

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

UN-HABITAT Participates in the World Toilet Summit 2007 in New Delhi

This Year's World Toilet Summit-2007 was organized in New Delhi, India, from 31st October to 3rd November 2007 by Sulabh International in partnership with Government of India, UN-HABITAT and BMTPC. The theme of this VII World Toilet Summit was 'Toilet for All', emphasizing restructuring of rural communities and urban infrastructure and thereby improving quality of life.

The Summit provided a platform for exchange of learning and knowledge networking for more than 150 international and over 170 national delegates from around 39 countries to devise strategies and approaches required to improve water and sanitation coverage. It provided an opportunity to the participating delegates to unlearn and relearn international experiences and strategies to accelerate access to sanitation facilities and safe drinking water for attaining localized MDGs within the time-frame.

UN-HABITAT, while extending support to the theme of the Summit, provided expert inputs. The Chief Technical Advisor, Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme, UN-HABITAT delivered the key-note address at the Plenary Session. UN-HABITAT also put up an Exhibition during the Summit focusing on the activities of WAC Projects in the region.

The World Toilet Summit – 2007 adopted the "Delhi Declaration on Sanitation" with the need to accelerate the progress on achieving the MDG goal on sanitation by 2015. The Delhi Declaration, inter alia, includes the following:

- Increase awareness and political will, prioritise sustainable sanitation.
- Plan activities for International Year of Sanitation 2008.
- Ensure and enhance financial allocation and support through national budgets to sustain progress on sanitation.
- Develop and strengthen institutional and human capacity at all levels to generate gainful employment.

- Promote knowledge exchange programmes on available sustainable sanitation technologies in all regions.
- Advocate with National Governments to set specific sanitation goals and targets.
- Organise regional & sub-regional conferences, declare Sanitation Awards to recognize & support regional works.
- Prioritise school sanitation, health and hygiene programs.
- Implement child-friendly facilities for children which are both accessible and relevant to cultural and regional needs.
- Facilitate a paradigm shift from disposal oriented system to reuse oriented sanitation system.



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India lighting the Lamps at the Inaugural Session of the World Toilet Summit 2007 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

Water Summit

The first Asia Pacific Water Summit being held in Oita Prefecture, Japan from 3-4 December 2007 will provide the opportunity for the political leaders of the region to recognize the significance of the water issues for achieving MDGs. The dialogue with other water stakeholders at the Summit will facilitate this recognition, which is expected to be translated into concrete actions in each country by pushing the issue towards the top of their political agendas. The Summit in Japan will focus on the three priority themes: Water Financing, Water-related Disaster Management, and Water for Development and Ecosystems. It is expected that the Summit will bring commitment by leaders on concrete programs to also invest in capacity development for people and institutions that build self-reliance.

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Cooperation with National Training Center for Mayors of China

National Training Center for Mayors of China (NTCMC) is responsible training mayors and vice mayors in charge of urban planning, construction and management. The training programmes of NTCMC cover city-related subjects, such as city planning, environmental protection and sustainable development.

The 44th Mayors' Research Class started on 11th October and completed on 9th September 2007. The Office of UN-HABITAT's Water and Sanitation Programme in China made the best use of the platform of cooperation with NTCMC, UN-HABITAT played an active role in the 44th Mayor Research Class during this period. On 20th October 2007, focusing on Sustainable Community Development, Mayors discussed

hotly with the staff of Canada Harmony Foundation, subject experts from China and abroad. Zhangyue, Professor, coming from the Ministry of Construction of P.R China, addressed the participants on "the Sustainable Utilization of Urban Water Resource" on 30th October 2007. He introduced several key points on restrictions and the future development trend of Urban Water Sustainable Utilization by illustrating the relative research work in China.

On 31st October 2007, Zhenshan Zhang, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-HABITAT made a presentation on "Water Protection & Water Demand Management". Zhang explained the background of UN-HABITAT and Water for Asian Cities Programme to the May-

ors. He also explained what WCDM (Water Conservation and Demand Management) really meant and what were the WCDM's contents and future development trends.

On-site visit on 2nd November 2007, all the participants visited Lunan Sewage Treatment Plant. This plant was built by a foreign company (named Veolia) according to a new mechanism called by BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) model.

