

# WAC Regional newsletter



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

### One Billion Dollar Investment in WATSAN

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have agreed to continue and further extend their partnership that began in 2003 under the Water for Asian Cities Programme to increase investments in safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to support Millennium Development Goals.

As per the new MoU, which has recently been signed both by Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT and Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda, ADB President, the ADB expects to invest about US\$1 billion in urban water supply and sanitation over the next five years. The investments will be part of ADB's Water Financing Program 2006-2010 to boost investments in the water sector to well over \$2 billion a year.

The partnership under the Water for Asian Cities Programme will extend to 2011 with each organization committing additional \$10 million in grant funds - twice the amount committed in 2003. The partnership was established to improve water supply and sanitation services to the urban poor in Asia, build the capacity of Asian cities to secure and manage pro-poor investments and help the region meet the Millennium Development Goal related to the provision of safe drinking water and improved sanitation.

This new phase of the partnership will work in the following three areas, bringing a notably greater focus to the region's urgent sanitation needs:

- **Increasing investments** - in urban water and sustainable sanitation as well as slum upgrading and urban renewal.
- **Human resource development & capacity building** - through several UN-HABITAT programmes, such as Water for Asian Cities and MEK-WATSAN.
- **Knowledge sharing** - particularly information about the sanitation sector and contributing to the upcoming Global Report on Water and Sanitation in Asian Cities.

The \$10 million in grants from ADB will be administered as technical assistance in various countries that have prioritized urban water investments in their country partnership strategies with ADB. UN-HABITAT's \$10 million in grants will be administered through its Water and Sanitation Trust Fund.

During the first phase of the partnership, the two organizations collaborated to build capacity, prepare projects and raise investments. ADB is on track to achieve its investment target of \$500 million in urban water projects in Asian Region.

### Best Practices Award for Ahmedabad

India is consistently one of the countries with the largest number of submissions to the Dubai International Award for Best Practices. For the 2006 awards, UN-HABITAT received 102 submissions from India, of which 4 were in the final shortlist of 48 that were forwarded to the Jury. The Ahmedabad Slum Networking Programme is one of the 12 winners of the 2006 Award.

Ahmedabad Slum Networking Programme seeks to transform the urban environment by providing services through partnership between the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), NGOs and communities. The services include: household connections for water supply and drainage, toilets, paving internal roads and street lighting. All partners contribute towards implementation, though AMC bears about 80% of the cost of the physical infrastructure. The project is undertaken only in those slums where all households commit to collectively contribute 20% of the implementation costs.

Partnership makes the project sustainable. There is a long-term commitment that people will enjoy security of tenure if they join the scheme. Within the next five years the physical improvement and the community development will be provided to 24,368 households benefiting 121,840 people in 120 slums of Ahmedabad City.

### Water Governance

A basic insight - which has not yet garnered enough attention - is that the insufficiency of water (particularly for drinking water supply and sanitation), is primarily driven by an inefficient supply of services rather than by water shortages. Lack of basic services is often due to mismanagement, corruption, lack of appropriate institutions, bureaucratic inertia and a shortage of new investments in building human capacity, as well as physical infrastructure. Water shortages and increasing pollution are to a large extent socially and politically induced challenges. The water crisis is increasingly about how we, as individuals, and as part of a collective society, govern the access to and control over water resources and their benefits.

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## Legislators' Forum for Human Development Launched in Madhya Pradesh

The Legislator's Forum for Human Development (LFHD) in Madhya Pradesh was launched by the Hon'ble Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh and UN Resident Coordinator in Bhopal on 29th March 2007. The LFHD is a knowledge partnership, which is one of the major initiatives of the UN's advocacy and information sharing activities with elected representatives of the state legislatures in India.

