

H₂O Currents

“Six Thousand (6,000) children under five die every day because of unsafe water and poor sanitation.”¹

“Globally, water usage had increased by six times in the past 100 years and will double again by 2050...”²

“Water related diseases are the single largest cause (50%) of human sickness and health-related death in the world.”¹

“Arid cities like Los Angeles and Phoenix already grapple with sporadic water shortages. New York City’s water — once lauded for its purity — is getting cloudy.”³

“1.1 billion people lack adequate water worldwide, and 2.6 billion go without adequate sanitation.”¹

“The national (sewer costs) average rose to \$6.29 per KGal – an increase of 5.2 percent from July 2005.”⁴

“Unfortunately, many businesses make the mistake of overlooking their water costs...”⁴

“3% of the world’s water is fresh, but only 1% is useable.”¹

“(Earth’s freshwater) is as scarce as it is fragile and as indispensable as it is unequally distributed.”⁵

“We need (Earth’s freshwater) absolutely... It will rest in the hands of humanity forever as our common inheritance.”⁵

“Everything about water is unexpected, surprising, strange – and this is fortunate, for life on our planet functions and flows from its peculiar properties.”⁵

“Omnipresent, intruding everywhere, holding forth without end, precipitating and leaving at will thousands of substances at every stage from cell to continent, water is the great unifying factor of the planet...”⁵

“The estimated total volume of dissolved matter in the rivers of the world, resulting from chemical erosion and pollution is up to 4.5 billion metric tons yearly.”⁵

“Earth is a living planet woven together with water.”⁵

“In murky oceans, it (water) made possible the most fantastic innovations; when life climbed out of the sea and conquered the land, each terrestrial organism, even the most modest, saved inside its body a small interior sea – evidence of its origins.”⁵

“Water pollution poses serious problems of responsibility. The depletion of pure and safe water is one of the major problems that must be confronted and resolved in the twenty-first century.”⁵

“People will always consume water; we cannot do without it. But water is not an inexhaustible resource to be used carelessly. It is humanity’s responsibility to carefully manage our planet delicately marked in blue in the midst of space’s cold indifference.”⁵

“Water is odorless and tasteless and is the only element found in all three states – solid, gas, and liquid at temperatures occurring on Earth.”⁵

“To change from a solid to a liquid state or liquid to gas, water requires more heat than other substance of identical mass.”⁵

“It is easier for solids to dissolve in water when its temperature rises; it is harder for gases.”⁵

“Freshwater contains less than 0.6 grams of salt per liter; whenever this concentration is higher, water is said to be hard.”⁵

“The total volume of water on the Earth is about 1.35 billion cubic kilometers. If this volume of water could be uniformly distributed around the planet, it would form a sheet 3 kilometers thick.”⁵

“One percent of the world’s freshwater and 0.007 percent of the world’s total water is accessible for human use.”⁵

“People use 4,000 cubic kilometers of freshwater a year.”⁵

“The average American uses approximately 530-600 liters of water per day.”⁵

“The human body is ~70 percent water.”⁵

“It takes 183,000 liters of water to make a typical Thanksgiving meal for eight people.”⁵

“Every year 5 million people die from avoidable illnesses related to contaminated water.”⁵

“Between 1900 and 1990, industry’s need for water increased by a factor of 25.”⁵

“China, United States, and India are the greatest consumers of water.”⁵

REFERENCES

- 1) US News & World Report June 4, 2007
- 2) **Billions face water shortages, crisis looms**; James Grubel, Reuters, August 16, 2006
- 3) **There’s Money in Thirst**; Claudia Deutsch, NY Times, August 10, 2006
- 4) **U.S. Water Costs Climb Even Higher**, 8/18/2006 Park Ridge, NJ
- 5) **H2O The beauty and mystery of water**, By Bernard Fishchesser and Marie France Dupuis-Tate