

A Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme

Mitigating Climate Change Impact on Asia and the Pacific

The effects of climate change are now visible everywhere. Crop yields have declined, partly due to rising temperatures and extreme weather events. Glaciers are retreating, causing grave consequences for future water supplies. Permafrost is melting, disturbing all that rests on it and expelling new sources of Green House Gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere. As a result, intense interest has been raised among policymakers around the world on an evolving long-term international framework to promote the transition to lower-carbon economies needed to address global climate change. Attention to these developments is especially high in Asia & the Pacific region, which has the world's most dynamic economies but also the fastest growth in greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming.

The region's rapid economic expansion has clearly brought substantial benefits to its poor. This would not have been possible without increased access to energy, and this remains an essential input to further poverty reduction. But current energy production and use patterns, coupled with land use changes and other consequences of rapid economic growth, are exacting an increasingly high price on the region's environment, its security, and its peo-

ple. These impacts are of such a scale as to affect the entire planet. If current trends continue, the Asia and Pacific region's greenhouse gas emissions - whether from energy production, transportation, deforestation, or other sources - will soon be comparable to those of Europe and North America. Emissions from energy use alone are projected to be 127% higher in 2030 than they are today, with the region responsible for 42% of all global energy-related emissions.

Land use changes, booming industrialization, and waste management challenges add further to the region's expanding emissions. If business continues as usual— with the region's production and consumption patterns remaining highly carbon intensive—future growth will be environmentally unsustainable and economic growth itself can be jeopardized.

The region must find and adopt new patterns of urban development, energy production and consumption, land use, and waste management, or else it will find itself increasingly contributing to the global climate change problem and broader resource degradation—with rising negative consequences for the people of the region and the planet as a whole.

The latest report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as well as the United Kingdom's stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change agree that such adjustments are needed to avoid threats to poverty reduction derived from new threats to the health, safety, and productivity of the poor.

Climate change will have many manifestations in Asia and the Pacific, and measures are needed to protect the most vulnerable from the adverse effects of sea level rise, melting glaciers, more frequent and severe storms, greater variability of rainfall, and other predicted impacts.

There is a global consensus that 1.2 billion people could experience freshwater scarcity by 2020; crop yields in Central and South Asia could drop by 50% between now and 2050; and coastal communities, coastal and marine ecosystems, and even entire island nations could vanish.

In human terms, people who already struggle day-to-day and season-to-season just to survive will find themselves coping with even worse insecurities. Millions could become climate refugees, and the poorest people in the poorest countries are likely to experience the earliest and greatest suffering.



Mr. P. Chidambaram
Finance Minister of India
on Climate Change

Last year, the Government of India had appointed an expert committee to study the impact of climate change and identify the measures that the country has to take in the future. In his Budget Speech on 29 February 2008, the Finance Minister said *"Even while adhering to the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibility' we can - and we must - do a number of things in our self-interest. We can promote clean technology products; we can review fuel emission and efficiency regulations; we can replace wood by solar as the fuel of common use; we can encourage the use of gas which is the most benign hydrocarbon; we can set up a trading platform for carbon emissions; we can build sustainable green field cities; & we can do more. In order to explore & implement these and other ideas, Government of India proposes to establish a permanent institutional mechanism that will play a development & coordination role."*

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Action is needed both to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and to identify and act upon the highest priorities for integrating climate change adaptation measures into planning and investment at the project, municipal, and regional global levels.

ADB Initiatives on Climate Change

With this challenge facing the Asian region and our planet, the Asian Development Bank plans to respond to the growing demand from its developing member countries for policies, institutions, and investments that can achieve environmentally sustainable economic growth. ADB Projects with environmental components or objectives have increased substantially in recent years.

ADB has also been working to build understanding in the region on climate change response options for nearly two decades. There is clearly much to do, and it will take a collective response

Source: Excerpts from ADB Publication on Climate Change, 2007

from governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to make it happen in the necessary timeframe. New policy and institutional approaches are needed, along with an infusion of capital into clean energy projects, new land use practices, and adaptation measures. This will draw upon both the emerging global carbon market and private funding.