In the case of Madhya Pradesh, the Water for Asian Cities Programme, India office of UN-HABITAT served as the fulcrum for coordinating this activity. Some mechanisms through which this partnership would function are creating solution exchange forum to access information, provide data/ research support to Legislators and deliberate on development issues, organizing focus group discussions and guest lectures, bringing in national experts and practitioners to interact with the Legislators. On this occasion, Mr. Andre Dzikus, Programme Manager, Water for Cities Programme, UN-HABITAT made the key note speech as the special guest.

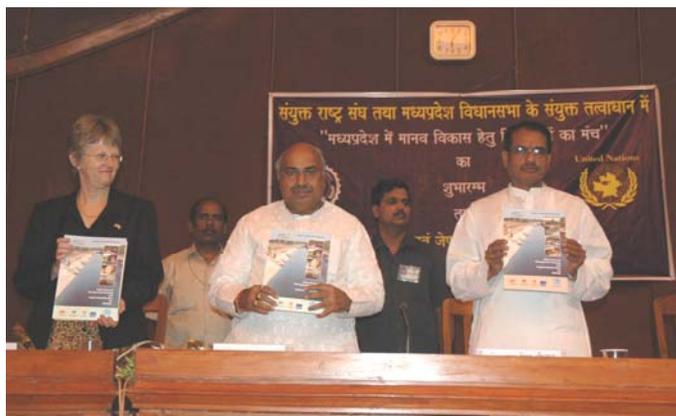
Hon'ble Speaker in his presidential address reiterated that Madhya Pradesh is

committed to achieve millennium development goals. Speaker informed the house that a core committee of legislators has been created to deliberate on the issues related to MDG goals. He said that it was just the beginning. In the forthcoming Monsoon session of the Assembly, the issues on MDGs will be discussed in detail and steps will be taken up in project mode. He expressed his desire to create groups of MLAs to deliberate on zonal problems.

During the interactive workshop on "Water Management & Gender Budgeting" organized on this occasion, there were presentations on Wise Use of Water by Dr S.R. Wate of NEERI Nagpur, on Water Demand Management by Mr. Harpreet Singh Kandra of TERI India and on Gender Budgeting by Ms. Rashmi Verma of Women Connect.

On this occasion, UN-HABITAT publications on "Water Demand Management Strategy and

Implementation plan" for the cities of Indore and Bhopal were also released by the Hon'ble Speaker and the Chief Minister. These strategy documents have been prepared by WRP of South Africa and TERI of India on the basis of water balance analysis, which revealed that there was considerable loss of water during intake, treatment and transmission. This Non-Revenue Water (NRW) ranged between 31% and 60%. The distribution network on a GIS maps have also been included in the strategy documents. Based on the study, city specific strategies have been developed to minimise the water losses and to increase the revenue for the municipal corporations.



Hon'ble Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh & UN Resident Coordinator releasing UN-HABITAT publications

## Exhibition on WAC Programme in Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly

UN-HABITAT organized an exhibition of activities of UN Agencies in Madhya Pradesh as a side event on the occasion of launching of Legislator's forum for Human Development at the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 29th March, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Exhibition on initiatives under the WAC programme was dedicated to pro-poor water and sanitation governance in India, Nepal and other least developed countries in the Mekong region. Emphasis was on community based water supply and sanitation projects in small and medium



Mr. Ishwardas Rohani, Speaker, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly visited the exhibition on Water for Asian Cities Programme

towns of the region; Urban and environmental improvement project and small town water supply & sanitation projects in Nepal; Slums Environmental Sanitation Initiative; Community managed water supply scheme; Gender Mainstreaming; Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education and Capacity Building Programmes in India. Among those who visited the Exhibition included, Members of the M.P. Legislative Assembly, the UN Resident Coordinator, the Programme Manager, UN-HABITAT and the Principal Secretary, State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

## Social Marketing of Sanitation for Urban poor in Bhopal, India

Today the residents of Rahul nagar are happy. They are proud of their efforts of making the entire slum of 142 families, mostly below poverty line, having attained the status of open defecation free slum. However, this attainment has not been achieved in a day. All these started in December 2005, when UN-HABITAT under the Water for Asian Cities Programme initiated the Slum Environment Sanitation Initiative (SESI) Programme in 17 selected slums of Bhopal in cooperation with Bhopal Municipal Corporation and WaterAid and its partner AARAMBH.

