



"The continuing worldwide impact of climate change, compounded by the global financial crisis, conflicts in many countries and migration patterns accelerating the rate of urbanization, are taxing us more and more. Indeed, this means that the international community is facing an unprecedented set of daunting challenges on several fronts. The economic crisis and the growing number of disasters wrought by climate change threaten to undo and possibly reverse many of the gains made on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In this first decade of our new urban era, there are approximately 1 billion people living in slums and other sub-standard housing around the world. UN-HABITAT's research shows that one out of every three people living in cities of the developing world lives in a slum. If no remedial action is taken, their numbers are projected to rise to 1.4 billion by 2020. This implies that developing countries will face even greater urban poverty problems than they do today".

Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations & Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on the occasion of the Habitat Scroll of Honour Special Citation Award Ceremony in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 10 March 2010.

this issue

Community-led Ger Area Upgrading in Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia	P.2
Supporting Affected Cyclone Nargis Communities in Myanmar	P.3
UN-HABITAT and Coca-Cola Partnership for Asia, Africa and LAC	P.4
Safe Drinking Water Projects in 12 Schools in West Bengal	P.5
UN-HABITAT Plans to Develop City Sanitation Plan for Mangalore	P.8
Launch of UN-HABITAT, Coca-Cola & UPPR Project in Bangladesh	P.9



water for asian cities

Roundtable between UN-HABITAT & WATSAN Organizations of the Republic of Korea

With the objective of exploring potential areas of collaboration between UN-HABITAT and Korean organizations, a Roundtable was organized in Songdo city of Korea from 26-27 January 2010 by the Incheon Metropolitan City. The Roundtable was participated by several Korean organizations which included Water Resources Policy Division of the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water), Korea University, Korea Water Forum, Korea Rainwater Harvesting Association, Water Supply and Sewerage Policy Office of the Ministry of Environment, Korean Society for Water and Wastewater, World Cities Water Forum and Incheon Municipal City. UN-HABITAT was represented by a team of Water and Sanitation Section II, Water Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, UN-HABITAT HQ and the Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP). The key objective of the roundtable was to identify potential partners in the Republic of Korea for a collaborative relationship between the Korean partners and UN-HABITAT. The Roundtable made recommendations for collaboration in the following two areas:

- Establishing a Regional Technical Centre for Water and Sanitation by UN-HABITAT in Korea
- Exploring partnerships with institutions in Korea on water and sanitation

The proposed Centre will not only contribute towards Korea's efforts in the global task of meeting the water and sanitation

MDGs but also benefit Korean water and sanitation related organizations, through knowledge sharing and also facilitate awareness and promotion of green water and sanitation options in Korea. As a follow-up to the recommendation, UN-HABITAT shall be taking up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea, for formalization of the collaboration between UN-HABITAT and the Incheon Metropolitan City for establishing the resource centre. This will be followed by MoUs between UN-HABITAT & Incheon Metropolitan City and subsequently between UN-HABITAT & Government of Korea.

Considering that the proposed UN-HABITAT Regional Technical Resource Centre will strengthen the capacity building and research efforts of the Korean organizations and contribute also to Korea's efforts in meeting the global water and sanitation MDGs, all participating organizations unanimously endorsed the proposal to establish the centre in partnership with Incheon Metropolitan City. Incheon Municipality shall be facilitating the process of establishing the centre with relevant Korean central government agencies (MLIT, MOE and MOFA in particular).

The participating organizations in the roundtable including KOICA, MLTMA, K-Water, KSWW, KWRA, WCWF, KRCSA and KWF, expressed agreement to the Draft Action Plan. The knowledge and research organizations also expressed their keen interest in cooperating with UN-HABITAT for developing leading edge technologies.



UN-HABITAT
Annual Planning Meeting & Round Table Discussion
24 ~ 27 January 2010
Incheon, Republic of Korea



Group photo of the participants during the Roundtable discussions in Incheon, Republic of Korea, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat

Community-led Ger Area Upgrading in Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia

In recent years, Ulaanbaatar city has undergone rapid expansion due to the high-levels of rural-to-urban migration. The factors behind in-migration include poor incomes in the countryside, the Dzuds (extremely cold winter occurrences) of 1999-2001 and the Supreme Court decision of 2003 that granted citizens the right to the "freedom of movement" within Mongolia. The Dzud of 2010 is a bitter reminder of these realities and hints towards possible further in-migration to Ulaanbaatar. As a result, in last 10 years, the population of Ulaanbaatar city has more than doubled to over a million inhabitants. Of the total population of Ulaanbaatar city, 664,391 (62.24%) reside in Ger areas, out of which an estimated 298,975 (45%) are poor. The total number of households in Ger areas stood at 154,644 at the end of 2008.

UN-HABITAT assisted the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar in the preparation of the Citywide Pro-poor Ger-area Upgrading Strategy of Ulaanbaatar city, which was approved by the Ulaanbaatar City Citizens' Representative Council in July 2007 for its implementation. To support the implementation of the Ger-area Upgrading Strategy, UN-HABITAT supported the development of the Community-Led Ger Area Upgrading in Ulaanbaatar project, funded by the Government of Japan with a grant assistance of US\$5.8 million. The project aims to improve the quality of life in Ger areas through the empowerment of Ger area communities. The project has the following four inter-related objectives and components: (1) To empower the Ger area communities through social mobilisation and organisation; (2) To support community-based assessment and prioritisation of local needs for Ger area upgrading; (3) To improve the quality of life of selected Ger area communities by improving infrastructure and services by using community-led processes; and (4) To document and monitor project implementation progress and improvements in urban governance.

The project aims to benefit 56,700 people from 12,185 households in five districts by helping communities build public service centres, bath houses, kindergartens, school extensions, and water provision. The project focuses on five project sites in four districts in Ulaanbaatar city. Project sites have been selected based on a set of pre-defined criteria in consultation with the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar and Ministry of Road, Transportation, Construction and Urban Development. The five selected project sites are:

1. Sukhbaatar District, 17th Khoroo: Dambadarjaa;
2. Songinokhairkhan District, 12th-17th Khoroo: Denj ger area north of Onor area;
3. Songinokhairkhan District, 11th Khoroo: Bayankhoshuu;

4. Bayanzurkh District 9th and 17th Khoroo: Sharkhad area; and
5. Chingeltei District, 17th Khoroo: Chingeltei.

A four phase and fifteen steps community mobilization approach has been developed to suit for the Mongolian urban context. In line with the approach, the community mobilization process has followed the step by step approach of community mobilization process in each of the project areas. Project orientation workshops were conducted in all 5 project sites which were participated in by Khoroo governors, Kheseg leaders, community leaders and citizens of the project area. In order to identify the infrastructure and services needed by the communities, Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) was carried out in all five project areas; the needs were validated through a series of related workshops in each project areas. A total of 343 people participated in the workshops carried out in the five project areas. RNA and subsequent validation workshops determined 15 sub-projects and locations under community service centres for each project area. Following the workshops, the Primary Group formation is ongoing and a total of 172 primary groups have been formed in all project sites to date.

Community Action Planning (CAP) process adapted to suit the Mongolian urban context has been developed for the planning both at kheseg level and Khoroo levels. Community Mobilizers are trained on the CAP process. As soon as the Community Development Councils (CDCs) are, formed, oriented and registered, the action planning at the Kheseg levels will begin.

