



In this issue:

- [News form the Core Group of WES-Net INDIA](#)
- [Articles/News](#)
- [Announcements](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Vacancies](#)

News form the Core Group of WES-Net INDIA >>

Secretariat:

The WES-Net India's secretariat is presently established with the support of member organizations UNICEF and Plan International. The secretariat presently operates from Plan International's India Country Office, New Delhi. Mr. S. Ramesh Sakthivel and Ms. Vinita Aggarwal have joined as the National Coordinator and Web Administrator respectively.

MOA & Registration:

Few suggestions were received from the members on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of WES-Net circulated for their feedback. Suggestions such as inclusion of positions such as Vice President and Joint Secretary have been included in the MOA. Therefore, the MOA stands approved by the general body of WES-Net and is being reviewed by experts before the registration. WES-Net would be registered as a national society and the process is on.

Website:

Website development process has been initiated finally with the support from Plan International. Request to the member organizations for their contribution (on documents, events, trainings, seminars and vacancies) to the website has been sent.

Core Group Meeting:

11th core group meeting was conducted on the 8th May, 2006 at India International center, Lodi Estate from 2.30p.m. to 4.30p.m. Some of the key agreed outputs are;

- (a) Website launch - 14th June 2006,
- (b) Research coordination - visioning workshop (around September),
- (c) Initiation of Registration Process of WES-Net.

[read more>>](#)



Announcements

- [Fogarty International Training Program in Environmental and Occupational Health\(AIHPH, Kolkata\)](#)
Date of Start: 3rd July, 2006
- [Workshop on Learning & Sharing around knowledge and information management \(KM/IM\) and the role of RC \(N\) s in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector.](#)
Dates: 3-7 July, 2006.
Contact: Dr. A.J. James, Pragmatix
ajjames@pragmatix.co.in
- [Symposium Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation: Strengthening Capacity for Local Governance](#)
Dates: 26-28 September 2006
- [32nd WEDC International Conference](#)
Dates: 13-17 November, 2006
- [5th Rural Water Supply Network Forum 2006 by RWSN](#)
Dates: 27-30 November, 2006

Vacancies

Articles/News >>

(Members can send their articles or forward news to this section)

Change Management - the TWAD Experience (Paul Deverill, UNICEF):

The recent WES-Net Core Group meeting on 8th May was preceded by a presentation of the Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board's Change Management Process, by Vibhu Nayer, Dr V Suresh and Dr AJ James. The presentation highlighted the three-year process of self and institutional improvement adopted by TWAD engineers, and the results achieved on the ground.

The results indicate that TWAD's projects are now significantly more cost effective, participatory and sustainable, compared to a control group of Swajaldhara projects. UNICEF is now working with TWAD to see how this process can be taken up in other states. One interesting line of debate that followed: is change management sufficient to bring about sector reform, or is something more fundamental needed such as institutional re-organization. For more details contact: Paul Deverill pdeverill@unicef.org and [read more >>](#).

Hand Washing Campaign (From Ms. Shipra Saxena, WaterAid):

WaterAid India has launched a three year long nation wide "Hand washing Campaign" on the international water day 22nd March, 2006 to bring awareness on the simple act of washing our hands with soap or ash, before food and after defecation that prevents and protects us from life threatening diseases like diarrhoea, to a large extent. The campaign is primarily targeting children as they are seen as the key agents for a lasting cultural change. [read more >>](#)

Public Private Partnerships (From Dr. Jyostna Bapat, UNDP):

The members discussed the issue of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) extensively through solution exchange platform. The discussions brought about the varied experiences across the country and issues involved in PPP such as the need for increased role of users, efficient communication systems at all levels, inherent differences in rural and urban services, etc,. The recent Frontline magazine of April 21, 2006 also carries a thought provoking article on PPP. The consolidated output also contains useful information like contacts, events and references. [read more >>](#) ([document1](#), [document2](#))

Women Leaders - are they effective in addressing water and sanitation issues? (Aika Malhotra, UNICEF):

The events organized such as "Workshop on Women and Sanitation" and "Women's Political Empowerment Day Celebrations" by key players of WES sector during March and April across the country proved that involving women at the heart of water and sanitation initiatives increases the effectiveness of implementation. Women's perspectives on water and sanitation issues were very effectively brought forth during these events.

Identification of suitable approaches, barriers affecting sanitation services, opportunities and need for networking at all levels were some of the key issues that emerged from the workshop on water and sanitation.

Declaration of the need for setting up of a "national level federation of panchayats" for better local governance was very strongly

- From **G S Ganesh Prasad**, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai [Faculty Positions](#)

Job Location: MIDS, Chennai
Last Date for Submission: 15/06/06
Submit application:
director@mids.ac.in

- From **Amitangshu Acharya**, Winrock International India, New Delhi

[Consultancy in WSS Sector](#)

Job Location: National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for the State of Bihar: UNICEF

- **UNDP**
[Project Officer, Indian Business Alliance on Water \(IBAW\)](#).

