Draft outline of the report on Water Ethics

**Goal** – A report that shows readers how ethics can make a difference to the practices, ethics can clarify and improve the situations facing all stakeholders.

**Purposes** – To present policy options to government policy makers; to reveal gaps in existing knowledge to researchers and funders of research; to examine linkages between research and policy making; to educate all on the issues; to provide a cross-cultural review of the issues; to provide a repository of concrete cases.

**Scope** – Scientific review of the existing literature with reference to selected case studies to illustrate the concepts. (After this report is made, further detailed analysis of selected issues might be conducted for future reports).

**What is needed** – Types of contribution can include:

a. We are seeking specific case studies from different countries in Asia and the Pacific that illuminate the challenges for all stakeholders. (We have listed several example cases in the outline, but we welcome any case study both in terms of thematic or geographical).

b. We are seeking content under the following general headings (which are not exhaustive).

1. **Culture and Uses of Water**

   **Uses of Water**
   Water is essential for life
   Different uses of water, for different sectors.

   **Culture and water**
   Images of water
   Floods and agriculture
   Water related cultural activities, case study?

   **Changing water situation**
   Scarcity
   Case study - sea water intrusion into ground water
   Case study - draw down of ground water level
   Climate change - how to avoid disasters by good planning

   **Market forces**
   changing land use, rice to shrimp; food style, aquaculture

2. **Approaches to Water ethics**

   **Principles (including...)**
   Principle of human dignity
   Principle of participation
   Principle of solidarity
   Principle of human equity
   Principle of the common good
   Principle of stewardship
   Principle of Sustainability
   Principle of Efficiency
   Principle of Vicinity
   Principle of Accountability

*Draft TOR UNESCO EETAP WG14 (water ethics)*
Principle of Frugality, water conservation
Other Rights-based approaches
Consequentialism
Precautionary principle
How to quantify unknown effects?

3. Equity, water access and rights (Quantity)
Models for assigning water rights and sharing
Land ownership and water ownership, beneficial use
Water owned by all citizens; ecosystems
Models for water sharing to nature, endangered species
Case studies - Yellow River Commission
Minimum water flow of 40% original for river?
Case studies – Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Spring and establishing bottling plant.
Privatisation of water and water pricing
Excess water is at higher price?
Transnational water sharing
Case studies of water diversion
Social issues from water rerouting
Dams and displacements

4. Guaranteeing quality of water
Different uses require different quality of water
Pollutants
Diseases
Sanitation
Case study - Lack of clear procedures for emergency response to crisis

5. Involving users of water in decision making processes over use
Right to knowledge – prior informed consent
Education, examples, exercises
Open publication of water data
Stakeholder consultations - participation
Internet forum and discussion.
EIA includes the requirement that the project needs to be known by ordinary people.
Local people need to decide, public comment.
Raising awareness of the issue to policy makers
Examples
Certification of ethical practice
Oath
NGO roles, civil society action and conservation

6. Models for protecting interests of non-humans/ecosystem
Biocentric frameworks
Endangered species act, e.g. Cherished fish in the area of proposed dam in China.
Agent-based model for competition, rules for engagement of agents.
Ecocentric frameworks
Protection of ecosystem as a whole
Models
Case studies, system dynamics model applied for social mechanism
Economic models and externalization of costs.

7. Hydroelectricity
Review of the WCD – Dams and Development
Comparisons to other alternatives
Matrix for comparison

8. Accountability and Compensation
Stakeholder responsibility
Displaced persons from dams
Ecocompensation
Pollution (academic and policy models)

9. Governance models and implementation
Clarity of responsibilities
Central and local government interests and oversight
Chinese case study for guaranteeing quality and quantity
Short-term and long term economic benefits
Ethics of administration
The advantages of ethical governance
Gaps in implementation, reality versus law
Gaps in knowledge
How to integrate ethics into legislation process.
Civil society, expert committees,

10. Policy options
Lessons learned from experience
How to avoid disasters by good planning
Government and industry roles
Local and central government
International governance
CSR

11. Annex - Case studies

Please send comments and suggestions to:
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