

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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> APMCHUD endorses WG-III Recommendations on WATSAN

The second Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) held in the Iranian capital Tehran brought a fresh focus on sustainable urban development through associating growth with equity and identity. Drawing Ministers of Housing and Urban Development, High officials, Experts, Executive Heads of the relevant UN Agencies, International and Regional Financing Institutions from 37 countries, the three-day meeting, 12-14 May 2008, led to the adoption of an action plan to guide regional cooperation in the area of sustainable urban development.

The theme of the 2nd APMCHUD was on "Sustainable Urban Development: Associating Growth with Equity and Identity", aiming at exchanging experiences, continued cooperation among member countries and to find unified voice for the Asia-Pacific Countries on policies & strategies of a uniform mechanism for sustainable urban development with a view to meet the MDGs. During the Conference five Working Groups were constituted to deliberate upon the following five sub-themes in order to sustain & build on the achievements of the first APMCHUD in New Delhi.

1. Urban and Rural Planning and Management;
2. Urban Slums Upgrading

3. Delivery of MDG for Water and Sanitation
4. Financing Sustainable Housing: Enhancing Affordability and Quality of Low-Income Housing
5. Development of Sustainable Urbanization with a Focus on Natural Disasters

Each Working Group came out with an Action Framework of Implementation on the said sub-theme and presented its recommendations for Declaration of Commitment for Implementation of Action Framework.

UN-HABITAT conducted the deliberations of the Working Group III on the 'Delivery of MDG for Water and Sanitation'. The recommendations of the Action Framework of Implementation of the Working Group III, inter alia, included the following which were endorsed by the participating Ministers.

- ☞ Adopt and implement policies and programmes that pursue an integrated approach to urban water resources management taking cognizance of the links between water, sanitation and health between economy and the environment, between urban and rural areas.
- ☞ Promote partnerships among countries and among all actors within countries from

public, private, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, with a view to harness the knowledge and resources of the civil society based on mutual strength and comparative advantages, greater flow of investments and increased efficiency in the sector, and provide an enabling environment for such partnership building.

- ☞ Build capacity in national and local institutions and in the cooperative sector.
- ☞ Seek enhanced support from the international community, through multilateral and bilateral cooperation, to complement and support domestic resources.
- ☞ Endorse rapid and time bound implementation of the action priorities

The Second APMCHUD provided a great opportunity to further pursue the agenda of the sub-theme on the Delivery of MDG on Water and Sanitation in the Asia-Pacific region. This sub-theme has drawn a clear and realistic picture of the needs presented throughout the region and the actions required to achieve the level of progress deserved for all. The challenges are no doubt complex, but by no means insurmountable. With committed and political support, all of the goals can be achieved.



**Mr. Lee Hsien Loong**  
Prime Minister  
Singapore

*"The sustainable development of cities is one of the key challenges of our time. Good governance is vital in tackling this challenge, and achieving the right balance between economic growth, environmental protection, and high quality of life for urban dwellers. The stakes are high and we have to get it right early. The welfare of our peoples depends on how well we harness our collective ideas, knowledge and capabilities. Countries and cities should work together, so that we make progress towards cleaner, more resource-efficient, and more vibrant cities for the future."*

*- At the Joint Opening of the Singapore International Water Week & World Cities Summit, June 2008*

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## Five Years of Partnership with the Asian Development Bank

ADB and UN-HABITAT jointly organised a session on the "Lessons learned from the Water for Asian Cities Programme Partnerships: The Ripple Effect" on 26 June 2008 during the Singapore International Water Week where Mr. Ravi Narayanan, Vice President, APWF Japan, as an independent evaluator, presented a "Report Card" on the "ADB – UN-HABITAT WAC Programme Partnership" covering the programme assessment of the achievement of purpose, outputs, and intended impacts – based on the objectives set out in MoU signed between ADB & UN-HABITAT in 2003.

