



## World Habitat Day 2006 focus on Cities



***"Our research shows that by the year 2050, six billion people - two-thirds of humanity - will be living in towns and cities. And as urban centres grow, the locus of global poverty is moving into towns and cities, especially into the burgeoning informal settlements slums of the developing world."***

**- Dr. Anna K. Tibaijuka  
Executive Director  
UN-HABITAT**

Dr. Tibaijuka has also accepted the new and challenging assignment as Director General of United Nations Offices in Nairobi (UNON)

This year, the Italian city of Naples has been designated by UN-HABITAT to spearhead the 2006 global celebration of World Habitat Day on Monday 2 October. The theme of the occasion decreed by the United Nations to reflect on the state of human settlements around the world, this year will be Cities, magnets of hope. The theme, chosen by the United Nations, is to remind all of us that the world is witnessing the greatest migration in its history of people into towns and cities. In 1950, one-third of the world's people lived in cities. Just 50 years later, this rose to one-half and will continue to grow to two-thirds, or 6 billion people, by 2050.

***"Just as migration is increasing, so the world's cities are growing at unprecedented rates. And although there is a rise in absolute numbers of people on the move, according to new UN research, the migration flows around the world today are much lower than in the period from 1860 to 1914, when the percentage of migrants in some developed countries was much higher than now."***

The latest facts and figures show that migration and urban growth are strongly linked, mainly because the majority of people on the move go for the bright lights of the city. The flows of people affect the economies of both their home countries and those to which they travel, especially the cities. There is empirical evi-

dence that, worldwide, cities are attracting more foreign people than in the past. And although the scale of migration varies among world regions, almost everywhere cities are the destinations for people escaping poverty, conflict, human rights violations, or simply those looking for a change, for something better. The leading experts at UN-HABITAT, and the authors of the 2006 International migration and development Report of the UN Secretary-General agree that migration, if well managed, can be good, both for the migrants themselves, and for the societies and cities they join.

Cities are the hubs of much national production and consumption – economic and social processes that generate wealth and opportunity. But they also create disease, crime, pollution, poverty and social unrest. The UN-HABITAT report on the State of the World's cities 2006/7 says the number of slum dwellers will top 1 billion in 2007. Never before in history has the world witnessed such a rapid growth of urbanization. No doubt migration is largely responsible. In short, there are risks and rewards of both urbanization and globalisation.



**"Naples, host city of World Habitat Day 2006 is a crossroads of trade, culture and innovation. It is a bustling city that will set many future trends."**

### World Habitat Day 2006 Celebrations in India

This year's World Habitat Day is being celebrated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Govt. of India in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 3 October 2006. Habitat Day address on the theme of "Cities—Magnets of Hope" will be delivered by Kumari Selja, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Govt. of India. UN Secretary General's message will be read during the opening session by the Director, UNIO, New Delhi. An exhibition on the theme is also being put up jointly by HUDCO and BMTPC. In addition World Habitat Day celebrations include release of special publications brought out on this occasion. National Housing Bank of India has organised an Essay Competition and the winners will be given awards on this occasion.

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## Publication on "Social Marketing of Sanitation" Launched

In order to promote the demand for sanitation, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Nairobi in cooperation with Sulabh International Academy of Environmental Sanitation (SIAES) India has brought out a Publication on "Social Marketing of Sanitation". The Publication discusses in detail various sanitation technologies which are sustainable, affordable and culturally acceptable. It analyses the various approaches for integration of social marketing with hardware to the implementing agencies in the context of various socio-cultural, economic, organizational, financial and legal barriers perceived in promoting sanitation. Several case studies have been presented to understand the mechanism of social marketing of sanitation.