The SESI is a pilot Project being undertaken to demonstrate how communities can be empowered to acquire adequate water and sanitation facilities that meets their needs. UN-Habitat, WaterAid-India and Bhopal Municipal Corporation have come together in a tripartite partnership with 1:1:1 financial support targeting approximately 5000 households in the city, for reaching open defecation free status.

Rahul Nagar is one of the slums selected for interventions to create it as Open Defecation Free slum, through community mobilization and capacity building. The Slum was selected for the programme intervention due to its low ranking on availability of water and sanitation facilities and its high open defecating households. The slum constituting of 142 households with 710 population, is one

of the poorest of poor slums, where all the families live Below Poverty Line (refer Table below).

<b>RAHUL NAGAR : Basic Information (Before Intervention)</b>	<b>Number</b>
Households	142
Population	710
BPL Households	142
Public Stand Posts	2
Households without access to safe drinking water supply	84
Households defecating in open	142

The process started with simple conversation and discussing the plan of initiating such a programme with the community, formation of Community Water and Sanitation Community (CWASC) comprising 12 community members and SHG comprising of 10 members and their building capacity regarding sanitation and hygiene issues, which helped in spreading messages of cleanliness and sanitation in the entire community. To convince the residents, five Demonstration toilets were constructed in selected households with sanitation fund, so that they understand the importance of having toilets, see change in life of those who have the toilets. CWASC and community decided upon selecting households for Demonstration Toilets, which was based on the poverty level of the households and on basis of presence of disabled persons in the family. This followed detailed discussion with the community regarding plan

of action. The community were made to realize that to start with every house will be provided a loan of Rs 2000/- as the total cost of material and hiring a mason for constructing a household toilet, and after construction is over, only 50% of the loan amount, i.e Rs 1000/- each the beneficiary have to return through the SHG in ten installments. Thus, each household got an incentive of Rs. 1000/- for constructing the toilet. It was decided that the families would carry construction material from the place of storage to their households on their own expense as well as the labour requirement was also to be fulfilled by them. This followed house to house counselling on the construction of toilets. Local municipal councilor also motivated the community for constructing the toilets and improving their living conditions. Within a month construction work was finished in most of the households. There after, campaign started for proper maintenance of the toilets.

Now, Rahul Nagar slum is an ideal model urban slum in M.P. showing how concepts of total sanitation can be socially marketed through a unique mixture of felt need of the community, technology, social work principles and methods such as community participation and community organization through CWASC.

## Mayor of Jabalpur Inaugurates Community Managed Water Supply Scheme

Community Managed Water Supply Scheme (CMWSS) in Bagra Dafai, Jabalpur has been completed and the scheme was inaugurated on 19th January, 2007 by the Mayor, Jabalpur Municipal Corporation, Ms. Sushila Singh. The inauguration ceremony was chaired by the Member of Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Harendra Jeet Singh Bubboo. Other dignitaries present on the occasion were Ms. Anuradha Pandey, Chairperson of JMC, Mr. Abhay Singh, Member, Mayor-in-Council, Mr.

O.P. Shrivastav, Commissioner, JMC, Mr. Gulab Gotiya, President CWASC, Ms. Choti Bai, Secretary, CWASC and other members of CWASC and residents of the area. This scheme would provide potable water to the 800 households in the notified slum of Bagra Dafai, having more than 1200 households almost totally below the poverty line. This system would provide a sustainable access to safe water supply to the people of slum of Bagra Dafai, Jabalpur.



