



"Some major challenges of urbanization and economic growth in this region are growing urban-urban divide, deteriorating inner cities, unplanned and haphazard settlements, insufficient urban infrastructure and basic services, land and housing shortage, environmental degradation, mounting poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. These have to be met through effective planning, appropriate strategies, action plans and a paradigm of good governance." during her address at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference in New Delhi.

- Kumari Selja
Minister for Housing & UPA, Govt. of India

Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference in New Delhi

UN-HABITAT in partnership with the Government of India organized the first Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Human Settlements from 13-16 December, 2006 in New Delhi, in which Ministers, High officials, Professionals and the Civil societies from 38 countries participated. The high-level Ministerial Meeting was inaugurated by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, His Excellency, the President of India. While addressing the problem of urbanization, he emphasized development of rural centers capable of generating employment with urban amenities and promotion of basic services to the urban poor and the slum dwellers with appropriate connectivity. Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT,

in her keynote address appreciated this region Meet in quest of a new vision for sustainable cities and expressed concern for innovative and radical pro-poor solutions for urban management and service delivery aimed at creating socially inclusive cities.

During the conference, UN-HABITAT also prepared a Framework of Action in the delivery of the MDGs for Water and Sanitation in Asia Pacific Region. The Ministerial Conference concluded with a consultative mechanism for promotion of sustainable urbanization in the region and adopted the "Delhi Declaration" on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Minis-



Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, H.E. the President of India, Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, ED, UN-HABITAT and Kumari Selja, Minister of State lighting the lamp at the inauguration of the Conference

ters Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the "Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific Region", which provides a new political blueprint for better managed, more inclusive and sustainable towns and cities across the region.

Delivery of MDG in WATSAN in Asia-Pacific Region

The Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference deliberated the issues of housing and urban development in the region by developing an "Enhanced Framework of Implementation" on the themes of 'Pro-poor Urban Governance and Planning', 'Delivery of the MDGs for Water and Sanitation', 'Slum Upgrading' and 'Financing Sustainable Urbanization' by constituting four Working Groups.

The 'Vision 2020' Paper on "Delivery of the MDGs for Water and Sanitation in Asia-Pacific Region" prepared by WSIB in collaboration with ADB, WSP of World Bank, WaterAid London,

GWP the Netherlands and APWF Japan was presented in the third Working Group Session and based on the consensus the Enhanced Framework of Implementation on the delivery of the MDGs for Water and Sanitation in the region was prepared, which was adopted by the 12 Governments participated in the Working Group and witnessed by Civil Society and multi-lateral agencies. This Framework of Action was endorsed by the Asia-Pacific Ministerial delegation at its concluding session.

The enhanced framework of implementation recommended

measures to achieve the MDGs on water and sanitation in region by primarily adopting the use of appropriate and affordable technologies and system models for sustainable management; partnerships with civil society organizations, private sector and the regional knowledge centers; awareness, capacity building and community empowerment; principled governance and policies and programmes that pursue an integrated approach taking cognizance of the links among water, sanitation & health between economy and the environment, and urban and rural areas.

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Delhi Declaration recommends Measures to meet MDG for WATSAN

The Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference concluded with the "Delhi Declaration" on the establishment of Asia-Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) which will be guided by the adopted "Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization in the Region". The Declaration provided due emphasis on the delivery of MDG in Water and Sanitation Sector in the Asia-Pacific Region, which is of great diversity in several aspects including systems of administration, culture and availability of water and sanitation facilities and therefore no one blueprint approach can be possible for the full provision of safe water and sanitation services to the people of each country. Multiple routes to match each different set of circumstances particularly at the micro level need to be addressed, which inter alia, include:

- Determined leadership and political will;
- Positive policy initiatives for water and sanitation service delivery;
- Enhancement of investments on water and sanitation services through innovative financial mechanisms including people's own resources;
- Sharing of resources amongst various stakeholders with cost recovery for sustainability;
- Provision of sufficient resources and incentives for operation and maintenance;
- Capacity building and training at all levels of local service;
- Involvement of Civil Society organizations, a big step forward in outreach to poor communities, generating accurate information including mapping;
- Public disclosure of water and sanitation budgets by creating fiscal and legal measures (such as right to information);
- Due importance to secondary towns and peri-urban areas and allocation of adequate resources;
- Integrated approach in planning and implementation of water and sanitation from big metropolitan centres to secondary towns and peri-urban areas.
- Suitable measures for policies relating to land tenure and occupancy rights in 'unrecognized' slums in urban conglomerations;
- Use of appropriate and affordable technologies for sustainable environment management, system models and information sharing;
- Partnerships with civil society organizations, private sector and regional knowledge centers for increased coverage;
- Concerted campaign to raise awareness concerning water, sanitation, hygiene and the environment and community empowerment;
- Multi stakeholder approach in each country to achieve synergies and a united effort;