During the visit, Mayors discussed the cooperation approaches in Urban Water Supplying between Government, Private-enterprise and local residents, the key issues were cooperation model, management mechanism and operation maintenance.

UN-HABITAT Supports Kunming City in China under WAC Programme

Kunming Qingshuihai Water Supply Project is a key urban infrastructure initiative of Kunming Municipal Government (KMG) and will provide safe, secure water supply and ensure sustainable economic growth of the city of Kunming. The total project cost is estimated at \$255.9 million. Asian Development Bank (ADB) provides \$80.0 million loan.

UN-HABITAT in collaboration with ADB has committed to support the project. After rapid assessment and further discussion with Kunming, UN-HABITAT proposes to sign four cooperation agreements with Kunming. These agreements are presently under process. These will focus on Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education, Water Conservation and Demand Management and Community-based Environmental Management Pilot project.

Kunming Environment Protection Bureau, Kunming Planning Water Supply and Water Saving Office, Panlong District Water Resource Bureau and Xundian County Environment Protection Bureau will be the partners of the cooperation agreement.

The economic, social and environmental impact of the project is outlined below:

Economic aspects

- The projects supported by UN-HABITAT and the Qingshuihai Water Project impelled by ADB and its local partners are expected to make a great contribution to the Kunming's development as well as improvement in local water supply and sanitation.

Social aspects

- Paying much attention to the poor population, especially for undeveloped communities, it is expected that 14 442 people will benefit directly from the projects.
- Demonstration of the innovative ideas of cooperation by building necessary infrastructure in awfully poor communities.
- Strengthening the capacities of the local partners in participating in project, implementing project and organizing project.
- Demonstration of how a water utility

can work with a community for improved access to water supply and adequate sanitation for the poor.

Environmental aspects

- Improving the efficiency and equity of water supply and promote water saving technology and devices.
- Providing the incentives for reducing network leakages, usually do not address the issue of wasteful consumption at the consumer end.
- Promoting HVWSHE in formal and non-formal education to increase understanding and create a new water ethic among water providers and consumers by establishing two water education classrooms and conducting training in Teacher Training College and selected schools.
- Developing partnerships with utilities for developing and running effective Human Values in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education Classrooms.
- Improved knowledge on the impact of urbanization on fresh water and aquatic ecosystem.

WAC Programme: Water and Sanitation Project for Tuy Hoa in Vietnam

Tuy Hoa is one of the towns facing problems of lack of water and sanitation services and a lack of capacity in the community and local authority. The town municipality has been putting in big efforts to mobilize various funding sources from the government, international aid agencies and community to solve its problems.

Tuy Hoa is a Class III city in Phu Yen Province. It is located on National Highway 1A, approximately 560 kilometers south of Ho Chi Minh City. Basic economy is trading and fishing. Tuy Hoa has a total population of 147,584 (30,000 households) of which 8% (2,391 households with around 12,000 population) is living below the poverty line. 37.15% of the households in Tuy Hoa have access to treated water from the existing 14,000 CMD Water Treatment Plant (WTP), while 50% use bore wells as a source of water supply.

About 90% of the households have a toilet with septic tank. Yet there are about 187 poor households in Ward 6 and 401 poor households in Phu Lam Ward who do not have toilets. Approximately 90% of solid waste in Tuy Hoa is collected. Based on the rapid site visit in Tuy Hoa, it was apparent that the problems of environmental hygiene, lack of adequate water supply and sanitation facilities and poor drainage conditions are prevalent in the poor communities.

Currently, Phu Yen Water Supply and Drainage One Member Limited Liability Company (PYWSD) is working to achieve the target of upgrading the existing Water Treatment Plant from the present capacity of 14,000 CMD to 28,000 CMD with a total investment cost of US\$17.28 million. The financing for the upgradation came from an earlier ADB loan. A total length of 97 km transmission and distribution through DN600-50 pipe lines and 10,116 household water connections have been provided for urban residential areas. Additional 86.5 km distribution pipe lines were also provided under the ADB project. However

there are still about 17,114 households (68,500 people) that need to get access to improved water supply. Of particular importance is 588 poor households (2,740 people) in 2 poverty pockets in Phu Lam ward and ward no.6. These two wards do not have access to water supply and lack household sanitation facilities. In addition, there is no plan for capacity building of the community and the utility at this stage. There is a great need, however, for improvement of the capacity of the community and the utility in relation to efficient delivery of water and sanitation services. The poor communities are unable to connect due to lack of financial resources.