Mayor of Jabalpur addressing the community during the inauguration of CMWSS in Bagra Dafai, Jabalpur

## National Workshop on Rainwater Harvesting in Pokhara, Nepal

A National Workshop on rainwater harvesting was organized in Pokhara on the occasion of 14th World Water Day on 22nd March 2007. Inaugurating the workshop Member of National Planning Commission Mr. Ramakanta Gaur stressed on the need of including rainwater harvesting in the national policy and assured of his efforts towards it. Speaking on the same occasion Member of Parliament Mr. Ganesh Shah expressed the need of rainwater harvesting campaigns in Pokhara as it can be an alternative source of water there. The participants of the workshop also made a strong demand for rainwater harvesting promotion campaigns in Pokhara city which faces serious water scarcity despite being the city with highest precipitation in the country.

Dr. Roshan Raj Shrestha, Chief Technical Advisor, Water for Asian Cities Programme of UN-HABITAT shed the light on the importance of harvesting and use of rain water in the cities having problems of water shortage citing examples of rainwater harvesting cities of the world. Mr. Prakash Amatya, Executive Director of NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation highlighted the activities of rainwater harvesting in government and non government organizations in the Kathmandu Valley and told about the success stories as well. Mr. Naresh Pradhan, Engineer, NGO Forum explained



about the technical aspects of rainwater harvesting system to the participants. Other speakers addressing the workshop include Mr. Kishore Shakya, Medini Sharma and Hariram Koirala.

The national workshop was jointly organized by the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage (DWSS) and Society of Public Health Engineers Nepal (SOPHEN) with the assistance of UN-HABITAT, World Health Organization, UNICEF, NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation and Nepal Engineers' Association Pokhara Branch. NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation has been conducting regular training pro-

grammes for civil society, plumbers and engineers on rainwater harvesting technology in the Kathmandu Valley with the assistance of UN-HABITAT under WAC Programme. Many rainwater harvesting systems have also been installed in various government and non government organizations in the Valley. It aims to expand the technology at public level with assistance of other municipalities across the country in the future. For this purpose the National Rainwater Harvesting Steering Committee is active under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works Mr. Krishna Prasad Acharya.

### Rainwater Harvesting in Urban Areas of Nepal - A Viable Option

Looking at this potential and the water scarcity scenario in Nepal, UN-HABITAT in partnership with the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MPPW), NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation (NGO Forum), and the Water Aid Nepal initiated a programme under the Water for Asian Cities Programme to build capacity on Rainwater Harvesting system and to disseminate, demonstrate and promote this technology in Nepal. The concerned NGOs and INGOs are working towards introducing the concept and technology of Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) to different actors like planners,

decision makers, project managers, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. UN-HABITAT in collaboration with NGO Forum launched Rainwater Harvesting Promotion Program (RWHPP) in five municipalities of Kathmandu Valley and nearby Banepa town in January 2006. RWHPP seeks to familiarize people with this simple technology of tapping nature's gift and popularize its use at the household, community and municipal levels. The long-term vision of NGO-FUWS is striving to ensure improved water supply and sanitation services in urban centers and also to ensure the

transformation of Nepal into a country with sustainable water supply through the extension of the technology to remote parts of the country as well. With water scarcity hindering the realization of Millennium Development Goals in this country, this initiative is making gallant strides for ensuring that this hindrance is uprooted. The audio-visual medium has been employed for promoting RWH system. Jalpari (Water Fairy in Nepali), a tele-film, which has been extremely popular in Nepal and was also nominated for the World Water Forum '06 Film Festival in Mexico.

## National Workshop on Urban Sanitation in Nepal

Realizing the urgent need to address the pressing issues related to sanitation in rapidly growing urban centres in Nepal, the National Workshop on Urban Sanitation (URBSAN '07) was held for the first time in Nepal from 29th March to 1st April 2007 concluded with a note of recommendation for enhanced framework of action on Sanitation for immediate actions for accelerating progress on urban sanitation in Nepal. One hundred and sixty-five participants from community leaders, local authorities and policy makers from various government departments and line ministries had gathered to discuss on Sanitation & Wastewater Management, Solid Waste Management, Pro-poor governance for urban sanitation and existing programs on urban sanitation.