The Publication was released by Mr. Bert Diphorn, Chief of Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, UN-HABITAT Nairobi in the presence of Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder, Sulabh Sanitation and Social Reforms Movement in a function held in New Delhi on 24th September 2006. Addressing the distinguished gathering and the media persons, Mr. Bert

Diphorn said that the social marketing of sanitation should focus on advocacy and awareness building so that people should be able to make their choices, keeping in view the issues of health and hygiene in addition to human dignity, productivity and economic gain matched with affordable technical solutions. Environmental sanitation, increased access to improved sanitation and its sustainability has been the global concern.

This publication will be extremely useful to the professionals, administrators, policy-makers, the academicians and all stakeholders who are engaged in the promotion of sanitation in pursuance of the Millennium Development Goals. The gathering was also addressed by Mr. Andre Dzikus, the Programme Manager, Water for Asian Cities Programme, UN-HABITAT Nairobi. In his address he said that official statistics suggest that 2.4 billion people do not have access to improved sanitation. Lack of a



Mr. Bert Diphorn, Chief, WSIB, UN-HABITAT Nairobi releasing the Publication in the presence of Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak and Mr. Andre Dzikus

toilet in the home means millions of people have to spend walking to unhealthy and sometimes unsafe locations to defecate. He said that there is a strong international consensus that increased access to appropriate sanitation hardware (toilets) when coupled with the adoption of key hygiene practices, it would have a major impact on health status, particularly for women, and the poorest families with significant benefits to education and the economy.

### Capacity Building Training Programme at ASCI, Hyderabad

UN-HABITAT in cooperation with Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) has organized third capacity building programme on "Enhancing Water and Sanitation Service Delivery in Madhya Pradesh", from 11-15 September 2006 in Hyderabad. Mr. V.N. Shejwalkar, Hon'ble Mayor of Gwalior, Mr. M. A. Khan, Deputy Project Director, UWSEIP and other elected representatives and senior officials from Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur participated in the Programme. The Programme enabled participants to adopt balanced integration of policy, regulatory, technical, operational, financial, organizational, social, and behavioral changes for a effective and sustainable water supply and sanitation service delivery. The core objectives of the programme were:

- To mobilize Political Will and advocacy to promote Change Management in Water and Sanitation sector.
- To promote an active exchange of experiences and enhance awareness of national and international good practices for ensuring delivery of water and sanitation ser-

vices particularly the poor and create environment for pro-poor investments.

- To enable participants to formulate a broad road map to meet the strategic vision.

The programme broadly covered five modules on various aspects. In addition, study visits for the participants were also organized during the four days of the programme. The specific objectives of the field visits were to expose the participants on the practical aspects and post implementation benefits of various initiatives and best practices taken up in Hyderabad. The participants visited various sites which included e-seva and Single Window Cell, Metro Customer Care, Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board; Water Treatment Plant & 24x7 Water Supply Project of Kukatpally Municipality; Quthbullahpur Municipality and Yousufguda Park; and Sukuki Exnora BHEL Campus in Hyderabad. The participants comprehended various PPP initiatives like road widening, foot over bridge & toilet which are maintained by Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

### New Chief of WSIB, UN-HABITAT Nairobi

Mr. Bert Diphorn has taken over in August 2006 as the new Chief of UN-HABITAT's Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch (WSIB).

Mr. Bert Diphorn is a very well known professional in the international water sector with more than twenty years of experience in operational management and the provision of technical assistance and policy advice in Africa (Burundi and Burkina Faso) and Asia (Yemen and Sri Lanka) in the area of water and sanitation.

Mr. Diphorn brings to UN-HABITAT a wealth of experience in the international water sector, both in operational management and the provision of technical assistance and policy advice in Africa and Asia.



Mr. Bert Diphorn being publicly recognised by Crown Prince Willem Alexander of The Netherlands for significant contributions to the GWP.

## Community-Based WATSAN System Built in Siddhipur, Nepal

Siddhipur, a small sleepy town just outside the bustling city of Kathmandu is now full of excitement. People are digging drains, laying down pipes, building ecological toilets, and more importantly designing and crafting their own future. This little peri-urban settlement, with just over 6000 people in 1308 households, is converting itself into a model eco-community that demonstrates a sustainable and eco-friendly community-based water supply and sanitation system. Siddhipur residents are also building ecosan toilets that collect faeces and urine separately and recycle them as organic fertilizer. Indeed the men, women and children of Siddhipur have a reason to be excited.