ADB is mainstreaming both mitigation and adaptation through its ongoing and emerging climate change programs. By expanding rural power supplies with hydroelectric power in Pakistan, capturing fugitive methane emissions and improving urban health through a project on urban solid waste management in 15 towns in the State of Rajasthan in India; meeting power demand with environmentally benign renewable energy from agricultural wastes in PR China; installing hydropower and geothermal for small power grids in Indonesia; assisting in climate proofing adaptation in the Pacific, ADB is trying to turn ideas

into action. ADB is putting lot of efforts to address the issue of climate change. There is a possibility of two ADB projects in Asia - possibly one in the Philippines and other in Indonesia in which UN-HABITAT would also contribute.

Joint UN-HABITAT -ADB Efforts

ADB is providing technical support and marketing of Carbon in several Asian cities. There are around 30 projects related to Carbon Market Initiative (CMI) in Asia. Such kind of activities can be linked up with water and sanitation programme related to wastewater treatment and solid waste management. Similarly, most of the water programmes are associated with energy consumption particularly pumping of water, operation and maintenance of water supply system. To address these issues, Energy Efficient Initiative (EEI) programme is being launched by ADB. UN-HABITAT will explore the possibilities of collaboration with ADB in Vietnam to take up a pilot demonstration project in the field of CMI and EEI.

High Priority to Urban WATSAN Infrastructure in Union Budget of India

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), a flagship programme of the Government of India (GOI), is the main vehicle for improving urban infrastructure. It has also succeeded in driving reforms in urban governance and urban-related laws. The Union Budget of GOI has proposed to increase the allocation for JNNURM from Rs.5,482 crore (US\$1.5 billion) in 2007-08 to Rs.6,866 crore (US\$1.8 billion) in 2008-09.

Drinking Water Mission

The goal of the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission is to supply safe drinking water to uncovered habitations and slipped back habitations as well as to address issues of water quality. The Finance Minister has proposed to en-

hance the allocation to Rs.7,300 crore (US\$1.9 billion) in 2008-09 as against Rs.6,500 crore (US\$1.7 billion) in 2007-08.

Water for School Children

The Mission does not yet have a separate component for school children in water deficient habitations. Realizing that the children should have good, clean drinking water, the Finance Minister has proposed to allocate funds to the Mission under a separate sub-head in order to install a standalone system to provide potable water to each school in water deficient habitations. The cost of each system, depending on the technology and design, is estimated to be between Rs.15,000 (US\$385) to Rs.30,000 (US\$770).

While a detailed plan for four years will be drawn up, the GOI proposes to make an initial allocation of Rs.200 crore (US\$51 million) in 2008-09. The Total Sanitation Campaign is all about changing habits and mindsets, and it is a continuous process. The Govt. of India has proposed to provide Rs.1,200 crore (US\$308 million) in 2008-09.

In July 2004, the Finance Minister had announced support for a desalination plant to be installed near Chennai. A proposal now received from the Government of Tamil Nadu to establish a plant under public private partnership is being examined for approval. Meanwhile, the Finance Minister has proposed to signal the Government's support to the project by setting apart Rs.300 crore (US\$77 million) in 2008-09.

Collaborative initiatives in P.R. China

UN-HABITAT Country Support Strategy for 2008-12 emphasizes upon raising political will and public awareness; integrated urban water and sanitation; water conservation and demand management, policy reforms on water and sanitation services and protection of existing water resources and wastewater management.

The outcome of UN-HABITAT's involvement in P.R. China has so far been encouraging. UN-HABITAT in cooperation with the Kunming Public Utility Bureau initiated community based environment management, water conservation and demand management, which complements ADB assisted project to augment water supply to the city of Kunming. ADB now looks forward for cooperation with UN-HABITAT in the field of waste water treatment.

The initiatives emerging during 2008 would primarily include Community-based water and sanitation services for small towns in Hebei Province, wherein ADB is working for small town infrastructure improvement, Capacity building and Human values-based water, sanitation and hygiene education.

Facilitating WATSAN services in Vietnam

UN-HABITAT strategy for Vietnam during 2008-12 is to support pro-poor investment in water and sanitation so as to facilitate equitable social, economical and environmental development. These initiatives are proposed to be undertaken in partnerships with Communities, Utilities, the Government, NGOs, ADB and other international financial institutions and other UN agencies, with appropriate monitoring and evaluation.

Currently UN-HABITAT is working in 6 towns in Vietnam. A new Cooperation Agreement is being developed in the Tuy Hoa with the local utility, complementing ADB investments. The major initiatives to be undertaken in 2008 include continuing support to central region small and medium towns project, water conservation and demand management, gender mainstreaming, strategies and arsenic mitigation.