Recommendations were also made for the action to implement pro-poor policies and decentralized governance, to build local capacity and to promote integrated solutions to environmental sanitation during the three days URBSAN 07. The workshop proposed an enhanced framework of action on urban sanitation comprising the 27 points to be adopted by the policy maker's round table meeting with adequate discussions.

Chief Guest at the policy round table meeting Hon'ble Vice Chairperson Mr. Jagdish Chandra Pokharel National Plan-

ning Commission pointed out the fact that the urban is not much attractive political agenda for Nepal. He thanked the organizers bringing out the issues of urban sanitation for the first time in Nepal. Mr. Ganesh Shah, Member of Parliament stressed on the fact that the urban sanitation policy and framework should be guided by the polluters' pay principle. Mr. Narayan Prasad Silwal, Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Works urged to move into action and appreciated the preparation of enhanced framework of action on urban sanitation by the URBSAN 07. It will be a working document for the ministry.

Mr. Andre Dzikus, Programme Manager, Water for Cities Programme, UN-HABITAT, Nairobi was pleased to see Nepal progressing into achieving the urban sanitation targets. He was excited to be a part of the urban sanitation action plans in Nepal and suggested that the project monitoring & its sustainability prospects should be seriously considered realizing the fact that waste is wealth. Thus, he highlighted the benefits of bringing the local entrepreneurship in managing the sanitation in cities & towns.

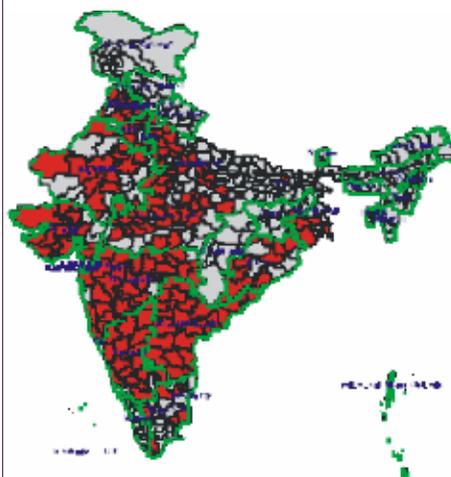
Participants of the round table meeting demanded the national steering committee on sanitation at the ministry to take the ownership of the actions. The enhanced framework of action on urban

sanitation was the outcome of the rigorous discussion by the community leaders, local and government authorities. Representatives from World Health Organization, UNICEF, Water Aid-Nepal, policy makers from various government departments and line ministries, civil societies and the NGO leaders contributed in the policy makers' round table meeting.

The URBSAN 07 was organized by Ministry of Physical Planning and Works (MPPW), Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN) and UN-HABITAT WAC, in association with Water Aid Nepal (WAN), Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), Centre for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD), Town Development Fund (TDF), NGO Forum for Urban Water and Sanitation (NGOFUWS), Guthi and Small Town Water User's Institution Coordination Committee.

## Ground Water in India

India's commitment under the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals is to halve the proportion of the population that does not have access to safe drinking water by 2015. (As of 2002, this proportion was 14%.)<sup>5</sup> Groundwater is a key resource to meet this goal. The challenge is to use this resource in a sustainable manner.



The blocks shown in red are areas where, due to extraction of groundwater, the levels have fallen by more than 4 metres (>20cm/year) during 1981-2000.

Source: India Assessment 2002, Water Supply and Sanitation, Planning Commission, Govt. of India.



**Delegates attending the Round Table Discussion during the National Workshop on Urban Sanitation (URBSAN '07)**

## UN-HABITAT—ADB Annual Consultation held in Manila

UN-HABITAT—ADB Annual Consultation for review of progress and planning of future activities for the UN-HABITAT – ADB Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the Water for Asian Cities Programme was organized from 7-9 February 2007 in Manila, Philippines.

