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More Countries Looking at Water

March 31, 2011 — A new study finds that more countries around the world are conducting research and publishing scientific data regarding water-related issues.

The report, "Confronting the Global Water Crisis through Research," was released March 22, 2011, and examines key trends in water research on a global level.

Most of the published research on water deals with such issues as water conservation, population growth, economics, climate change, infrastructure, engineering, and transport.

"Some of the findings are surprising," says Klaus Reichardt, founder and CEO of Waterless No-Flush® Urinals. "For instance, from 1970 to 2000 only 12 papers on water resources were published in Iran. However, in the last three years, more than 60 have been published."

Reichardt says this is likely because Iran, along with Brazil, Russia, and South Africa, have experienced severe water shortages in recent years. "As water challenges emerge, these countries put more resources into finding ways to deal with them," he adds.

According to the study, there has been a 30 percent increase in water research each year from 2000 to 2009 worldwide, correlating with increased global water concerns.

Other findings specifically deal with China as the country experiences severe drought. China's increased role in water research is evident in the following:

- The number of scientific articles published on water in China from 2003 to 2010 increased by 28 percent annually
- Although the United States still leads in producing published water research, China, due to its growing water concerns, will likely surpass the United States by 2014
- Worldwide, overall research on the economics of water has grown by more than 100 percent annually from 2004 to 2008.

Water is going to become a growing issue in all industries, including the professional cleaning industry, according to Michael Schaffer, president of CFR, manufacturers of water-reducing/-recycling carpet extractors.

"It likely is going to impact profits, production, and the ways end-customers do everything from cleaning to cooling their facilities in future years."

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