A total of 15 sub-projects have been prioritized in view of the needs identified by the Ger area communities. The location of these 15 sub-projects has been finalized in consultation with the Ger area communities and the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar. After a series of discussions among the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar, Ministry of Road, Transportation, Construction and Urban Development, and UN-HABITAT, the Municipality has allocated land for the 15 sub-projects through a Mayor's resolution. The design of the 15 sub-projects is underway.

Partnership arrangement with UNDP for implementing the urban governance component is in its final stage of development. A fully functional monitoring, evaluation and reporting system of the project is in place. Baseline data on community profiles, primary groups, family profiles and project area profiles are obtained and being input in the database. Public Relation materials are prepared and disseminated. Lessons learnt, community stories as well as news materials are prepared and documented.

A view of Ger Area in Ulaanbaatar, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat



Supporting Affected Cyclone Nargis Communities in Myanmar

Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar on 2 May 2008, making landfall in the Ayeyarwady Division and directly impacting the capital city of Yangon. As a consequence, forty townships in Yangon Division and seven townships in Ayeyarwady Division were designated as major disaster areas. Some 2.4 million people were severely affected by the cyclone; in addition to the tragic loss of life, the total amount of damage and losses in the Nargis-affected areas was estimated at Kyat 4.5 trillion (US\$ 4.057 billion). The disaster caused widespread damage and destruction to homes and critical infrastructure, including roads, jetties, water and sanitation systems, fuel supplies and electricity. The impact of Cyclone Nargis to water supply and sanitation was severe. Ponds and household rainwater harvesting systems were the most affected by the disaster. The cyclone and floods that ensued damaged 13% and 43% of all ponds in Yangon and the Ayeyarwady Division respectively. Based on the Post-Nargis Joint Assessment (PONJA) close to 65% of severely affected people had inadequate access to clean water, with approximately 1.8 million people in need of improved water supply, who are much more at risk of water-borne diseases.

As a response, UN-HABITAT has undertaken a post Nargis-presence, 'Coastal Settlements Support Programme' (WASH, Shelter, DRR, Community Infrastructure and Livelihoods), in over 250 villages across 5 townships in Delta and continues to implement operational activities further building on the People's Process because UN-HABITAT strongly believes that unleashing the potential of the people is the only way in which all the affected people can recover in a short time. The People's Process supports and facilitates the Nargis affected communities to play a major role in prioritizing needs, project design and project implementation of all activities. UN-HABITAT in turn, provides communities with technical and financial support and guidance. Since April 2009 the Community Water Supply and Sanitation Recovery Programme, with the support of the Government of Japan, is being implemented in over 250 villages across Pyapon, Kyaukse, Kungyan-gon, Bogale and Dedaye townships and aims to improve the health of families in the Delta by providing access to safe water and sanitation facilities, while also raising awareness of hygiene and health related issues. The programme targets some 150,000 people including more than 50,000 women and children. The activities are of high quality interventions, particular the construction and infrastructure activities, with close technical supervision to ensure resilience and quality standards. To ensure that all inputs are sustainable, the approach is a blend of traditional and modern technologies carefully designed to ensure maximum long term impact for the villages to significantly enhance the living conditions of the people

Strong Feeling of Project Ownership

"This is the first time that our voices are heard. Projects have been implemented in our village, we were never consulted if a project was indeed necessary, and we could never express our opinion. Today it is different. With support of UN-HABITAT and the Government of Japan, we are part of the decision-making and implementation process, we feel responsible for the quality and maintenance of our projects, we feel empowered"

U Chit Tin, a villager of Daunt Gyi, Dedaye

in the targeted townships long into the future. The programme pursues to improve water supply and sanitation services, raise awareness of health and hygiene practices in order to change existing practices, collaborate with other agencies and donors for maximum impact and positive change in villages, empower communities to take control of reconstruction in their villages and empower women to adopt leadership roles within the community. Since the beginning of the programme various need-driven activities have been taking place: construction of riverside jetties, small bridges, mini-dams, school water and sanitation systems, construction and renovation of village ponds with jetties, deep and shallow tube wells, water treatment plants, community rain water collection tanks, distribution of earthen jars and ceramic water filters and hygiene promotion activities. To date approximately 1,500 community contracts have been awarded.

As the primary step of community development for recovery from disasters affected communities were mobilized. It allowed people to think and understand their situation and to organize and initiate action for their recovery with their own initiative and creativity. As a result of the empowerment of local communities Water and Sanitation Recovery Committees (WSRC) were formed based on democratic election process in all targeted villages where equal participation of women was ensured. After the successful formation of WSRCs, Community Action Plans (CAPs) were and are being prepared following the active lead and participation of local communities where women, men, youth and children together are tireless involved in this participatory planning exercise. Communities have expressed great appreciation for this type of approach, People's Process, since it is the first time they have been involved in decision-making and programme implementation. They have developed feeling of ownership and feel responsible for the transparency, quality and sustainability of the programme. The People's Process approach is new to communities in the Delta.

UN-HABITAT facilitates capacity building of communities for their direct involvement in the programme development activities through support to on-the-job-training of local artisans and villagers involved in the construction works strongly emphasizing on Disaster Risk Reduction. The social impact of the programme prioritization of most vulnerable people's empowerment is very visible; they feel confident to undertake decisions and actions for the benefit of their communities.

UN-HABITAT established its presence in the early 1990s through 2004 in Myanmar where the agency pioneered the People's Process by establishing the first community led project in the Dry Zone, Shan State and the Delta. Over 1.7 million people were supported through developing community social infrastructure networks and facilitating access to safe water. During the period, the project installed 7,591 water supply installations, 6,973 sanitary installations and 1,125 community initiative support facilities (basic village infrastructure). 2,400 training sessions were conducted resulting in more than 18,000 trained community members.



Myanmar, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat

UN-HABITAT Strengthens Partnership with BASF

Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief, WSS-II, UN-HABITAT met Dr. Hartmut Unger, the new Head of Social Foundation, Donations, Childcare, BASF, Germany and Katharina Felgenhauer, International Donations, BASF at a luncheon meeting which was also joined by Dr. Kulwant Singh, Advisor, UN-HABITAT. The Meeting provided an opportunity to discuss with Dr. Hartmut Unger, about the ongoing cooperation between BASF and UN-HABITAT and the possible areas of cooperation for further expansion. The meeting also reviewed progress of the Cuddalore Project in Tamilnadu, India which was having two major elements, sustainable water and sanitation for about 13,000 persons and the establishment of a disability resource centre in Cuddalore, the construction of which has just started. The BASF team also took note of the progress of the Koshi Flood Project which is also now on way for implementation with the signing of the two cooperation agreements-one in India and the second one in Nepal. Keeping in view the BASF interest in Mangalore, Karnataka, India, UN-HABITAT had already started on its own a project for improvement of City Sanitation services through city level awareness programmes and pilot demonstration of Community Based Waste Management systems. It was agreed at the meeting that a concept of a school related project for setting up Scientific classrooms what are called HVWSHE class rooms will be developed for consideration by the BASF.

