

10th World Water Forum, Bali, Indonesia

4th International Seminar on Water Security, Tuesday 21 May 2024

Speech of Mr. Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council



“Cooperation is not a target, a dream, not even a sustainable development goal, but the result of shared awareness, that policy dialogue is the only way to tackle the current global challenges”



Thank you Mr Jin Hai for these kind words and strong spirits.

You know how much we value your efficiency in supporting the international work of the World Water Council as a Governor and Bureau member and a real partner of our organization.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Excellency Minister Li Guoyin,

I would like to tell you, on behalf of all of us, how honored we are by your presence, and the great commitment of the People's Republic of China to participate actively to the 10th World Water Forum with one of the biggest national delegation and many high-level contributions in the political process as well as the regional and thematic processes.

The World Water Council, Mr. Minister, is gathering the Family of water. Our role is to convince. To advocate. To lead the way to inspiring routes.

For 15 years, China and the World Water Council have shared a common history based on the acceptance of 2 words: DIALOGUE and COOPERATION.

Because with consideration and dialogue, we know how to listen to each other. In a spirit of cooperation, because beyond words, we are convinced that action is needed. Joint action, as illustrated tomorrow morning by the launching of a book jointly conceived to raise awareness among children on the value of water at their own scale, from their own point of view, because children are the future of mankind.

We have learnt much from each other.

We are proud to have been pushing forward the concept of water security with you, and to have established bridges with water for humans and water for nature.

Proud that a great nation like yours is sharing its experience and knowledge to show the world that it is feasible. Step by step.



During these last 20 years we have all learnt about water security. We know that it is based on the three pillars of enhanced knowledge, good governance and adapted finance, and that it is the best way to reach safe access to water for all.

With our Indonesian colleagues, we have invited participants to bring concrete views and experiences in Bali to be shared and discussed with others. We have invited countries to commit at the highest level to help us bring water at the top of the international agenda priorities.

China responded with very concrete actions, and one of them is the book “ Water Governance in China : perspective of Xi Jinping” that you are presenting today. It is highly inspiring. It is proof that “water is politics”!

Thank you also for co-organizing this High-level special event around major issues such as water security and food security, science innovation and water security, water infrastructure and water financing with major contributors.

I would like to say a few words about some essential subjects which have been underlined in the Book and will also be discussed today, to address the global situation. And maybe enlarge them to propose some new directions to explore.

Prioritizing water conservation, water-disaster prevention and equitable sharing is indispensable to reach water and food security. Water-saving practices and efficiency improvements in agriculture and in urban areas are essential for humans, nature and the future of our planet Earth.

“Balancing special distribution” as mentioned in your Book is more than welcome. It is not an option. Urban planning needs to integrate the concept before any new building project. The water cycle, water and wastewater systems as well as rain systems should be studied not only in Engineering Schools but in Architecture and Planning Universities. Along with Ecosystems and Biodiversity. Viewing river basins as integral units, as described by Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles is to be included in City and Land planning.

Taking systematic approaches allows for protection and restoration of surface water, rivers, lakes and wetlands. With special attention to the integrity of farmlands, mountains and deserts. We should also pay better attention to the protection of our groundwaters, which are so fragile,



and which are the hidden treasure of the next generations. We need to protect them before having to restore them, as they will be so much more difficult to save. Let us try not to repeat our previous disastrous mistakes.

Strengthening water governance, at national, regional, basin and local scales is a very powerful and efficient tool to build water community and dignity. Shared, understood and accepted laws and policies as well as rights and protection of populations lives will contribute to building the global community of shared prosperity. For the “destiny of humankind” as mentioned in your Book.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to stress the importance of international relations in the field of water. This is what enables us to share thoughts and actions. And also, to put forward concrete, sustainable solutions.

Cooperation is not an idea, it is built around facts and concrete commitments of political decision-makers. Cooperation is not a target, a dream, not even a SDG, but the result of shared awareness that policy dialogue is the only way to tackle the current global challenges.

I wish a great success to this 4th International Seminar on Water Security and thank you again China for your friendly cooperation.