Under the Water for Asian Cities Programme, both UN-HABITAT and ADB had signed the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the third World Water Forum in March 2003 to create an enabling environment for the new investments in the region in which both ADB and UN-HABITAT had planned

to make available an amount of US\$ 10 million for capacity building. UN-HABITAT was to provide US\$5 million for capacity building purposes and a similar amount was committed as grant money for technical assistance by ADB, while ADB made a further commitment of US\$ 500 million loan investment in the water and sanitation sector during the five year period. Achievements in financial terms indicating UN-HABITAT & ADB grant contributions and associated loan investments are indicated in Table below.

Having achieved the objectives of the first MOU signed by UN-HABITAT and ADB in March 2003, the two organisations have signed an enhanced MOU for another five years (2007-2011). This MoU forms the basis of cooperation between the ADB and UN-HABITAT for establishing urban infrastructure partnership in the Asia and Pacific Region. As

per the enhanced MoU, the two partners intend to contribute/use about US\$20 million in grants (equally shared by ADB and UN-HABITAT) to raise political awareness, build capacity, implement pilot demonstration projects and prepare investment proposals for Asian cities. ADB expects to invest about US\$1 billion, in the urban water supply and sanitation sector, with a focus on sanitation over the next five years.

Experience in the implementation of WAC Programme has shown that pilot and demonstration projects give a "real" experience for all actors, Local and National Governments, NGOs and communities and thus enables the programme to "Walk the Talk" as opposed to being an institution which only discusses policies. However, success in these projects can only be achieved through close engagement and these projects need continual nurturing.

### Financial Achievements under the first MoU between ADB – UN-HABITAT (US\$ Million)

Country	Associated ADB supported project	Year	ADB Grant	UN-HABITAT Grant	ADB Investment
PR China	Nanjing Qinhuai River Environmental Improvement Project	2006	0.60	0.36	100
	Kunming Qingshuihai Water Supply Project	2007	1.00	1.10	100
India	Implementing Small Piped Water Network Pilots	2006	0.80	0.17	0
	Urban Water Supply and Environmental Improvement Project (Project UDAY) in Madhya Pradesh	2003	1.00	2.50	200
Indonesia	Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project	2007	1.50	0.20	80
Lao PDR	Northern & Central Regions Water Supply & Sanitation Sector Project	2005	0.90	0.95	10
Nepal	Small Town Water Supply and Urban Environmental Improvement Project	2005	0.75	2.80	65
Vietnam	Central Region Small and Medium Towns Development Project	2006	0.95	1.00	50
		<b>Total</b>	<b>7.50</b>	<b>9.08</b>	<b>570</b>

## UN-HABITAT - ADB Consultation in Manila

A half-yearly consultation between UN-HABITAT and Asian Development Bank (ADB) was organised in Manila on 30 June 2008 where the two organizations reviewed the progress of activities and discussed the work plan 2008 of the Water for Asian Cities Programme. The purpose of this half yearly Consultation Meeting was to: (i) review the progress in 2008 and prioritize activities over the remaining 2008 (ii) Review the results of the evaluation of the first phase of the

ADB-UN-HABITAT collaboration and (iii) discuss the start-up and implementation modalities of the second MOU. The meeting also covered ADB's proposed participation in the World Urban Forum in Nanjing, World Water Week in Stockholm and joint event organisation / participation in other global and regional events during 2008. The Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSSD) of ADB facilitated the review/consultation with various ADB officials.

The UN-HABITAT Mission provided a detailed presentation on the on-going and completed activities in each of the partner countries and outlined the proposed future course of action in these countries. After the plenary session, which was attended by representatives of various divisions of ADB, there were several bi-lateral meetings including one with the Mekong division. The collaboration between ADB & UN-HABITAT under WAC Programme is progressing well.

## Asia-Pacific Water Forum Launches Knowledge Hubs during SIWW 2008

At the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit held in Beppu, Japan on 3–4 December 2007, APWF member governments, ministries, and other participants pledged to improve governance, efficiency, transparency, and equity in all aspects of water management, particularly as it impacts poor communities. In addition, they unanimously agreed to reduce by half the number of people without access to basic sanitation and safe drinking water by 2015 and aimed to bring that number to zero by 2025.