UN-HABITAT and Coca-Cola Partnership for Asia, Africa and South America

The Coca-Cola Company and UN-HABITAT announced at the World Urban Forum that they will collaborate to improve community access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation in countries in Asia, Africa and South America. The two partners will undertake water and sanitation projects in the three continents as a part of UN-HABITAT's ongoing regional programmes on water and sanitation for cities in these geographies supported by the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund of UN-HABITAT. This collaboration announced on World Water Day builds on the earlier partnership between UN-HABITAT and Coca-Cola which undertook water conservation, sanitation and safe drinking water projects in India and Nepal over a three year period.

Announcing this partnership at the Fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio, Dr. Anna Tibajuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT said, "Clean water and sanitation is the key to human development and are the basic requirements to improving the living conditions of the urban poor. Lack of access to sanitation is the single biggest cause of disease among women, and the key contributing factor to why adolescent girls drop out of school. The partnership announcement with Coca-Cola builds on the joint vision of the two organizations to work for the sustainability of communities and follows the successful implementation of water and sanitation projects in India and Nepal. This is also a step forward on implementing Public-Private-Community partnerships projects to meet the challenge of the Millennium Development Goals in an affordable & acceptable manner."

Mr. Atul Singh, President, Coca-Cola India and South West Asia Business Unit, announcing the partnership on behalf of The Coca-Cola Company while also launching the Publication captioned "The Ripple Effect" said, "Water is fundamental to all communities and we understand that businesses thrive only amidst vibrant and sustainable societies. The Coca-Cola Company and the United Nations

system enjoy a long standing partnership that includes advocacy and implementation of projects in a wide range of areas. Both organizations share the vision to improve the overall standard of living in communities and we are delighted to broaden the Company's existing partnership with UN-HABITAT and take it to geographies and regions where water and sanitation is the primary need."

UN-HABITAT and Coca-Cola will identify & undertake projects to improve access to safe drinking water & sanitation in US\$ 1 million partnership. The two partners will contribute equally in monetary terms in this partnership.

In Asia, the two partners will work on projects in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. In Pakistan, UN-HABITAT and Coca-Cola will work to improve sanitation and clean drinking water access for coastal communities in southwest of Karachi. In Bangladesh, the two partners along with The Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme (UPPR) will undertake water conservation and hygiene practices program in 30 schools in Dhaka and Comilla. In South America, UN-HABITAT and Coca-Cola have identified Brazil as the country to undertake these projects and the initial proposal is to implement a pilot project on rainwater harvesting. Projects and interventions in India and in African countries are under discussion and will be identified and implemented in due course of time. In India, the partners will identify new projects other than the existing projects in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal.

The Breakfast Meeting organised by Coca-Cola and UN-HABITAT which was addressed by the Executive Director and the President of Coca-Cola India and the South West Business Unit was attended by more than 100 participants including Ministers from India, Uganda, South Africa, Jamaica, Tanzania, Brazil, permanent secretaries of the Governments of Nepal, Bangladesh and senior officials of the World Bank, and others.



The Executive Director, UN-HABITAT and President, Coca-Cola India (at the center) participating in the Breakfast meeting among other Delegates in Rio, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat

Training Event on Improving Efficiency of Water Utilities

During the Fifth Session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro, UN-HABITAT organised a Training Event in partnership with UNW-DPC on the Theme "How to improve Water Efficiency in Water Utilities". The Training Event was participated by more than 60 participants. The three hour training event had technical lectures, case-study presentations, practical exercises and also Round of Discussion. The resource persons included Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief, WSS-II, UN-HABITAT, Prof. Benedito Braga of EPUSP Sao Paulo, Dr. Jose Luis Martin-Bordes of UNW-DPC, Mr. Panagiotis Georgiadis of Athens Water Company EY-DAP, Greece and Dr. Kulwant Singh, Advisor, WSIB, UN-HABITAT. Mr. Andre Dzikus delivered a Technical Lecture on Urban Water Conservation and Demand

Management in the training event and also moderated the discussions. The proceedings of the event are being prepared by UNW-DPC in consultation with UN-HABITAT which shall be available shortly.

ADB Meeting with DED, UN-HABITAT

Ms. Kyeong-Ae Choe (Head of ADB Mission to WUF-5) and Dr. Florian Steinberg of ADB met Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director, UN-HABITAT to discuss about the ongoing cooperation between ADB & UN-HABITAT. The ADB representatives were briefed about the progress under MEK-WATSAN Initiative and Water for Asian Cities Programme in various countries in the Mekong region as well as in Asian Countries including India, Nepal, China, Indonesia & other Southeast Asian Countries.

Introducing Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE) in Mianyang City of PR China

Mianyang City is located in the Sichuan Basin of PR China. It is the second largest city in Sichuan Province and is located 100 Kms northeast of Chengdu with an urban population about 700,000. MWG is a state owned enterprise in charge of water supply, wastewater treatment and other water related works. The water supply capacity of MWG is about 200,000 cubic meters per day.

UN-HABITAT has signed a cooperation agreement with Mianyang Water (Group) Co. Ltd to introduce Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education. In May 2008, Mianyang City was hit by an earthquake. Through the introduction of HVWSHE, Mianyang city aims at building the capacities of schools and communities in Mianyang in order to facilitate changes in behaviour and personal attitudes among people and to promote better understanding of the linkage between protecting the environment and maintaining good health.

The main activities of the project include:

1. Setting up criteria for selecting pilot schools- at least 4 schools will be selected according to a set of criteria to be developed. The process will involve working closely with the education department of the Mianyang Municipality.
2. Conduct baseline study in pilot schools- a baseline study will be conducted in the pilot schools with the objectives of:
 - ☞ Finding out teachers and students' awareness and understanding on human values based water, sanitation and hygiene; enable MWG formulate an appropriate work plan.
 - ☞ Setting up a baseline for further monitoring the project implementation.

3. Conduct training needs assessment. A training needs assessment of the teachers will be conducted so as to ascertain the awareness on values based water, sanitation and hygiene education related issues.
4. Prepare and conduct one week training for demonstration schools. One week training will be organized by MWG, involving at least 16 of teachers and 4 community representatives.
5. Study trip to Society for Preservation of Water, Lopburi, Thailand. Six or more selected teachers will attend HVWSHE training programme in UN-HABITAT's Water Institute managed by the Society for Preservation of Water in Lopburi in Thailand. The training programme will include integration of HVWSHE in school subjects.
6. Develop HVWSHE teaching/ learning tools and training materials will be developed for dissemination to the schools and communities, and is expected to benefit over 2,000 of people.
7. Train teachers in selected schools. Training programmes will be conducted based on the TNA in the pilot schools and it is envisaged to benefit about 100 teachers.
8. Create awareness among relevant stakeholders. Awareness raising activities will be conducted in the schools, communities and for local stakeholders through public campaigns.
9. Establish a water classroom in MWG. Human values based water classroom for water, sanitation and hygiene education will be established in MWG. The classroom will provide an opportunity of experiential learning for the students and other stakeholders, and is expected to become a resource centre for Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education related activities.

Safe Drinking Water Projects Completed in 12 Schools of West Bengal, India

The Communication and Capacity Development Unit under the Public Health Engineering Department (CCDU-PHED), Government of West Bengal in partnership with United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and support from Coca-Cola India, announced the completion of safe drinking water projects in 12 schools of 4 districts of West Bengal. The project has been undertaken as part of a partnership programme for providing drinking water and adequate sanitation in five problem districts of West Bengal namely Bankura, Purulia, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Malda. Bankura, Purulia and Malda have water scarcity problems and are prone to fluoride contamination while North and South 24 Parganas have high levels of arsenic and chloride.

