

## Water and Environmental Sanitation Network India

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### Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> Core Group Meeting of WES-Net

**Venue:** Plan International, New Delhi

**Date:** 28 July 2006

**Present:**

1. Arumugam Kalimuthu (AK), Plan International
2. Vijay Sardana (VS), SPWD
3. A J James (AJJ), Pragmatix
4. D.K.Manavalan (DKM), AFPRO
5. Madhab Nayak (MN), FODRA
6. Pankaj Kumar (PK), UNDP
7. Ramesh Sakthivel (RS), WES-Net
8. Vinita Aggarwal (VA), WES-Net

(Due to last minute urgent works Mr. Paul Deverill, Mr. Balaji singh and Mr. N.M. Prusty could not attend the meeting – messages conveyed by them were shared with other core group members).

AK welcomed the core group members and spoke on the important points in the proposed agenda and invited suggestions from the members. Following are the discussions carried out during the core group meeting;

**Launch of Website:**

1. AK informed the members that the WES-Net website is almost functional in all respect and some more improvements are needed ([www.wesnetindia.org](http://www.wesnetindia.org)).
2. Ms.Verity Corbett, Programme Support Manger, Plan International (India) formally launched the website at the meeting and expressed that the website will serve the needs of the sector effectively.
3. Later, members discussed on the various features provided in the website and suggested ways to improve its effectiveness.
4. AJJ suggested that a classification-based navigation on location be introduced for the workshop and training courses features to easily identify events in a region. *(VA to contact e-dynamics for introducing the feature).*
5. PK suggested that the Really Simple Syndication (RSS) can be introduced to facilitate syndication of information in the website to the user. *(VA to contact e-dynamics for introducing the feature).*
6. AJJ suggested that the photo gallery feature be renamed as it aims to provide useful photographs related to WES. DKM and AJJ suggested that WES product feature be used more effectively, by collaborating with private yellow pages or vendors, to generate revenue. *(RS/VA to take note & implement at an appropriate time).*
7. AJJ suggested to give acknowledgement to Plan International in the main page for the design & development of website.

**ABD Knowledge Hub Assistance:**

1. AJJ suggested that the ADB's initiative of development knowledge hubs in the South Asia region offers a very good potential to WES-Net. He also added that, WES-Net's can play an important role in the Water and Sanitation sector by associating it self with such initiatives. He also mentioned that a joint proposal with IRC might be very effective.

2. Members agreed to the suggestion's as it would provide better platform to WES-Net to promote the needs of the agencies in WES sector and hoped that a lot of tasks proposed under WES-Net such as database, research and studies, workshops etc., could be promoted with the active involvement of WES-Net members.
3. On the discussions on contacting ADB, AJJ volunteered to do it, as he is familiar to some of the ADB and IRC members involved in this initiative. *(AJJ to write to ADB on behalf of WES-Net).*

#### Database work and IRC – WES-Net Collaboration:

1. AK mentioned that IRC is willing to collaborate with WES-Net under their Resource Centre Development programme. He mentioned that the following areas were identified during the workshop of IRC in Delhi;
  - Working closely with other RCs in the region,
  - Possibility of IRC supporting WES-Net secretariat,
  - Developing joint proposals with IRC and other RCs (Initially on Database and DST).
2. AJJ mentioned that he is involved in drafting a note on the proposed joint areas of work with IRC and mentioned that this will be given a final shape after IRC and other RCs in the region respond.
3. To the query of PK on the type of documents proposed to be included in the database of Wes-Net, AJJ and RS suggested that the documents related to WES sector in India, including documents in regional languages, apart form documents available in electronic and printed forms will be covered under the database initiative.
4. On AJJ's request to allocation of some resources for drafting a proposal to this end, DKM agreed that AFPRO would allocate some resources towards this initiative. *(AJJ to follow-up with IRC. Members agreed that AFPRO and PRAGMATIX to take lead role in drafting the proposal for Database work and to establish the database at the earliest).*

#### MOA and Registration:

1. AK requested the members to provide their comments on the revised draft MOA and shared the updates related to this activity.
2. AJJ mentioned that the name society should be "Water and Environmental Sanitation Network of India" instead of just Water and Environmental Sanitation Network.
3. MN and DKM felt that the objectives are very broad and must include specific areas in the objectives so as to avoid future obstacles in carrying out the relevant thrust areas.
4. VS mentioned that the term of office of the governing body (GB) members and the number of times they are eligible for re-election to the governing body need a clear mention. Members suggested introducing a clause that **"a member of GB can be elected for 2 more terms only"**. He also suggested the few founder members be directly given position in the GB while the others be elected.
5. The member's felt that the clause of ensuring continuity in the GB be introduced by retaining a certain percentage of members of the old GB while electing new members for GB.
6. Also, members indicated that there are a few mistakes in the document, which need to be corrected. DKM, VS, MN and AK will be available to discuss with lawyers on the above points and finalise the MOA to ensure early registration. *(RS to contact Jeremy for further follow-up).*

#### Research Coordination:

1. AK briefed the members of the discussions held on research coordination work with WaterAid members last month.
2. On visioning workshop, PK mentioned that it will be conducted some time in November and this is an annual event to involve the members in the process of developing future plans in a participatory manner.

3. Due to the absence of members from WaterAid, progress and follow-up of research coordination work could not be discussed in detail. Members felt that this as an important area and requested AK to write to WaterAid to further the initiative. *(AK/RS will write to WaterAid)*

#### UNDP-Solution Exchange:

1. AK briefed on the meeting with UNDP members last month and mentioned some of the issues discussed like sharing of database on a regular basis, clarification of roles SE and WES-net to members, areas of overlap to avoid duplication.
2. PK and RS mentioned that information collection from the members causing at both ends is causing inconvenience to few members. Members suggested that a system of information collection be developed to avoid this. *(Paul Deverill and AK to discuss on these issues with UNDP).*
3. PK mentioned that there is demand to initiate a separate community on the Governance issues and requested members to give their feed back. Members felt that, the governance issues related to WES can be cross-posted to involve members of WES-Net on the governance related discussions on WES in such case.

#### Regional activities:

1. DKM suggested that there is a need to conduct several studies to provide valid inputs to some of the issues being faced in the sector. He mentioned that studies on present condition of initiatives like Medinapur sanitation work, the recent work in Tribal hamlets of Vizhayanagaram on water supply, Andra Pradesh, etc., could be some of the interesting areas for such studies to start with.
2. Members felt that to initiate the regional activities, WES-Net can utilise the facilities available with members in various regions. *(AK/RS to discuss with potential members and take steps in this regard).*