

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

Integrated Slum Upgrading Seminar during the World Water Week 2007 in Stockholm

UN-HABITAT together with Asian Development Bank organized a Seminar on "Integrated Slum Upgrading: Meeting the water and sanitation needs of the poorest of the poor" during the World Water Week 2007 in Stockholm on 14 August 2007.

The Seminar presented several current initiatives and experiences on slum upgrading from Africa, Asia and Latin America. The emphasis was on progress achieved and prospects in meeting the water and sanitation needs of the poorest of the poor.

The Session Chair, Ms. Inga Björk Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT set off the presentations by pointing out the significance of the year 2007 when half the time for meeting the MDGs had lapsed and more than half the world's population was living in urban areas.

Mr. Arjun Thapan, Director General, Asian Development Bank, highlighted the importance of addressing the approaches across regional areas for meeting the water and sanitation needs of the poor.

Dr. H.S. Anand, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, in his keynote address, put forward the Indian perspective and emphasised the need for eco-friendly development. He elaborated on the multiple approaches to slum upgrading in India and the need for addressing issues of tenure; microfinance initiatives; social development inputs for facilitating participation; extending health and education services; and for supporting better livelihoods.

Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief, WSS II, UN-HABITAT, cited examples to give an overview of the value

choices made over forty years by development specialists. He identified three barriers to sustainable access of the poor to water supply and sanitation that were identified in the mid-term review of UN-HABITAT's Water Supply and Sanitation Trust Fund. The three barriers include a) the absence of processes, models and techniques; b) high levels of unaccounted water; and c) failure to use community systems for management of water supply and sanitation assets and systems. There were several other issues deliberated upon including the need for addressing problems of medium sized and metropolitan cities besides the inequalities amongst countries, regions and within cities.

The presentations and discussions provided an overview of the different approaches initiated for slum upgrading and slum redevelopment within cities and in peri-urban areas. The specific areas requiring greater attention were identified as need for attention to sanitation; engaging decision-makers like Heads of State and Finance Ministers for greater political leadership rather than only sector-specific decision-makers; and incorporating the planning and implementation of water and sanitation infrastructure in areas where the poor live with citywide development interventions.



Dr. Anna Tibaijuka in her Keynote Address on "Water for Thirsty Cities" at the Plenary Session of the World Water Week in Stockholm stated that "the poor cut their consumption of clean water and pay the price in disease and lost wages. But what is often forgotten is that the cities and countries pay equally dearly when the lack of these life sustaining services result in epidemics that engulf a city or even a region - as it happened in Peru in the early nineties and more recently in East Africa - with disastrous effect in lost lives, trade and tourism and enormous national medical bills."

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Ms. Inga Björk Klevby, Mr. Arjun Thapan & Dr. H.S. Anand sharing the dias during the Seminar

UN-HABITAT Launches Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance

The Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance was launched at World Water Week 2007 in Stockholm during a special event organized by UN-HABITAT.

The GWOPS Alliance was launched by H.R.H. The Prince of Orange, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the United Nations Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. Addressing the distinguished gathering His Royal Highness pointed out that the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance will help governments and donor agencies empower local authorities and communities with the resources and professional capacity required to manage water supply and sanitation service delivery, a task that was identified as critical by the Millennium Project Task Force on Water.

On the occasion, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka explained that the aim of GWOPs is to set up a worldwide network that will help support operators who deliver water and sanitation services. This cooperation will encourage capacity building amongst all those from the public, private sectors and the NGO community who are interested in participating in public water undertakings with a view to meeting the Millennium Development Goals. She concluded by emphasising that the success of the GWOP Alliance was dependant on the commitment and generosity of donors.

