



in Nepal and was even nominated for the World Water Forum '06 Film Festival in Mexico. The national dailies were full of praise for the tele-film that introduces the rainwater harvesting technology for addressing water scarcity in Kathmandu. Jalpari was also showcased in the World Urban Forum III, Vancouver and is nominated for the Himalaya Film Festival in the Netherlands. The producers of the tele-film recently gave permission to the World Water Forum to showcase it in water related events following a request from the latter for the same.

The role of the media in promoting the technology and disseminating information about it has been encouraging. National newspapers in the country have highlighted the successful implementation of the technology in various building and have repeatedly presented the rainwater harvesting technology as the readily available option to solving Kathmandu's water woes.



The effort of RWHPP has seen the formation of a government-level Rainwater Harvesting Steering Committee. The committee has initiated work to prepare rainwater harvesting guidelines for urban and rural areas. The newly drafted Urban Water Sanitation Policy has a rainwater harvesting chapter in it. Following a workshop in January, the housing colony sector has also committed to install plants in new housing projects. Similarly, Bank of Kathmandu, a leading private sector bank, has agreed to provide priority and facilities to loan proposals for building houses that will have the rainwater harvesting system. Information on rainwater harvesting is reaching the community level thus building a mass ready to adopt this technology.



Initiatives

Under RWHPP, a website with rainwater harvesting calculator is being designed to provide information to the people on the amount of rainwater they can collect at their rooftops, the size of system they can install and the cost of it.

NGOFUWS has given training to the Municipal Police of Kathmandu Metropolitan City Enforcement Department, who were earlier cutting pipes that were draining rainwater from terraces of buildings to the main roads, to motivate residents to collect rainwater rather than draining it to the road. Similarly, Nepal Red Cross Society Kathmandu District and Lalitpur District, as well as Guthi Youth Network, after participating in a training program on rainwater harvesting system, signed an agreement for dissemination of the technology and have been promoting the technology with their door-to-door campaigns.



On the cultural front, the ancient Sithi Nakha festival, which is celebrated at the end of monsoon every year with farmers feasting and cleaning up water sources, is being promoted as a national festival in order to spread the practice of cleaning and preserving water sources. Additionally, thanks to RWHPP, the Stone Spout Users' Association has initiated efforts to recharge groundwater.

Rainwater should be utilized- Honble' Minister Mr. Gopal Man Shrestha

RSS, Kathmandu: Minister for Physical Planning and Works Gopal Man Shrestha stated that we should use rainwater as per our convenience looking into the inability of water supply to meet the demand while addressing an

international workshop entitled 'Rainwater harvesting; everyone's interest' in Sri Lanka. He told that the techniques of rainwater harvesting and its use is a matter of interest for Nepali people.

Source: National Daily The Gorkhapatra, September 30, 2006

National Steering Committee on Rainwater Harvesting Secretariat

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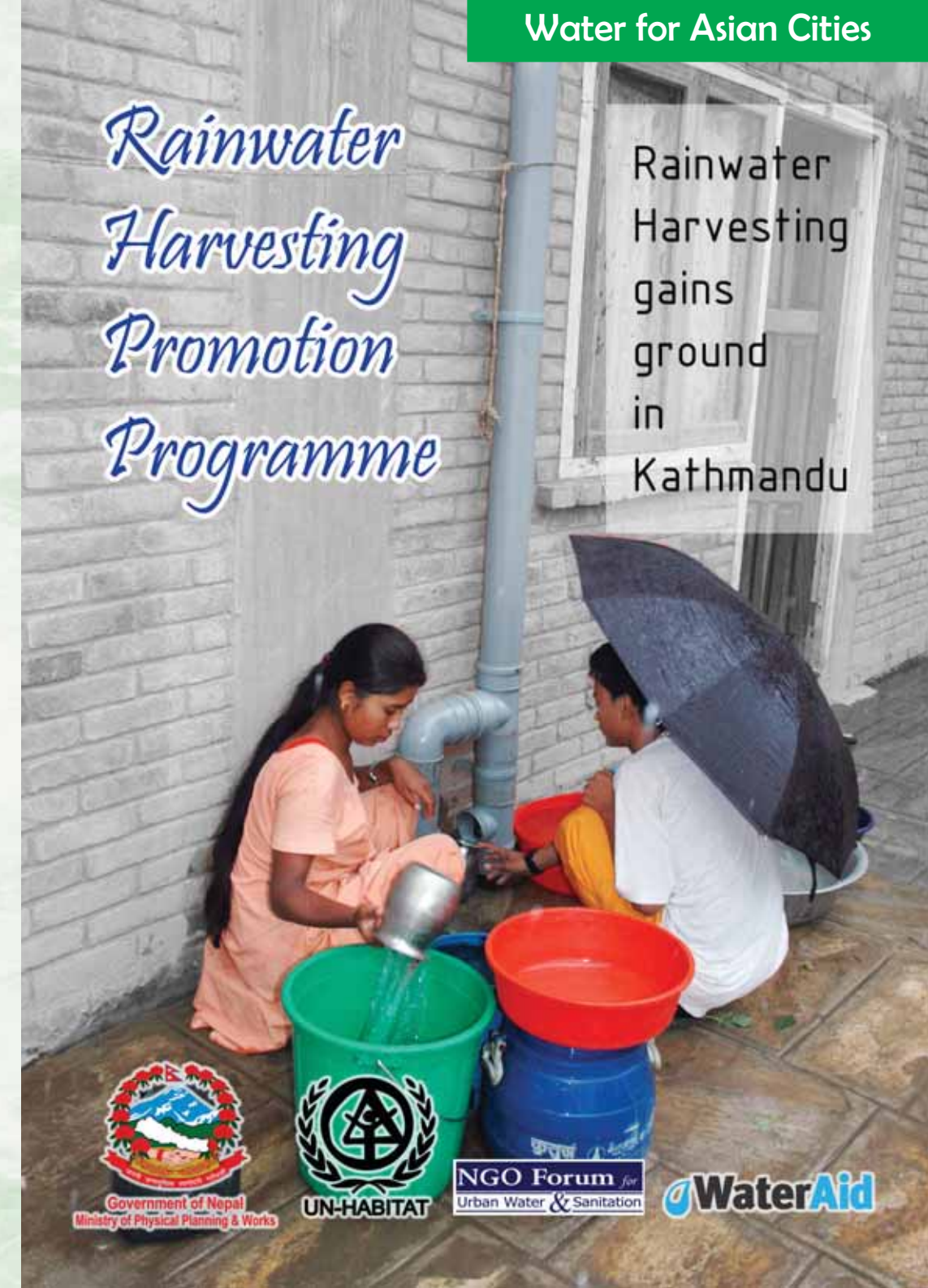
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Rainwater Harvesting Promotion Programme