The dedication function was organized at Gobindrampur F.P. School, Kakdwip, South 24 Parganas, on March 11, 2010. This was presided over by Mr. Shoumesh Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary, PHED, Govt. of West Bengal. Also, present on the occasion were Mr. Subha Datta Roy, Executive Director, CCDU-PHED, Government of West Bengal, Ms. Indrani Chakraborty, Chief Advisor, CCDU-PHED, Govt of West Bengal, Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief, WSS-II, UN-HABITAT, Dr. Kulwant Singh, Advisor, UN-HABITAT, Mr. N. R. Goenka, Chairman & Managing Director, Diamond Beverages Pvt Ltd, senior officials from Coca-Cola India, teachers and students.

Explaining the project and implementation model, Mr. Prabir Kumar Datta, Engineer in Chief and ex-officio Secretary PHED, Govt of West Bengal, said, "We undertook a rapid assessment of the availability of water and sanitation provisions in primary schools in 5 districts and then identified the schools based on the inadequacy of safe drinking water and poor sanitation facilities. The appropriate water filtration technology and vendors were identified and with the help of Charabedia Rural Economic & Area Development Society (CREADS), a local partner NGO, the project was implemented."



*Students having access to potable drinking water in the school of West Bengal, 2010.
Photo © UN-Habitat*

The implementation of these 12 projects takes forward the partnership between Coca-Cola India and UN-HABITAT to improve community access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation in West Bengal, India. Similar projects are to be undertaken in more than 50 schools in West Bengal. The project also aims to create mass awareness on using water judiciously and promote Human Values-based Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE) in schools. On completion of the project, it is expected to have safe and sustainable water source and improved sanitation facilities benefitting at least 100,000 students directly.

Rain Water Harvesting Systems dedicated to Schools in Madhya Pradesh, India

On 21st January, 2010, Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) systems established in 16 selected Government schools of 4 major cities of Madhya Pradesh - Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur and Gwalior were dedicated in a formal programme organized at Sarojini Naidu Girls Higher Secondary School, Bhopal.

This initiative for the promotion of Rain Water Harvesting and Human Values-based Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education for improving community access to safe drinking water that was undertaken under a partnership spear headed by UN-HABITAT bringing together educational institutions, government agencies and corporate bodies.

The RWH Systems established under the programme have a total potential of harvesting 3.6 million litres of rainwater annually at normal rainfall and would benefit nearly 18,000 students directly, besides the communities around these schools by raising awareness regarding rain water harvesting and also providing adequate water for both sanitation and also drinking purposes.

The demonstration RWH projects were implemented by the Lake conservation Authority of Madhya Pradesh (LCA) and executed by the associated state government agencies in the project cities. This initiative has provided various technical options for rain water harvesting and its use and the awareness and capacity building programmes on RWH have helped in disseminating the information among the community.



Dr. Saleem Romani, Former Chairman, Central Ground Water Board in India speaking at the dedication workshop in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat

Setting up Sustainable Human Settlements in Cuddalore District of India

UN-HABITAT and BASF in partnership with local NGOs, namely Foundation for Ecological Research, Advocacy and Learning (FERAL) and Leonard Cheshire Foundation (LCD) are implementing a project with the overarching goal of creating sustainable human settlements for the people of 2004 tsunami affected areas of Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu, India. Activities under the programme have the objectives to promote the adaptation of communities to effects of climate change by supporting the design, implementation and management of community-owned water and sanitation systems accessible to all in the natural calamity prone coastal areas of Cuddalore District in Tamil Nadu as well as to provide access to public places to people with disabilities and enhance their livelihood opportunities. To achieve the objectives various activities, including awareness and capacity building programmes for various stakeholders are being organized. The project partners organized two workshops during the 1st quarter of 2010.

1. Media Workshop

A Media workshop was organized by LCD in Cuddalore on 09th January 2010 to sensitize the media about the current status of disabled people, awareness creation on disability issues and facilitation of convergence of Government schemes for the persons with disability. The programme was attended by more than 30 participants from both print and electronic media.

2. Workshop for Policy Makers

A sensitization workshop was organized in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu for Panchayat Leaders, Members of Panchayats and disabled persons on 10th February 2010.

The objective of the workshop was to sensitize the stakeholders in mainstreaming the disabled persons for government and private employment opportunities and showcase best practices. Mr. Ayyappan, Member of Legislative Assembly, Cuddalore Town presided over the function. Mr. Thankaraj, Chairman, Cuddalore Municipality was also present as a special guest on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Ayyappan stressed the need to mainstream the disabled persons in government and private organizations. Mr. Thankaraj spoke about various government schemes available for disabled persons. He stressed the need to bring in the disabled persons in the mainstream. The workshop was attended by more than 67 persons with disability, panchayat leaders and policy makers.



Mr. Ayyappan MLA, addressing the Workshop for Policy Makers in Cuddalore, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat

World Water Day Celebrated in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India

On 22 March 2010, Community Based Organisations (CBOs) associated with implementation of UN-HABITAT supported Community based water quality monitoring and surveillance programme in Gwalior organized a rally to celebrate the World Water Day. Members of 120 CBOs carrying banners having messages on safe drinking water participated in the programme to highlight the importance of safe drinking water as well as to raise the issue of its adequacy and monitoring of drinking water quality at the political level. They also distributed pamphlets to raise awareness regarding safe drinking water. UN-HABITAT in partnership with Gwalior Municipal Corporation is implementing the Community based pro-poor

drinking water quality monitoring and surveillance programme in Gwalior. The main objective of this programme is to enable the communities to take up the water quality surveillance for identifying factors posing health risk from drinking water and to institutionalized ownership of the community on water quality monitoring and surveillance issues. Under this programme 120 CBOs representing all the wards in the municipal area have been provided with water testing kits and trained for water quality monitoring. These CBOs are regularly analyzing drinking water quality at consumer end. The feedback from the CBOs enables GMC to take remedial measures to maintain water quality standards.

Hydro-Geological Survey completed in Tsunami affected areas of Tamil Nadu, India

UN-HABITAT in partnership with BASF Social Foundation is implementing a project on for the relief and rehabilitation of the Tsunami affected people in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. The overall goal of the project in the Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu is to promote adaptation of communities to effects of climate change in settlements by providing access to water and sanitation for persons with disabilities. The initiative was launched in March 2009. In order to identify the most vulnerable sites, a rapid assessment was conducted in 25 villages. As a result 16 villages were identified for implementation of water and sanitation infrastructure. Next, in order to make provision for safe and sustainable drinking water, a hydro-geological survey was conducted in the identified villages.

The hydro geological survey results revealed suitability of shallow tube wells for freshwater supply in villages. It revealed that with the increase in depth, salinity increases and as such deeper tube wells are not suitable. It also suggested that the volume of freshwater in the subsurface area is ample to provide drinking and domestic water to the village population in selected villages.

The project also plans for provision of recharging ponds. It was found that recharging shallow aquifers is possible through provision of recharge wells or ponds. Generic conclusions, locations and type of source for freshwater supply and recharge were identified in individual selected villages. The hydro geological survey has helped the project in identifying the contours, construction of bore wells and hand pumps.