Consequently, the municipality of Tuy Hoa town has requested UN-HABITAT to consider front-loading the WAC Programme in Vietnam by fast-tracking the implementation of a pilot project to provide water supply and sanitation facilities for the low-income communities, in particular 588 poor households in 2 poor pockets of Ward 6 and Phu Lam with the poor population of 2,740. Connection will also be provided to the remaining 1,778 poor households (8,890 people) in 11 wards covering 100% of the poor population in town. Hence the total number of beneficiaries estimated for water connection is 11,638.

Household sanitation facilities will be provided to 187 poor households in the Ward#6. The total investment of the project is USD378,800. UN-HABITAT will provide USD173,300 to implement the project. The communities are prepared to provide USD39,500 in-kind contribution to the project. PYWSD is prepared to commit a further USD100,000 in cash and USD66,000 in-kind contribution. This project would be a very useful demonstration of how communities can mobilise & work effectively with local authorities to meet sanitation needs. Accordingly the overall proposal includes development of IEC materials to demonstrate the project approach & the benefits that can be achieved.



The interventions in Tuy Hoa will not only complement ADB investments, but will also be instrumental in highlighting many of UN-HABITAT's focus areas such as:

- Expediting pro-poor water and sanitation investments in secondary towns;
- Enhancing institutional and human resource capacities at local level to sustain water and sanitation services;
- Enhancing capacities of local utilities in service delivery; and
- Reducing the adverse environmental impacts of urbanization.

The project will develop capacities of the utility in terms of broadening their horizon on issues like rapid situation assessment on water and sanitation (including GIS and baseline mapping of poverty pockets), water conservation and demand management, policies to provide water and sanitation services to the poor, micro-financing tools like revolving funds, to name a few. The project will also demonstrate as to how the poor is to be included in the overall sanitation and water planning, and will also be instrumental to demonstrate that how physical works can be done in a cost-effective manner in close involvement with the communities.

Micro-financing Mechanisms for Water and Sanitation Facilities through Revolving Funds

The levels of investments in the water and sanitation sector within the Asian region are quite inadequate to bridge the widening demand - supply gap and to extend services to low income and the needy population. There is need for intensified mobilization of adequate financial resources to facilitate improvement of basic services for the urban poor, particularly in the small urban centres. The small urban centres vary widely both in terms of economic base and the service delivery. They serve a variety of purposes and represent a significant proportion of the population to be reached.

Access to the basic services of water and sanitation to low income remains a challenge, despite substantial investments by the country governments over the years. The problem also lies in the approach as most governments suffer from the tendency to invest in new assets and facilities and paying less attention to conserve and manage existing resources. Traditional sources of external finance are often inadequate. Most governments are increasingly aware of the significance of internal mobilization of funds and the gains of potentially significant economic development and poverty reduction impacts through sustainable access to safe water and sanitation.

This requires devising micro-financing mechanisms that focus on filling the critical financial gap by involving NGOs and the CBOs and providing loans to initiate development of water and sanitation facilities. Thus efficient use of existing resources as well as community participation is imperative to make increased water and sanitation coverage.

Creating 'Revolving Fund' would be an appropriate solution to micro-finance the community initiatives in water and sanitation sector, in particular for managing drinking water supply as well as construction of individual household toilets for safe sanitation.

UN-HABITAT under the Water for Asian Cities Programme is working in India, Nepal, Lao PDR, Vietnam, PR China and Indonesia. Both in India and Lao PDR, UN-HABITAT has taken up water and sanitation related pilot projects which are also supported at the household level through revolving funds used mainly for financing water and sanitation related activities at the household level. UN-HABITAT is now keen to upscale these in India possibly at the national level.

In India, UN-HABITAT is working in the State of Madhya Pradesh viz. Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore and Jabalpur for improvement and expansion of urban water supply, sewerage and sanitation, water drainage and solid waste management. UN-HABITAT has set up a revolving fund for financing small community managed water and sanitation initiatives in the project towns of Madhya Pradesh. A set of guidelines for the revolving fund, duly endorsed by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, have been developed for this purpose. The revolving funds are so far working quite satisfactorily. Under the programme, a Sanitation Fund has also been developed which is being managed by an NGO. The Sanitation Fund gives loan money to households for construction of individual household toilets. The money is recovered in installments and the fund utilised in a revolving manner so that more and more households can benefit. In another model, UN-HABITAT has facilitated piped water connections for individual households, where the capital investment was done by UN-HABITAT and the amount is being recovered from households through a monthly charge for the connection and the water charges. The recovered money is put in a revolving fund for use by another neighbourhood.