Having their own water supply system with treated water has been a long cherished dream for the people in Siddhipur. The people had to depend on a thirty year old system that supplied water straight from the local stream through 52 public stand posts, and a few wells, to meet their water needs. The old system was able to meet less than half the total water demand and because of the poor quality water, many people, especially children, suffered from water-borne diseases. Over the past ten years, Siddhipur residents have knocked on many doors from the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) to District Development Committee to get their old system fixed. But now, they have decided to do it on their own, with a little help from UN HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme (WAC), Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), a local NGO and Water Aid Nepal.

Besides water supply, poor sanitation has also been a major problem in Siddhipur. Less than half the houses had toilets and open defecation was a common practice. The community also has four areas that have been identified as women's toilets. The town does not have a sewer system and household toilets are connected to pits or holding tanks. In fact many people with toilets also went outside for defecation because they fear that the tanks or pits will get filled and emptying the tanks is expensive. Although most people had traditional compost pits called "sagaa" and "naugaa" in their houses, these often suffered from lack of proper drainage and aeration.

The Siddhipur Integrated Water and Sanitation Programme was launched a year ago with the support of UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme to demonstrate a fast track approach to community-based water and sanitation. It is a comprehensive programme with components on water supply with treatment facility, improved sanitation, solid waste management and capacity building. Additionally, in order to ensure that the system is pro-poor and sustainable, a tariff system with different rates for private taps and community taps has been designed. The project started with a detail analysis of the current situation, including gender assessment and poverty mapping, and preparation of technical designs. This was followed by implementation led by the local Water and Sanitation User Committee. The community has been actively involved throughout the project and they will be fully responsible for operation and maintenance. So far the locals have completed construction of the new intake at the Godavari river, laid down the pipe network for transmission and distribution of water, and started constructing the treatment system consisting of tube settlers,

slow sand filters and a chlorination unit. In addition to this, Siddhipur now has more than 100 ecosan toilets, including a few indoor ones, about 150 new home composting systems, as well as a plastic waste collection system. Work is now ongoing to construct community toilets and communal septic tanks for people who do not have enough space in their houses or who cannot afford a private toilet. The community also plans to purchase a septic tank sludge cleaning unit to provide faecal sludge management services at the local level at an affordable price. The sludge will be taken to a treatment facility in Kathmandu for treatment.

As soon as WAC expressed its intention of supporting Siddhipur residents in establishing a community-based water and sanitation system, the first three things the local people did were to form a User Group, write a letter to DWSS to hand over the old system to them and purchase a piece of land for establishing a water treatment facility. These actions clearly demonstrate their commitment to public participation, local ownership and environment quality.

"Just having water is not enough. It has to be treated" says Krishna Kumar Maharjan the charismatic leader of the Siddhipur Water & Sanitation User Committee.

The 11 member Siddhipur Water and Sanitation User Committee includes three women, one of whom is the vice chairperson, and representatives from all major political parties, traditional guthis and Village Development Committee (VDC). For the past year, the group has been meeting twice a week to discuss the progress and plan future activities. They also regularly interact with local communities to keep them informed about the progress and address issues of concern. When the Committee called for applications for private water connections, within a week more than 900 people submitted their forms, a clear indication of the popularity of the programme and the Committee's reach within the community. The Committee is now busy raising funds locally (about US\$75 per household) for the water supply system and encouraging people to construct toilets.

A committee of 15 women has also been formed to promote household waste management and sanitation. The women have trained over 600 other women on household composting and have also distributed little metal hooks called "Suiro" to collect plastic waste. The plastic waste from households is then collected once a month through the 24 women's groups in Siddhipur and sold to a scrap dealer. In order to promote composting of organic waste at the source, the programme has designed five different types of household composting systems and these are being sold at a subsidized rate, and the trained local women provide after sales services where required.