UN-HABITAT Representative on the State Level Steering Committee for JNNURM

In Madhya Pradesh four cities viz. Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Ujjain have been identified for funding under JNNURM. A State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) for deciding and prioritizing the projects under the mission has been constituted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh under the Chairmanship of Minister, Urban Administration and Development, GoMP. Recognizing the relevance of the Water for Asian Cities Programme to JNNURM, the State Government has invited Chief Technical Advisor, UN-HABITAT as a 'Special Invitee' to this committee.

The State Government has started implementation of the Madhya Pradesh Urban Services for the Poor (MPUSP) programme with support from DFID. In this connection, the Government has constituted a State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, UADD, GoMP for coordination of inter departmental and intra departmental issues relating to the implementation of the programme. To bring in the synergy between WAC and MPUSP being implemented in the project cities, the Government has also nominated the Chief Technical Advisor, UN-HABITAT as a member to this committee.

Exhibition on WAC Programme during Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference

UN-HABITAT in partnership with ADB had setup an Exhibition during the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference focusing the activities of Water for Asian Cities (WAC) and the MEK-WATSAN Programmes. Under the WAC Programme in India, the focus was on the themes of:

- Community Managed Water Supply Schemes; and
 - Capacity Building.
- WAC activities in Nepal presented the Urban and Environmental Improvement Projects and the Small Town Water and Sanitation Sector Projects.
- The Exhibition had wider viewer-ship and was well appreciated. Various Ministers, High officials, Professionals and the Civil society from 38 countries of the Asia-Pacific Region visited the Exhibition.



Regional Media Workshop on Urban Water and Sanitation Issues

A Regional Media Workshop on Urban Water and Sanitation Issues in Asia and the Pacific was organised by UN-HABITAT in cooperation with IRC, the Netherlands under the Water for Asian Cities Programme in New Delhi from 10 – 12 December 2006. This was a precursor to the first Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Human Settlements.

The main objectives of the workshop were:

- Create awareness among the Media Professionals regarding the current situation of water and sanitation in various countries of Asia particularly those participating in the Water for Asian Cities and MEK-WATSAN Programmes;
- Seek the indulgence and involvement of the media for creating public awareness and advocacy to promote sector reforms for the urban poor;
- Encourage pro-poor investments in water and sanitation to support Millennium Development Goals;

The Workshop brought together development Journalists from leading print and electronic media from various countries participating under WAC programme, viz, India, Nepal, Lao PDR, Vietnam, PR China, Singapore and Thailand.

The Workshop was conducted in an interactive and discussion mode covering the themes mainly on:

- Water & Sanitation Governance in Asia
- Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education
- Water, sanitation and gender reflecting women's involvement
- Institutional and policy framework for integrated water resource management and enhancing water use efficiency
- Water demand management for improving access to safe and sustainable drinking water in urban areas



- Promoting pro-poor investments in water and sanitation.
- National priorities, policies and institutions responding to sanitation needs in urban areas

The Workshop made a positive impact on the participating journalists, who have committed to develop and intensify appropriate media coverage on water and sanitation in their respective countries.

UN-HABITAT Supports Urban WATSAN Services in Nepal

Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT and Mr. Kishore Thapa, Director General of the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction, Government of Nepal on behalf of Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary of the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MPPW), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Urban Environmental Sanitation and Water Supply on 15th December 2006 during Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference held in New Delhi. Minister for Physical Planning and Works Mr.

Gopal Man Shrestha with a team of Journalist from Nepal were present on the signing ceremony.

The MoU provides a framework for cooperation between UN-HABITAT and Government of Nepal under the Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme. The WAC Programme in Nepal will be implemented with a focus on capacity building, environmental sanitation and water supply related activities in support of ADB assisted Projects including Kathmandu Valley Water Services Sector Development Programme, Melamchi Water Supply Project, Urban and Environment Improvement Project, Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation and Integrated Urban Development Programme.

The overall aim of the Project is to improve the accessibility, qual-

ity, reliability and sustainability of water and sanitation service delivery in project towns by undertaking community and poverty mapping for assessing

- the water and sanitation service requirements;
- improving urban water resource management through capacity building;
- improving urban water pollution control and living environment through promoting pro-poor governance and improved management practices
- introducing and promoting Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education.

