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The Stream, March 23: Water Security Is National Security



FRIDAY, 23 MARCH 2012 08:00

Water scarcity will likely create conflict in regions around the world within the next decade, according to a report from the United States Director of National Intelligence, launched March 22 in Washington. The report, [available here](#), predicts that water-linked instability is most likely to occur in South Asia and the Middle East.

Providing enough water to feed the planet is [essential for building a sustainable future](#), said United Nations Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon, *Xinhua* reported. The theme of yesterday's UN World Water Day was water and food security.

Mining

Water pollution from acid mine drainage poses a significant challenge to South Africa, whose government has called on citizens to offer solutions, *News 24* reported.

Global mining companies were [ranked according to their social and environmental performance](#) in a report from Zurich-based RepRisk, a business information firm, according to *United Press International*.

United States

President Obama has agreed to [speed up construction on an oil pipeline](#) running from Oklahoma to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico, the southern portion of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, the *Guardian* reported. In its entirety, the Keystone XL pipeline would carry crude oil from Canada's tar sands to the Gulf, potentially crossing important water resources.

Texas farmers suffered the costliest drought in state history in 2011, with [losses reaching \\$7.6 billion](#), according to research from Texas A&M University, *Reuters* reported.

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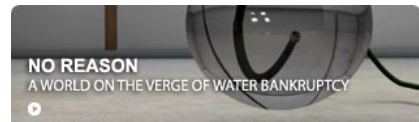
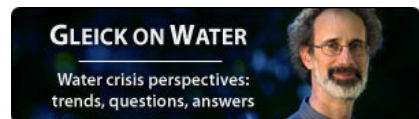
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