

DOOGE-NASH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM DUBLIN CASTLE 23-25 APRIL 2014 TECHNICAL SESSION NO.

Prof. JAMES C. L. DOOGE: A REALLY OUTSTANDING PERSON

By

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1. INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Other persons with more knowledge will comment the many capabilities and virtues of Prof. Dooge, not only in Hydrology and Water Resources but also in many other areas.
- ▶ I will only deal with three activities where I had more direct relation with Jim:
 - a) His advanced or proactive vision of what today is described as Water Resources Integrated Management.
 - b) His relevant contribution to the Ethics applied to water issues.
 - c) His relation with my country, Spain.

2. JIM DOOGE AND WATER ETHICS (I)

- ▶ My first knowledge of Jim Dooge was in January 2002 during the U.N. Conference to prepare the Rio 1992 Conference on Sustainable Development. He did a wonderful job. The Dublin statements are still today an important document.
- ▶ In 1998 UNESCO appointed me as coordinator of a Working Group to study THE ETHICS OF FRESH WATER USES. The results of this group had to be delivered to the UNESCO COMMISSION ON THE ETHICS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (COMEST).
- ▶ One of the about ten members of this group was Jim Dooge. This allow me to have a frequent relation with him and know his outstanding intellectual and moral stature.

2. JIM DOOGE AND WATER ETHICS (II)

- ▶ This WG has a good number of meetings mainly in Paris, but also in Oslo (Denmark) and Almeria (Spain).
- ▶ To my surprise (and of all the WG members) in the Almería meeting in year 2000, we were told that the group cannot continue and that the copyright of the results belonged to UNESCO.
- ▶ I have never known with certainty the cause of this sudden dismantling of our group; I assume that the main cause was some internal differences among UNESCO sections.
- ▶ But in any case we were able to publish the final results of our WG in the same year 2000 (see Llamas and Delli Priscoli, 2000).
- ▶ A few months later the COMEST publish formally its position on the topic in a paper by Lord Selborne (2000). They admitted practically without changes what the Working Group had concluded.

2. JIM DOOGE AND WATER ETHICS (III)

- ▶ Nevertheless neither the Water Sciences Division of UNESCO nor most of the member of the WG were glad with that decision, because most of our work could not be included in the those short papers.
- ▶ The solution was that the Division of Water Sciences appointed to Jim Dooge as a leader of a new group to develop and complete the task of the previous working group. Jim as former President of ICSU, former Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs has to be admitted by all.
- ▶ Really along two years Jim did an outstanding job. THE UNESCO WATER ETHICS SERIES, that include thirteen monographs was presented in the THIRD WORLD WATER FORUM (Kyoto 2003) and still is a relevant reference (Delli Priscolli, Dooge and Llamas, 2004).

3. JIM DOOGE AS A PIONER OF THE INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) CONCEPT(I)

- ▶ Considering the international prestige of Jim Dooge, it was not a surprise that he was appointed the leader of the Conference held in Dublin in January 2002 to prepare the water resources issues to be treated in the famous 2002 Rio de Janeiro International Conference held a few months later.
- ▶ I attended that conference and witnessed the skill of Jim to deal with all the groups. The so called “Dublin statement on Water and Sustainable development” still is today an important reference.
- ▶ The Dublin Statement has been a good beginning for other later related concepts such as Integrated Water Resources management (IWRM) or Good Water Governance or Green Growth.

3. JIM DOOGE AS A PIONER OF THE INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) CONCEPT(II)

- ▶ In 1999, I organized in Madrid a Workshop with the title THE NEW CULTURE OF WATER. Jim Dooge was one of the speakers and his intervention has been published (Dooge, 1999) in the scientific magazine “Arbor” of the Spanish High Research Council. What Jim writes in this article is valid for the current situation 15 years later.
- ▶ Firstly Jim considers the influence of the spacial and temporal scales.
- ▶ In the section of the article with the title “Ecology and Hydro projects” Jim does an interesting commentary on the so called “Keneth Boulding Ballad” on the need of a ecological awareness. I asked to Jim the reference of this Ballad but I never got it. I have included it as an appendix in my written presentation.

3. JIM DOOGE AS A PIONER OF THE INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) CONCEPT(III)

- ▶ The article ends with a section entitled “Interdisciplinary in Practice”. This is perhaps the most interesting section of Jim’s contribution because it clearly shows the difficulties to achieve a really interdisciplinary research project. I copy some significant paragraphs.

3. JIM DOOGE AS A PIONER OF THE INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) CONCEPT(IV)

- ▶ Communication and co-operation between persons and groups from diverse backgrounds and with differing interests is far from easy.
- ▶ Whether at a social gathering or at a planning session, the basic elements for meaningful communication are the same.
- ▶ They may be characterized as follows: (1) a common language known moderately well by all participants; (2) a well-defined common focus of real interest to all parties; (3) a willingness and an ability to talk clearly and to the point; and (4) an ability and a willingness to listen patiently

4. JIM DOOGE AND SPAIN (I)

- ▶ Jim had a “Doctor Honoris Causa” distinction by at least six Universities. One of them was by the Complutense University of Madrid on June 20th, 2001. On this occasion in my “citation “of Jim’s merits I emphasized not only his scientific CV but also his deep humanitarian approach to the problems, that, in my opinion, was a consequence of his being a practicing and convinced Roman Catholic.
- ▶ His acceptance speech of the Honoris Causa Doctorate is a delicious piece where he presents a meaningful reminder of the relations between Ireland and Spain. These begin with the Celtic migrations at the beginning of our era and became stronger in the last millennium when every Irish revolution against their colonial masters looked at Spain and France for moral and material support.

4. JIM DOOGE AND SPAIN (II)

- ▶ Through the long period of penal laws against their religion the main training ground for the underground priesthood in Ireland was the Pontifical University of Salamanca.
- ▶ But after mentioning briefly those hard period of the History of Irish people, Dooge presents a optimistic approach and writes:
- ▶ Thankfully, those turbulent times belong now to history and all our countries that were once rivals are now cooperating in the construction of a new Europe of Peoples

6. CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ I am convinced that Prof. Dooge has been a really not only an outstanding Scientist but also a outstanding politician and humanist.
- ▶ Therefore ,my sincere congratulations to the organizers of this Symposium.

THANKS FOR YOUR
ATTENTION

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