**Water Stress and Scarcity – Case Study: Mexico Santiago Izeta Kelly**

Back in the 40’s, Mexico suffered from a problem concerning the demand and supply of water throughout the country. The demand was much higher than the supply and the issue kept getting bigger because of the fast growth of major cities around that time (especially in the north and center of the republic).

Solution: Build more wells to obtain more water. – Problem: Mexico’s city aquifer has been overexploited, resulting in more water scarcity in the country. This then lead to the damage of water transporting systems to suffer serious damages and for the city to have to spend an enormous amount of money in importing water from other parts of the country.

The situation concerning water stress and scarcity now a days is serious. A major consequence for the poor planning of water extraction in major cities like in Mexico City, Guadalajara, etc is that water needs to be extracted from other sources – freshwater resource exploitation – which increases water scarcity as one giant paradox: No water, outside freshwater exploitation, less water, another freshwater source drained, and it goes on and on and on. Almost 30% of water is lost due to leakages in waterways, water that could be use in agriculture, houses, etc. Also the deterioration of water quality is a major problem in Mexico as most of the infrastructure for water transportation isn’t adequate.

Actual Actions Taken by Mexican Government:

* Construction of gabion wells which are like small dams that hold water so it can filter to reach the aquifer.
* Filtration systems which absorb water through membranes and then, even water extracted from the sea can become drinkable.
* Right there the CONAGUA is planning a 13 month scheme that aims to improve water sanitation (infrastructure, installments, etc) and to create a net of waterways which will be more efficient and will save loads of water loss by leaks within the country – NO ACTIONS YET.

Other Possible Solutions:

* Improvement of competitiveness and efficiency of irrigation.
* Modernizing water supply services and sanitation services.
* Development of water institutions.
* Better adaptment of water systems throughout specific regions of the country.
* Capturing rainwater to then re-utilize it for secondary needs like washing cars, garden, etc.
* Water treatment plants to re use the thousands of liters of water thrown away every day.