The meeting reviewed implementing arrangements relating to collaboration under the Water for Asian Cities Programme. Country wise review of activities for India, Nepal, China, Lao PDR and Vietnam was also made along with the regional activities. Discussions revealed that the targets set under the first MoU had been fully met before time and therefore, there was a need for an enhanced framework for a new MoU which has now been signed. ADB also presented one of their new initiative relating

to the Carbon Market Initiative (CMI) under ADB's overall focus on clean energy and environment. This initiative has three components which include Asia-Pacific Carbon Fund; Credit Marketing Facility; and Technical Support Facility. Under this initiative ADB's potential projects are expected to be in India, Indonesia, Pakistan and PR China. ADB invited UN-HABITAT for possible involvement in the new initiative for piloting it in the proposed countries.

The meeting was participated by the seven team members of UN-HABITAT delegation led by Mr. Bert Diphooorn, Chief, WSIB and the Programme Manager, WAC Programme. After the plenary sessions, an Aide Memoire reflecting the discussion during these consultations with ADB was prepared. The Aide

Memoire outlines various activities planned to be undertaken during 2007 and expansion of WAC Programme activities in other countries viz. Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Kazakhstan in the Asian region.

UN-HABITAT has been invited to promote and coordinate activities related to Water Operators' Partnership at the international level as outlined in the United Nation's Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water which includes the set up of a secretariat for the WOPs in pursuance of the implementation of the Hashimoto Action Plan. ADB as a regional partner will cooperate with UN-HABITAT on the establishment of regional and sub-regional WOPs, e.g. for South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Central Asia.

## Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation & Management

The UN System have established a partnership with the Parliament through its Parliamentary Fora (Water conservation and management, Children, Youth and Population and Public Health) and with the State Legislative Assemblies of Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Sikkim. These Fora have been set up under the aegis of the Speaker's Office and are excellent platforms for policy advocacy around the MDGs. The objective of these Fora is to facilitate Parliamentarians/Legislators to discuss the concerned issues in a more structured manner and enable them to adopt a more result oriented approach towards development issues. There was an interaction with the Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management on 14th March 2007 at the Parliament Library in New Delhi. Professor Vijay Shankar Vyas, Chairman & Professor Emeritus, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (Padma Vibhushan) made the presentation. The meeting was attended by the Members of the Parliamentary Forum on Water Development and Management including Mr. Raghuvansh Prasad, Minister of Rural Development, Mr. R.S. Rao, Chairper-

son, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources, Mr. Manvendra Singh and Dr. G.P. Pilonia. Mr. Daniel Gustafson, FAO Representative shared experiences from Andhra Pradesh and Ms. Maxine Olson represented the UN System at the meet. Also present was Dr. Kulwant Singh, Chief Technical Advisor, Water for Asian Cities Programme, UN-HABITAT. The Members asked a number of questions pertaining to water policy, recycling, harvesting and contamination of water. They also shared their experiences and initiatives in this regard.

The Forum has engaged PRS Legislative Research, New Delhi to produce issue briefs for the members of Parliamentary Forum to be used for advocacy with elected representatives. The issue brief on Groundwater in India distributed among the members outlines the context of the groundwater scenario in India and the government initiatives such as adoption of water policy, model groundwater bill and rainwater harvesting in support of that context. The box gives the context and government initiatives with regard to Ground water in India.

### Ground Water Conservation

#### Context

Economic growth, increase in irrigated agriculture and rise in population have led to increase demand and usage of water in India. Groundwater meets 85% of drinking water needs of rural India, 50% of urban and industrial sectors and 55% of irrigation requirements. The rise in usage of groundwater has resulted in depletion of the water table in many parts of the country. The government estimates that 13% of the Blocks in the country are "over-exploited" or "critical". Rights to groundwater are tied to land ownership.

#### Government Initiatives

- The Central Groundwater Authority and the Central Groundwater Board have been established to regulate and develop this sector.
- The central government has circulated a draft Model Bill to facilitate suitable legislation by states. Eight states have enacted the law.
- Check dams, dug wells, etc. are used for rainwater harvesting in rural areas, and collection from roof tops in urban areas. The latest Budget speech also promises subsidies for groundwater recharge through dug wells.
- The policy of giving electricity subsidy to farmers has led to over-use and contamination of groundwater.

### UN-HABITAT Partners with Nanjing in PR China

Four Cooperation Agreements have been signed between UN-HABITAT and Nanjing Partners respectively in February, 2007. The Project Management Office of Nanjing Water for Asian Cities Programme organized a meeting with all partners to discuss the project implementation issues. Nanjing Municipal Public Bureau, Nanjing University, Nanjing Urban Construction Investment Holding (Group) Co., Ltd and Qixia District Construction Bureau of Nanjing have been requested to prepare the action plan according to the working schedule agreed in the Cooperation Agreements. The meeting also decided that a brochure will be prepared by Nanjing University on the subject. Qixia District Construction Bureau reported that the project for Improving Water and Sanitation Service for "Villages in Urban Area" has been started.

The National Development and Reform Commission of China has recently approved Nanjing Public Utility Company (NPUC) to issue corporation bond in the domestic commercial market. Total RMB 2 billion bond will be used for the projects related to urban water environmental improvement, including the wastewater treatment in Nanjing and the renovation of the Qinhuai River and other rivers running through the urban area. The total amount of investment in these projects is more than RMB 8 billion.

The bond issuance is an important part of the water projects supported by UN-HABITAT and financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Water for Asian Cities Programme. ADB provided US\$ 600,000 technical assistance to design this bond as a public utility corporate bond of international standard. ADB is also working to provide guarantees for this bond up to 50%.

NPUC is finalizing the documents to issue the bond in July, 2007. The successful bond issuance will open a new channel for the NPUC to enter domestic bond market and realize low cost financing.

### WAC Programme Projects on track in Vietnam

Discussions were held with the ADB Manila in January 2006, and it was decided that UN-HABITAT will explore the possibility of supporting the ADB Loan project for Central Region Small and Medium Towns with a significant capacity building component in 2006. UN-HABITAT since then under the Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme has developed two Cooperation Agreements with water utilities in Cam Ranh and Gia Nghia.

In Cam Ranh a fast-track project has been initiated for Cam Ranh town. 15,000 poor urban residents in nine poor communities will directly benefit from this project. The total project cost is US\$ 700,000 with UN-HABITAT contribution of US\$ 250,000. There are four components to this project: (a) Rapid Situation Assessment; (b) Community based water supply and sanitation services to the urban poor; (c) Policy Support and Capacity Building; and (d) Monitoring and Evaluation. Work has already commenced in this town.

Another Cooperation Agreement has been signed with the water utility of Gia Nghia town. UN-HABITAT will provide financial assistance of US\$ 15,000 to carry out rapid assessment on water and sanitation, social mapping and initial environment examination for low-income settlement.

The Government's position is that inadequate water supply and sanitation were the most pressing issues in the small and medium towns in the Southern Central Region. UN-HABITAT and ADB undertook a joint mission in March 2007, and as a result UN-HABITAT is currently working on the development of further three cooperation agreements with the utilities of Song Cau, Thap Cham and Ca Na towns.

In all the above cooperation agreements, UN-HABITAT has a pro-poor focus, which enables poor residents of these towns to access improved water supply and sanitation services.

### WAC Programme Progresses well in Lao PDR

The Northern Central Region Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project (NCRWSSP) is a collaborative project co-financed by ADB grant, NORAD, OPEC and UN-HABITAT, which is executed by the Department of Housing and Urban Planning of the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction (MCTPC), Lao PDR. The specific objectives of the project are to improve the quality, reliability, and sustainability of water supply services in 12 selected towns and improve the environment conditions in these small towns.

UN-HABITAT's technical assistance relates to project implementation assistance to the Community Action Teams (CATs) and to the village Water and Sanitation Associations (WATSANs) to enhance their capacities to implement the Participation, Awareness Community Action Programme (PACA), and to operate and maintain the community environmental improvements.