During the UN-HABITAT - ADB Annual consultation held in Manila in February 2008, UN-HABITAT and ADB agreed to work together on Carbon Market Initiative (CMI) and the Energy Efficient Initiative (EEI) to take up a pilot demonstration project in Vietnam.

Initiatives in Cambodia

UN-HABITAT has setup an office in Phnom Penh to initiate WATSAN activities in Cambodia. A country support strategy has been developed with focus on activities that will complement ADB investments and extend initiatives to fight against extreme poverty by facilitating the provisions of communal services such as water supply, toilet provision for urban poor communities and strengthening pro-poor governance with sanitation as a priority sector.

UN-HABITAT activities planned during 2008 in selected urban centres include Capacity building of public utilities; GIS based Poverty Mapping; Waste water management for urban development; Gender and equity issues in sanitation for communities and utilities; Arsenic awareness and mitigation programmes; Women's savings groups for communal water supplies and sanitation and Women's Savings and Credit for Democratic Governance.

WAC Activities in Lao PDR

The WAC strategy in Lao PDR for 2008-12 includes provision of basic services in selected towns/urban centres with urban water supply by supporting the ongoing large infrastructure projects; sanitation and drainage facilities through installation of latrines with septic tanks; solid waste management with identification of suitable sites for landfills; HVWSHE education in school curricula, establishment of water classrooms in selected schools and appropriate capacity building initiatives.

It proposes to achieve through community participation, pro-poor tariffs, revolving funds, conservation and demand management, public-private partnerships, and public awareness campaigns for better linkages.

In 2008, the WAC Programme activities in Lao PDR will mainly be on capacity building for water utilities, hygiene promotion, gender mainstreaming and community based bio-gas projects, in addition to the planned activities that include household water treatment, community led total sanitation in selected urban communities and solar energy linked with water and sanitation demonstration pilot projects.

WAC in Indonesia

Under the WAC programme, the focus in Indonesia is on capacity building for provincial water and sanitation groups and city sanitation forums. Pro-poor urban sanitation initiatives have also been planned through implementation of community-based sanitation management. The support strategy for Indonesia features the linkage being established between the Capacity Building Institutions and on-the-ground activities related to environmental sanitation. The WAC Programme is supporting the City of West Jakarta, Makassar & Lampung in piloting and developing community-based approaches for improved environmental sanitation. The Annual Consultation of UN-HABITAT and ADB held in February 2008 emphasized the importance of the issue of climate change and the possibility of ADB supported projects. UN-HABITAT would contribute for promoting projects relating to mitigating climate change in Indonesia.

Annual Review and Planning Meeting concludes in Vientiane, Lao PDR

UN-HABITAT organized its 2nd Annual Review and Planning Meeting under Water for Asian Cities and MEK-WATSAN Programmes from 6-9 January 2008 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The meeting was attended by all the CTAs in the field under the Water for Asian Cities Programme, MEK-WATSAN and Water for LAC Countries Program.

The overall objective of the second Review and Planning meeting was to formulate a strategy and work plan to accelerate the implementation of WAC Programme in Asia and LAC countries as well as MEK-WATSAN Initiative so that the achievement of MDG targets for water and sanitation in all the participating countries in these regions are expedited.

Specifically the meeting reviewed the progress of the activities in various countries since the last meeting and also discussed and developed country and regional annual work plans. Another outcome of the meeting was an Activity Plan for the Region to contribute to the International year of Sanitation 2008. The Meeting also discussed the role and participation of WAC / MEK-WATSAN

Programmes in various international events including WUF-IV in Nanjing, Singapore Water Week, Stockholm Water Week, APMHUP Iran and World Water Forum 2009 in Istanbul.

The UN-HABITAT Country Support Strategies and their linkage with UNDAF and the 'One UN programme' were also examined. During the meeting there was a review of projects in pipeline and linkages to ERSO type of projects Streamlining the process of developing Cooperation Agreements and local fund raising, Strategies for operationalising the new MoU with ADB, Operationalisation of WAC and MEK-WATSAN Strategy 2008-2012 and developing new perspectives for WAC and MEK-WATSAN programmes with growing emphasis on climate change were also discussed.

