WATER SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY

Benedito Braga
President, World Water Council

Water connects society, economy, and ecology

Health and human settlements
- 70% of all people living in cities by 2050
- 2bn no access to safe drinking water or improved sanitation

Food and agriculture
- 70% more food by 2050
- 70% of all water used for agriculture

Energy and industry
- 40% more energy by 2030
- 1.3bn have no access to electricity

Environment
- 50% of wetlands lost
- Rivers don't reach the sea
HYDROLOGICAL VARIABILITY

“Water Shortages... threaten the very survival of the Chinese nation” – Wen Jiabao, Former Premier of China

Map 6. Water stress according to drainage basins, circa 1995 [withdrawal-to-availability ratio]

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TOGETHER WE MAKE WATER A GLOBAL PRIORITY
“It’s the economy, stupid”
Bill Clinton’s 1992 presidential campaign

Developing countries face more challenging climate conditions

Wealthy nations share a small window of favorable climate

High variability

High mean

Rainfall variation around the mean
GDP growth

It's the economy, stupid
Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Richest Nations
Poorest Nations

Wealthy nations share a small window of favorable climate
“The only matter that could take Egypt to war again is water.” – Anwar Sadat, Former President of Egypt
• Multi-purpose infrastructure
• Water management with strong public institutions
• Users’ involvement in the decision-making process
• Short, medium and long range river basin planning
• Water permits system
• Economic instruments (polluter-pays and user-pays)
Whereas the World Bank now finances about 5 dams, the Chinese finance over 300 outside of China in the developing world.
Water has long been known to be an essentially political process.
Make water and its management part of the political agenda

Make water everybody’s business
THANK YOU

worldwatercouncil.org