

Committee: United Nations Environmental Programme

Topic: Securing Water

Country: South Africa

Name: Tan Yi Hao

School: City University of Hong Kong

General Statement

To human, water is the most important natural resources. Clean water supply is essential for human being in order to survive. Even though we have stepped into 21st century, there are still a lot of water supply problems around the world. Millions of people are facing insufficient fresh water supply. Besides, water contamination is a serious problem, especially in developing country, we are facing now. Human needs to find out a proper sustainable development approach to secure the worldwide water quality.

Geographically, there is uneven rainfall distribution across the territory of South Africa. It causes the frequent flood and draught in the country. During the 19th century, South Africa started experiencing environmental pollution problems which include water quality problems. South Africa has set up a lot of regulations to manage the water quality in the country, such as the Water Service Act and the National Water Act. There is a prediction that with global warming, South Africa will experience much drier dry seasons and much wetter wet seasons, which will result in increasing floods and droughts. In this case, South Africa is facing serious challenge of stable water supply.

Countries in the same region may coordinate to create a water supply allies. For example, Singapore and Malaysia are in a water supply relationship. Singapore purchases water and even rent water stations in Malaysia to supply clean water into the island country. South Africa claims for international cooperation of water supply to solve the insufficient water supply. Countries with sufficient water storage may sell the water to its neighbouring countries. There should be a more complete international water trade systems based on the 2010 UN General Assembly declaration.

Many developing countries are facing severe water pollution due to unsustainably rapid industrialization. South Africa is deeply concerned about the water situation of developing countries, especially the water supply of Africa. UN has already set up International Water Law such as the 1966 The Helsinki Rules. However, the rules are obviously not being implemented well in developing countries. Therefore, we urge for international efforts of assisting developing countries to set up transparent and efficient water quality management systems and regulations.

References:

South africa news. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://www.thewaterpage.com/south_africa.htm

Water quality component of the catchment management strategy. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://www.dwaf.gov.za/Dir_WQM/wqmFrame.htm

Water situation in south africa. (n.d.). Retrieved from <http://www.waterwise.co.za/site/water/environment/situation.html>

Committee: United Nations Environmental Programme

Topic: Precaution and Response to Oil Spills

Country: South Africa

Name: Tan Yi Hao

School: City University of Hong Kong

Oil can be regarded as the most important energy in human daily life. The oil leaked to the sea is fatal to the environment. There are many areas of the earth which have been suffering on the leaked crude oil, such as the Gulf of Mexico and Kuwait. Those areas faced irrecoverable ecological destruction.

The Cape of Good Hope has a high potential for oil pollution along the coast since it is situated on one of the world's major shipping routes. Although contingency plans regarding this issue have been developed, there are still many oil spill disasters occurred. The oil leaked following the sinking of The Castillo de Bellver oil tanker in 1983 and the ore carrier Appollo Sea in 1994 resulted to enormous economic loss and terrible ecocide. On 8th August, a bulk carrier sank at the coast of Knysna which led to spill of about 15 tons of oil.

South Africa is apparently a victim of oil spill problem. We have been alarmed by the severe environmental effect of oil leak. We think that to solve the oil leak problem, we need to come out with a contingency plan which consists of short-term and long-term solutions.

Many scientists argued that human are over-dependent to oil as energy. We need to develop new clean energy like solar energy and wind energy as alternatives of traditional energy to avoid pollution.

For the short-term plan, we recommend the establishment of a special committee. We should invite oil companies and extraordinary scientist to join the committee in order to set up international standard of countermeasure to solve oil spill in extreme condition.

For the long-term plan, we call for international cooperation of investment in developing clean energy. The UN may set up an ambitious programme which aims at finding out a harmless alternative energy to the world.

References:

Moldan , A. (1994). *Impact of a major oil spill*. Retrieved from <http://sacoast.ioisa.org.za/education/envirofacts/oilspillimpact.asp>

Nqayi, Z. (2013, August 21). *South africa: Update on oil spill off the coast of knysna*. Retrieved from <http://allafrica.com/stories/201308221116.html>

West, L. (n.d.). *The 10 worst oil spills in history*. Retrieved from <http://environment.about.com/od/environmentalevents/tp/worst-oil-spills.htm>

West, A. (2010, December 28). *Report warns of oil woes*. Retrieved from <http://www.theage.com.au/national/report-warns-of-oil-woes-20101227-198k2.html>