In response to the Action, APWF launched the Knowledge Hubs on 26 June 2008 at PUB Singapore's WaterHub during Singapore International Water Week 2008. Knowledge Hubs is the APWF's network of regional water knowledge hubs. Each hub is a center of excellence committed to improving water security in the Asia-Pacific region by promoting knowledge sharing and championing feasible solutions for its priority water topic. Together, the hubs collaborate to generate and share knowledge and develop capacity in more than a dozen water knowledge domains.

There are several institutions in the Asia-Pacific region which have been identified to work as knowledge hubs for sharing information and capacity building.

### Confirmed Knowledge Hubs:

<b>Urban Water Management</b> Pub WaterHub - Singapore
<b>Disaster Risk Reduction and Flood Management</b> ICHARM, Japan
<b>Water and Climate Change Adaptation in Southeast Asia</b> NAHRIM - Malaysia
<b>River Basin Organizations and Management</b> CRBOM - Indonesia
<b>Water Quality Management in River Basins</b> Corporation (K-water), the Republic of Korea
<b>Decision Support Systems for River Basin Management (Hydroinformatics)</b> CHIRB - China
<b>Water Governance</b> Institute of Water Policy (IWP), LKY School of Public Policy - Singapore
<b>Irrigation Service Reform</b> IWMI - Sri Lanka
<b>Integrated Water Resources Management in Central Asia</b> Central Asia IWRM Resource Center, Uzbekistan
<b>Integrated Water Resources Management in the Pacific</b> Pacific IWRM Resource Centre - Fiji Islands
<b>Erosion and Sedimentation in River Basins</b> IRTCS - CHINA
<b>Healthy Rivers and Aquatic Ecosystems</b> IWC - Australia

### Candidate Knowledge Hubs:

<b>Transboundary Water Resources Management</b> Mekong River Commission Secretariat (MRCS) - Lao PDR
<b>Water and Climate Change Adaptation in South Asia</b> The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI) India
<b>Groundwater Management</b> Hub being identified
<b>Sanitation</b> Hub being identified
<b>Water Supply for Rural Areas and Small Towns</b> Hub being identified
<b>Water and Energy</b> Hub being identified

UN-HABITAT in collaboration with STREAMS of Knowledge, Manila is in the process of identifying capacity building hubs and work with institutions in the region to build their capacity to support local action. The Hubs will build on existing capacity development networks at various levels to support KRA-II's plans that include raising awareness amongst local authorities, water & sanitation service providers, civil society and communities. The knowledge hubs will identify local champions and will conduct a rapid capacity needs assessment of local authorities at regional, country & sub-country levels.

5<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM  
ISTANBUL 2009



BRIDGING DIVIDES FOR WATER  
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### First Asia-Pacific Preparatory Meeting for 5th WWF in Singapore

The First Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 5th World Water Forum was organised in Singapore from on 27 June 2008, during the Singapore International Water Week. The meeting was organised by the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, the Secretariat of the 5th World Water Forum and the World Water Council.

During the meeting, participants discussed how to coordinate the regional inputs to themes and topics of the 5th World Water Forum and identify 5 sub-

regional preparatory meetings. As announced during the 4th World Water Forum, the 1st Asia-Pacific Water Summit, entitled "Water Security: Leadership and Commitment", was held in Beppu City, Japan on 3-4 December 2007. Its format has also served as a model for organising summits in other regions of the world, with the events culminating in a Policy Brief and a "Message from Beppu." UN-HABITAT is the theme coordinator for the 5th World Water Forum and is coordinating on the theme of Governance & Management under which

five papers are being prepared. These include theme papers on:

1. Implementing the right to water and sanitation for improved access
2. Improving performance through regulatory approaches
3. Ethics, transparency and empowerment of stakeholders
4. Optimizing public and private roles in water services
5. Institutional arrangements for efficient and effective water management.