The Hydro-geological survey underway in Cuddalore District, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat

Enabling Access of Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation Facilities to the Koshi Flood Affected People of Bihar, India

UN-HABITAT in partnership with BASF Social Foundation has developed the above project in Bihar, India. The project objective is to create sustainable human settlements in flood affected areas and will also demonstrate an approach to develop resilience and capacity of communities to adapt to climate change impacts. The project will support a vulnerable community of flood affected people in the Madhepura District in Bihar by promoting sustainable access to water and sanitation facilities and services for communities living in the natural calamity prone areas along the Koshi River. The project is to be implemented under the framework of the owner-driven reconstruction process initiated by the Government of Bihar and based on the experience of UN-HABITAT in assisting Tsunami affected families in Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu. The project would support the rehabilitation of disaster-affected population of approximately 1200 people in the Madhepura District of Bihar. The interventions will include demonstration of community owned and managed water supply facilities, household sanitation facilities, and improved governance for water and sanitation. This would also include improved preparedness for meeting the annual flooding and for providing disaster relief to communities along River Koshi. The Project will include activities for raising awareness about impact of environmental disasters and emergencies on water resources and on access to water and sanitation. In March 2010, a cooperation agreement has been signed between UN-HABITAT and World Vision India, which has been working in the intervention area since the disaster in 2008 for the implementation of the project over a period of 12 months.



Damaged Bridge over River Sursar (a tributary of Koshi) near Madhepura, 2010. © UN-Habitat

Pyara Pani Club Programme Launched in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India

On 31st March, 2010, awareness programme on conservation of water through formation of Pyara Pani Club (Loving Water Club) in schools was launched in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The programme involves registration of students to form Pyara Pani Club (PPC) and their training for dissemination of information regarding water conservation and Rain Water Harvesting.

About 250 students were registered as members of PPC. The students were provided with brochures and pamphlets regarding importance of safe drinking water, water and health, rain water harvesting and point of use drinking water quality monitoring. It is expected that these students will disseminate the information to the community to promote conservation of water during the summer months.

This activity is a part of the joint programme of UN-HABITAT and Vibhavari on 'Promotion of Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education programme in Madhya Pradesh'. The objective of the programme would be to promote HVWSHE through play way and capacity building of teachers on communications tools and demonstrating class room activities for students with a target to reach the community at large. The Pyara Pani Clubs are proposed to be established in about 100 schools in each city.



Students registering for Pyara Pani Club in Indore, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat

UN-HABITAT Plans to Develop City Sanitation Plan for Mangalore, India

Mangalore city, with a population of about 570,000, is one of the important coastal centres of southern India. Despite undertaking several infrastructure works to improve water supply and to provide underground sewerage system under the ADB funded Karnataka Urban Development and Coastal Environmental Management Project, only about 30% of the households have been connected to the water supply and sewerage systems of the city. The city solid waste disposal system is also not adequate. In order to address these problems in urban areas, the Government of Karnataka introduced the Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) policy along with the other infrastructure development activities. As per the policy, Mangalore City Corporation (MCC) is promoting door to door collection of compostable and non-compostable waste and their proper disposal through recycling or composting. Currently, 40% of municipal waste is being collected through this system and the collected compostable waste is processed through a 120 TPD mechanised compost plant and a 25 TPD vermi-composting unit. A lot of waste, however, is not properly disposed of.

With this back drop, UN-HABITAT has decided to support the MCC to improve its sanitation services. Accordingly, recently a Cooperation Agreement has been signed between UN-HABITAT and MCC for the implementation of a project on "Development of city sanitation plan and pilot demonstration of community-based waste management in Mangalore city" in the state of Karnataka, India. The objectives of this programme are to support the MCC in the development of a City Sanitation Plan for the entire city as well as in implementation of solid waste management programme for the Mangalore city on the lines of Municipal Solid waste management policy of the state government through promotion of segregation of waste at source and their disposal in an scientific manner and establishment of a municipal waste based bio-gas plant and a Decentralised Waste Water Treatment System (DEWATS) for demonstration of low cost waste water disposal solution for the areas not covered with the underground sewerage system. The Activities under the project implementation include:

- ☛ Preparation of City Sanitation Plan, including recommendations for context responsive decentralized solutions based on the consolidated information on the existing system of solid waste management by MCC;
- ☛ Generating demand for segregating waste at source and promotion of safe handling practices through awareness creation;
- ☛ Assessing feasibility of creating livelihood opportunities for informal sector through promotion of decentralized composting of waste, and preparation of an Action Plan for addressing livelihoods, health and social aspects of informal sector workers;
- ☛ Capacity building of MCC Staff and other stakeholders for effective and efficient collection and disposal of solid waste;
- ☛ Organizing Information, Education and Communication activities for awareness and promotion of hygiene behaviour including Human Values-based Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Education (HVWSHE);
- ☛ Sensitizing public through group meetings, workshops, exhibitions, lecture series, panel discussions and different channels of mass media and print media, use of cable TV/ radio/ websites, use of cinema halls, street plays, posters, pamphlets, hoarding, resident associations etc.;
- ☛ Demonstrating community-based solid waste collection, segregation and disposal system;
- ☛ Piloting a demonstration unit for establishment of a community managed biogas plant using market waste as feed stock;
- ☛ Piloting a Decentralized Waste Water Treatment System (DEWATS) as a sustainable waste water management solution; and
- ☛ Enhancing capacity of communities to acquire adequate knowledge about good practices of solid waste disposal and their importance for environmental and public health.

A Snapshot Condition of Scavengers at the Dumping Site, Terjun Medan, Indonesia

For improving environmental condition at Medan, UN-HABITAT and BEST have jointly undertaken a Rapid Social Assessment of Informal Sector Waste Workers at TPA Terjun, Medan. TPA Terjun is one of two waste dump sites in Medan where 62% of the city's daily generated waste is delivered to. It has an area of 14 hectares while the capacity has been exhausted by 80 to 90%. Spontaneous combustion of methane gas is common. Leachate from the site is not treated and possibly contaminates groundwater and surrounding water bodies. About 300 people earn their livelihoods with collecting and trading plastics and other recyclable materials from the site. A significant proportion of the workers are children. Working conditions include severe health risks from hazardous materials and biomedical waste. Until alternative systems are developed, there is an urgent need to mitigate the risks associated with the current dumping operations. In the assessment 110 people were interviewed of which 11 came from the same family while others work alone. Majority (55%) of them are female. Most of them were in the age group of 30 to 40 years. However, youngsters below 20 and elderly people above the age of 50 were also represented. Converted into family positions those numbers indicate 51% mothers, 33% fathers and 16% children. It was found that majority of the scavengers work at day time while there were 8 scavengers working at night time in the dumpsite, consisting of 7 male and one female. The health condition of the scavengers was quite critical. Almost all suffer from various diseases. The most common ones are itchiness or fever. Sources are most likely the working conditions at the TPA and limited sanitation facilities.

Housing quality and sanitation condition of the places of living of the scavengers:

More than 60% of their living places are considered to be in bad condition (semi-permanent / non-permanent huts), No proper access to sanitation and, only few houses have septic tank.

