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Prologue

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LEONARD B. DWORSKY*

Prologue

Volume 33, No. 1, 1993, was the first of two issues of this Journal reporting on a project entitled, "The North American Experience Managing International Transboundary Water Resources: The International Joint Commission and the International Boundary and Water Commission." It contained an introduction to the project, and the commissioned papers and the prepared commentaries for three of the six project issues presented at a TRI-NATIONAL CONFERENCE sponsored by the project. (The commissioned papers on the remaining three issues and commentaries are presented in this Volume.)¹ The conference was held at the Gasparilla Inn, Gasparilla Island, Boca Grande, Florida, April 19-23, 1991.

The collected papers published in the two volumes reflected the core issues then under consideration in a project moving toward completion under the auspices of the International Transboundary Resources Center (CIRT) of the School of Law, The University of New Mexico. The goal of CIRT is to provide a focus and stimulus for the multidisciplinary, multiresource and multinational examination of transboundary resources. Specifically, it aims to improve policymaking in terms of the rational and equitable use of these resources in a cooperative, amicable way with full respect for the territorial sovereignty of each state concerned with resources extending across political boundaries.

The project was initiated in September, 1990, and was completed in the spring, 1993. A planning committee met in late 1990 to help chart the project agenda. Major planning decisions included the selection of principal issues to focus project objectives and resources; selection of principal writers of background and documents on selected issues; and the convening of the conference in April 1991 to review, discuss, critique and expand the issue papers from the points of view of some 70 scholars and administrators in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Twelve major papers, 27 written commentaries and the oral record resulting from the conference were assessed.

Subsequently, to test the validity of the broader set of issues resulting from these activities, and to examine the applicability to and the potential value of the project to the international community, a special

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1. Space, scheduling and time constraints made it necessary to present the Conference documents in two issues of the Journal. Editor.

workshop was held December 7–11, 1992, at the Rockefeller Foundation Conference Center, Bellagio, Italy. The workshop participants consisted of a small group from CIRT and a group of international invitees reflecting global interests in the management of transboundary water and related environmental resources.²

The project Report, including the remaining papers and commentaries are presented in this issue of the Journal. The Report is based importantly, but not solely, on the record of these two Conferences. An extensive literature provided additional information and is reflected in project findings and recommendations. In addition, information derived from project participants' active observation of or engagement in Commission work over many years has helped the project stay in touch with reality.

The project leaders are indebted to the Ford Foundation for project support and to the Ford and Rockefeller foundations for the special additional support that made possible the convening of the international Conference at the Bellagio Center.

2. Those participating were **Charles B. Bourne** (professor, the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada); **Lilian del Castillo de Laborde** (attorney, Foreign Ministry, Buenos Aires, Argentina); **Charles T. DuMars** (professor, the University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque); **Leonard Dworsky** (professor, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York); **Sarwat Hassan Fahmy** (engineer, former chairman of the Nile Water Commission, Cairo Egypt); **Robert Hayton** (Hayton Associates, Cos Cob, Connecticut); **Ellen Hey** (professor, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands); **Helen Ingram** (director, Udall Center for Public Studies in Public Policy, the University of Arizona, Tucson); **Tauhidul Anwar Khan** (Joint Rivers Commission—Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh); **Nancy Laney** (attorney-at-law, Udall Center for Public Studies in Public Policy, the University of Arizona, Tucson); **David LeMarquand** (Western Economic Diversification Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada); **Julie Mauer** (the Great Lakes Commission, Chicago, Illinois); **Stephen D. Mumme** (professor, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado); **Pierre Najlis** (senior economic affairs officer, United Nations, New York, New York); **Delia Rojas-Uriste** (program coordinator, CIRT, the University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque); **Ping Ruan** (deputy division chief, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing, China); **Roberto Sánchez** (director, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Tijuana, BC, Mexico); **Albert Utton** (director/professor of law, CIRT, the University of New Mexico School of Law, Albuquerque); **Sergei Vinogradov** (Institute of State & Law, Academy of Sciences, Moscow); **Stanislaw Wajda** (consultant to the government of Poland, Wilsona, Poland); **Hanqin Xue** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beijing, China).