In Lao PDR, UN-HABITAT is facilitating individual household loans for water connections as well as toilets. These pilots in India as well as in Lao PDR are reported to be working successfully.

The capital cost recovery approach for urban poor communities, an initiative of first of its kind in Nepal, is based on 80% capital cost contribution by the communities in installments with immediate gain to access water supply services, as well as mobilising the funds thus recovered for the benefit of other poor communities.

There are, however, several other examples which can be used as the basis for designing micro-financing mechanisms. These examples of microfinance share the following:

- Experiences on the kind of models being used for financing household water & sanitation facilities for weaker sections in India and the innovations that have increased access of poorest to water and sanitation facilities.
- Suggestions on what not to do, and learnings about possible pitfalls that such programmes should avoid to ensure greater success.
- Identify institutions, organisations and programmes that have adopted a similar approach and that can support in designing, capacity building for the programme.

Many efforts are being made in micro-financing water and sanitation projects in the region. The results are mixed and are facing serious scaling up challenges. Most of the innovative financing options are incentivised with capital investment subsidies of varying levels. The revolving fund options are largely targeted at improved private services, like the household sanitation or household piped water supply. As there exists very high willingness to pay for watsan services, such schemes are apparently regressive in the sense that the poor tend to pay more as usual while the rich are covered by subsidized service delivery. The inefficiency of service delivery in terms of quality, quantity and reliability, compelling the users to adopt various coping strategies.

Seminar on Water and Microfinance: Exploring Innovative Partnerships

A Seminar on "Water and Microfinance: Exploring Innovative Partnerships" was organized by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, New Delhi, India on 25th October 2007 on the occasion of the state visit by the Dutch Royalty.

The seminar was aimed at envisaging how micro-finance could help accelerate the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to water and sanitation through innovative partnerships among the stakeholders.

Her Majesty, Queen Beatrix, His Royal Highness, the Prince of Orange, Chair, UN Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation and Her Royal Highness Princess, Maxima, Member UN Advisory Board

on Inclusive Financial Sectors attended the seminar. The participants in the seminar included representatives from the micro-finance and water sectors in India and the Netherlands, officials from government and banking industry, academia and the civil society.

The Prince of Orange acknowledged the importance of investments in water and sanitation and its impact on productivity. He ascertained that micro-finance is a powerful enabler for achieving the MDGs, particularly in the water and sanitation sector and to be integrated with the mainstream financial sector.

The seminar deliberated upon several significant issues of micro-finance in the

context of water and sanitation, which mainly include:

- Micro-finance as a revenue model is a sustainable mechanism can be used to promote capacity building and skill development at grass-root level;
- Involvement of NGOs and CBOs for bringing together communities and micro-finance initiatives;
- Small investments through micro-financing promotes water and sanitation needs of rural and urban communities; and
- Empowers water and sanitation management with the involvement of women in particular.

Government of India Celebrates "World Habitat Day"

The Government of India celebrated the World Habitat Day (WHD) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 1st October 2007. The United Nations has designated the first Monday in October every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of human settlements and the basic right to adequate shelter for all. The WHD theme for this year was "A safe city is a just city."

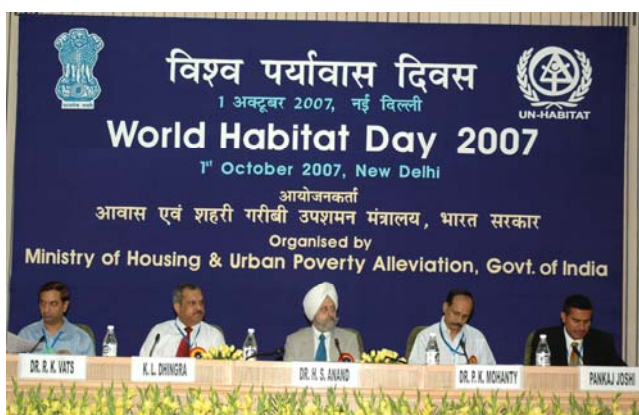
Dr. H.S. Anand inaugurated the exhibition at Vigyan Bhawan organised on this occasion. The inaugural session started by welcoming of guests on the dias. Dr. HS Anand, in his address, mentioned the importance of World Habitat Day and particularly the theme of this year. Crime is one of the serious threats to sustainable social and economic development of cities.

