

## FOREWARD

### **Water: The Emerging Crisis?**

by  
Leonard Berry

Water is moving towards the top of the international agenda. For many of the world's people and the world's nations, water resources management will be an important issue for this next decade and beyond. The *Water Resources Update* papers focus on differing aspects of international water resource management. Gilbert White's paper examines three key emerging issues in global environmental policy and lays the framework for thinking about the water resources issues discussed in the other papers.

Leonard Berry outlines some of the problems and prospects for water use in the humid areas of the developing world. The United States involvement in UNESCO's International Hydrological Program is discussed in the William Shampine paper. Daene McKinney addresses issues regarding the institutional developments necessary to allow sustainable water use strategies in the context of the Aral Sea basin.

Conservation efforts aimed at freshwater ecosystems in Latin American and the Caribbean are examined by Gonzalo Castro and Steven Parcells. Daniel Sheer discusses the application of economic modeling by a private consulting firm to the Yellow River Basin in China. And, lastly, Narendra Sharma outlines two World Bank Workshops on Water Resources Management in Africa.

We hope these papers stimulate discussion on the issues confronting resource management and the directions it might take for the future. I want to thank each of the authors for their contributions to this *Water Resources Update*. The way in which we approach these issues over this next decade will set the stage for this important aspect of human development well into the next century. Water remains an important item on the global agenda.