The proposal to establish GWOPs is part of the compendium of actions, known as the Hashimoto Action Plan, designed to



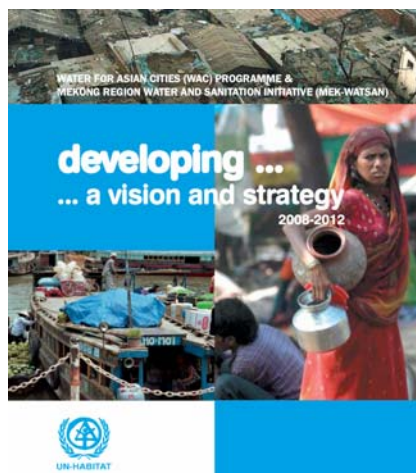
The Prince of Orange H.R.H. Willem-Alexander with the Executive Director, UN-HABITAT at the launch of GWOPS Alliance

strengthen the capacity of key players engaged in the WATSAN sector. It has received approval & support from many international and regional organizations.

Vision and Strategy (2008-2012) for WAC Programme

UN-HABITAT is preparing a Vision and Strategy for the Water for Asian Cities Programme and MEK-WATSAN Programme for the five year period from 2008 to 2012. The draft vision and strategy was shared with the Donors and other stakeholders during various meetings at the World Water Week in Stockholm. The strategy highlights the key activities supported by UN-HABITAT's Water and Sanitation Trust Fund in the participating countries under the Water for Asian Cities Programme.

The vision and strategy in Asia and the Pacific region focuses on: (i) Delivering drinking water to all; (ii) Aiming for total sanitation coverage by communities; and (iii) Moving water and sanitation up on the national agenda. Within the framework of Results-based Management, the WAC Programme seeks to develop strategies for each of the par-



participating countries in a consultative manner with Governments at the city and national levels, civil society and the private sector. Taking into consideration the renewed focus on sanitation as per the MoU with the Asian Development Bank, a special thrust will be given to sanitation in the country strategies.

Launch of WAC Project Office in China

UN-HABITAT and National Training Center for Mayors of China (NTCMC), a government institute under the leadership of the Ministry of Construction, People's Republic of China have signed an MoU for setting up a WAC Project Office in Beijing to facilitate project management and implementation under WAC Programme in China.

UN-HABITAT will be conducting the capacity building training programmes on water and sanitation issues for Mayors, City Leaders and other stakeholders from China and other countries in the region, while NTCMC is providing the office space for five years and a full time staff member to assist with the implementation of WAC Programme in China. The WAC Project office has been inaugurated on 31 August 2007 and is located in NTCMC Headquarters in Beijing.

Study Visit to India and Nepal Projects under WAC Programme

UN-HABITAT organized a study visit to India and Nepal Projects under WAC Programme from 22 to 30 July 2007. A three member team comprised of Mr. Roman Gomez, Chief Technical Advisor, Water for Cities Programme, LAC Region, Mexico; Mr. Dodo Juliman, Habitat Programme Manager, UN-HABITAT Jakarta; and Ms. Bhawna Bakshi, Engineer at Industry Development department in Public Utilities Board, Singapore visited various project sites in Madhya Pradesh and Nepal.

UN-HABITAT's Media Workshop for Water Journalists in Singapore

UN-HABITAT organized the Regional Media Workshop on "Urban Water and Sanitation Issues in Asia and the Pacific". The three days media workshop commenced on 12th July 2007 and concluded on 14th July 2007 in which 16 Journalists from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Lao PDR, Vietnam, PR China and Indonesia participated. The workshop was organized by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with IRC Water and Sanitation Centre, the Netherlands as part of the communication strategy and advocacy campaign on various issues being taken up under the Water for Asian Cities Programme. The workshop organized at the Water Hub was hosted by the Public Utilities Board (PUB) in Singapore.



The objective of this workshop was to bring together the media professionals for creating awareness among them about the current situation of water and sanitation in various countries of Asia particularly those participating in the Water for Asian Cities Programme of UN-HABITAT. The workshop was organized in parallel with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)'s 2nd Governing Council Meeting in Singapore. The Journalists also interacted with several GC members on the water and sanitation issues. Mr. Arjun Thapan, Director General, ADB who participated in the APWF's Governing Council meeting was separately interviewed by the Journalists who addressed the issues relating to UN-HABITAT – ADB joint initiatives in Me-gon Region.

