

## EDITORIAL

The year 2014 marks the 30th anniversary of our *International Journal of Water Resources Development*. During these three decades, local, national, regional and, lately, global developments have prompted changes in the water and development sectors, and the professionals working in them. Overall thinking on water resources policy, management and development, and later on, on governance, has evolved to respond to the changing conditions. This has triggered positive changes in terms of, hopefully, a development process that is sustainable.

In an increasingly globalized world, humankind continues to face unprecedented challenges regarding resource use. Accelerated economic growth in emerging economies continues to impact the development paths of countries and the lives of people in geographically distant places. Thinking, knowledge, technology and modestly comprehensive policies have progressed to respond to the present and future global demands for water, energy and food.

This has led to the rise of a new buzzword: ‘WEF’. ‘Water, energy and food’ has become the flavour of the month. Fad or not, WEF’s importance relies on the emphasis it places on understanding the impacts, interlinkages and interdependences of resources use, sectoral demands and decision-making.

The interdependence between water, energy and food has always existed. It is not new. If this is not new, then why the buzzword? We would argue that what has changed is the sense of urgency for a more comprehensive planning process that acknowledges the direct relation between the broader economy and the energy, water and food sectors. The need for economic growth is resulting in huge demands for energy and food, and thus water, and vice versa. Moreover, the search for alternative means of renewable sources of energy like biofuels are affecting land and water availability as well as food. These are clear indications that the time has come to sit down, reflect and plan for development that we can only wish is actually sustainable.

Our journal has made the commitment to contribute to knowledge generation and dissemination as required according to the changing situations. In 2014, individual contributions furnished our June and December issues. The March and September special issues, on the other hand, addressed rising aspects on [Water Infrastructure](#), and on [Integrated Water Resources Management](#), respectively. The March issue includes a review of the need for properly planned, developed and managed infrastructure in China (Lu, 2014) and in the Himalayas (Molden et al., 2014) and a look at the Sardar Sarovar project (Kumar et al., 2014), among others. In the IWRM special issue, in depth analyses of the concept and its implementation are presented by Giordano and Shah (2014) and Falkenmark et al. (2014), and Romer (2014) looks at the case of the oil and gas sector. Routledge will also release these two special issues as books. The volume on IWRM will be available in April 2015.

This, the last issue of 2014, includes solid contributions on analysis of water quality in Kajang municipality, Malaysia; bulk water allocation in Mahaweli Ganga Development Project, Sri Lanka; community perceptions of the Klimkowka reservoir, Poland; an empirical model applied to contingent-valuation survey data for water services in Cebu,

Philippines; historical development of technologies in the Hellenic civilizations; and domestic water access and pricing in urban areas in Mozambique. The evolution of UK flood insurance and its incremental changes over six decades are also presented, as well as water policies in China, post-1980.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors for their contributions. Our special appreciation goes to members of the Editorial Board and to our reviewers, whose names are not disclosed to guard their anonymity. We are indebted to them as they greatly contribute to maintaining the high academic standards the journal upholds. We would also like to thank our publishers for their continued support.

We extend our best wishes to all our readers for 2015. May the next year bring more opportunities to generate and implement many new and innovative ideas! We invite experts in the different sectors to publish in our journal and to continue walking with us on a path where knowledge and its application are important.

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