The complexity in meeting the water and sanitation targets requires that the WAC and MEK-WATSAN programmes adopt an integrated and holistic approach in pursuing the goals. The review and planning meeting, therefore, was divided into several segments comprising of (a) Strategic Planning; (b) Country Programmes;

(c) Partnerships; (d) Project Formulation and Management; (e) Local Fund Raising; and (f) Substantive challenges. The meeting which brought together the concerned headquarter and field staff and the three IUNVs from Lao PDR and Cambodia was coordinated by the Chief WSS-II. In addition, a two member SIDA team also joined the review meeting and provided useful guidance to the programme. Mr. Johan Willert of the SIDA shared SIDA Perspectives on Water and Sanitation MDGs. Mr. Ake Nilsson, the second SIDA team member also shared the SIDA Monitoring requirements in terms of content, format, methodology and timing besides discussing the cross-cutting issues from the point of view of SIDA such as poverty orientation, rights perspective, governance and participation, Gender, HIV/AIDS and Environment. One of the key outputs of the Meeting was that staff members became aware of MTSIP and WSTF Strategy 2008 to 2012. They were also able to share common vision and strategy for Asia and the way forward. It also provided an opportunity to peer review strategy for LAC countries.



UN-HABITAT - ADB Annual Consultations held in Manila

UN-HABITAT and ADB Annual Consultation Meeting was held in Manila, the Philippines on 18-19 February 2008 to review the progress of on-going activities of WAC Programme and MEK-WATSAN Initiative and to plan the future areas of collaboration.

The agenda set out for the Annual Consultation was mainly to:

- review the 2007 progress and prepare Work Plan for 2008;
- jointly evaluate the first phase of the UN-HABITAT - ADB collaboration; and
- discuss the start-up and implementation modalities of the second MoU.

The UN-HABITAT Mission led by Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief, Water and Sanitation Section (WSS-II) along with five other Mission members, Mr. Chris Radford, Senior Human Settlements Advisor, Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific (ROAP), Dr. Kulwant Singh, Regional Chief Technical Advisor, WAC Programme, Mr. Avi Sarkar, Chief Technical Advisor, MEK-WATSAN Initiative, Dr. Roshan Shrestha, Chief Technical Advisor, WAC Programme-Nepal, Ms. Hyekyung Diana Park, Associate Human

Settlements Officer, WSS-II, had consultations with ADB, which was facilitated by the Regional and Sustainable Development Department through the Energy, Transport and Water Division with different operational Departments of the Bank.

The Annual Consultation in Manila has brought out the successful completion of the first phase of the UN-HABITAT collaboration with ADB and the expansion of activities of WSTF over the years. The Meeting decided to have a final review of the first phase of WAC programme collaboration of UN-HABITAT and ADB during 2003 and 2007 by a team of international consultants and discuss the draft publication with the stakeholders during an International Event in 2008 where both ADB and UN-HABITAT will participate. ADB also plans to release its publication on 'Urbanization and Sustainability in Asia'.

The Work Plan activities for 2008 were finalized with expansion of programmes to Pakistan, Central Asian Republics and the Pacific Island Countries. The Consultation recommended to increase focus on Sanitation Sector in the new initiatives being planned in Asia both under WAC and MEK-WATSAN Programmes.

The Consultation also agreed to have joint initiatives by UN-HABITAT and ADB in global and regional events during 2008 which mainly include International Water Week in June 2008 in Singapore; World Water Week at Stockholm in August 2008 and 4th World Water Forum in Nanjing, PR China in October 2008. The Consultation also considered active involvement and joint cooperation in the areas such as Climate Change, Carbon Market initiatives, etc.

Greater Mekong Summit (GMS)

Leaders of the six GMS countries will be meeting in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 30-31 March 2008 to discuss the progress and chart out future directions in GMS cooperation. The triennial meeting, third among GMS Leaders, discusses on "Enhancing Competitiveness through Greater Connectivity", with an aim to sustain and deepen economic cooperation among the GMS countries, to meet the development challenges and realize the common vision of an integrated, harmonious and prosperous sub-region. UN-HABITAT, being closely working with ADB for developing a project for 10 towns in the three Mekong Region Countries, will participate in the Summit.