The Workshop participants visited the Membrane Bio Reactor (MBR) plant and NEWater facility of PUB, Singapore which purifies the water treatment process using advanced dual-membrane and ultraviolet technologies where rainwater is collected through rivers, streams, canals and drains, and stored in reservoirs. This raw water is then piped to their water works for treatment.

A blog on Water for Asian Cities (<http://wacblogger.wordpress.com>) as well as an e-group <wacmedia@yahoogroups.com> has been created to network and facilitate the communication among the workshop participants and other stakeholders so as to enable them to contribute and share experiences on the developments of the water and sanitation sector issues.

Capacity Building Workshop for Water Journalists in Tehran

UN-HABITAT in partnership with UN Water proposes to organise a Capacity Building Workshop for Water Journalists from Iran and CIS Countries which will be hosted by an local host Institution in Tehran, Iran. The key objective of the proposed workshop will be to build the capacity of the Development Journalists covering key issues on urban water and sanitation in Iran and the Central Asian Countries. The workshop will seek the indulgence and involvement of the media for creating public awareness and advocacy to promote sector reforms for urban poor & encourage pro-poor investments in WATSAN Sector to support MDGs. A group of 15-20 Journalists shall be invited from Iran and selected Central Asian countries.

Proposed WAC Initiative in Kunming, Yunnan Province, PR China

UN-HABITAT in partnership with Kunming Municipal Government; Water Resources Bureau; Kunming Environmental Protection Bureau; Kunming Development and Reform Commission; Xundian and Panlong Governments proposes to support the implementation of Kunming Integrated Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project in China. The project targets the poor populations in Kunming area. The project proposal consists of four components which are: (a) community based water supply and sanitation; (b) Household based biogas system; (c) Water conservation and demand management; and (d) Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE). As a result of UN-HABITAT support, the benefits of the project will:

- ☞ Give more focus on UN-HABITAT activities and its niche areas of HVWSHE, WCDM, and Water Supply and Sanitation;
- ☞ Partnership with the Government in its commitment to upscale the project to other parts of provinces and China;
- ☞ Build the capacities of the local Municipal government in Project Management & other aspects such as WCDM & HVWSHE;
- ☞ Participate in a venture which essentially will stop all sorts of resettlements, and thus benefiting the local communities who are based along the reservoirs.

Challenges for Water for Asian Cities Programme in Indonesia

In February 2007, UN-HABITAT had an Annual Consultation with Asian Development Bank during which it was decided that UN-HABITAT may expand the Water for Asian Cities Programme activities in Indonesia and explore the possibilities to support the ADB assisted small and medium towns Water Supply and Sanitation Projects in Indonesia. In response of this, UN-HABITAT undertook a fact-finding Mission in July 2007, to start the project formulation process. Mr. Charles Surjadi has been appointed as Chief Technical Advisor, WAC Programme who is based in Jakarta, Indonesia and will be responsible for formulating and implementing the activities under WAC Programme. For this purpose, UN-HABITAT will be developing a country strategy plan including the capacity building component through which various activities will be undertaken under the Water for Asian Cities Programme in Indonesia.

Indonesia, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, is rapidly decentralizing. Decentralization will have major benefits in the future when the legal and institutional framework becomes fully effective. Urbanisation is significant and increasing rapidly, with 47.9% of the population living in urban areas in 2005. The poverty level in Indonesia is still high at 17.8%. A growth rate of around 7% pa is needed to create the jobs necessary to mitigate unemployment which stands at 10.4%. A comprehensive reform program has commenced and the Government has launched infrastructure reforms at the Indonesia Infrastructure Summit in January 2005.