Rainwater Harvesting gains ground in Kathmandu



Like in many urban centers of the developing world, water, the essential element of life, is becoming an increasingly scarce resource in Kathmandu Valley. Traditional sources of water such as stone spouts are drying up due to excessive extraction of groundwater by an increasingly thirsty population. Furthermore, Melamchi project, a mega undertaking of multiple donors and the government of Nepal has been delayed, making bulk supply of water to Kathmandu unlikely till 2011.



NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation (NGOFUWS), in support of UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme,

Ministry of Physical Planning & Works and Water Aid Nepal launched Rainwater Harvesting Promotion Program (RWHPP) in five municipalities of Kathmandu Valley and nearby Banepa town in January 2006. RWHPP seeks to familiarize people with this simple technology of tapping nature's gift and popularize its use at the household, community and municipal levels. With water scarcity hindering the realization of Millennium Development Goals in this country, this initiative is making gallant strides for ensuring that this hindrance is uprooted.

Elements

To achieve the objective, the program employs four elements.



1st is policy advocacy in which the program lobbies for mandatory requirement of rainwater harvesting system in building by-laws.



2nd the program runs capacity building workshops on rainwater harvesting to train plumbers, civil engineers and architect engineers, and also to train probable clients like students and housewives.



3rd the program runs a help-desk, which functions as a matchmaker between clients willing to have rainwater harvesting facility and plumbers trained for the purpose.



4th since seeing often precedes believing, the program runs demonstration sites in four different places, three in Kathmandu - Trichandra Multiple Campus, Sambridha Awas - the Squatters Rehabilitation Community Housing facility and Department of Urban Planning and Building Construction - and one in Sheer Memorial Community Hospital in Banepa.



Achievements

In just a year of initiation, the RWHPP has made its presence felt quite strongly in the deliberations or policy makers and equally in the decision making of commoners. With the effort of the program, a Rainwater Harvesting Club has been set up where plumbers interact and discuss issues of rainwater harvesting. Thanks to the promotion program, Kathmandu Municipality has installed a rainwater harvesting system in the Multipurpose Martial Arts Center in the city, and Nepal Water Supply Corporation has installed a rainwater harvesting system in its Kamaladi branch. The corporation has also started raising awareness among consumers on the technique. Similarly, the World Wildlife Fund has installed a system in its office building. Altogether, some 200 buildings have installed the system so far.



Total number of trained participants in 2006:

Plumbers	- 250
Practicing Engineers	- 170
Engineering Students	- 375
Training of Trainers	- 280
Instructors	- 35
Civil Society	- 3000

Housing colonies promoted by the private companies have also started to install rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge system in their building structures.

At Trichandra Campus, the Youth Red Cross Circle is running a rain centre that provides counseling and demonstration services on rainwater harvesting.

Promotion and Dissemination

NGO Forum has been using a variety of tools to promote, and disseminate information on, this technique. A hoarding board has been placed in Kuponhole locality in central Kathmandu for the purpose. The audio-visual medium has also been employed. Jalpari (Water Fairy in Nepali), a tele-film, was made for the purpose. It was extremely popular