One Country, One Budget Programme of UN-HABITAT

In a meeting between the Chief, WSS-II and Director, ROAP, UN-HABITAT held during a Mission to Fukuoka, Japan from 10-11 January 2008, collaboration between WAC Programme of WSIB and ROAP was discussed for strengthening collaboration at country level for joint programmes and resource mobilization. The visiting WSIB Mission shared information on WAC Programme activities in the region and Work Plan 2008 besides giving an overview on ERSO as a new UN-HABITAT initiative. ROAP is implementing several large scale human settlement related projects in Asian countries particularly Afghanistan, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Cambodia. These projects have significant com-

ponent of water and sanitation. Welcoming this collaboration, Director, ROAP felt that technical support from WSIB would be instrumental in making ROAP projects more effective and result oriented particularly in designing of water supply systems & ecological sanitation. After discussion both agreed to establish Nepal and Pakistan as the model countries as WAC Programme and ROAP presence is strong in these two countries respectively. It was agreed that WAC Programme and ROAP would work in these two countries as a model for one country, one budget programme. The contacts at country level will be amongst HPMs and CTAs and at regional level amongst HSAs and regional CTAs.

ROAP to Play Key Role with WAC in Pakistan

A Technical Assistance for Sindh Basic Urban Services in Pakistan is currently in progress. A loan for Sindh cities improvement programme, which will cover Water Supply, Sanitation and Waste Management, is expected to be approved in 2008. ADB has suggested UN-HABITAT support in the on-going project in Sindh Province of Pakistan, particularly in the field of HVWSHE, advocacy and awareness programmes.

UN-HABITAT will have a strong focus in Pakistan. UN-HABITAT will join the next ADB Mission in Pakistan. UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) will also play a key role in Pakistan programme.

SIDA Team visits WAC Project Cities in Madhya Pradesh

Mr. Johan Willert & Mr. Ake Nilsson of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency visited the project cities of Indore, Bhopal & Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh from 11-13 January 2008 to assess impacts of WAC Programme on the ground. In Indore, the Mission visited the Community Managed Water Supply Scheme (CMWSS) and Community Based Water Bottling & Purification Schemes in Shiv Nagar and Dwarakapuri and had interaction with the community members operating the systems. They also visited the pilot project on Grey Water Re-use Scheme at SGSITS & had interaction with the faculty of the institute. The team also visited HWWSHE classroom at Bal Vinay Mandir and had interaction with teachers and students. During the field visit to Ekta Nagar, an open defecation free slum, the mission visited the initiatives under the Slum Environmental Sanitation Initiative (SESI). Mission had discussions with the Mayor of Indore regarding future plan of Indore Municipal Corporation for slum area development & with the District Magistrate regarding development initiatives for the poor communities.



In Bhopal the mission had discussion with the Principal Secretary, Urban Administration and Development Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh and the officials of the Project UDAY regarding the role of WAC programme vis-à-vis Project UDAY. The Mission was apprised of the significant role played by WAC Programme in development in slum areas and for capacity building of the project staff and the Municipal Corporations of the project cities.

The Mission also visited Shanti nagar, another open defecation free slum and had interaction with various cooperating partners of UN-HABITAT regarding the initiatives on development of Urban catchment management strategy and action plan, promotion of rainwater harvesting, capacity building on Water Demand Management, development and implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategy & action plan, prevention of spread of HIV, Citizen report cards and SESI.

Community Development in WAC Towns in Lao PDR

Several achievements have been made in the WAC project in Lao PDR, such as formation of WATSAN groups and Project Implementation Units (PIU)/Community Action Teams (CAT) in 10 towns. Training modules have been developed and Training of Trainers programmes have been carried out. Village Environmental Improvement (VEI) of the first phase towns have been drafted and detailed design and bidding procedures are currently on-going.

In the first phase of the project, UN-HABITAT worked in 3 towns: Kenethao, Nan and Houn. These three towns all have ethnic minority composition consisting of Lao Loum, Lao Theung and Lao Soung. WATSANs and PIU teams have been formed and the VEI plans have

been finalized in consultation with the community members. It is also a policy that women have to be incorporated into all the WATSAN teams that are formed, therefore there is an almost 30% representation of women in the WATSAN committees in 4 of the 10 towns, while in Khoun town, women representation is at 71% - the highest in all the towns.

Activities for Phase II of the project are on-going, with an additional 5 towns: Xanakham, Keo Oudom, Xamtay, Khoun and Sing. Similar activities as those carried out in Phase I are on-going. Initial Poverty and Social Assessment reports have been prepared in consultation with the communities and district authorities.

Future Intervention plans

In the First Phase Towns, WAC activities will continue with: Finalization of VEI plans and their implementation; finalization of the respective Community Health Action Plans (CHAP) plans, Budget and implementation modalities; Sanitation grant modalities; information on HHs with willingness for water connection, and finalize the training packages.