The 1999 decentralization initiative was unprecedented in scope and scale, but although considerable political autonomy was devolved, it was not preceded by institutional strengthening of local governments. The speed and complexity of decentralization has left considerable gaps and inconsistencies in the policy framework, with the number of local governments increasing substantially to 33 provinces and 450 districts. Under Law 32/2004 on Regional Autonomy, the number of obligatory functions is 16 but the division of responsibilities among levels of government is not very clear. Industrialisation and increasing population have worsened environmental pollution, with pollution of surface water, contamination and depletion of groundwater, and the improper disposal of waste, being serious.

Investments in urban sewerage and waste treatment have been inadequate. Although the environmental legal framework meets international standards, laws and regulations are poorly enforced.

National Water Strategy and Policies

The government's ambitious reform agenda includes the New Water Law (No. 7, 2004) to target some of the country's chronic problems with pollution, water shortages and natural disasters. Integrated river basin management is a fast emerging strategy for addressing these issues. After the 1998 economic crisis, a loan program was implemented to restructure the water sector.

Water Resources Management

The allocation and protection of surface water is managed by DGWR. Overall, Indonesia has abundant surface water resources, although droughts and seasonal variations in river flows mean that some areas experience low per capita water availability. Upstream water quality of most rivers remains suitable for sustaining freshwater ecosystems and for domestic purposes while downstream water quality is generally poor, unsuitable for domestic purposes and causing freshwater ecosystem decline. Excellent progress has been made in reviewing and developing river basin water resources policy. However, the fragmented political environment is a formidable barrier to increased investment.

Water Supply

About 90% of the national population lives within the area of jurisdiction of one of the 316 regional government-owned water enterprises (PDAMs) but only 39% of urban residents (18% of the total population) have access to piped water. About 70% of PDAMs are heavily indebted and urgently require restructuring of non-performing loans. Water tariffs

generally do not even cover O&M costs, and average UFW is at a high of 40%. Many PDAMs are too small and inefficient, with very low numbers of connected customers. Furthermore, there has been no significant investment in assets over the past 10 years. In Jakarta, two private sector concessionaires (TPJ and PLYJA) supply potable water and are responsible for all treatment, distribution, recording and billing.

In order to increase access and sustainability of service delivery of water and sanitation, the World Bank Report in the year of 2004 raises some issues such as making the PDAM efficient and viable, while it is necessary to develop better understanding of the role played by small-scale private water providers and to establish mechanisms that optimize the contribution they can make. It is also necessary to institutionalize and replicate community managed models so as to ensure pro-poor delivery.

Sanitation

The sanitation sector is in a parlous state. Sewerage systems serve less than 3% of the urban population, only 10 cities having some form of sewerage. Investment in the management of wastewater and provision of sanitation services is very low, resulting in acute urban pollution. There is also a lack of enforcement on major polluters to meet their legal obligations. The institutional framework for sanitation is weak, fragmented and inadequate, and existing policies are unclear, necessitating the urgent need for a national sanitation policy. Government policy on sanitation has been that it is primarily a private responsibility, with households and commercial premises expected to invest in on-site sanitation.



MDG Target Progress

UNDP data for 2004, indicates that overall water supply coverage achieved was 77% (87% urban and 69% rural), with overall sanitation coverage 55% (73% urban and 40%). Progress on meeting the MDG goals by 2015 needs to be improved, with urban water off-track and regressing (coverage decreased from 92% in 1990 to 87% in 2004), and rural water, urban sanitation and rural sanitation off-track but expected to hit the target after 2015.

Water Utility Performance

Coverage by utilities is low to very low, typically no more than 50%, illustrating the fact that many people rely on alternative sources of water from SSIPs or have their own water source. NRW levels are high (typically between 30% and 50%). However, supply continuity is generally good, although some parts of networks suffer from low pressure and intermittent supplies. In large cities staffing ratios are reasonable, but in the smaller towns they are significantly higher. Many PDAMs do not recover sufficient revenue to meet O&M costs.

