

### Session 6.5.3. Fostering Socio-cultural Perspectives in Water Sciences and Management: Identifying Bridges and Barriers

<b>Date of the session</b>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2009
<b>Time of the session</b>	16:00-16:30 & 17:00-19:00(cont.) (2,5 hours)
<b>Topic</b>	<b>6.5. Water and Culture</b>
<b>Main convening organizations</b>	Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), Japan Carolina Centre for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, The University of North Carolina at Chapter Hill
<b>Contact person(s)</b>	ABE Kenichi (abek@chikyu.ac.jp) Carl Ernst (cernst@email.unc.edu)
<b>Short description of what the session intends to discuss and the key questions that have been identified</b>	
<p>What are the key components of sensible water use? And how are sensible patterns of use effectively translated into specific policies?</p> <p>Sensible use of water—solid, liquid, molecule—presents the need for analysis and policy that is: integrative—that includes cultural perceptions and behaviors; and flexible—that corresponds to dynamic hydrological processes and social institutions.</p> <p>This session will generate empirical case studies of, and deepen conceptual engagement with, the problems of integrative water management. The session seeks to describe a field of potentially fruitful interaction between natural and social scientists, communities and policymakers, highlighting the ways in which the interests of each of these communities overlap.</p>	
<b>Wider context of issues: Why is the question important to improving water challenges in the world today? And how does it relate to issues outside the water sectors?</b>	
<p>Human societies depend on the sensible use of water, yet human perception of this use can vary dramatically across time and place. Patterns of water use are ultimately embedded within everyday cultural practices and landscapes: they extend from historical relationships between human societies and the natural environment. Yet traditional and informal patterns of water use must now engage with modern political jurisprudence and environmental science: ‘cultural practices’ are now ‘resource policies.’</p> <p>This session asks how the objective parameters of water resources can be clarified and brought into balance with socially and culturally appropriate patterns of water use, while also harmonizing with actual institutional techniques. The session will focus on identification of potential ‘bridges’ and ‘barriers’ to socio-culturally relevant and scientifically legitimate water management policy.</p> <p>To this end the session presents example cases and discussion of community perception and use of limited water resources as these behaviors confront social, managerial, or institutional barriers in particular places. It will emphasize the need to analysis and policy that is: integrative—that includes cultural perceptions and behaviors; and flexible—that corresponds to dynamic hydrological processes and social institutions.</p>	
<b>Previous experiences to draw on expected challenges and past lessons</b>	
This session draws on the experience of the conveners at the the 3rd and 4th World Water Fora.	

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While 'water and culture' presents a broad and profound field of human-environmental interaction, our attention has been drawn by the need to bring the practical and symbolic realms of human water use into direct dialogue. We have selected a number of presentations for our session that together will open consideration of this topic in an empirically and theoretically coherent manner.

#### Discuss the development of session questions and its role on the relevant topic

<p><b>i. Identify common issues and priority problems</b></p>	<p>Human societies depend on the sensible use of water, yet human perception of this use can vary dramatically across time and place. Patterns of water use are ultimately embedded within everyday cultural practices and landscapes: they extend from historical relationships between human societies and the natural environment. Yet traditional and informal patterns of water use must now engage with modern political jurisprudence and environmental science: 'cultural practices' are now 'resource policies.'</p>
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<p><b>ii. Discuss the future evolution of the topic, in the short-, medium-, to long-term based on changing political climates and other foreseen socio-economic /ecological factors</b></p>	<p>This session asks how the objective parameters of water resources can be clarified and brought into balance with socially and culturally appropriate patterns of water use, while also harmonizing with actual institutional techniques. The session will focus on identification of potential 'bridges' and 'barriers' to socio-culturally relevant and scientifically legitimate water management policy.</p> <p>To this end the session presents example cases and discussion of community perception and use of limited water resources as these behaviours confront social, managerial, or institutional barriers in particular places. It will emphasize the need to analysis and policy that is: integrative - that includes cultural perceptions and behaviours; and flexible - that corresponds to dynamic hydrological processes and social institutions.</p>
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#### Differing perspectives: (Regional, stakeholder, others...)

This session highlights the difficulty in coordinating many specific demands for a fundamentally common resource. It also emphasizes the differing cultural contexts of different kinds of demand, and the need to culturally appropriate oversight of water reserves. So one goal of this session is to point out the need for clear elaboration of the differing stakeholder, institutional, and technical descriptions of wise-use of water resources, and to provide some examples of how this dialogue might be initiated.

#### List of speakers and timing

16:00-16:10 Opening remarks : Abe Kenichi and Carl Ernst

16:10-16:20 "Water; a way of life" Sustainable water management in a cultural context, Lida Schelwald, Van der Kley, Linda Reijerkerk

16:20-16:30 Use of Water as a Landscape Element in Anatolian Culture, Meryem Atik

16:30-17:00 BRAKE

17:00-17:10 A Concerned Sufi's Perspective on Environment: Water in the Writings of Sâmiha

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Ayverdi, Canguzel Zulfikar

17:10-17:20 Erosion of Cultural Diversity through Incompatible Legal and Institutional Regime, Prachanda Pradhan

17:20-17:30 Unintended development outcomes: the influence of culture in rural water and sanitation projects, James Webster

17:30-17:40 Historical Legacies and Challenges to Socio-Culturally Sensitive Water Policy in Sierra Leone, Fenda Akiwimi

17:40-17:50 Regulating unknown common resources: community-science collaboration around groundwater, SASAKI Takatsugu & TANIGUCHI Makoto

17:50-18:00 Cultural Diversity, Water resources, and Global Environmental Crises: Emerging trends and implications for sustainable futures, Barbara Rose Johnston

18:00-19:00 Discussion with the floor, Discussant: Jeron Warner 17:10-17:20 Erosion of Cultural Diversity through Incompatible Legal and Institutional Regime; Prachanda Pradhan

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