For the second phase towns, WAC activities will center on: Consultation meetings for Village Environmental Improvement and Community Health Action Plans formulation (village wise) and orientation on the project, duty statements etc. to the PIU, CAT and WATSANs (Town wise).

Manual on the Right to Water and Sanitation

There is growing interest in the contributions of human rights to efforts to extend access to water and sanitation, but little practical information is available at present on how this can be achieved. The Manual on the Right to Water and Sanitation is designed to assist policy makers and practitioners in implementing the right to water and sanitation.

The Manual has been produced by the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Human Rights Programme and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). This essential publication, written in non-legal language, addresses the vital need to demonstrate how human rights can be practically realised in the water and sanitation sector. The Manual demonstrates that implementing the right to water and sanitation is not limited to legal recognition or allocation of funds. Rather, it provides the basis for practical reforms

in many areas of water supply and sanitation and in water resource management that can help make the water and sanitation sector operate in a manner that is more pro-poor, accountable and inclusive.

The Manual will be useful for practical implementation as it:

- Explains the key components of the right to water and sanitation and their implications for governments.
- Describes a range of practical policy measures that could be adopted by governments, in particular those in low-income countries, to achieve the right to water and sanitation in the shortest possible time.
- Illustrates examples of policy measures that have been taken to achieve particular components of the right to water and sanitation.
- Provides a checklist by which governments can assess their achievements in relation to the right to water and sanitation.

MANUAL ON THE RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION



A tool to assist policy makers and practitioners develop strategies for implementing the human right to water and sanitation



- Describes the roles of other actors, in particular, individuals and communities in contributing to the achievement of the right to water and sanitation.

The full Manual is available on the Web which can be downloaded at www.cohre.org/manualrtws.

Institute for Water and Sanitation in Thailand

UN-HABITAT signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Preservation of Water (SPW), Thailand in 2006 with the objectives to:

- develop a partnership towards the establishment of an Institute for Human Values-based Water and Sanitation Education for undertaking research and training; and
- build the capacity of the service providers of water and sanitation in the WAC participating countries.

Under the project an Institute for Water has been established. The Institute has established a HVWSHE Classroom for experiential learning. The Institute also

plans to provide various training in Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE) and is also developing training materials and resource documents in different languages for training personnel from Central, East and South Asia, the Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and LAC



countries. The Centre is developing capacity of water and sanitation utilities in implementing projects efficiently and effectively to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

A UN-HABITAT Mission comprised of the Chief, WSS-II; CTA, WAC and MEK-WATSAN Programmes and CTA, WAC Nepal visited the Institute for Water in Lopburi, Thailand on 21 February 2008. The Mission had discussions on the training schedules for India, Nepal, Laos, Cambodia and China; as well as an Experts Group Meeting on HVWSHE to assess and review the progress till date and measure impact of Behavior change. The Institute shall conduct six training programmes of one-week duration in 2008 for the participants from Nepal, Lao PDR, Cambodia and India.

Neighborhood Committees Conference under Multi-stakeholder Platform

Gwalior Municipal Corporation (GMC) in partnership with UN-HABITAT is promoting establishment of Multi-stakeholder platform in Gwalior with a view to identify and organize various stakeholders into a federated structure called Multi Stakeholder Platform (MSP) to create scope for the 'collective' and 'institutionalized' voice of the poor/slum dwellers of the city, who are typically marginalized from the governance of city's water supply and planning decisions.

Under this initiative, GMC convened a Conference of Neighborhood Committees (Mohallah Samities) on 23rd January 2008. 600 citizens of Gwalior attended the conference. The other dignitaries present were Mr. V. N. Shejwalkar, Hon'ble Mayor, Gwalior, Mr. Tomar, Leader of Opposition, Members of Mayor in Council and Dr. Pawan Sharma, Commissioner, GMC. Mr. Shejwalkar in his address to the public

made an appeal for cooperating with GMC in the management of municipal waste and keeping the city clean. This turned out to be platform form addressing the public grievances with respect to provision of urban basic services.

In the conference Mr. R.K. Shukla, Health Officer, GMC introduced the field officials of Health Department responsible for Municipal Waste Management of the city and requested the members of the Neighborhood committees to inform of the complain on collection and transportation of waste. He also requested the members for co-



Mr. V. N. Shejwalkar, Hon'ble Mayor, Gwalior Municipal Corporation in his Address during the Conference

operating in water supply works in Municipal Corporation. Representatives from the committees appreciated this initiative of GMC and promised all co-operation to the GMC in the efficient delivery of Municipal Services.