The Habitat Agenda commits nations to improving the living and working conditions. For making inclusive cities, town-planners, police, state and society require a dialogue on the creation of safe neighbourhoods. Dr. Anand further added that pro-poor planning and skill development is required to protect the poor against the threat of eviction and insecurity of tenure.

Dr. Mohanty, in his welcome address, emphasized on the marginalisation of urban poor in the process of urbanisation. He pointed out that 22 per cent of urban India lives in slums and slum dwellers have their innovative way of survival. The poverty alleviation measures, being followed under

SJSRY (Swarna Jayanti Shabri Rozgar Yojana) has a special significance since its focus is on empowerment of poor, particularly women. Dr. Mohanty added that urban renewal is the key element for urban development. The importance of JNNURM (Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission) becomes significant here. The Mission intends to deal with habitat of slum dwellers & urban poor, reforming of urban sector, state governments and local bodies.

Ms. Shalini Dewan, Director, UNIC India read the message of Secretary General, United Nations in quote. The message highlighted the importance of safety in selecting where to live, work, shop and play. As we reach halfway through



MDG, there is a need to examine how to improve urban governance. Cities are biggest polluters and require big innovative thinking to reach a solution. On the World Habitat Day let us make our cities safer, greener, inclusive and secure places for everyone to live.

The dignitaries present were Dr. H.S. Anand, Secretary, Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, MoHUPA, Govt. of India; Mr. K.L. Dhingra, Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO, Dr. P.K. Mohanty, Joint Secretary & Mission Director, JNNURM, Mr. R.K. Vats, Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ms. Shalini Dewan, Director, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) & Mr. Pankaj Joshi, Director (Housing), MoHUPA.

Regional Resource Centre on Human Values in Water Education Inaugurated in Lopburi, Thailand

A Regional resource centre on Human Values in Water Education dubbed the "Institute of Water Education" was officially inaugurated on Wednesday 31st October 2007 at the Society for the Preservation of Water (SPW) in Lopburi Province, Thailand. The Institute of Water Education is part of UN-HABITAT's Cooperation Agreement with the Society for Preservation of Water (SPW) to set up a Regional Eco Centre of Excellence in water education.

Dr. Art Ong Jumsai, CEO of the School informed the distinguished gathering including Dr. Kittiwat Uchapalanon; the Governor of Lopburi Province, Mr. Jaru-

pong Poldej, the Director Designate of SEAMEO Dr. Ahmad bin Sipong that the idea behind the Institute was to inculcate in the students an attitude of learning to share, conserve and take care of water. The institute boasts an environment-friendly house with use of solar energy and rainwater harvesting, as well as an ecological toilet, from which the human waste generated will be recycled for use in the farm as fertilizer and manure. He also praised UN-HABITAT's initiatives on Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education.

A Water Classroom on Human Values in Water Education has also been estab-

lished as part of the agreement with UN-HABITAT. The classroom is an interactive space with several activities for students of all grades to take part in, such as water quality testing, a reading corner, and a children's activity corner. It also hosts various models on water conservation, the filtration process and the water cycle, among others. A multi-media center in which children get to view videos related to Human Values and water. A key and important feature of the classroom is the various messages related to human values, water and hygiene. The students and their teachers have actively prepared paintings and drawings that are featured all around the classroom.

UN-HABITAT participates in the 3rd Southeast Asia Water Forum

The 3rd South-East Water Forum is a biennial event held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia from 22-26 October 2007. The main theme of the forum was 'Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)'.

The Forum was attended by participants from 18 countries with the cooperation of international organisations. Significant progress have been made by a few countries in the region in carrying out legislative and institutional reforms to implement IWRM.

In parallel to technical plenary sessions, there were four group sessions on the following themes:

- A. Network Partnership for Implementation;
- B. Urban Water Management;
- C. Monitoring Investments & Results;
- D. Sustainable Water Resources & River Basin Management Issues.

