

BOOK LAUNCH



Facing Global Environmental Change:

*Environmental, Human, Energy,
Food, Health and Water Security
Concepts*

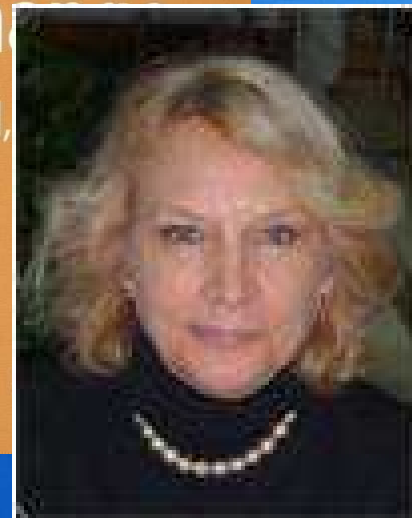
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Facing Global Environmental Ch

Environmental, Human, Energy, Food,
Health and Water Security Concepts



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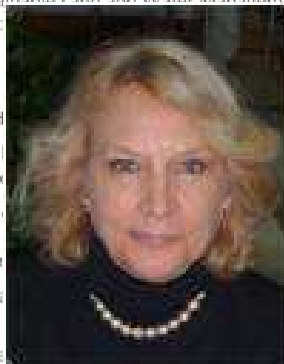
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Zarina Othman

79.1 Introduction

The end of the bipolar world in 1989 triggered an in-depth re-evaluation of the concepts of peace and security (Brauch 2008, 2008a, 2008b, 2008c). The realist school defined peace as the absence of war and security as the absence of threats. Alternatively, the neoliberal institutionalism, focuses on the important role played by international institutions and economic interdependence that can promote cooperation and security (Wæver 2008). Nevertheless, security for the developing states differs somewhat from the Western concept. Most owe their 'insecurity' first to their struggle for independence and later for economic independence (Thomas 1987: 10). As observed by Alagappa (1986: 2), a deteriorating economy can easily lead to domestic conflicts and this can threaten either the state as a whole or the regime in power, or both. Economy and regime security or the survival of the ruling regime are therefore crucial elements in promoting national security for the developing states (Collins 2003: 5; Ayooob 1995, Ayooob/Samudavanija 1986). Additionally their concern for security is focused primarily on the stability of their politics, a well developed economy and a harmonious society (Hernandez 1990, 100-101). The region is also concerned about China's growing economic power and Japan may pose a military threat again but closer economic ties and steps towards establishing the East Asian Community may support the neoliberal institutionalism with regard to the prospect of peace and security in the region (Lee/Tham/Yu 2006).¹

1 This collection of papers was originally presented in an international conference held at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, jointly organized by the *Institute of Malaysia and International Studies* (IKMAS, UKM) and the Centre for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana Champagne, on 19-20 May 2005.




The 'human security' concept has attracted much debate among scholars since the *Human Development Report 1994* defined it as 'freedom from fear' and 'freedom from want', and included seven elements, namely: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political (UNDP 1994). The UN's concept of human security suggests a concern with quality of life, including economic growth and access to resources, rather than a focus on weapons and defence against outside forces. Human security thus means putting the people first, before the state.

Canada has been a leading promoter of human security. The Canadian government defined human security as having an acceptable quality of life and a good guarantee of fundamental human rights (Axworthy 1997; Dedring 2008). Thus, humanitarian intervention due to violent conflicts can be legitimized to protect human rights and the quality of life, in addition to mere survival (ICISS 2001). Canada co-established the *Human Security Network* (HSN), an informal group of like-minded countries who pursue a 'people-centred' approach to security (see chap. 75 by Fuentes/Brauch).²

Japan, a friend of the HSN, defined human security within the context of globalization:

[I]n addition to providing national protection, focusing on each and every person, eliminating threats to people through cooperation by various countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, and striving to strengthen the capacity of people

2 The HSN wants to strengthen human security by creating a more humane world where people can live in security and dignity, free from want and fear, with equal opportunities to develop their full potential. As the only HSN-member in ASEAN Thailand organized the 8th HSN Ministerial in June 2006 in Bangkok (see at: <http://www.humansecurity.gc.ca/hsi_hsn-en.asp> and chap. 75 by Fuentes/Brauch).

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Facing Global Environmental Change

Environmental, Human, Energy, Food, Health and Water Security Concepts

This policy-focused, global and multidisciplinary security handbook on Facing Global Environmental Change addresses new security threats of the 21st century posed by climate change, desertification, water stress, population growth and urbanization. These security dangers and concerns lead to migration, crises and conflicts. They are on the agenda of the UN, OECD, OSCE, NATO and EU. In 100 chapters, 132 authors from 49 countries analyze the global debate on environmental, human and gender, energy, food, livelihood, health and water security concepts and policy problems. In 10 parts they discuss the context and the securitization of global environmental change and of extreme natural and societal outcomes. They suggest a new research programme to move from knowledge to action, from reactive to proactive policies and to explore the opportunities of environmental cooperation for a new peace policy.

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Thank You