## UN-HABITAT Partners with Australian Company to Supply Water in Laos

On 30 June 2008, UN-HABITAT announced a partnership deal with Oxiana Mining Company based in Australia to deliver clean drinking water to residents of Vilabouly town of Lao PDR as part of the agency's new drive to scale up water and sanitation services to those most in need. In the agreement signed with Oxiana Mining/ Lane Xang Minerals, UN-HABITAT announced that they will collaborate in Community-based Water Supply Initiatives for Urban and Peri-Urban Areas of Vilabouly Town in Savannakhet Province of Lao PDR. During a visit to Oxiana's Headquarters in Melbourne, Australia, last week, Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief, WSS-II, UN-HABITAT, hailed the Oxiana agreement. "Through the instrument of Corporate Social Re-

sponsibility an expansion of UN-HABITAT water and sanitation programme to service the poor and the needy," he said.

Oxiana is an international mining and exploration company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. It is based in Melbourne, Australia, with a focus on Asia and Australia. In Lao PDR, Oxiana is running its operations under its subsidiary, Lane Xang Minerals Limited.

Mr. Owen Hegarty, Managing Director of Oxiana Mining, said: "I've been traveling to Laos since 1998, and found that challenges faced by people are extraordinary. I find the government is very eager to alleviate the living conditions of the poor, and so this joint collaboration

with UN-HABITAT and the government to provide water and sanitation to the poor is thus so promising."

Also present was Mr. Peter Albert the Chief Executive Officer of Lane Xang Minerals (LXML), a subsidiary of Oxiana. He said clean water was paramount for good health, and so this project is extremely crucial for the overall development of Vilabouly.

Some of the activities lined up in the agreement include the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation for the urban poor, the establishment of revolving funds which would enable Vilabouly residents to borrow funds towards accessing water and sanitation services as well as awareness campaigns.

## UN-HABITAT Consultation with Cities Development Initiative for Asia

Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) is a new initiative co-founded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ). CDIA cooperates with existing city networks in fostering urban management capabilities. CDIA mission is to assist cities in providing better urban services for their citizens. Mr. Andre

Dzikus, Chief, WSS-II, UN-HABITAT had a meeting with Mr. Emiel Wegelin, Program Coordinator, CDIA during Singapore International Water Week on 25 June 2008. The objective of the meeting was to understand the functioning of CDIA and explore the possibility of collaboration between WAC Programme and CDIA which at present is working in seven cities in Asia. Later on 30 June

2008, a UN-HABITAT Mission also met CDIA team in Manila. CDIA is helping in identifying the projects and undertaking pre-feasibility studies so as to enable financial institutions like ADB, KFW & other donors for investments in the region. UN-HABITAT & CDIA will explore possibilities of close cooperation for working together, keeping in view similar objectives under WAC Programme.

## Citizens Report Card on Urban Basic Services in India

National Centre for Human Settlements & environment (NCHSE) in partnership with UN-HABITAT has facilitated development of Citizens Report Card (CRC) based on the survey of people's 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 and other agencies to provide workable solutions to the

emerging concerns and issues. Following a state level Stakeholders Consultation in October 2007 regarding the approach for the development of the CRC, the survey using a pre-tested questionnaire for a sample size of 4,000 households representing entire city areas and various economic group was conducted in 4 cities. A five point rating scale was used for quantification of citizen satisfaction levels in respect of eleven types of services being provided by the urban local

bodies and other public sector agencies. The study revealed that among the 4 cities, Bhopal is better served. With respect to water supply and sanitation services, satisfaction level was high in Bhopal and least in Indore. Except in Indore, the general satisfaction level for water supply was better than sanitation services.

The findings of the report for the respective cities were discussed in city specific stakeholders' consultation with Mayor of the city, elected representatives and the officers of municipal corporations and government departments and the citizens participating. The findings were received by the participants. The general response of the Mayors, Commissioners and the elected representatives were positive.

### Satisfaction level of urban basic services with respect to water supply and sanitation in the four project cities of Madhya Pradesh

Urban Basic Services	Satisfaction level (%)			
	Bhopal	Indore	Gwalior	Jabalpur
Water Supply	91	14	76	86
Sanitation	77	15	66	62
Solid Waste Disposal	87	23	67	58

## Government of India Mission visited WAC Programme Projects in Indore

A Government of India Mission visited Indore on 14th June 2008 with the objective to visit the field level implementation of the initiatives under UN-HABITAT's Water for Asian Cities Programme in one of the project cities in Madhya Pradesh and have an understanding of the impact of the WAC Programme. The Mission comprising of Mr. S.K. Singh, Joint Secretary (Housing), and Mr. Pankaj Joshi, Director, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India visited Indore.