UN-HABITAT along with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) played a key role in the session on Urban Water Management. UN-HABITAT presented on-going work on the Water for Asian Cities Programme (WAC) and on the Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative

(MEK-WATSAN). Water Champions from Lao PDR and Vietnam, selected by UN-HABITAT, gave interesting presentations on their achievements and their motivations. A presentation on Human Value-Based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE) introduced the concept, and delineated how problems related to water and sanitation can be solved through ethical behaviour. HVWSHE generated wide-spread interest, and was specially mentioned in the final plenary session.

A presentation on water and sanitation issues in Yunnan Province in China highlighted UN-HABITAT's activities in some secondary towns. Lastly a presentation on 'Linkages of water supply, sanitation, drainage and solid waste management with urban planning was delivered, which stressed the need for a more comprehensive urban planning and the need to strengthen local governments and their urban planning offices, in SE-Asia, if lasting improvements in water and sanitation are to be made.

The South-East Asia Water Forum also held discussions:

1. Climate Change and Global Warming, their effects on water resources;

2. National Progress on Implementing Reforms: Opportunities and Constraints;
3. Urban Water Services: Confronting the Challenges;
4. Sustainable Sanitation Systems;
5. Water Supply Service Innovations: Adopting Business Unusual;
6. Monitoring of Investments and Results in Water Supply and Sanitation; and
7. Flood Mitigation in a Development Context

UN-HABITAT also attended and contributed to a side meeting dealing with the preparation of the forthcoming Asia-Pacific Water Summit, to be held in December 2007 in Japan.

The various experiences at the country and regional levels discussed at the 3rd Southeast Asia Water Forum pointed to the urgent needs to improve effective policies for monitoring of investment and results, and to develop integrated mechanisms in most of developing countries for better policy and decision making, as required by the prevailing rapid socio-economic growth in the region.

Development of Citizen's Report Card for the major cities of M.P. Endorsed

UN-HABITAT under its Water for Asian Cities Programme is supporting development of city-wise citizens report cards based on the survey of peoples responses regarding quality of basic service delivery in the major cities of Madhya Pradesh viz Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior with emphasis on water supply, sanitation and other basic service delivery by the urban local bodies to provide workable solutions to the emerging concerns and issues. A stakeholder's consultation on the issues related to development of Citizens Report Card (CRC) was jointly organized by UN-HABITAT in collaboration with Project Uday, Urban Administration and Development Department (UADD), Government of Madhya Pradesh and Nation Centre for Human Settlements and Environment in Bhopal on 15th October, 2007.

The event was inaugurated by Dr. Narottam Mishra, Hon'ble Minister for Urban Administration and Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh. In his address he emphasized that the development of CRC would facilitate solving the civic problems. The exercise would help the Urban Local

Bodies priorities to increase urban basic services as per the needs and views of the citizen's. He expressed satisfaction over the initiative and felt that priorities of the citizens will be brought to light through this initiative. He suggested that urban sector in Madhya Pradesh needs institutional adjustments.

In his presidential address, Mr. Raghav Chandra, Principal Secretary, UADD elucidated the plight of urban basic services related to water supply, sanitation, solid waste disposal and public transport. Underlining the importance of infrastructural support to deliver the urban basic services, Bhopal Mayor Mr. Sunil Sood emphasized that delivery of services and success of schemes depends heavily upon the resources under the disposal of Municipal Corporations. At the technical session the methodology for

collection of basic data, sampling size, and analysis of data were discussed in detail. During the deliberation it emerged that in each town the sample of households would be selected by applying stratified (geographical, economical), purposive and random sampling techniques by dividing the whole city in four parts to get an adequate representation of the whole of the city.

The stakeholder consultation was attended by 54 eminent participants comprised of representatives of Government, ULBs, public representatives, senior citizens, media persons and NGOs.



