

**7TH SHORT BOTIN FOUNDATION
WATER WORKSHOP
MADRID JULY 1ST, 2013
COMPARISON BETWEEN
ISRAEL AND SPAIN WATER
POLICIES AD TRENDS: A
ROUND TABLE**

AN INTRODUCTION

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**OBSERVATORIO DEL AGUA
WATER OBSERVATORY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **SHORT HISTORY OF THE WATER OBSERVATORY**
2. **OUR MAIN INNOVATIONS TO BE DEBATED**
3. **FINAL PUBLICATION**

1. SHORT HISTORY OF THE WATER OBSERVATORY (I)

1.1. FIRST PHASE (1998-2003)

In 1998 by suggestion from Emilio Botín O'Shea, member of the Board of the Foundation, the Project AGUAS SUBTERRANEAS (Groundwater Project) begins. It has an independent office and contracted staff. It produces nine books, thirteen monographs and numerous scientific papers. It finished in 2003 with its presentation in the World Water Forum in Kyoto (2003).

1. SHORT HISTORY OF THE WATER OBSERVATORY (II)

1.2. SECOND PHASE (2003-2008)

During this period the only activity of the BF was organizing to Water Workshops:

- a) **SECOND BF WATER WORKSHOP on WATER CRISIS: MYTH OR REALITY?**, with Harvard University.
- b) **THIRD BF WATER WORKSHOP on WATER ETHICS** with the U.N. University and Transparency International.

In 2007 Ramón Llamas published an article for divulgation of the concepts of Green, Blue, and Virtual Water.

1. SHORT HISTORY OF THE WATER OBSERVATORY (III)

1.3. THIRD PHASE (2008-PRESENT)

- In 2008 the BF decides promote the use of the news concepts of Llamas mentioned article and created formally the Water Observatory as a part of its Trends Observatory.
- The offices and the staff are obtained by specific contracts with the Complutense University and with the Polytechnic University of Madrid.

1. SHORT HISTORY OF THE WATER OBSERVATORY (IV)

THIRD PHASE (2008-PRESENT)

- During this period several books on the Water Footprint are published in English and Spanish, and also about 20 monographs. Some of these monographs show innovative and practical ideas that seem very useful for the Spanish water policy. It is decided to test these ideas in other countries. Seven countries of Latin America are selected. The new book with these results will be ready before one year.
- During this period three more BF Water Workshops have been organized: a) Rethinking Water and Food Security; b) The Globalization and its Impact in the Water Conflicts; and c) The Integrated Water Resources Management in the XXI Century.

2.OUR MAIN INNOVATIONS TO BE DEBATED (I)

1. The problem (in Spain and generally) is not water physical scarcity but poor governance
2. The virtual water (food) trade plays a relevant role in Spain's Water policy, mainly in livestock and related industry
3. The current paradigm of water and food self-sufficiency should be revisited
- 4.The new motto for Spanish farmers should be “more cash and care of nature per drop” instead of “more crops and jobs per drop”

2. OUR MAIN INNOVATIONS TO BE DEBATED (II)

5. The near future type of farmers: a) landscape keepers; and b) high tech cash crops producers.
6. The role of the WTO in global water policy is usually ignored but may become relevant in the near future.
7. The exaggerated relevance of desalting plants in Spain. Nevertheless, with positive side-effects.

2.OUR MAIN INNOVATIONS TO BE DEBATED (III)

8. The relevance of TICs and the implementation of transparency in water policy.
9. The groundwater chaos is a pending activity in Spain and has many negative impacts.
10. Water is in Spain a strong political weapon. Possibly this may change in the near future

3. FINAL PUBLICATION

- The ppts of this workshop may be uploaded or not to our web after the wish of the corresponding author.