The Mission visited the infrastructure facilities created under the Community managed Water Supply Scheme at pro-poor settlements at Musakhedi and had interaction with the community. The Scheme commissioned in February 2007 in partnership with District Urban Development Agency (DUDA), Indore has solved the problems of the community regarding water availability and so far 950 households have directly benefited with piped water supply.

The Mission visited household toilets, vermin-composting pit, household level bio gas plant, Rain Water Harvesting system; soak pits for discharge of waste water etc. undertaken by the Community Water and Sanitation Committee (CWASC) under the guidance of BGMS, the local partner NGO. The mission was informed that the biogas system installed is very good and has zero maintenance cost. The vermin-composting has become an additional source of income for the household.

The Mission also visited Suryadev Nagar for Community Managed Toilet facility. An existing Community Toilet (CT) has been rejuvenated in the locality and community is operating and maintaining the CT. The CT is having 10 seats, 5 each for male and female. Previously non availability of water was a major problem in the slum. The slum has a dug well, but had no water. The CWASC constituted in the locality took initiative to clean and deepen the dug well and installed a roof top rain water harvesting system which is being used to recharge



Mr. S.K. Singh, Joint Secretary and other Mission members interacting with the local Community in Indore

the well. Now even in summer, the well has sufficient water to serve the locality. The community has installed a pump, provided pipeline and overhead tanks on the roof of the adjoining temple and over the CT for sustained water supply for sanitation and other uses. The Mission appreciated the community effort in solving their problems themselves.

The Mission paid a visit to the Community-managed Pro-poor Water purification and Bottling Scheme at Dwarkapuri, Indore. This is the first project of its kind implemented in Madhya Pradesh. The objective of this project is to provide safe drinking water (As per WHO specification) to the poor people residing in slums by installing one 1000 litre per hour water purification unit. The scheme has been implemented through 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.

The mission was informed by the women group that 10 women are running this scheme. So far 325 households have

become members and getting regular supply of water. The mission praised the women group and advised them to increase production and make efforts to increase the membership to make the scheme sustainable.

The Mission also visited Baal Vinay Mandir for Human Value Based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education. Ms. Subhada Borgaonkar, one of the resource teachers training in communication with students on water, sanitation and hygiene issues explained how the message of water conservation and values of water, sanitation and hygiene are communicated to the students.

The Mission expressed happiness over the work being done by UN-HABITAT under WAC Programme in partnership with the Urban Administration and Development Dept. through all the four Municipal Corporations, DUDA, WaterAid India and other NGOs. Impressed with the collaborative work on slum level intervention, the Joint Secretary suggested that there is an opportunity for the State Government/ Urban Local Bodies to tap the financial resources available under Integrated Low-cost Sanitation Scheme of the Govt. of India for providing household sanitation facilities for the poor.

## Municipality Staff Empowered on Solid Waste Management in Nepal

Solid Waste Management and Resource Mobilization Centre (SWMRMC) and UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme, Nepal organized a capacity building programme on Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Climate Change Issues. The training was organized to develop human resource capable to manage solid waste at municipal level and to decentralize the authority of solid waste management to local government. Municipality staffs from 25 different municipalities of Nepal participated in the training.

The participants of the training were oriented on different techniques of managing solid waste including bin composting, briquette production and bio-gas generation from waste as alternative options of solid waste management. The training also included hospital and industrial waste management. The municipal staffs were introduced on the uprising problem caused by climate change. The landfill site technology is being implemented for solid waste management in the municipalities of Nepal. The trainees were also introduced with Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) mentioned in Kyoto Protocol and encouraged to utilize Methane Gas generated from the waste



disposed at landfill sites to minimize emission of Green House Gas. The programme provided the guidelines for the preparation of status report and action plan for solid waste management at the municipalities. The month long training was wrapped up in Lalitpur. Addressing the closing ceremony, Acting Secretary at the Ministry of Local Development (MLD) Mr. Ganga Dutta Awasti announced that the ministry has committed to provide financial support if the municipalities develop any long term action

plan on solid waste management and CDM. He further said that the ministry is planning to provide performance based incentives to the municipalities.

