

"Managing Water in the Face of Uncertainty"

Workshop Summary

Prof. Eran Feitelson, Hebrew University

Prof. Paul Kay, Waterloo

14-16 May, 2012

The workshop convened at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem under the auspices of the Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies. Additional support came from the University of Waterloo's International Partnerships program. Eight Canadians and nine Israelis participated, with graduate student and other observers present (see appendix 1 for list).

For the Canadians, a field trip on the first morning (while the Israeli hosts were busy with university business) visited water features of the ancient city (Biblical, Roman, and Turkish). The consensus was overwhelmingly positive about this opportunity.

Sessions were organized to address three basic questions related to the theme:

- What are the relationships among uncertainty and water governance?
- What existing governance regimes and new paradigms can be adjusted to cope with uncertainty?
- How can we enhance policy feasibility to cope with uncertainty?

The presentations (appendix 2) were designed to maximize discussion and interaction, which continued around breaks and meals.

The final session, was an informal roundtable, assessed the workshop and agreed on further actions and possible cooperation. Participants agreed that the basic questions were well addressed with much interesting and useful insights. Leading international journals were identified, and their interest in publishing a collection of the papers will be solicited within a month after the workshop. The thrust of the workshop results, and the theme for the collection of papers, was identified as: "Uncertainty and conflict are often treated as problems for the sustainable management of water, but are here treated as potential mechanisms for better governance."

One of the proposed goals of the workshop, consistent with the overall purpose of the Halbert Centre's support, was provision of networking opportunities. Participants agreed this goal was fully realized. In addition to the plan for publication, several participants from both sides began discussions about further research collaborations, including the options for post-doctoral interchanges.

Participants and Observers

Name	Affiliation	C/I*	Status**
Ashkar, Mona	Embassy of Canada		O
Brandes, Oliver	University of Victoria	C	P
Brooks, David	University of Victoria, & Ottawa	C	P
Cohen-Blankshtain, Galit	Hebrew University	I	P
Cook, Christina	University of British Columbia	C	P
Feitelson, Eran	Hebrew University	I	P
Fischhendler, Itay	Hebrew University	I	P
Gross, Daniel	Jerusalem	I	O
Katz, David	University of Haifa	I	P
Kay, Paul	University of Waterloo	C	P
Kliot, Nurit	University of Haifa	I	P
Linton, Jamie	Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier France	C	P
Lipchin, Clive	Arava Institute for Environmental Studies	I	P
Lucas, Brenda	Southern Ontario Water Consortium	C	P
McClenaghan, Theresa	Canadian Environmental Law Association	C	P
Morin, Efrat	Hebrew University	I	P
Nadboy, Michelle	Israel-Palestine Centre for Research and Information		O
Shrubsole, Dan	University of Western Ontario	C	P
Sorek, Shaul	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Sde Boker	I	P
Tubi, Amit	Hebrew University	I	P, S
Twite, Robin	Israel-Palestine Centre for Research and Information		O
Wennekers, Vera	Hebrew University	I	O, S
Wilkes, Taylor	University of Waterloo	C	O, S
Ziv, Yuval	Hebrew University	I	O, S

* Canadian, Israeli

** Presenter, Observer, Student

Workshop Agenda

Monday a.m. Tour for Canadians of ancient water systems

Monday p.m. What are the sources of uncertainty, and what are their implications for sustainability?

Kay. Data, efficiency and conservation, and resilience—sources of uncertainty in the Canadian scene

Morin. Uncertainties in climatic trend detection

Brandes. Water governance reform in Canada's west—an addition to uncertainty?

Katz. Awareness raising campaigns as a response to market-mechanism policy uncertainties

Tuesday a.m. How do we now cope with or manage uncertainty?

Brooks. Water soft paths—what have we learned, what do we need to learn?

Feitelson. Implications of climate change for Israeli-Palestinian water agreements

Brandes. Rescaling of decision making for watershed governance, and the potential

of the public trust as a tool for reform
Fischhendler. Impact of uncertainty on cooperation and conflict in transboundary water management
Kliot. Israel's adaptation policy to climate change: recommended strategies for coping

Tuesday p.m. What modifications to current regimes, or what new paradigms, might be promising to improve how we manage uncertainty?

Shrubsole. Thoughts on some water paradigms in the face of uncertainty
Lipchin. How certain is Israel's desalination policy?: Environmental, economic and political perspectives.
McClenaghan. Developing water management and governance initiatives in a complex environment—practical considerations derived from Ontario's experience
Lucas. Policy development across silos: engaging multiple ministries and diverse stakeholders in water policy—two examples from Ontario
Tubi. Harnessing extreme climatic events to facilitate long-term cooperation and vulnerability reduction

Wednesday a.m. How do we address social feasibility?

Sorek. Decision support system for sustainable integrated management of water resources: a conceptual model
Cook. Approaching water security from a risk governance perspective
Cohen-Blankshtain & Fischhendler. Marketing mega projects in the face of uncertainties
Linton. Normalizing conflict as a response to hydrological uncertainty
Feitelson. A policy packaging approach to water management

Wednesday p.m. Synthesis of shared issues, & articulation of future work