

# Adventures in Managing Water



# Adventures in Managing Water

*Real-World Engineering Experiences*

Edited by Daniel (Pete) Loucks and Laurel Saito

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# Contents

*Foreword ix*

*Introduction xi*

## **Part I Adventures in Africa ..... 1**

- Water Planning in Egypt: Reusing the Nile 1  
*Leon Hermans*
- The Vision Kid 4  
*Leif Lillehammer*
- Wuthering Heights—Tales from the Kingdom in the Sky 6  
*Leif Lillehammer*
- Digging a Well in Africa 8  
*Hugo A. Loáiciga*
- Water for Food in North Africa 11  
*Pete Loucks*
- Water from the Desert in Libya 14  
*Pete Loucks*
- A Water Management Story from South Africa 15  
*Ronnie Mckenzie*
- The Ultimate Water Manager 18  
*H. P. Nachtnebel*
- From Working on the Railroad to Hydrologic Modeling—A Life of Lessons 20  
*Geoff Pegram*
- Navigating in the Estuaries of Mozambique 24  
*Hubert Savenije*
- A água sabe o caminho (The Water Knows the Way) 26  
*Hubert Savenije*
- Developing an Acceptance of Systems Methods for Water Resources Planning and Management in South Africa 28  
*Oskar Sigvaldason and Thinus Basson*

## **Part II Adventures in Asia ..... 33**

- Regulation of Lake Baikal 33  
*Mikhail Bolgov, Alexander Buber, and Alexander Lotov*
- Attempting Integrated Water Management in Bhutan 36  
*Leon Hermans*
- Political Challenges of a Water Expert in Iran 38  
*Pete Loucks and Laurel Saito, editors*

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Khong, the Mother of Water                                   | 43 |
| <i>Leif Lillehammer</i>                                      |    |
| Enjoying Caviar in the USSR                                  | 44 |
| <i>Pete Loucks</i>   |    |
| Growing Qat in Yemen   | 45 |
| <i>Pete Loucks</i>   |    |
| Peace Talks on Water in the Middle East                      | 46 |
| <i>Jerome Delli Priscoli</i>                                 |    |
| Combating Water Scarcity in Jordan                           | 48 |
| <i>David E. Rosenberg</i>                                    |    |
| Building Collaborative Networks                              | 52 |
| <i>Laurel Saito</i>  |    |
| Working with Farmers of the Sihuan Basin(四川流域), Hubei, China | 54 |
| <i>Slobodan P. Simonovic</i>                                 |    |
| Restoring the Marshes of Mesopotamia (Part 1)                | 57 |
| <i>Eugene Z. Stakhiv</i>                                     |    |
| Restoring the Marshes of Mesopotamia (Part 2)                | 61 |
| <i>Eugene Z. Stakhiv</i>                                     |    |

### **Part III Adventures in Australia ..... 67**

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Building Bridges with Water            | 67 |
| <i>Emily Barbour</i>                   |    |
| Developing Drainage During Droughts    | 72 |
| <i>Graeme Dandy</i>                    |    |
| “Optimizing” a Piped Irrigation System | 74 |
| <i>Graeme Dandy</i>                    |    |

### **Part IV Adventures in Europe ..... 77**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Years of Experience versus Computer Models  | 77 |
| <i>Thomas Ackermann</i>   |    |
| Technical and Cultural Exchanges in Ukraine   | 81 |
| <i>Lily Baldwin</i>   |    |
| Long-Term Water Resources Planning—Almost 50 Years Later  | 85 |
| <i>Janusz Kindler</i>   |    |
| Working Behind the Curtain  | 89 |
| <i>Pete Loucks</i>  |    |
| Changing a Culture in Portugal  | 90 |
| <i>Pete Loucks</i>  |    |
| Insiders, Outsiders, Funds, and Perseverance: Ingredients for<br>Transboundary Water Management | 92 |
| <i>H. P. Nachtnebel</i>   |    |
| A Conversation During an Athenian Drought   | 95 |
| <i>David Purkey</i>   |    |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Floods Can Damage Careers in Communist Countries | 100 |
| <i>Andreas H. Schumann</i>                       |     |
| How Water Probing Changed My Life Forever        | 104 |
| <i>Andreas H. Schumann</i>                       |     |
| One Talk Leads to a Regional Program             | 108 |
| <i>Uri Shamir</i>                                |     |
| Trying to Keep Lake Balaton Blue                 | 110 |
| <i>László Somlyódy and Pete Shanahan</i>         |     |

## **Part V    Adventures in the Americas ..... 115**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Water Crises Are for Everyone  | 115 |
| <i>Benedito (Ben) Braga</i>  |     |
| A Lock and Dam Story: Part 1. Background                                 | 119 |
| <i>Ben Dysart</i>  |     |
| A Lock and Dam Story: Part 2. My Involvement                             | 123 |
| <i>Ben Dysart</i>  |     |
| A Lock and Dam Story: Part 3. Lessons on How Government Works            | 127 |
| <i>Ben Dysart</i>  |     |
| Lessons I Learned from Western Movies and TV Shows                       | 131 |
| <i>David T. Ford</i>   |     |
| Inventing GIS  | 135 |
| <i>Walter M. Grayman and Richard M. Males</i>                            |     |
| Rescuing a Beautiful River   | 138 |
| <i>Neil Grigg</i>  |     |
| How a Civil Engineer Learned to Work with People                         | 142 |
| <i>Stacy M. Langsdale</i>  |     |
| Managing Our Nation's Water Resources When It Rains a Lot:<br>An Example | 146 |
| <i>Deborah H. Lee</i>  |     |
| Into the Realm of the Patagonian Andes                                   | 148 |
| <i>Leif Lillehammer</i>  |     |
| Managing Lake Water Levels   | 149 |
| <i>Pete Loucks</i>   |     |
| Restoring the Everglades   | 152 |
| <i>Pete Loucks</i>   |     |
| Mistaken Objectives  | 154 |
| <i>Pete Loucks</i>   |     |
| The Challenges and Rewards of a Career Managing Water                    | 157 |
| <i>Lindell Ormsbee</i>   |     |
| Following My Interests and Instincts                                     | 160 |
| <i>Laurel Saito</i>  |     |
| Starting It Simple   | 162 |
| <i>Uri Shamir</i>  |     |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Red River “Flood of the Century” through Human Eyes | 164 |
| <i>Slobodan P. Simonovic</i>                        |     |
| A Computer Program Named Randy Raban                | 168 |
| <i>Slobodan P. Simonovic</i>                        |     |
| As Is Often Said, “Rome Was Not Built in a Day”     | 171 |
| <i>Jery Stedinger</i>                               |     |
| Cleaning Up Pollution and. . .Wait, What, Where?    | 174 |
| <i>Cristiane Queiroz Surbeck</i>                    |     |
| Engineering Your Own Education                      | 177 |
| <i>Desiree Tullos</i>                               |     |
| Effective Communication                             | 180 |
| <i>Desiree Tullos</i>                               |     |

## **Part VI Adventures in International Organizations . . . . . 183**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| The Dublin Principles on Water and the Environment         | 183 |
| <i>Jerome Delli Priscoli</i>                               |     |
| The World Water Council (WWC) and World Water Forums (WWF) | 185 |
| <i>Jerome Delli Priscoli</i>                               |     |
| Changing the Terms of Discourse in World Water Debates     | 187 |
| <i>Jerome Delli Priscoli</i>                               |     |
| Developing a World Bank Water Sector Strategy              | 192 |
| <i>Jerome Delli Priscoli</i>                               |     |

*Index* 195

*About the Authors* 211



# Foreword

**W**e who inhabit this earth are here because of the earth's natural resources. Water is one of them, and we all know that without water, life and many of the goods and services we enjoy would not exist. But having access to water in the right amounts and qualities to meet our needs is not always possible without the infrastructure we design and operate and the institutions we create to manage it. Managing the water nature gives us can be a challenge due to the way water is linked to our social structures, economies, ecological systems, and landscapes. It requires and involves individuals trained in multiple disciplines. Engineering is one of them. In this book, some of us who have devoted much of our professional careers, whether just beginning or nearly ending, to water resources planning and management, share some of our experiences addressing issues related to water. The scale of these issues range from local to international.

We have written these essays in hopes that they will be of interest to and even entertain you. Our stories are written especially for those beginning their professional training. There are lots of lessons and moments of enlightenment in these essays. They deal with a wide variety of water projects and experiences encountered by engineers, planners, economists, and social scientists. Some of our attempts to address them were successful, some were not. But all of them involved an adventure—dealing with people directly impacted by what we were doing.

All of us in this profession have a number of stories that, if told, would be both inspirational and educational, as well as fun to hear or read. We who are involved in water resources systems planning and management are indeed fortunate to have each other as colleagues. We admit that much of what we know and do, and get invited to do, results from our association with each other. We who are in this “club” invite our young student readers to join. We need you to help us meet society's needs for clean, reliable water supplies, deal with floods and droughts, and work toward reducing the uncertainties and conflicts among people that characterize our work. Perhaps these vignettes will give you a hint about how managing water and addressing related issues can change peoples' lives as well as their natural environments.