"The place is much cleaner than before. It is difficult to see plastic litter these days," says Laxmi Maharjan, one of the members of the Committee.

The programme has also involved school children in this initiative. Nature clubs have been formed in the local schools and the students are spreading messages on hygiene and sanitation through street plays, rallies and various competitions.

UN-HABITAT is now joining hands with Water Aid Nepal as well as other partners and local governments to replicate this model in other communities in Nepal.

## Thimi's Community Demonstrates Managing Wastewater Locally

After the success of community forestry and community water supply systems, communities are now starting to manage the wastewater they generate. Nepal's first community based wastewater treatment system at Sunga in Madhyapur Thimi was inaugurated by Mr. Narendra Bikram Nemwang, Minister for Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on 1st September 2006. Built at a total cost of Rs 1085 million with the financial support of UN-HABITAT under the Water for Asian Cities Programme, Asian Development Bank, Water Aid, and technical support from Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), the plant uses constructed wetlands, a simple eco-friendly technology, to treat sewage from 200 households. Tests done by ENPHO show that the treatment plant removes more than 97 percent of the pollutants from the wastewater. The project provides a good demonstration for national and international experts on how wastewater can be managed at the local level. During the function, Mr. Bhushan Tuladhar, Executive Director of ENPHO handed over the plant to Mr. Bishnu Dutta Gautam, Chief Executive Officer of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, who then handed it over to Krishna Lal Shrestha, Chairman of the Sunga Wastewater Treatment Plant Management Committee. The Municipality provided the land for the treatment and has agreed to provide Rs. 50,000 per year for the plants operation and main-



Hon'ble Minister Mr. Narendra Bikram Nemwang being briefed about the quality of wastewater after treatment

tenance. The technology of constructed wetlands was first introduced in Nepal by ENPHO at Dhulikhel Hospital in 1997 and since then more than a dozen such plants have been established. Sunga Wastewater Treatment Plant is the biggest one and the first one to be totally managed by local communities. Because of their effectiveness and simplicity, such plants can be very useful in the context of Nepal, especially if communities can be mobilized to construct and manage such plants.

## International Conference on Management of Water, Wastewater and Environment

An International Conference on Management of Water, Wastewater and Environment: Challenges for the Developing Countries, supported by UN-HABITAT and other International Agencies, was organised by Nepal Engineers' Association from 13-15 September 2006 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Conference was attended by large number of participants representing Government Organisations, NGOs, civic societies, academia, industries, business houses etc from within the country and abroad. The following themes and sub-themes were covered in the Conference:

### 1. Institutional Aspects

Policies, legal and institutional framework; Public private partnership; Financial sustainability; Governance; Management information system; Human resource management and other related issues.

### 2. Water Technology and Management

Rain water harvesting; Ground water protection and recharge; Fog water harvesting; Security of water systems; Water demand management; Community managed systems; Water safety plan and risk man-

agement; Water conservation technologies; Operation and maintenance issues; Virtual water and trading; Water quality & treatment technologies; Monitoring and surveillance; Modelling techniques etc.

### 3. Wastewater Technology and Management

Centralised, vs. Decentralized WW treatment systems; Natural WW treatment systems; Sludge management; Operation and maintenance issues; Appropriate technologies for developing countries; Industrial WW management and other related issues.

### 4. Environmental Management

Environmental health and sanitation; Sanitation issues; Total and school sanitation packages; Water pollution control; Urbanization and environmental issues; Air and noise pollution; Solid waste management; EIA; Health care and waste management and other related issues.

### 5. Cross-Cutting Issues

Millennium development goals; Poverty reduction; Gender issues; Research & Development (R&D) findings and disseminations; Cross boundary issues; Institutional coordination and other related issues.

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