



Water Crisis: Myth or Reality?

Marcelino Botin Water Forum 2004

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Increased demands on finite global sources of fresh water have led many international and national agencies to define a Global Water Crisis that merits drastic, immediate, large-scale action. This book challenges this pessimism, concluding that, while there are serious global water issues to be considered, the concept of a global crisis is largely a myth.

The authors present a discussion of when and where severe regional and local water problems occur, and make suggestions about how they may be dealt with in a deliberate, non-crisis manner. Emphasis is on both hard technical and soft socio-political solutions.

Recent breakthroughs in desalination technologies, the eco-sanitation revolution, international trade in agricultural products, methods of governance and negotiation in water allocation, and pricing and devolution of property rights are presented as indications that the idea of a global water crisis of monumental proportions is largely exaggerated.

Arising from the Santander Workshop, sponsored by the Marcelino Botin Foundation, Harvard University and Complutense University of Madrid, *Water Crisis: Myth or Reality?* presents the optimistic revelation that water issues may often successfully be resolved at a regional and local level.

It will inform professionals already working in the field and will be of interest to graduate students.

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