT TO WATER (AND SANITATION), PARTICIPATION, TRANSPARENCY, AND OTHERS.**

5.- BRIEF CONSIDERATIONS ON SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ETHICS

(III)

- **ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS FOCUSES ON RELATIONS BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS AND NATURE. IT IS A NEW TOPIC.**
- **UNTIL RECENTLY THE IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIONS ON NATURE WERE ALMOST NEGLIGIBLE. NATURE WAS RATHER HOSTILE TO HUMANITY (DROUGHTS, EARTHQUAKES, AND OTHERS).**

5.- BRIEF CONSIDERATIONS ON SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ETHICS **(IV)**

- **TECHNOLOGY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED THIS SITUATION. E.G.: COMPENDIUM SOCIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (2006) INCLUDES A CHAPTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.**

5.- BRIEF CONSIDERATIONS ON SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ETHICS (V)

THE AUTHORS' VIEWPOINTS ARE DIVERSE. HOWEVER, YOU WILL FIND AT LEAST TWO COMMONALITIES.

A) THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING (RIGHT TO WATER).

B) THE SOLIDARITY AMONG ALL HUMAN BEINGS (OBLIGATION TO HELP THE POOR).

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION