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.

Contents:

I     Water Policy and Management
II    The Economic Value of Water
III   Irrigation
IV    Virtual Water
V     Groundwater
VI    Water and Poverty Alleviation
VII   Water and Nature
VIII  New Technologies to Cope with Water Scarcity

Dr. Peter P. Rogers, of Harvard University in the United States, is a member of the World Commission on Water for the 21st Century. He has served as a consultant on water resources to various government agencies in India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Morocco, and Costa Rica. He has also consulted widely with the UN system, the World Bank, UNIDO, WHO, FAO, UNDESP, ADB, and many domestic US agencies.

Dr. M. Ramón Llamas is Emeritus Professor of Hydrogeology at the Complutense University of Madrid. A Fellow of Spain’s Royal Academy of Sciences, Professor Llamas chairs the Academy’s Section of Natural Sciences. He is a former President of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (1984-1989), Vice-president of the International Water Resources Association (2001-2003) and Coordinator of the UNESCO Working Group on the Ethics of Freshwater Uses (1998-1999).

Dr. Luis Martínez-Cortina is a researcher at the Spanish Geological Survey (IGME) with research interests in hydrogeological studies and groundwater flow numerical models. He has worked on a number of European Union Research Projects, as well as the Groundwater Project of the Marcelino Botin Foundation. He has served as Coordinator of the Spanish Groundwater Users Association (AEUAS).

Details of our publications and advice on ordering can be found on the following websites: www.balkema.nl; or www.tandf.co.uk; and for the American continent: www.crcpress.com. By email for Europe & the UK: book.orders@tandf.co.uk; America: orders@taylorandfrancis.com.