



International Conference on Water Management in Federal and Federal-Type Countries

Zaragoza 9th - 11th July, 2008

Sala Goya, Aljafería Palace, Zaragoza
Seat of the Cortes of Aragón

Organized:

fundación 
Manuel Giménez Abad
de Estudios Parlamentarios y del Estado Autonómico



In collaboration with:



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Registration Required – Places limited.

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*The conference languages will be English and Spanish,
a simultaneous translation in both languages will be provided.*

THE manner in which water management is organized today has become very important.

The role of governance is to establish the best practices for efficient management, where the citizens' participation is of great importance. Accordingly, the organization of water management around the river basins is an objective supported by many theoreticians and acknowledged in many international declarations, as well as in the legislation of several states.

Water management in countries with a politically decentralized system of government is multifaceted, as the standard federalism or regionalism principles (powerful competences on territory and water of the States, Provinces, Regions, Länder, Autonomous Communities) must be combined with the requirements needed to ensure continued health of the river basins.

This International Conference has been organized in order to address these different issues and goals. As one of our aims, we intend to learn about how water is managed in different politically decentralized countries. Reports on this topic will be presented from countries such as Canada, the United States of America, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Spain, Germany, Italy, India, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, among others. Special attention will be paid to the role played by river basins in these and other countries. In addition, community water rights will be presented as an example of a

water management technique that has had nearly undeniable universal success.

The knowledge gained and conclusions made throughout the conference may lead to the creation of new laws or legal amendments in those countries with politically decentralized structures of government. These legal alterations may in turn induce other countries to adopt a similar system of decentralized government. In any case, an improvement in the scientific knowledge of the reality of water management is expected in multiple countries.

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

19,00 h. Presentation and welcome dinner
at the Aljaferia Palace.

Francisco Pina Cuenca,

President of the Regional Parliament of Aragon.

George Anderson,

President of the Forum of Federations.

Eduardo Mestre,

Director of the Water Tribune at Expo Zaragoza 2008.

Antonio Embid,

Scientific Director of the Conference.

Thursday, July 10, 2008

09,15 h. Session I. *Experiences of Non European
Established Federations.*

CHAIR:

Ramaswamy R. Iyer,

Formerly Secretary of Water Resources, Government of India.

• **Dr. David Getches,**

*Professor of Natural Resources Law, University of Colorado Law School
at Boulder (USA).*

"The situation in the United States of America".

• **Dr. Owen Saunders,**

*Executive Director of the Canadian Institute of Resources Law,
University of Calgary (Canada).*

"The situation in Canada".

• **Dr. Jennifer Mc Kay,**

*Professor of Business Law, School of Commerce, University of South
Australia. Director of the Centre for Comparative Water policies and Laws.*

"The situation in Australia".

10,45 h. Coffee Break.

11,15 h. Session II. *Experiences of Latin American
Federations.*

CHAIR:

Celso Jaque,

Governor of Mendoza (Argentina).

• **Dr. Benedito Braga,**

Director of the Brazilian National Water Agency.

"The situation in Brasil".

• **Ing. Emiliano Rodríguez Briceño,**

Director General, Drinking Water and Sewer Systems of Leon (SAPAL) (Mexico).

"The situation in Mexico".

- **Dr. Miguel Mathus Escorihuela,**
Professor of Water Law. Universities of Mendoza and Cuyo (Argentina).
“The situation in Argentina”.

13,00 h. Lunch.

15,00 h. **Session III. Experiences of European Countries.**

CHAIR:

Julio César Cleto Cobos,
President of the Senate of Argentina.

- **Dr. Nicola Lugaresi,**
Professor of Administrative Law, University of Trento (Italy).
“The situation in Italy”.
- **Dr. Antonio Embid,**
Professor of Administrative Law, University of Zaragoza (Spain).
“The situation in Spain”.
- **Dr. Rüdiger Breuer,**
Former Professor of Public Law, University of Bonn (Germany).
“The situation in Germany”.

16,30 h. Break.

17,00 h. **Session IV. Experiences of Developing Countries.**

CHAIR:

Prof. Julius Ihonvbere,
Member of the Board of Directors, Forum of Federations (Nigeria).

- **Dr. Rakesh Hooja,**
Director, HCM Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration, Jaipur (India).
“The situation in India”.
- **Dr. Joe Goldface-Irokalibe,**
Professor of National and International Water Law, Law Faculty at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (Nigeria).
“The situation in Nigeria”.
- **Eiman Karar,**
Director of the Water Research Commission, (South Africa).
“The situation in South Africa”.
- **Imeru Tamrat,**
Managing Director, Multi-Talent Consultancy PLC. Professor of International Water Law and International Environmental Law, Addis Ababa University, (Ethiopia).
“The situation in Ethiopia”.

09,15 h. Session V. *The role of the European Union and the Community Law.*

CHAIR:

José Luis Alonso,

President of the Ebro River Basin Authority (Zaragoza).

- **Dr. Carmen Tirado,**
Professor of International Public Law, University of Zaragoza (Spain).
“General considerations on environmental and water resource politics in the European Union”.
- **Dr. Alberto Garrido,**
Professor of Agricultural Economics, Technical University of Madrid (Spain).
“The Water Framework Directive and the need to coordinate water plans across jurisdictions”.
- **Dr. Mircea Dutu,**
Dean of the University of Ecology, Bucharest (Romania).
“The Management of the Danube Watershed in the context of the Water Framework Directive”.

10,15 h. Coffee Break.

10,45 h. Session VI. *Horizontal issues in federal and decentralised countries.*

CHAIR:

Dominique Alhéritière,

Chairman of the International Association for Water Law (Rome).

- **Miguel Solanes,**
Senior Regional Advisor on Water Law and Related Public Utilities. United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America, (CEPAL) (Santiago de Chile).
“The Economics of water and its services: federalism and decentralisation in the context of the international investment protection agreements”.
- **Stefano Burchi,**
Chief, Development Law Service, Legal Office, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (Rome).
“Water resource agreements among states and provinces of federal countries - A comparative review”.
- **Dr. Patricia Wouters,**
Director of the Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science (Under the auspices of Unesco) at the University of Dundee (United Kingdom).
“Beyond Borders. The relevance and role of water law in managing the world’s transboundary water issues”.

- **Dr. Carlos Díaz Delgado,**
Researcher and Head of the Inter-American Water Resources Centre (CIRA), Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UAEM).
“Entropic management of water in decentralized countries”.

13,45 h. Lunch.

15,45 h. Session VII. *The role of Watersheds in Federations.*

CHAIR:

Patricio Carpio,

Advisor to the President of the Constitutional Assembly of Ecuador, Professor at the University of Cuenca.

- **Dr. Sergio Salinas,**
Professor of International Law, University of Zaragoza (Spain).
“Watersheds in the New York convention of 1997”.
- **Dr. Griselda Capaldo,**
Researcher at the Judicial and Social Research Institute “Ambrosio L Gioja” at the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina).
“Maritime waters and the management of watersheds in decentralized countries”.
- **Dr. Mohamed Ait Kadi,**
President of the General Council of Agricultural Development of Morocco, Former Governor of the World Water Council.
“European Watershed policies and their possible application in Africa”.

17,15 h. Concluding Plenary Discussion.

CHAIR:

Nancy Patricia Gutiérrez,

President of the Senate of Colombia.

Concluding remarks.

- **Antonio Embid,**
Professor of Administrative Law, University of Zaragoza, and Scientific Director of the Conference.
- **George Anderson,**
President, Forum of Federations (Ottawa).