

Book review

CLIMATIC FLUCTUATIONS AND WATER MANAGEMENT

by M. A. Abu-Zeid and A. K. Biswas
Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford, 1992, 356 pp, £50.00.

At the global level, there is a wide consensus among scientists that mankind is facing climate change and global warming. Coverage by the media and various publications are so effective that the issue has become common knowledge. The seriousness of the issue placed climate convention as one of the major agenda items for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or the 'Earth Summit'.

In spite of a successful awareness programme on climate change issues, scientists feel that the state of current knowledge and the analytic work required are far from being acceptable. It is against this

background that this book is an additional source of information on climate fluctuations within the context of water development and management.

The book includes a selected group of papers that were presented at the International Seminar on Climatic Fluctuations and Water Management in Cairo, Egypt, from 11–14 December 1991. The seminar was co-sponsored by the International Water Resources Association, Water Research Centre of the Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources, Government of Egypt and the United Nations Environment Programme and was attended by 150 participants from 38 countries and many international organizations.

The book is divided into five parts: *Part 1: Monitoring, Forecasting and Analysis Procedures; Part 2: Impact of Climatic Changes; Part 3: Planning and Management; Part 4: Case Studies and Reports; and Part 5: Keynote Lectures and Recommendations.*

The authors should be congratulated for the logical organization of the seminar and documents, and for including key papers

of importance to the readers in the field. A quick reading of the book immediately gives the impression that it is certainly an enhancement to the present unsatisfactory state of knowledge on how to deal effectively with climatic fluctuations within the context of water development and management. I agree with the authors' views that the book, a result of the seminar, could contribute further to accelerated research in the area by those water professionals dealing with the complex problem of climate fluctuations. To this end, the authors and the contributors have put noble efforts into producing this book and it is an addition to the state of the art in its field.

Finally, I should like to mention that Part III of the book includes a seminar report and a list of useful recommendations which provide suggested reading for those who are working in the field and are charged with the task of developing a work programme in this area.

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Conference report

Developing an integrated approach

International Symposium on Transboundary River Basin Management and Sustainable Development, The Netherlands, 18–22 May 1992

This symposium was held at Delft and Rotterdam and was organized by the RBA Centre on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Delft University of Technology. It was attended by 110 people representing 27 countries. A total of 75 scientific contributions were made, which will be published by UNESCO in two volumes of the series 'Technical Documents on Hydrology'. During the symposium a book with extended abstracts was made available. Also a special edition of *European Water Pollution Control*, Vol 2, No 3, May 1992, containing the full text of 10 contributions, was published. The symposium was sponsored by UNESCO/IHP, the International Water Resources Association, the International

Association of Hydrological Sciences, the European Water Pollution Control Association and by the International Association for Water Law. Financial aid was given by the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences, Delft University of Technology, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Transport and Public Works, the city of Rotterdam, RIWA, IWACO, Boskalis and other companies.

River basin management is the broad field of multidisciplinary activities directed at a more integrated approach towards land–water and upstream–downstream relations in river systems. Concentrating on sustainable development means adding a time dimension to day-to-day problems.

This time dimension is not neutral, but it shows the consequences of our present plans and activities. The specific topics of the symposium were chosen from the wide area of transboundary river basin management, with attention to topics of interest for Delft University of Technology, such as the management of water pollution and polluted sediments in international and transboundary rivers.

There were six plenary sessions with invited speakers (approximately 35) and six parallel working group sessions where participants' papers (around 40) were discussed. The titles of the plenary sessions were:

- transboundary river basin management;
- sustainable development;
- transboundary river basin management and water quality control;
- planning for transboundary river development and conservation;
- project studies of transboundary rivers (Rhine, Danube);
- possibilities for sustainable development.

Parallel sessions were devoted to:

- transboundary river basin management and polluted sediments;