Dr. Narottam Mishra, Hon'ble Minister for UADD, Government of Madhya Pradesh addressing the participants during the workshop

Bye Bye to Open Defecation in Ekta Nagar, Indore

Slums Environmental Sanitation Initiative (SESI) is being implemented in all the 4 project cities to demonstrate how communities can be empowered to acquire adequate sanitation that meets their needs, generate felt demand for sanitation facilities in slums through awareness creation, health education, and capacity building and encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies in all aspect of sanitation as well as to ensure total open defecation free slums. This pilot project is being executed in a tri-partite partnership model, bringing together resources and expertise from the UN-HABITAT, Water Aid India and its local NGO partners and the four Municipal Corporations for 20,000 households in poverty pockets of 5000 households in each city which

have infrastructure deficiencies viz. access to water supply, improved sanitation, grey water disposal etc. So far two slums in Bhopal (Rahul Nagar & Shanty nagar), 3 slums in Gwalior (New Mehra Colony, Manitata & Laxmanpura) and one slum in Jabalpur (Basor Mohalla) have been declared as open defecation free. In Indore Ekta Nagar became the first open defecation free slum with the cooperation of Local NGO Bharitiya Gramin Mahila Chetna Sangh.

Ekta Nagar is one of the slums selected for interventions under SESI programme through community mobilization and capacity building. Slum located at near pipliya Pala Lake, Ring Road, and falls in ward no. 67. Slum was established dur-

ing 1970 when large number of people started migration from different districts in search of livelihood. Presently slum comprises of 86 Households with 430 populations.

A community water and sanitation committee has been formed in which 11 slum dwellers are involved in holistic development of slum. Three women SHGs having 10 members each has been formed to facilitate the construction of individual toilets through sanitation revolving fund. Also a sanitation revolving fund has been set up and various loans have been given to 27 HH by which total 27 Individual Toilets constructed covering 150 beneficiaries. The rooftop Rainwater harvesting system has also been setup.

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**Water is Life
Sanitation is Dignity**

UN-HABITAT

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Traditional wells serving water in Lubhu

Locals of Lubhu, one of the traditional settlements in the Kathmandu Valley, have reverted to the once forgotten traditional wells to meet their water demand especially for the non-potable purposes.

"The wells were completely forgotten and ignored after the supply of piped water in the 1980s," said Ram Bahadur Shrestha, Chairperson of the Lubhu Infrastructure and Environment Improvement Committee. These wells were later turned into dumping sites completely ignoring it as an important and a reliable source of water. Water from the piped water sources was however inadequate and the supply was irregular. The water was adequate just for drinking purposes. Monsoon flow often flushed away the pipelines.



With technical and financial support from the UN-HABITAT and Water Aid Nepal and with technical support from Centre for Integrated Urban Development, the Committee has cleaned and revived 20 dug wells which has helped to ease the water stress in the settlement. Even though the problem of quantity is now easily met,

the local people still have to do some additional work to make the water potable as water from almost all the wells show bacterial contamination. They are planning to chlorinate the water and are even making preparations to turn conventional pit toilets into septic tank toilets to prevent further contamination of the wells.

Chitwan becomes an Open Defecation Free District by 2009

The Environmental Sanitation Section of the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) under the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works has been actively promoting, advocating and creating awareness of hygiene and sanitation in the country. Steering Committee for National Sanitation Action has made a call to declare Chitwan District an open defecation free district and develop it as the model district in sanitation by 2009 through implementation of School Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) approach.

In order to support this call, an agreement was recently made in September 2007 between the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works/Department of Water Supply and Sewerage and UN-HABITAT to strengthen the technical capacity of stake-

holders to promote hygiene and sanitation activities, empower and capacitate them in planning, programming, implementation, monitoring, resource mobilization and advocacy, implement SLTS approach in Bharatpur and Ratnanagar Municipalities of the Chitwan district through the concerted efforts of the stakeholders and carry out strong monitoring and follow up activities to facilitate promotional activities throughout the country. Apart from capacity development of the stakeholders, it is expected that around 2,500 households will have access to toilets facilities benefiting about 15,000 population. The project is expected to benefit a total population of 161,037 by the end of its project period in July 2009. The total project budget is USD

274,100 out of which DWSS will contribute USD 23,000, UN-HABITAT USD 97,600 and the local community USD 153,500. The Water Supply and Sanitation Division, local non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders will actively participate for successful implementation of the project.

"As the project addresses the urban parts of Chitwan district, it will be a cornerstone in establishing total sanitary environment throughout the district with behavioural change among the urban people", said Hari Prasad Sharma, Director General of DWSS. It is a new effort to provide sanitation education in towns, which had been left unaddressed before and it has targeted to provide health and hygiene services to all the communities in these municipalities.