

Presentation to
**High-Level International Interdisciplinary
Conference**
Tufe2018 – November, 2018
Athens, Greece

Robert W. Foster, PE, PLS
Honorary FIG President

Globalized Ethics

“Because real estate is integral to whole societies and economies, it shapes and influences the world we live in and represents a significant proportion of all global wealth. For this reason professionals have a duty to uphold the highest standards.” International Ethics Standards Coalition (IESC)

IESC: 100+ international organizations of real estate professionals, e.g., FIABCI, RICS and other property-related professionals.

Ethics:

“ Ethics deals with voluntary human actions on the basis of what is right and wrong, good or bad and what ought to be done or avoided in order that men may live well.”

The human organism may live

for 5 minutes without air

for 5 days without water

for 5 weeks without food

For shelter, depends on location and climate

Charles David Keeling:

310 ppm atmospheric CO₂ in 1950

400 ppm in 2000

450 ppm in 2030?

450 ppm the tipping point?

Water: Drought and flood

World Wildlife Federation: Climate change is altering patterns of weather and water around the world, causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others.”

General Munir Muniruzzaman*:

One meter sea level rise = loss of 20% of
Bangladesh landmass.

* Former military advisor to the president of Bangladesh

South Asia one of most water-stressed regions in
the world; could be scene of the first water war

Boston (USA) planning for 36" sea level rise by 2070

Prediction:

2025 - 1/3 of world in fresh
water shortage

2050 – catastrophic world water
shortage

“Nestle,” Fortune, <http://fortune.com/global1500/nestle>

Available fresh water, world,
annually = 12,500 cubic kilometers
Fresh water being used in 2008 =
6,000 cubic kilometers

“Nestle,” Fortune, <http://fortune.com/global1500/nestle>

“only 2% of world’s water is fresh”

Grantham Institute, London

Potable water shortfall will be
worst in Middle East, northern
India, northern China, western
United States; World emigration
problem.

General Muniruzzaman

50% of the world's
population is fed by
imported food

20% of the world's
population is fed entirely by
imported food.

American Geophysical Union 2017

Food shortage)

Arab Spring)

Environmental refugees)

A connection?

“Migrant Caravan” (2018):

5000 from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador – through Mexico to U.S.

A hint of things to come?

The opportunity of the cities:
Over 50% world's population is urban;
Migration to the cities continues

=

Housing shortage, high cost,
Informality

Responsibility of governments?
Responsibility of the professions?

“Regime shift”

Atmospheric CO₂ increase

Ocean acidification

Desertification, No. Africa

Loss of farmland

Human migration

Shrinking of glaciers

Rising sea levels

Loss of coastal areas

1.5 degrees C = target limit to global warming per 2015 Paris climate summit

2 degree increase = loss of 50% of habitat for 18% insects, 16% of plants, 8% of vertebrates

2 degree increase = 1.5 to 2.5 million sq. km permafrost melt = methane production = greenhouse effect = further warming, etc.
Irreversible?

UN Biodiversity Conference
Sharm El Sheik, Egypt
13 – 19 November, 2018

Purpose of the Conference:

“...to halt biodiversity loss and protect the ecosystems that support food and water security and health for billions of people.”

Goal of the Conference:

“Protect 30% of the World’s marine and land environment by 2030.”

Biologist Edward O. Wilson, Harvard University:

“At least half the planet must be protected to save a large majority of plants and wildlife species from extinction.”

Architects
Engineers
Surveyors

The technical experts whose focus is the
land and its material resources

What is our “higher ethic?”

Thank you
and
Good luck to future generations

Bob Foster