

Intellectual history and current status of Integrated Water Resources Management: A global perspective

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Abstract

As a conceptual solution to the complex problems of water management the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management [IWRM] has recently come to prominence. Though institutional transfer of IWRM from international to domestic arena has been widespread, this process is arguably under-researched. This paper attempts to address this problem by looking at the area of history and theory of IWRM, in particular focusing on how deeper analysis of the conceptual framework of IWRM can enhance the current understanding of the institutional transfer of IWRM. The paper consists of three parts. The first part deals with the history of the IWRM concept and its relations with other theories [e.g. integrated resource management, strategic planning]; the second part is devoted to globalization of IWRM and introduces the notion of policy transfer networks as applied to water governance; and the third part analyzes the on-going process of institutional transfer of IWRM to Guney-Dogu Anadolu Projesi [GAP] project in Turkey.