Joint Secretary at MLD Mr. Bishnu Sharma suggested the municipalities to develop strategies for managing solid waste at household level since management of solid waste reflects the civilization. Sharma said that the ministry has given prime priority to Landfill Sites during its budget allocation.

## UN-HABITAT Initiative to Conserve Stone Spouts in Lalitpur

A capacity building project has been launched in Lalitpur on 16 June 2008 to empower the local people for the conservation of traditional water sources. This 'Capacity Building of Local people in conserving Traditional Stone Spouts of Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City' project will get the technical and financial support from UN-HABITAT in its various activities. A study on the situation of stone spouts and public movement towards its conservation has already been conducted by UN-HABITAT.

The study report reveals the existence of 39 traditional stone spouts in Lalitpur. One of these spouts has already been renovated in community initiation and water tapped from the spout is being

distributed by developing a Community-based Water Management System. Addressing the programme, Chief Executive Officer of LSMC Mr. Krishna Prasad Devkota suggested Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited (KUKL) to uphold the community in managing local water resources. The conservation and utilization of water from the traditional stone spouts is one of the major options to mitigate the challenges faced by the people in Lalitpur due to inadequate piped water provided by KUKL. The project will establish and enhance local water source conservation and utilisation to meet the immediate water demand as well as establish good practices in the sector for the future replication. The project will also conduct study on the selected stone

spouts to identify existing condition and adopt strategies to improve and prepare maintenance plan. Local communities will also be empowered for the conservation and utilization of their traditional stone spouts by orienting and strengthening users groups.

UN-HABITAT, Central Integrated Urban Development (CIUD), Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City (LSMC) and the local community will work together to achieve the goals of the project. UN-HABITAT will contribute US\$ 90,000 whereas US\$ 52,000 will be contributed by CIUD, LSMC and Community. The project has been expected to increase the access of drinking water to 42,000 people in Lalitpur within 18 months.

## IYS and Mega Event on Bagmati Peace Festival 2008 in Nepal

For the first time in the history of Nepal, sanitation became a burning national issue in the political domain. The newly elected Constitution Assembly (CA) members made joint commitments to conserve the Bagmati River and ensure sanitation as a basic human right in the constitution. This commitment was made on 5th June 2008 in Kathmandu during a mega event organized to mark the International Year of Sanitation (IYS) 2008, World Environment Day (5th June), 9th National Sanitation Week (1-7 June 2008) and Bagmati Peace Festival (Bagmati Shanti Mahotsab). The programme was jointly organized by Bagmati Shanti Mahotsab Organizing Committee, IYS-2008 Nepal Desk, Steering Committee for National Sanitation Action, WHO, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF and various other stakeholders.

In this mega event all the 601 constituent assembly members were invited where more than 50% members were from recently elected largest party in Nepal including the President Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) and Honourable Minister of Physical Planning and Works, Ms. Hisila Yami participated in the inaugural programme. The constituent assem-



bly member showed their commitments to save the Bagmati River, which is almost in the dead state, by reading the commitment paper jointly and showed their commitment for peace by flying white doves. A huge map of Bagmati River was inaugurated which was supported by UN-HABITAT and it reflected the past and the changing present corridors and the encroachment of the Bagmati river. This map would act as a conducive and motivating tool to develop a comprehensive improvement plans for the Bagmati River Conservation. Similarly, in addition

to this a huge vision board on of the Bagmati River was also inaugurated by Mr. Dahal. Throughout the event, the prominent issues such as importance of toilet, hand washing with soap, safe disposal of human waste, conservation of rivers and environmental sustainability were by and large emphasized. Nepal Country Plan for the IYS-2008, booklet entitled "Bagmati Shankalpa Ra Prati-baddata", leaflet on 9th NSW, Sarsafai Sandesh (newsletter on the IYS-2008), stickers, sanitation cards, brochures, etc were distributed.