Community Toilet in Gwalior handed over to the Community Groups

Two community toilets, one in Raja Gas Godam and other in Paiga, constructed by Gwalior Municipal Corporation under the UN-HABITAT supported Slum Environmental Sanitation Initiative were handed over to the Community Water and Sanitation Committees by Mr. VN Sejwalkar, Mayor of Gwalior on 22nd and 23rd January 2008. The poor settlement of Paiga and Raja Gas Godam having 1500 households without access to household toilets were compelled to resort to open defecation. Based on the poverty pocket situational analysis conducted as a part of Slum Environmental Sanitation Initiative (SESI) being implemented by UN-HABITAT under its Water for Asian Cities Programme in partnership with Water Aid and Gwalior Municipal Corporation, need

for the community toilets in these localities were identified. Sambhav, the local partner NGO played a pivotal role in mobilization of the residents of the poverty pockets to form Community Water

through collection of user charges.

The Community toilets have separate facilities for men, women, disabled and the old aged people. There are child friendly toilets for boys and girls as well as bathing facility for men and women. The facility is equipped with rainwater harvesting system, recycling of wastewater and incineration for sanitary waste. The Operation and maintenance of the Community toilet will be done by the CWASC through collection of user charges. Sambhav has provided training to the members of the CWASC regarding O & M of Community toilet, book keeping etc. The members of the committee have visited Trichy and other places in India to learn about the management of the Community Toilets.



Supply and Sanitation Committee (CWASC) and got them registered as a legal entity. The CWASC raised the demand for the common sanitation facility and assured to operate and maintain it

Pact to Work Out Waste Disposal Plan for Five Municipalities Inked in Nepal

Five separate long-term strategies and short-term action plans are being drafted to facilitate solid waste management in five municipalities of five development regions. An agreement was reached today between the Solid Waste Management and Resources Mobilisation Centre (SWMRMC) of the Ministry of Local Development and the UN-HABITAT to institute a fund for this purpose.

The UN-HABITAT has provided Rs 6 million. Funds collected will also be utilised for the preparation of status reports and databases of all 58 municipalities to help the government plan solid waste management activities.

The UN-HABITAT will support the SWMRMC and municipalities through capacity building in Clean Development Mechanism and climate change issues and demonstrate how such projects can be linked with recently established financing mechanisms for the Clean Development Mechanism.

Since July, the UN-HABITAT has been helping the SWMRMC develop a proposed Solid Waste Management Act and a National Solid Waste Management Guideline. This will help the government and local authorities implement the act and the guideline in five municipalities in Nepal. This demonstration in turn will help scale up the implementation of the act and the guideline in all 58 municipalities.

The project will also build capacity of the SWMRMC and the municipalities to develop potential Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) projects associated with municipal landfill sites, thereby contributing towards the mitigation of climate change.

"We will concentrate on capacity building of municipal staff of five selected municipalities on solid waste issues so that they can execute solid waste management programmes more effectively and achieve progress towards the development of CDM projects," said Ashok

Shahi, Deputy Manager at the SWMRMC.

He said the SWMRMC will prepare Municipal Level long-term strategic plans for the five selected municipalities and short-term action plans and implementation through a pilot project will follow. Shahi added that development of coordination and cooperation mechanisms with all the stakeholders and other non-government organisations at municipal and national levels will also be enhanced.

Rajesh Manandhar, Water and Sanitation Coordinator of UN-HABITAT, said the project is going to provide a new perspective for the traditional way of managing solid waste. "We will provide a platform for each of the municipalities to draft their own strategies and action plans. There will not be any interference from our side because each municipality has its own problems and only the local resource person can find the best solution," he added.

UN-HABITAT - Coca Cola Launches the "Partnership for Safe Water" Campaign

UN-HABITAT together with Coca Cola India and Department of Water Supply and Sewerage, Nepal is launching a public-private partnership campaign to promote safe water and sanitation in Nepal on 9th March 2008. The "**Partnership for Safe Water**" will focus on promoting simple Household Water Treatment (HWT) options in urban and peri-urban communities so as to improve access to safe water and reduce diarrhoeal diseases. The campaign will be launched in Hetauda, Bharatpur, Butwal, Nepalgunj and Dhangadi Municipalities of Nepal with a total population of about three million.