Water supply of the their living places:

55% of houses don't have own water supply (They need to buy water from informal sources). The assessment indicated that there is an urgent need of sanitation facilities for workers/scavengers, at least clean water supply, besides further measures could include gathering points nearby the final dumping side and sanitation facilities which offer a clean place to take meals for the scavengers.

The assessment also indicated that the scavengers are ready available workers at final dumping site, while others are hard to find. They have built up a social infrastructure already. The main function of each scavenger as an agent is to reduce garbage. This function leads to numerous benefits. By reducing the garbage which finally ends up at the dumpsite, the lifetime of the landfill can be increased. Numerous factories in the surrounding area need raw materials, scavengers are one source of providing those within a recycling circle.

Considering the potential and the skills of scavengers in working to select garbage and waste, it is recommended to facilitate for some scavengers to work in a community based solid waste management which will be done at several places at the city of Medan Besides some improvement for safety and health measure for the scavengers.

At the end of April 2010 the result of the assessment will be presented in the city planning regular meeting to discuss further plan and options to involve scavengers as part of city solid waste management improvement plan. UN-HABITAT Guidelines will be prepared and Local experiences on sanitation and hygiene education will be shared at schools by EPI-TREAT USU to raise awareness for better solid waste management. This will be based on the 3R and the HVWSHE approaches.

UN-HABITAT Partners with Coca-Cola Far East Ltd. and UPPR to Improve Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation for Local Communities in Bangladesh

UN-HABITAT, The Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme (UPPR) and Coca-Cola Far East Limited have joined hands to implement a project to improve community access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and raise their awareness of water conservation and hygiene practices in 30 schools in Dhaka and Comilla, Bangladesh. All these schools are located in the UPPR program area. The UPPR program is being executed by the Government of Bangladesh and supported by UNDP and UN-HABITAT.

The Safe drinking water and sanitation project in Dhaka and Comilla would be executed over a period of two years. The Project is an equal joint partnership between Coca-Cola Far East Ltd, UN-HABITAT, and communities together with a local implementing partner. The Project will cost USD \$300,000; a major share of the funding will come from Coca-Cola Far East Ltd and UN-HABITAT. Local schools are expected to contribute towards the operation and maintenance of this project. The project is expected to impact 6000 families

At the signing ceremony on 9th March in Dhaka, amidst stakeholders from Communities, schools, government, NGOs and the media Mr. Andre Dzikus, Chief-Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) said, "Access to clean water and sanitation can adversely affect human development. These basic needs are fundamental to improving the living conditions of the urban poor. Our partnership with Coca-Cola Far East Ltd. is an innovative example of how Public-Private-Community partnerships can help meet the Millennium Development Goals, especially the target of halving the number of people not having access to clean water and adequate sanitation by the year 2015."

Mr. Richard Geier, International Programme Manager of UPPR welcomed this Project as the first private sector contribution to UPPR's efforts to reduce urban poverty in 30 cities and towns in Bangladesh. This would be an excellent model for future private sector investments for various reasons – Firstly, UPPR guarantees that poor communities are targeted; Secondly, UPPR mobilizes communities to engage with and ensure the success of the private sector initiative; and thirdly, funds flow directly to the communities without any transaction costs incurred by the Programme.

Mr. Sandeep Gupta, Vice President, South West Asia for Coca-Cola said, "Access to safe drinking water is fundamental to all communities and we understand that businesses thrive only amidst vibrant and sustainable societies." Mr. Debasish Deb, Country Manager, Coca-Cola Far East Limited said, "We are privileged to partner with UN-HABITAT in this initiative and are very positive that it will transform the lives of the communities in Dhaka and Comilla. The 'Rain Water Harvesting & Drinking Water Project' is integrated with the company's overall goal to contribute towards creation of water sustainability in the communities." The four components of the Project include:

1. Demonstration of rainwater harvesting and other techniques to store and conserve water in Dhaka and Comilla - Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) systems will be established in 20 schools;
2. Provision of safe drinking water & sanitation in 30 schools in Dhaka & Comilla;
3. Improved water management & sanitation in selected urban slums of Comilla;
4. Awareness programs on water use, water conservation, sanitation and hygiene behavior.



Launching ceremony of the joint UN-HABITAT, Coca-Cola and UPPR project in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat

Forthcoming Event: Shanghai Expo 2010: May 1 to Oct 31, 2010

Location: between Nanpu Bridge and Lupu Bridge along both sides of the Huangpu River

The theme of Expo 2010 is "Better City, Better Life," representing the common wish of the whole humankind for a better living in future urban environments. This theme represents a central concern of the international community for future policy making, urban strategies and sustainable development. In 1800, 2% of the global population lived in cities. In 1950, the figure raised to 29%, in 2000, almost half the world population moved into cities, and by 2010, as estimated by the United Nations, the urban population will account for 55% of the total human population. The quest for a better life has run through the urban history of mankind. Through different sub-themes, as below, Expo 2010 will create blueprints for future cities and harmonious urban life styles, providing an extraordinary educational and entertaining platform for visitors of all nations:

• *Blending of diverse cultures in the city* • *Economic prosperity in the city* • *Innovations of science & technology in the city* • *Remodelling of communities in the city*

Expo 2010 also has a UN Pavillion. UN-HABITAT shall be participating in the Expo in the first week of October 2010, coinciding with the World Habitat Day 2010. Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch of UN-HABITAT is also planning two seminars during the week.

(1). Seminar on Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE); and (2). Seminar on Water for Sustainable Cities.

WSIB is also planning to conduct a Children's Event on Water Education during this week.

Completion of “Partnership for Safe Water” Programme in Lalitpur, Nepal

The “Partnership for Safe Water” programme – a demonstration of public private partnership approach of the Government of Nepal, UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme and Bottlers Nepal Private Limited accomplished its project in Lalitpur successfully by raising public awareness on safe drinking water and promoting Point of Use (PoU) drinking water options effectively in urban and peri-urban communities of the city. Lalitpur Sub-metropolitan City (LSMC), the nearest city of the capital of Nepal, is one of the developed cities of Nepal, where majority of denizens have more or less access to most of the basic services. But, people are still deprived from basic water and sanitation services. There are many water sources such as city supply, stone spouts, dug wells and others, but water from these sources are neither sufficient to meet the demand of growing population nor safe to drink. By virtue of it, incidences of cholera and other diarrheal diseases appear every year with commencement of monsoon in Lalitpur. The Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) and Urban Environment Management Society (UEMS) jointly launched a project in selected urban poor and peri-urban clusters of the city to promote Point of Use drinking water, and increase access to safe drinking water for the urban poor. It conducted various awareness raising activities, and promoted household water treatment options including boiling, chlorination, filtration and Solar Water Disinfection Techniques (SODIS) widely to bring behavioral change in city dwellers and materialize the vision that the project had made at the time of its beginning in Lalitpur. The stakeholder consultation meetings were held to discuss about the implementation of programme activities. It organized trainings and produced more than 80 community trainers to orient people about the importance of safe drinking water as well as to promote PoU options. It also organized about 70 community orientation programmes on safe drinking water and PoU Options following these training.

In addition, students and teachers were sensitized on the importance of safe drinking water, introduced them to PoU options, and increased knowledge on health and hygiene by organizing educational events on water, health and hygiene at 25 different schools of Lalitpur. Household water treatment options were also installed at 11 schools in the area. The colloidal silver filters were provided to 22 health clinics in Lalitpur.