Issues and Key Challenges

The main issues and key challenges are:

- Need for a comprehensive integrated water resource management program

- All wastewater discharges should be treated to at least primary level within 5-10 years and to secondary level within a reasonable period after that.
- Co-operation between Regional Governments for integrated management and operation of water supply promotes sector efficiencies and improved financial / technical abilities.
- Community based WSS need to be provided with a simple technology menu from which to choose, with room to experiment with facilities that can be up-graded.
- Water sector governance needs to be dramatically improved as a priority.
- Technical performance and service levels are poor in many utilities.
- Low priority given to the water sector - lack of investment over the past 10 years.

Future Priority and Strategic Actions

Indonesia needs to increase water sector investments to at least 1% of GDP to meet the MDG targets and also focus on improved water sector governance, tariff reform, increased wastewater treatment capacity, greater water conservation, and effective implementation of the Water Resources Law. The following priority

are required for sustainable water sector in Indonesia.

- Prioritise the WSS sector in terms of investment and human resource development as part of the decentralisation process.
- Strengthen environmental legislation enforcement to halt and reverse the decline in the quality and quantity of water resources.
- Treat all wastewater discharges to at least primary level by 2015.
- Set sustainable and affordable tariffs to progressively move towards full cost recovery.
- Progressively improve service standards (NRW, hours of supply, etc.)
- Improve water sector governance:
 - ◇ PDAMs to operate autonomously without political interference.
 - ◇ regionalise small PDAMs to improve efficiency and sustainability o ring-fence PDAM revenue for use by PDAMs only.
 - ◇ develop workable on-lending mechanism and regulatory climate to resolve PDAM loan arrears issue.
 - ◇ options to enable water utilities to serve the urban poor.

Status of ADB Projects in Urban, Rural and Basin Water Development and Management in Indonesia

SN	Project Title	Status
1	Integrated Citarum Water Resources Management Project 1 & 2	Loan approved in 2007
2	West Jakarta Water Supply Development Project	Private sector assistance approved in 2007
3	Community Water Services and Health Project (CWSHP)	Loan approved in April 2007 (CWSHP II expected to be approved in 2008)
4	Capacity Building in Water Resources in the Decentralized Environment	TA approved in 2006
5	Water Supply and Sanitation Project	TA approved in 2006
6	Participatory Irrigation Sector Project	Loan approved in 2007
7	Flood Management in Selected River Basins 1 & 2	Loan approved in 2007

Monitoring Progress of MDGs in WAC Participating Countries

Seven years have passed since the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration, which gave rise to the Millennium Development Goals. Since then, the countries of Asia have been working hard to achieve these goals. Some have been very successful; others have made less progress. Many Countries have prepared their own reports on progress towards the MDGs - and there have also been assessments at the global level. In order to monitor the progress made so far in attaining the MDG 7: Target 11—Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, in the Asian countries, particularly those participating in UN-HABITAT's Water for Asian Cities Programme, the following matrix gives the progress based on the UNDP and ADB's analyzing trends in MDG achievement across Asia.

India

The overall water supply coverage achieved was 86% (95% urban and 83% rural), with overall sanitation coverage 33% (59% urban and 22% rural). Progress on meeting the MDG goals by 2015 has been good, with urban water and rural water MDG targets already reached, and with urban sanitation and rural sanitation on track to meet their targets by 2015.

Nepal

The overall water supply coverage achieved was 90% (96% urban and 89% rural), with overall sanitation coverage 35% (62% urban and 30%). Progress on meeting the MDG goals by 2015 has been good, with urban water and rural water MDG targets already reached, and with urban sanitation and rural sanitation on track to meet their targets by 2015.

PR China

The overall water supply coverage achieved was 77% (93% urban and 67% rural), with overall sanitation coverage 44% (69% urban and 28%). Progress on meeting MDG goals by 2015 needs to be improved, with urban water off-track and regressing (coverage decreased from 99% in 1990 to 93% in 2004), rural water and urban sanitation off-track but expected to hit the target after 2015, and rural sanitation on track for 2015.

