



Prof. Peter Wilderer

1. **How much attention should be given to sustainable water management in the public debate? How much attention does water get in your organization/institution?**

**My understand is that “sustainability” refers to a state of balance, in our case balance of recharge of natural or man-made water recourses and water abstraction. It is absolutely important to stress in the public debate the importance of keeping this balance to avoid middle and long term economic and environmental drawbacks.**

**My organization (Institute of Advanced Studies on Sustainability) sustainability and sustainable development stands in the centre of interest.**

2. **Which aims and priorities do you regard as the most important ones within water management?**

**We are facing, worldwide, the first consequences of population growth and climate change, and we will see these consequences to get stronger over the next 20 years. Climate change brings along severe water shortage situations in the already over-crowded urban but also in rural areas. The question is how to deal wisely with such shortages. My simple answer is: water reuse. We must change from single to multiple use of water. This is not only a technical but even more a behavioral issue. We must bridge engineering with society.**

3. **With reference to the Water Vision for Europe, which of the articles do you regard as the most important ones? And why? Are there any aspects missing in the Vision?**

**I think each article is equally important. The sample of articles is fairly complete with one exception: The problem of migration and immigration into Europe is not properly addressed.**

4. **From your perspective and experience, what are the major obstacles to achieve the vision aims?**

**I suspect that water scarcity, rising sea level and subsequent migration will develop faster than our visions turn into reality. The major obstacles are time limitations caused by no-action because of conflicting stakeholder interests.**

5. **Are there enough capacities to support and implement the Vision aims within your organization (enough capacities in terms of financial support, knowledge, human resources)?**

**Our problem is that our institute has neither money nor human resources. We are just a think tank.**

6. **Who do you consider as key stakeholder(s) needed for realizing the aims of the Vision? Are these stakeholders (enough) involved? How can we motivate stakeholders to get involved?**

**It is not one but a multitude of stakeholders who should set aside individual interests in favor of the whole. Maybe I am too pessimistic, but I do not see realistic chances to get things changing. Yes, we could motivate stakeholders if we would demonstrate economic and financial advantages. Do we do this?**

7. Do we communicate water issues to stakeholders and the general public?

We do, but “blue-eyed”. We cannot trust in volunteering. As long as money is not in the forefront we may have a problem.

8. With regard to implementation of legislation, what are the major problems towards implementation?

Politicians tend to follow stakeholder advice. We must get key stakeholder on board to go from talking to decision making and implementation.

9. According to you, are there enough funding mechanisms designed to support the Vision and the implementation of legislation?

Very simply: NO

10. Last question - who would you suggest to ask for input on the Vision Mapping next?

It might be a good idea to get in touch with somebody from the US EPA or from the California water board. With the new administration in the US things are quickly changing over there. Joining forces is an option to think about

Peter Wilderer, 01-09-09