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Principles of Water Law and Administration

National and International

Dante A. Caponera

2nd Edition, revised
and updated by Marcella Nanni

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Principles of Water Law and Administration - National and International

Dante A. Caponera - 2nd Edition, revised and updated by Marcella Nanni

May 2007: 247x173 mm: 312 pp

Hardback: ISBN 978-0-415-43583-3: £99.00

The Author: Dante A. Caponera (1921–2003)

Dante A. Caponera began his career in the field of water law and administration in the 1950's, undertaking missions for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other UN agencies. He became Chief of the FAO Legislation Branch, which, thanks to his efforts, is now a provider of legal assistance to developing countries, not only in water law but also in all of the fields in which FAO is involved. He was the initiator of the FAO Legislative Studies series. As a consultant, Dr. Caponera assisted governments and international basin institutions in the drafting of water legislation and international water agreements, leading to water codes embodying principles such as those of river basin management and users' participation and improved river basin management institutions. He used a methodological approach which he developed and which is now known world-wide. A firm believer in the importance of law in the management of water resources, he also promoted training in the field of water law and administration as a vehicle for dialogue and cooperation leading to improved legal and institutional frameworks. A prolific writer, Dr. Caponera also published a collection of selected writings in 2003.

The Reviser: Marcella Nanni

Marcella Nanni is a recognized international expert in water law and administration and related disciplines. She has provided consultancies to a number of governments and river basin institutions for projects financed by international organizations such as FAO, the European Union, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and by bilateral donors. This advice has covered the drafting of water legislation and international agreements, the development of proposals for the approximation of legislation of EU accession countries to the EU water acquis, the restructuring of water resources management institutions, water law implementation requirements and the formulation and conduct of capacity-building programmes. Dr. Nanni is a member of the board of directors of the International Association for Water Law/Asociacion Internacional de Derecho de Aguas (AIDA) and is the editor of the association's newsletter, 'Aquaforum'. She collaborated with Dr. Caponera for the research on the first edition of this book.

The purpose of this book, which was first published in 1992, is to provide a tool for dealing with the legal and institutional aspects of water resources management to those who are called upon to carry out functions within the context of water resources administration and to face the legal issues raised by water management. Given that there have been a number of developments in the field of water law, policy and administration since 1992, the book has been revised and updated to reflect elements of growing topical importance, such as groundwater management, river basin planning, water quality protection and the participation of stakeholders in decision-making.

The present edition contains information as to the situation in the countries of the former Soviet Union, developments in international water law and administration, including the codification process led by the International Law Commission of the United Nations, and the legal framework for water resources management which has been introduced at the level of the European Union. Reference to new water legislation and institutional arrangements is made throughout the text.

Multidisciplinary in nature, this basic text book is unique in its scope, as it considers both general issues and principles of water law and administration, at national and international levels. It identifies the legal and institutional problems that may arise in connection with water resources management and provides guidelines for possible solutions.

The book will be a useful reference, not only for national and international water resources managers, but also for academics and students of engineering, hydrology, hydrogeology, sanitary engineering, planners and those in similar disciplines, in order to familiarize them with the subject.

The importance and scarcity of water resources today make it imperative to understand the legal and institutional issues which can act either as a constraint or as a facilitation to effective water resources management.

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