Likewise, information on safe drinking water and PoU options were disseminated through FM radios and by performing street dramas, too. These efforts have finally contributed to achieve the targets that the programme had envisioned. Four communities in Lalitpur (Chochehen, Chhusika, Lohanla and Kwenani of Lalitpur) have already declared their communities as “Safe Water Zone.” People in these communities were using untreated and unsafe drinking water due to the lack of awareness; and cholera and diarrheal diseases were considered as common phenomena.

After intervention of the project activities, they realized the importance of safe drinking water. None of the households in these communities now drink untreated and unsafe water. Every household uses PoU options at their home to disinfect drinking water. It has reduced incidences of waterborne diseases in their communities. The initiatives undertaken by these communities have become a good example for other community people as well. It has increased the use of PoU options in other communities of Lalitpur. Many other communities are also practicing water treatment options so that they could also declare their communities as safe water zone. It has helped to decrease the incidence of waterborne diseases in the municipal area in the year 2009.

Best Practices on Solid Waste Management shared with Municipalities in Nepal

A national level four days workshop on “Experience Sharing on Successful Practices on SWM” was organized by UN-HABITAT and Solid Waste Management and Resource Mobilization Centre under the Ministry of Local Development (SWMRMC/MoLD) from 15-18 February 2010 to understand issues and challenges faced by the municipalities. The workshop aimed at introducing and motivating municipalities to adopt cost effective, efficient and environment friendly technologies to improve solid waste management at local level. Lack of adequate laws & legislations, weakness in institutional arrangements, inefficient use of existing resources, and lack of appropriate technologies are the major challenges in municipal SWM in Nepal. A team of experts on SWM was invited during the workshop from UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) to orient the participants to different SWM technologies being implemented in Japan, so that municipalities of Nepal could adopt appropriate technologies to deal with the SWM problems.

Sachiyo Hoshino, Special Adviser to the Director, UN-HABITAT ROAP, while speaking about the municipal SWM in Japan, told that 78 percent of solid waste produced is incinerated, while remaining 20 percent is recycled. Youiko Taira and Nobuko Hatano from UN-HABITAT ROAP trained the participants on cardboard composting technique, which can be applied to manage degradable solid waste at its source and reduce production of solid waste. The workshop also shared vari-

ous successful practices on municipal SWM of Nepal, and discussed on the issues and challenges, the municipalities are facing due to unmanaged solid waste.

The experts from UN-HABITAT ROAP, Japan also presented a paper on the SWM system of Fukuoka City, Japan to guide the participating municipalities in dealing with the problems related to SWM. Thirty nine municipal staff and other WATSAN stakeholder from 29 different municipalities and small towns of Nepal were introduced to various successful practices on municipal solid waste management during the four-day sharing workshop held from 15-18 February, 2010 in Lalitpur, Nepal.

UN-HABITAT is providing support to MoLD/SWMRMC for the last three years to build the capacity of municipal staff on SWM and to orient municipalities on climate change issues and clean development mechanism, as well as facilitate them in developing strategic planning for municipal SWM.

The MoLD/ SWMRMC have recently prepared National Solid Waste Management Technical Guidelines for the Municipalities of Nepal. Similarly, the Government of Nepal has also drafted the New Solid Waste Management Act with the support of UN-HABITAT.

UN-HABITAT is further supporting MoLD to enhance the capacity of SWMRMC, and develop it as a lead government technical institute on urban solid waste management to support all municipalities in SWM.



The Government of Indonesia is hosting the Third Asia Pacific Ministers' Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) which will be held in Solo, Indonesia from 22 -24 June 2010. The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) will take place on 22-23 June followed by the Ministers' Conference on 24 June 2010. APMCHUD is a consultative mechanism for the promotion of sustainable housing and urban development in the Asia-Pacific region. It serves as a forum and network to discuss the urban challenge at the regional level as a basis for national, provincial and local level policies and strategies, and as a focus for the discussion

of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant Millennium Development Goals and Targets. The overall theme of the conference is: 'Empowering Communities for Sustainable Urbanization'. The conference will be supported by parallel working group meetings in the following areas: a) Community Participation in Planning and Governance, b) Participatory Urban Slum Upgrading, c) Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation, d) Financing Sustainable Housing and Urban Development, and e) The Role of Communities in Addressing Climate Change. For more details, please visit www.apmchud.com or www.habitat-indonesia.or.id/apmchud

MEK-WATSAN Programme in Vietnam

MEKWATSAN programme with funding assistance from the Government of Netherlands is focusing on improving water and environmental sanitation in a number of selected towns spread over Lao PDR, Kingdom of Cambodia and SR Vietnam. In Vietnam, 4 towns along East-West Economic Corridor have been selected. These are Dong Ha, Lao Bao, Cua Viet and Quang Tri of Quang Tri Province. Following the high-level regional stakeholders' Consultations held in Hanoi in April 2009, an MoU between UN-HABITAT and the Local Government of Quang Tri Province was signed in October 2009. Subsequently, a Cooperation Agreement was signed with the water utility of Quang Tri Province (QTWASUCO) on Dec 2009. A Steering Committee (SC) and a Project Management Unit (PMU) have also been established among local government and relevant stakeholders, in accordance with the MoU. It is expected that the implementation of water and sanitation projects in these 4 towns of Quang Tri province of Vietnam will be completed over two years starting early 2010.

An Action Plan for MEKWATSAN has been prepared for the period 2010-2011. The Plan has 5 parts:

1. Participatory Planning and Assessment of Beneficiaries
2. Community Mobilization, Awareness Raising and Capacity Building
3. Provision of Safe Piped Water
4. Community Based Provision of Improved Sanitation Facilities
5. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

As part of the first activity stated above, a Stakeholders' Workshop for MEK-WATSAN in Vietnam was held in Dong Ha capital city of Quang Tri Province on 16 Mar 2010.

The key objective of the Inception Workshop was to bring together primary and secondary stakeholders to discuss and decide on the approach and strategy adopted by UN-HABITAT in implementation of the fast-track activities within MEK-WATSAN Initiative scaling up phase in 4 towns of Quang Tri Province. The Inception Workshop was conducted successfully with discussions and feedbacks from stakeholders. A Monitoring Framework and PPME methodology/database which

was presented to the Government of the Netherlands earlier was shared with the stakeholders as an initial guideline. The stakeholders were explained and fully made aware that all project activities as described in CAs will be monitored in accordance with this framework and PPME database has been developed to record and monitor the project progress. The participants agreed that the Project shall be integrated into other ongoing or/and planned activities/programs in the sector to achieve the number of beneficiaries as planned with tight schedule implementation and limited budget. Methodology on cost-sharing for construction of pipe network should be applied among all households (rich or low income) who are living in the same area with the poor where the pipes network has been planned to be expanded. So the poor would have the opportunity to be provided the piped water supply connections.

The implementing entity (the provincial water utility) was highly recommended to coordinate with other stakeholders during implementation, since the Project would never succeed without involvement from relevant stakeholders and the community. The method of investment and implementation for each project town should be considered upon natural conditions and customs of the town. The toilets for ethnic people should be designed to suit their living customs/ conditions.