Cambodia

The overall water supply coverage achieved was 41% (64% urban and 35% rural), with overall sanitation coverage 17% (53% urban and 8% rural). Cambodia therefore lags behind regional norms. Both urban water and sanitation coverage are significantly behind recently revised national MDG targets for 2005, and rural sanitation coverage in particular needs to be accorded the highest priority if meaningful progress is to be achieved in reaching

Lao PDR

The overall water supply coverage achieved was 51% (79% urban & 43% rural), with overall sanitation coverage 30% (67% urban & 20%). Progress on meeting MDG goals by 2015 needs to be improved, with rural water off-track, while urban water and sanitation is progressing well. However, rural water and sanitation are on track to meet their targets by 2015. Additionally, the Government's national goal set for 2020 is to provide 24-hour per day access to safe

Vietnam

The overall water supply coverage achieved was 85% (99% urban and 80% rural), with overall sanitation coverage 61% (92% urban and 50%). Urban water, rural water and urban sanitation MDG targets have already been reached, with rural sanitation on track to meet its target by 2015. Vietnam has its own development goals (VDGs) which fully reflect the MDGs but are focussed on a target date of 2010 for 95% of the urban population and 85% of the rural

Percentage Served by House Connections in Asian Cities

Country	% Households having House Connections
Azerbaijan	26
PR China (Shanghai)	91
India (Delhi)	51
Indonesia (Jakarta)	31
Kazakhstan (Almaty)	88
Kyrgyz	88
Lao PDR (Vientiane)	25
Nepal (Kathmandu)	48
Pakistan (Karachi)	50

Country	% Households having House Connections
Philippines (Manila)	60
Korea (Seoul)	96
Singapore	100
Sri Lanka (Colombo)	35
Tajikistan	82
Thailand (Bangkok)	80
Turkmenistan	81
Uzbekistan (Tashkent)	85
Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City)	51

Urban Local Bodies adopt Uniform Water Policy in Madhya Pradesh, India

UN-HABITAT organised first capacity building programme on Water Demand Management (WDM) for the top management of Municipal Corporations and the Urban Water Supply & Environmental Improvement Project (Project Uday), Urban Administration & Development Department (UADD), Government of Madhya Pradesh. The programme held in Pachmarhi, the Hill station of Madhya Pradesh in India on 5 & 6 July 2007.

The Participants of the programme included the Mayor and Commissioner of Gwalior Municipal Corporation, Members of the Mayor-in-Council and senior officers of all the Municipal Corporations of the 4 project cities, leader of opposition of Jabalpur Municipal Corporation and Project Director and the senior officers of Project Uday.

The experts from The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) and Environmental Planning & Coordination Organisation (EPCO) had fruitful interaction with the



Mr. Jayant Mallaiya, Hon'ble Minister, UADD and Mr. Hari Ranjan Rao, Project Director, Project Uday with the participants of the capacity building programme on Water Demand Management in Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh

participants on policy issues and technical and financial aspects of WDM. The Programme was inaugurated by Mr. Jayant Mallaiya, Hon'ble Minister, UADD, Government of Madhya Pradesh on 5th July 2007. While highlighting the importance of the theme of the programme, Mr. Mallaiya stressed that all

the Municipal Corporations/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the state must prepare a uniform water supply policy based on the assessment of the demand. He further advised all the ULBs to conserve the existing water resources within their jurisdiction to reduce the demand and supply gap.

Developing Urban Local Catchment Management Strategy in MP Cities

UN-HABITAT in collaboration with Lake Conservation Authority (LCA), an autonomous organisation under the Housing & Environment Department of Madhya Pradesh having the mandate of facilitating conservation and management of water resources of the state, has planned to develop the Urban Local Catchment Management (ULCM) strategy and action plan for the 4 major cities of Madhya Pradesh.