## Point of Use Water Treatment together with Sanitation in Bharatpur, Nepal

A POU water treatment campaign was launched at Chitwan Higher Secondary School as part of the School Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) campaign which was organized by ENPHO in cooperation with UN-HABITAT and Coca Cola as part of the UN-HABITAT / Coca Cola Company initiative titled "Partnership for Safe Water."

In the occasion of the launching programme a folk song competition as well as an essay competition was organized and the children also performed drama and dance programme. A CS Filter was given as a token to the winners of the folk song and essay competition.

The Local Development Officer of Chitwan inaugurated the CS Filter placed on the Stand for Water Sanitation and Hygiene for All (SWASTHA), while the chief of Bharatpur Municipality inaugurated the Chlorination Stand, representative from UN-HABITAT inaugurated the SO-DIS Stand and representative from Coca Cola Company inaugurated the promotional banner. The main goal of this campaign is to reduce the burden of diarrhoeal disease particularly among children through promotion of affordable



point-of-use water treatment option and safe water handling at the household level, thus reducing the economic burden of curing the disease.



### Editorial Board

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**Water is Life  
Sanitation is Dignity**

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## Progress of WAC Programme Projects in Kunming, P.R. China

The projects of WAC program in Kunming include water conservation and demand management, human values-based water sanitation and hygiene education, water supply and water sanitation service for the poor in two counties.

The project aims at formulating regulations and policies of water; enhancing public awareness of environmental protection and water sanitation by hygiene education in local water class and pilot schools; improving the situation of local environmental sanitation and living qualities of the pro-poor by providing safe water supply and facilities, waste water treatment system; giving full scope to demonstration effect. The project was initiated at the beginning of the year 2008. Up to now, several activities have been carried out, including



Villagers are being trained on Environmental Protection, Water and Sanitation in Kunming

capacity building of implementing agency, selecting pilot schools and college for human values-based water sanitation and hygiene education, compiling water sanitation teaching materials, undertaking the construction of provision of safe water supply and environmental sanitation, ongoing project of waste water collection and treatment, propa-

ganda and training activities of water sanitation and protection for local people. Villagers live around the water resources have been trained on environmental protection, water sanitation and conservation, integrated utilization of water resources, environmental management in urban area, using of mash gas and its routine attention, etc.

## Japanese Media shows interest in UN-HABITAT Work in Laos

Mr. Takuya Shinagawa, Director, Television Nishinippon Corporation (TNC), a local media based in Fukuoka Japan paid a visit to UN-HABITAT's project sites in Lao PDR. Mr. Shinagawa visited Vientiane on 29 June 2008 to interview students from Laos who will be headed to the "Asia-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC)" and took the opportunity to film some of UN-HABITAT's work in Laos.

Mr. Shinagawa, together with UN-HABITAT staff then headed on to Luang Prabang province to visit the UN-HABITAT project in Xieng Ngeun. At Xieng Ngeun, he met with the District Officials, Nam Papa (Water

Utility) officials and members of the community. He also had a chance to film footage of the project area, while interviewing some community members who informed them of the benefits that have accrued since the project was initiated.

Mr. Shinagawa also visited the second UN-HABITAT project in Sayabouly Province. Here, he was able to witness first-hand the community members at work together with the Nam Papa officials. The community members had come out in large numbers to dig the trenches in preparation for the pipe laying for the project that has been initiated by the Water Utility & UN-HABITAT.

The Sayabouly project will cater about 4,200 people living on the left side of Nam (River) Hong, and provide them with access to water and sanitation, as well as introducing Human Values-based Water and Sanitation Education (HVWSHE).

On the day of his visit, some pipes were laid by the Nam Papa technicians, with the community members expressing to Mr. Shinagawa their happiness to be getting the project as it would relieve them the burden of fetching water, provide them access to clean water and sanitation as well as give them time to participate in other activities.