Under the MoU, UN-HABITAT shall allocate US \$ 500,000 per year for the implementation of the project till the end of 2010. UN-HABITAT, as an implementing agency will be responsible for overall supervision and backstopping of the project execution, while MPPW, as an executive agency, shall contribute its expertise and necessary resources for the implementation in selected towns/cities in Nepal and eventual replication of the project in other towns/cities in Nepal.



Nepalese Delegation with Dr. Anna Tibaijuka at the signing the MoU in New Delhi

TIGNI Improving WATSAN Services through Community Participation

Tigni, a small settlement of 146 households, an ultra poor community in the North of Madhyapur Thimi Municipality, has been facing serious problems of water and sanitation, wherein the toilet coverage is less than half.

The Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme of UN-HABITAT in partnership with the Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD) and Water Aid, Nepal and in association with Madhyapur Thimi Municipality is implementing Water and Environmental Sanitation Improvement Plan for Tigni with local people participation. WAC developed this comprehensive plan based on a pre-testing exercise of Poverty Mapping. Improved access to Water Services, Total Sanitation, Neighbourhood Environment Improvement and Empowering the Community are the main components of this Project. The Community has been involved in the project right from the design phase, planning and decision making. The Project is nearing completion and the benefits derived are as under:

Improved Water Services

- Well rehabilitation, spring conservation, and public tap renovation.
- Community awareness towards quality of water and disinfection techniques.

Total Sanitation

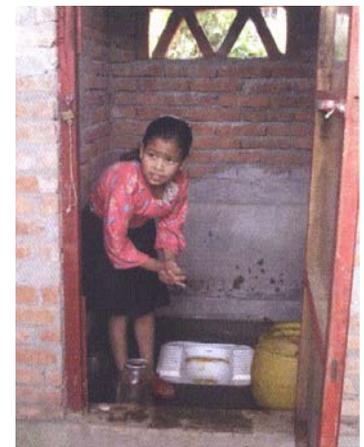
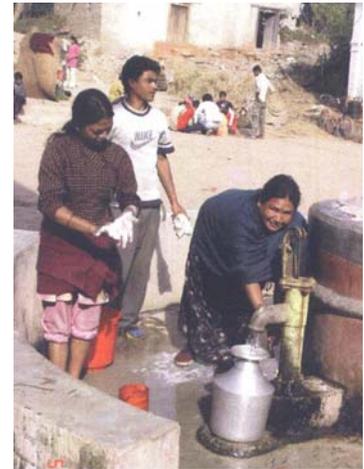
- Collaborative approach with community organisation to convince people for total sanitation and better hygiene practices.
- Every house to have ECOSAN/Double-pit toilet.
- Recycling of human waste to agriculture fields.

Neighbourhood Environment Improvement

- Construction of new main drains, rehabilitation of old ones, construction of manholes, collection chambers and inlets to the drain
- Participatory approach by contributing labour and sand for installing storm water drainage systems
- Brick paving & construction of side drains for clean & health environment
- Participation of every household to pave their front yard for children to play, people to socialize, etc.
- Use of cooking stove for healthy environment and reduction of burden on women to carry firewood

Empowering Community

- Participation of community in design, planning and decision making
- Training community in water and sanitation related activities
- Awareness building on water quality, sanitation, health and hygiene
- Micro-credit saving groups to strengthen women.



UN-HABITAT sponsors Director, UEIP, Nepal for Training

UN-HABITAT sponsored Mr. Girija P. Gorkhaly, Project Director, Urban Environment Improvement Project (UEIP), Nepal for a specialized training programme on 'Municipal Planning and Service Delivery' held in Jerusalem, Israel from 31st October to 24th November, 2006, as a part of collaboration with the Centre for International Cooperation – MASHAV and through the facilitation of Israeli Embassy in Nairobi offering scholarship. WEITZ Centre for Development Studies conducted the training programme. The training emphasized on planning and development mechanisms for the local governments in promoting affordable and accessible infrastructure services in a sustainable manner with appropriate service delivery systems.

UN-HABITAT

Water for Asian Cities Programme Regional Office

EP-16/17, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi - 110021 (India), Tel: +91-11-42225019 / 22
Fax: +91-11-24104961, Web: www.unhabitat.org/water

WAC Project Office in India

E-1/191, Arera Colony, Bhopal,
Madhya Pradesh, India
Tel: +91-755-2460835/36
Fax: +91-11-2460837
Email: Wac.India@unhabitat.org

WAC Project Office in Nepal

UN House, Pulchowk, GPO Box 107,
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977-1-5536699
Fax: +977-1-5548597
Email: Wac.Nepal@unhabitat.org

Editorial Board

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Editor

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