During Stakeholders' Workshop for MEK-WATSAN in Vietnam, 2010. Photo © UN-Habitat

Clean Energy for Local Community in Lao PDR

UN-HABITAT in partnership with the Science and Technology Research Institute, National Authority for Science and Technology has taken up a pilot demonstration project on clean energy for local community with biogas digesters in Lao PDR. The objective of this project is to develop pilot demonstration biogas digesters in one of the 12 secondary towns in which UN-HABITAT is currently working.

The biogas digesters will showcase a community-based biogas energy source and act as an impetus for other sustainable energy projects. The project will be important in linking environmental sanitation to renewable energy sources and allow communities to become aware of the possibilities of using waste as an energy source. The project encourages participation from end-user with 50% of construction cost, and setting revolving fund for assisting the poor household to pay their contribution part. This project will also create capacity of the local community for management and sustainable operation by setting up local project management committee to manage biogas revolving fund and train local techni-

cians to provide service for biogas construction, operation and maintenance. The project has so far shown the following results:

- ☞ 5 biogas plants have so far been installed 3 of which 3 are using pig dung, one using waste from kitchen and toilet, and the fifth one using public toilet in Hound district hospital as feedstock material,
- ☞ Increased awareness of biogas technology of people in Hound district and nearby villages through a dissemination workshop and installation of biogas plant;
- ☞ Increased demand for using biogas;
- ☞ 5 local masons had been trained for biogas construction, operation and maintenance
- ☞ Local project management committee has been set up

Seoul Receives Habitat Scroll of Honour Special Citation Award

Seoul is a shining example of a newly sustainable, inclusive, friendly, greener and welcoming city. The city of Seoul is indeed a "miracle on the Han River", an eco-friendly city, clean and attractive global city. The city has been awarded Habitat Scroll of Honour Special Citation Award in a ceremony held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on March 10, 2010. Congratulating the Mayor of the Seoul Metropolitan Government and the city leaders for this great achievement, Dr. Tibaijuka spoke about the three important projects for which the Seoul Metropolitan Government is awarded.

First, there is the inspiring transformation of Nanjido. Once a former dump-site, today it is an Eco-Park. Secondly, there is the restoration of Cheonggyecheon as a recreation area, and thirdly, and very importantly, the introduction of SHIFT – the long-term rental housing system. These initiatives are based on policies for sustainable development and social cohesion, in pursuance of Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals. These initiatives of the Seoul Metropolitan Government are outstanding examples of effective planning and coordination of implementation. They have resulted in a positively wholesome impact on the living environment in the City of Seoul. They can, and must be replicated in other cities with similar attributes and situations.

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Water Operators' Partnerships in Asia and the Pacific

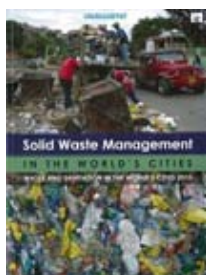
The second annual WaterLinks Forum, 2010 WaterLinks Forum was held on 4-5 May 2010 at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, under the theme "Replication and Scale-up of Good Practices in Water Services Delivery in Asia." Bringing together 130 water and sanitation operators, water/ wastewater associations, development partners, and international organizations, the Forum displayed the regional needs and potential for Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) in Asia. Over two days of discussions and presentations, water professionals from over 20 countries including the Netherlands, Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, India and Indonesia identified strategies for strengthening WOPs to ensure effective replication and scaling up of impact. The forum also provided a platform for participants to network and to explore possibilities for potential partnerships.

On the second day, Faraj El-Awar, Programme Manager of the Global WOPs Alliance/UNHABITAT, gave a presentation on the Planned Activities and Future Directions of the Alliance to introduce our work plan in 2010. The Forum was also an excellent opportunity for fruitful discussions between the Global WOPs Alliance, ADB, International Water Association (IWA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Japan Water Works Association (JWWA), Pacific Water and Wastes Association (PWWA) and WaterLinks on future collaboration in the Asia Pacific region. At the Forum, the first WaterLinks Awards were presented to recognize outstanding achievements of WOPs partners. PDAM Tirtanadi of Medan, Indonesia, and Indah Water Konsortium of Malaysia were recipients of the Outcome Award for successfully increasing demand for sewage services and expanding access. Davao City Water District of the Philippines and Ranhill Utilities of Malaysia received the WaterLinks Award for Scale-Up and Replication for reducing water losses in Davao and sharing their experiences with other utilities in the Philippines. *You can find more details about the Forum and the Awards on <http://www.waterlinks.org/waterlinks-presents-water-operators-partnership-awards>*

Another noteworthy activity in Asia is the enhancement of the cooperation with Japanese stakeholders. In November 2009, the Alliance organized the 2nd Seminar on Japan's Water Utilities' Roles of International Cooperation in the 21st Century in cooperation with the Japan Water Forum (JWF) with the support of the WaterLinks and Water Security Council of Japan. The objective of the seminar was to discuss Japanese utilities' role in achieving water and sanitation MDGs by sharing the experiences and lessons obtained through their technical cooperation for the water and sanitation utilities in the world. The seminar was attended by about 80 participants. After the presentations by Mr. Bert Diphooorn, Chair of the Steering Committee of the Global WOPs Alliance and Director, Human Settlements Financing Division, UN-HABITAT; Mr. Niels van Dijk, Programme Manager, WaterLinks plus representatives of the Japanese water utilities and the Global Water Recycling and Reuse System Association presented their international cooperation activities.

This was followed by the Panel Discussion, where the panelists discussed their challenges for the future international activities and the necessary actions to address these challenges and how they could use or contribute to the global/regional platforms such as the Global WOPs Alliance and WaterLinks. Many representatives highlighted the importance of getting the understanding and buy-in of their customers in order to implement their international activities. Also, the discussion showed that most of the larger Japanese utilities have started their own international cooperation activities, such as direct peer-to-peer support, in addition to the ones in the framework of the activities of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). In the Pacific, the Global WOPs is organising an initial Matchmaking Workshop in Auckland in July and a session at the Pacific Water Conference on September 13-15 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in cooperation with PWWA, which is expected to lead to the creation of the sub regional WOPs platform in the Pacific.

UN-HABITAT launched its two Flagship Publications



UN-HABITAT global report on Solid Waste Management in the World Cities was launched at the World Water Day celebrations in Nairobi by His Royal Highness The Prince of Orange, who is the chair of the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB).

The publication was simultaneously launched at the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro by the UN-HABITAT, Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka.

The report is the combined effort of more than 25 professionals on solid waste management from developing, transitional, and developed countries, and addresses issues related to policy, good and bad practices, and sustainable financing for solid waste management in towns and cities, among others.

A collaborative effort between UN-HABITAT and WASTE, Advisers on urban environment in Gouda, the Netherlands, the publication is a response to a growing global consensus that cities in low-income, middle-income and transitional countries need to develop their own models for waste management.



UN-HABITAT launched its report on the State of the World Cities 2010/ 2011: Bridging the Urban Divide in the run up to the World Urban Forum 5 in Rio de Janeiro.

UN-HABITAT Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka launched the report at press conferences in London, Paris and Rio de Janeiro.

The report investigates the challenges facing our rapidly urbanizing population and how the urban advantage, the economic and social benefit of living in a city, can be exploited and enjoyed by all.