



The United Nations World Water Development Report 2015: Water for a Sustainable World

A report review by Jessica Lucinda Amprako

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Water plays a fundamental role in human activities. It is useful in agricultural, health sectors and has created employment for many, improving standards of living. Conversely, an increase in economic and population growth, changing eating habits and rural and urban drift puts pressure on water resources. This review addresses the issues of water management in a sustainable approach as documented in the (UNWWD) report. Generally, the report explains how water, which is a limited resource, is being distributed in different parts of the world. Again, the services that utilise water and the effect they have on its use is further elaborated. Alternative actions to reduce the pressure on the use of water is discussed and further insight on the different measures and corrective actions people across the globe take to control its misuse are suggested. Some contributions toward a sustainable use of water are suggested, such as promoting an economic, social and environmental stable ecosystem.

In the first chapter of the report, factors that put pressure on water resources, the effects of ineffective governance for the provision of quality fresh water and the implications on urbanization and economic growth are presented. Due to high salaries, there has being an increase in the production of food and an increase in food industries. The improvement of social well-being has resulted in high energy consumption to meet the demands of the growing population. The authors explain with examples such as the consumption of more meat and the introduction of larger family sizes to indi-

cate the change of lifestyle among other new developments which utilise water. With a stabilising economy there has been a dramatic increase in industrialization. Thus, the authors emphasize on the controlling these factors towards a sustainable development.

In the next three chapters of report, the authors explain how the social, economic and environmental indicators are controlled by the limited water resources and its management. Since potable water supply is critical for health, the provision of quality water is paramount for healthy living. About 70% of water is used for agricultural purposes while some are used in the industries. It implies that water contributes to economic productivity and the well-being of the society. For a continuous supply of water, the authors suggested managerial alternatives. These include improved irrigation technologies and improved sanitation. They reduce the intake of scarce water supply and increase productivity consequently. The impact of the difference between the status of the rich and the poor, women and children in most countries lead to disproportionalities in the distribution of water. As water is a basic for living, rules and policies are advised to create equal access to this resource. In addition, the authors suggest that these interventions are tuned to the preservation and protection of the ecosystem. As such, a constructive approach of re-using treated waste water and treating polluted water before disposal are encouraged.

The subsequent section in the report addresses the de-



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“Tackling water challenges an ‘urgent task’ as world moves forward on sustainable development goals – UN deputy chief”

Jan Eliasson
(United Nations
Deputy Secretary-
General)

developmental challenges between water and sustainable action. The increase of human settlement and lack of national policies on water calls for stringent policies on sustainable action. Most countries depend on hydroelectric sources of energy which results in the destruction of water bodies to create dams killing aquatic species and destroying fresh water used for drinking purposes. The authors assert that adopting alternative energy sources to maximise power supply. Furthermore, the continuous burning of fossil fuels and emission of carbon dioxide due to urbanization and industrialisation contribute to most water-related disasters and causing climatic change. Alternatively, the authors emphasise on these principles as a panacea towards sustainability.

From a regional perspective, the report shows an overview of the problems faced in Europe, Asia and the Pacific regions, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Arab regions and North America in the use of water uses, such as the influence on consumption patterns and the improvement of national water policy. With the proposal for a sustainable development goal for water by UN-Water in 2014, quality water supply, good sanitation and hygiene, water governance and wastewater management are being undertaken globally (Connor et al., 2015). The authors believe that this new approach will create a better development in social and economic and environmental pertaining to water use.

To conclude, one can say that the entire report informs about the effects human activities such as the increase of world population, high income gains and industrialisation affects the demand of fresh water globally. Many readers are not aware of the pressure globalisation, migration and urbanisation place on water resources and how this menace can be tackled sustainably. Sustainability advocates are therefore reminded in this report of their responsibility in water management as well as for many other decision-makers in water resource protection.

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