Paving the way for rule-based water diplomacy in Central Asia

Dinara Ziganshina, PhD
Deputy Director, Scientific Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia
Call for Water Diplomacy

We see opportunities for establishing a systematic multi-level dialogue to address all problems related to formation and restoration of water resources and their efficient use in the creation of a new political and diplomatic form of multilateral communication, which could be ‘water diplomacy’.

Water diplomacy should become the key instrument in this regard [rational management of water resources], because it is water that becomes the main prerequisite for ensuring both the well being of the population and regional security.
**Selected Water Diplomacy Practices**

**Scotland - Hydro Nation**
Governance, technology, management, regulation

**Swiss Blue Peace Diplomacy**
Exemplar upstream nation (Rhine), Blue Peace initiative in the Middle East, Regional projects in Central Asia, BRIDGE, Water Convention, Geneva Water Hub

**Council conclusions on EU water diplomacy**
Foreign Affairs Council meeting, Brussels, 22 July 2012

**German Foreign policy**
'working for peace' & 'managing globalization’, Berlin Process

**Dutch Niche Water Diplomacy**
networking, expertise, capacity

**US Foreign Policy on Water “Five streams”**
capacity-building, financial support, science & technology; private sector.

**US-Mexico Minute 319 (experiment)**

**Singapore a Global Hydrohub**
From water insecurity to niche water diplomacy (technology)
Diplomacy: New frontiers

- The changing structure of international relations: wicked problems, new actors, institutions, etc;
- Traditional bilateral diplomacy is complimented by multilateral & multilevel interactions;
- Rising role of science & technology in international relations;
- Increased use of public diplomacy tools;
- Global concerns and collective responsibility of international community.
Diplomacy in the 21st century is transforming and expanding from a peaceful method of interstate relations to a general instrument of communication among globalized societies.


International law is more than a set of rules for States, it is a ‘language of communication’.

The UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, 13-17 March 1995, New York.

Diplomacy practices essentially shape int’l law and facilitate its operation

Int’l law provides ‘rules of the game’ and serves as ‘the guiding light for diplomacy’

Symbiotic relations and the common overarching goal:
The purpose of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security […] in conformity with the principles of justice and int’l law […] UN Charter
Rule-based water diplomacy to build trust in Central Asia

Rule-based water diplomacy is to play a role to restore trust and enable better cooperation between CARs. It should build on strengths and avoid division among stakeholders. It should:

- Foster instruments of cooperation such as information exchange, capacity building, regional (pilot)projects, integrated modeling and long-term planning;
- Provide a platform for various actors to come together, understand each others interests and priorities and search for mutually acceptable development options to have common vision of the future development and available alternatives;
- Spirit of partnership and mutual accountability: interstate, inter-sectoral, vertical as well as science (common framework) based, include NGOs, include IFI’s – not only rights but also duties;
- Play a role in solving the water, food, ecosystem, energy nexus by combining and bringing together regional interests in joint enterprises on the basis of solid, integrated systems performance analysis concepts and tools.
- Use modern communication means and water systems knowledge (including the ASBmm) in order to inform and engage a wide public in planning and decision making.
To learn more have a look at a new book on the role of international law in addressing water security threats at www.brill.com

Contact: dinara.ziganshina@gmail.com
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