Very few cities in the state have a satisfactory network of sewerage facilities resulting in unhygienic living conditions and public health problems. The natural drains have been converted into open sewer. Due to reduction in carrying capacity, flooding of the low lying areas occurs during rains, affecting the poor the most. Inadequacy of proper waste disposal, waste find their way to the water bodies either directly entry or through the run off, resulting in deteriora-

tion of water quality of water bodies. The key objectives of the project are:

- (a) Developing city specific ULCM strategy and action plan focussing on management of drainage through in-stream and upstream measures, including integrated waste management in the catchment for the ecological stability and improvement of water quality of the water resources in the cities of Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur to improve availability of good quality of water;
- (b) Developing a working model for community management of the catchment; and
- (c) Building capacity of the personnel to enable the Municipal Corporations of the project cities in implementing the ULCM strategy and action plan.

UN-HABITAT has developed a guidebook on Local Catchment Management

in World's Cities. In view of the dwindling potable water resources in the project cities of MP, it seems appropriate to develop city specific local catchment management strategy and action plan based on this guidelines to support the state government in protecting the surface and ground water resources from being contaminated due to indiscriminate disposal of wastes. The ULCM strategy and action plan would help the urban local bodies in the identified cities of Madhya Pradesh to take appropriate measures against degradation of water resources and help them meet out potable water requirement.

The strategy and action plan is expected to be completed by March 2009. The total cost of the project is USD 87,500 wherein UN-HABITAT will be contributing USD 52,500 & LCA will be making the cash/kind contribution of USD 35,000 for undertaking various activities.

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**Water is Life
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Community Campaign for Cholera Control in Nepal

Cholera outbreak has become a yearly 'ritual' in Kathmandu and other parts of the country. This year too Kathmandu witnessed a large number of hospital admissions of acute gastrointestinal cases. Of the total 4,724 cases, 306 were confirmed as cholera. Five people (out of whom three were children) have died from this outbreak in the Valley. This year a 'cholera and diarrhea outbreak control and monitoring' committee was formed under the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works to conduct control and awareness campaign in the affected areas.

UN-HABITAT, one of the committee members, provided support in launching a 'cholera outbreak control campaign' for a month starting on 21 July 2007. Under the coordination of Guthi, many organisations working in water and sanitation sector like NGO Forum, ENPHO, UEMS, NRCS/DDRT and Rotract Club of Nepal collaborated in this campaign.

The campaign aimed to minimize the risk of cholera transmission through improved personal hygiene behaviour and



through use of simple and easy methods of drinking water treatment.

With the mobilization of trained volunteers, 47 booths were set up in the market areas in Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts and door-to-door campaigns were launched. The volunteers informed people on simple water disinfection techniques through distribution of chlorine solution, and advised them to pay special attention on personal hygiene.

In addition, 200 dugwells were chlorinated in Lalitpur. Likewise, 200 local volunteers in the five

municipalities of Kathmandu Valley were mobilized to test the free residual chlorine in the piped water supply to assist the concerned authority in taking the necessary measures in maintaining the required chlorine concentration in the distributed water.

With this timely intervention, cholera outbreak has been controlled in the Valley and there has not been further report of cholera cases from the third week of August 2007. Currently, similar activities are being conducted in other parts of the country as well.

ADB organizes Experts' Consultation Meeting for AWDO

The Asian Development Bank has commissioned a report, the Asian Water and Development Outlook (AWDO). It is being prepared by leading experts on water from the region, and will be available before the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit in December 2007. The aim of the AWDO is to help leaders and policy makers fully understand and appreciate the key water-sector issues affecting their nations. "Business as usual" is no longer an option,

and this is something the book will articulate. It will also showcase champions who have averted water crises by improving water management practices and processes.

An Experts' Consultation Meeting for finalising the Draft AWDO Report organized by ADB in WaterHub, Singapore on 23 August 2007. This consultation meeting gathered water experts from the Asia-Pacific to discuss and debate on the draft of the AWDO report.

The objectives of the meeting aimed to showcase the performance of each country with respect to water; generate discussion among participants on issues highlighted in the draft AWDO; and use these learnings as a basis to determine whether the key messages in the AWDO have covered all water sector issues in the Asia-Pacific region. Dr. Kulwant Singh, CTA, WAC Programme, UN-HABITAT participated in the meeting.