In Phase I of the project, UN-HABITAT has completed digitization of settlement maps in Nan, Kenthao, Khoun and Houn towns. The maps show the physical infrastructure as well as the social features like poor households, location of households of different ethnic groups, locations of households with different types of latrines, locations of households led by women and locations of houses of different types. Detailed socio-economic and community development work have also been initiated by UN-HABITAT staff members in the same towns.

UN-HABITAT has also provided technical training to eight provincial Nam Papa Branches in assessing and monitoring of water quality and quantity focusing on all potential spring and stream sources for each town. Water quality test kits including instruction manuals were provided to each provincial Nam Papa concerned during the workshop on Water Quality Assessment and Flow Measurement of Small Streams held in Luang Prabang in March 2006.

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Sanitation is Dignity**

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## Piloting "One UN" Reform Policy in 2007

The UN is exploring this year new ways of enhancing greater cohesion at the country level in Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay, and Viet Nam. The governments of these countries each volunteered last year to become pilots in what has been labeled "One UN."

The eight pilot countries reflect a broad spectrum, both in terms of size and level of income, and all host a wide range of UN activities. The "One UN" pilots will test how the UN family can deliver in a more coordinated way at the country level. These pilots show the UN's commitment to bring together the expertise, experience and capacities of the entire UN family to support national development strategies.

During 2007, the eight countries will pilot different models to deliver as "One", looking at common elements, such as "One Programme", "One Budgetary Framework", "One Leader" and "One Office".

The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) is an instrument for UN reform, to improve the effectiveness of UN development at the country level. The Group is chaired by the administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the Secretary General.

The UNDG develops policies and procedures that allow member agencies to work together, plan support strategies, implement support programmes, monitor results and advocate for change. These initiatives increase UN impact in helping countries achieve the MDG including poverty reduction.

### Vietnam among the first UN Reform "Pilot Country"

Vietnam is at the forefront of the UN move to deliver as one. The UN family has to combine the diversity of skills and mandates present in UN agencies to realize their tremendous potential as partners in development. The Vietnam pilot will comprise six participating bodies - UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNV and UNAIDS - and commitments are expected from others to join or cooperate with the programme in the near future.



Mr. Kemal Dervis, Head of the UN Development Group (UNDG) and the Vice Minister Mr. Cao Viet Sinh of the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) announced that Viet Nam has joined first among the eight countries in the world to pilot United Nations reform at the country level.

The selection of Vietnam as the first "pilot" country in the UN's effort is to unify and make more efficient and responsive work at the national level. With this very exciting pilot opportunity, Vietnam is being recognized for its openness & drive to make the UN work better. In a sense, this pilot is like bringing global reform efforts home & the development community will be very interested in what happens here as Vietnam is now literally at the center of UN reform efforts.

### Pakistan is leading the way for Piloting UN Reform

Pakistan is the largest country to have taken a lead role in piloting UN reforms at the country level. Pakistan has also been selected as one of eight pilot countries to implement UN Reforms at the request of the Government demonstrating Pakistan's strong commitment and leadership of the UN reforms process.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Shaukat Aiziz, launched the "One UN" initiative in Pakistan in the presence of the Minister of State for Economic Affairs Division, H. E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Hafiz Pasha and the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Jan Vandemoortele.

"One UN" aims at a more effective UN that not only works more efficiently, but also delivers better support to the Government and people of Pakistan in implementing national development strategies and policies and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The UN contributes about \$300 million annually to Pakistan's development work.

All the UN agencies functioning in Pakistan, have agreed on a unified and comprehensive outline of a reform programme. The UN System will focus on one programme, formulated around five areas: Health, Education, Poverty Reduction, HIV & AIDS and Disaster Management. Cross cutting themes such as gender equality, human rights and civil society will be mainstreamed in the five joint programmes.