The campaign is being launched in Nepal under the contribution agreement between UN-HABITAT and Coca Cola India to collaborate on improving access to people of Nepal to safe drinking water & sanitation facilities. This unique

partnership between public and private sector will work on improving both the demand and supply of various HWT options so that the general public can have better access to these options. The campaign will support producers of HWT options in expanding their distribution network and raise the demand for these options through social marketing. The programme aims at promoting point-of-use treatment of water, re-treatment of drinking water at the time of consumption to prevent health risks, and capacity building of the people to have access to safe drinking water.

UN-HABITAT has signed a cooperation agreement with ENPHO, a local NGO based in Nepal, to implement the project on Capacity Building and Promotion of Household Drinking Water Treatment and Hygiene Improvement in Urban Areas of Nepal under the UN-

HABITAT—Coca Cola India Partnership. The Project focusing on providing access to safe drinking water through promotion of Household Drinking Water Treatment Options together with hygiene and sanitation promotion. The main goal of this project is to reduce the burden of diarrhoeal disease in the target population, particularly among children, through promotion of affordable point-of-use water treatment options and safe water handling at the household level, thus, reduce the economic burden in curing the disease.

The project will supplement ongoing activities of UNICEF/DWSS and will work with local governments to ensure their understanding and adoption of household water treatment using POU options as a method both to reduce waterborne disease to improve the health and productivity of families.

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**Water is Life
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Community Managed Water Purification and Bottling Scheme Inaugurated

The Community Managed Water Purification and Bottling Scheme (CPWPS) in Dwarkapuri, Indore, a first in Madhya Pradesh, was inaugurated by Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Shashi Sharma, Mayor of Indore on 9th January 2008. Mrs. Usha Thakur, Member of Parliament and Mr. B.P.Singh, Divisional Commissioner, Indore Division were also present on the occasion. A large group of women from various slums in Indore participated in the programme.

The scheme has been implemented by a DWACUA (Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas) group of urban poor women of Dwarkapuri locality of Indore from a registered Community Development Society (CDS) under technical guidance of UN-HABITAT, District Urban Development Agency (DUDA) and Byrraju Foundation, who have pioneered the scheme in the villages of West Godavari and Bheemabharam districts of Andhra Pradesh in India. UN-HABITAT in partnership with District Urban Development Agency (DUDA), Indore have



Dr. Uma Shashi Sharma, Hon'ble Mayor, Indore Municipal Corporation Inaugurating CMWPS in Dwarkapuri, Indore (Madhya Pradesh)

developed the implementation strategy and provided financial support as well to DWACUA group to implement the CPWPS for sustainable safe drinking water supply to 600 HH at a nominal cost to the poor communities with a view to reduce incidences of water borne diseases. The strategy includes establishment and social marketing of the Community Managed Water Purification and Bottling Scheme through active participation of the community. The technology involves conventional sand filtration, Reverse Osmosis (RO), chlorination and

UV treatment of raw water. Speaking on the occasion, Mayor appreciated the efforts of the women group for empowering themselves in creating a sustainable drinking water source at a price affordable to the poor communities.

She emphasized the need for creating such systems for other poor communities of Indore. The Divisional Commissioner, Indore Division told that pro-poor initiatives should be shared and replicated in other communities within and outside the Indore city.

Workshop on Water Demand Management Concluded in Madhya Pradesh

A Workshop on Water Demand Management (WDM) for the top management of Municipal Corporations of the cities implementing the ADB financed Urban Water Supply and Environmental Improvement project and the Government of Madhya Pradesh was organized by EPCO in collaboration with TERI in Ujjain during 12th-13th Feb 2008.

The purpose of this workshop was to help the city governments fine tune their WDM action plan. At the workshop,

experts from TERI shared the WDM strategy and action plan of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior developed by them in collaboration with WRP, South Africa. In a special session, subject matter specialists discussed about types of water meters and their applications. Case studies on 24x7 water supply in the context of Indian scenario were also discussed. A demonstration on electronic flow meters having GSM technology to monitor water loss was also made. There was lively interaction of experts with

the participants on best practices on WDM in India and abroad as well. The participants from the cities also shared the WDM action plan being implemented by the Municipal Corporations, which has major emphasis on leak detection, repair and installation of water meters. Mayor and Municipal Commissioner of Ujjain and senior engineers of Municipal corporations of Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior and Ujjain and UWSEI Project participated in the programme.