Job Location: Hyderabad
Last Date for Submission: 09/06/06
Submit application:
at jobs.in@undp.org.

- From **Arun Kumar**, PA Consulting, New Delhi [Management Consulting-Senior Water Specialist and Practice Leader](#)

Job Location: New Delhi
Submit application:
Vinita.Kathuria@paconsulting.com

- **SHRISTI, Orissa**
Full Time/Part Time Consultants and Advisors.
contact: Mr. P. R. Choudhury
at baitarani@gmail.com.

Publications

- [ECHO - Review and Guidelines for WES on Humanitarian Aid](#)

This review and guideline contains various issues on WES areas related to humanitarian aid and provides a comprehensive detail of the guidelines adopted by ECHO for WES interventions in emergencies.

expressed by the women leaders. Also, a charter of demands, like need for proper planning, better assistance to panchayats, judicial use of water, use of better mechanisms to manage water resources and closer coordination between panchayats were also some of the recommendations from the celebrations. For more details contact - amalhotra@unicef.org.

Water Day Celebrations (From Arumugam Kalimuthu, Plan International):

World water day events were organized by the partner agencies of Plan International (India) at several locations across the country to create awareness on water and sanitation related problems and also to reaffirm the need for WES interventions for mitigating the sufferings of poor people, especially the children. On this year's eve on 22nd March 2006, about 2000 children from coastal area of Nagapattinam District (one of the worst affected district by Tsunami in the eastern coast of South India) gathered to express their views on water and culture through drawings on a two-kilometer long banner which depicted why children can be the effective change agents in their own communities. [read more>>](#)

Rainwater Harvesting (From R.K.Pandey, AFPRO):

AFPRO has initiated the Indian chapter of IRCSA at the national level for promotion of Rainwater Harvesting in the country, which is known as "Rainwater Catchment Society of India" (RCSI) under the aegis of International Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (IRCSA). This initiative of IRCSA and AFPRO, New Delhi is a follow up of the "XII International Rainwater Catchment Systems Conference " conducted between 15th and 18th in November at New Delhi jointly with Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) Geneva, Switzerland and Aakash Ganga Trust (AGT) Chennai. Release of a postage stamp on "Rainwater harvesting" as agreed by the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication & Information Technology on the "International Environment Day" i.e. 5th June, 2006 would be an important landmark to the network initiatives.

(To join the yahoo group one can send a blank e.mail addressed to Rainwater-Catchment-Society-India-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Or one can visit the link and click on "Join this group" <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Rainwater-Catchment-Society-India/>).

Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNURM):

Government of India has initiated the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNURM) to deal with very pressing urban management and related problems. Through the mission mode, it aims to increase the efficiency of services, community participation and accountability of local bodies of select cities in India. E-discussions initiated in the solution exchange of the WES community is expected to help in developing a policy framework and standard models of Public Private Partnership for implementation and operation of different urban services projects/schemes laying down areas of participation, bidding/selection procedure, viability gap funding, user charges, etc. [more>>](#)

Amendments (DDWS, Govt. of India):

The Department for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India has amended the Swajaldhara and TSC norms considering price escalation and other factors. More details can be obtained from its website http://ddws.nic.in/wht_new.htm.

- **[The Microbiological Contamination of Water Supplies](#)**

The microbiological contamination due to onsite sanitation is often misinterpreted and this fact sheet prepared by WELL highlights the technical aspects involved in analysing it.

- **[Ecological Sanitation](#)**

The WELL fact sheet argues that ecological sanitation practice is often down played quoting the contamination risks involved in it rather than viewing the holistic benefits it offers.

- **[Linking Poverty Reduction and Water Management](#)**

Investing in water is not a drain but alleviates poverty? The document urges the need for developing partnerships to effectively address the issue.

- **[Connecting the Slums: A Utility's Pro-Poor Approach in Bangalore](#)**

Can we provide basic WES services to poor people living in slums and yet have good management and cost recovery practices? This study of BWSSB, Bangalore answers one of the pertinent questions in the urban dialogue.

- **[Water for All? Implementation of ADB's water policy in India: a review](#)**

The review of ADB's water policy by WaterAid under the Knowledge partnership programme of ADB contains, current status of ADBs projects in India and the recommendations based on the participatory research carried out.

[Link for other Newsletters](#)

- **[Source weekly](#)**

Huub Gijsen, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft argues that the sanitation MDG lags behind and that a specific programme for addressing wastewater is missing. SMS campaign to "save water" in Indore.

ADB - Water for all (ADB):

Panel asks ADB to "do more and do better" to translate its water for all policy at the ABD meet which began on 4th May 2006 at Hyderabad. The recommendations include; increase commitment and capacity, develop partnerships, build on progress made, conduct business unusual and use effective processes. [more>>](#)

RedR Training, Mussourie :(Paul Deverill, UNICEF)

Taking into account UNICEF's corporate commitments to support children in emergencies, UNICEF WES and the Register of Engineers for Disaster Relief India (RedR-I) developed a cooperation agreement last year. This includes capacity building for UNICEF WES staff to strengthen their ability to respond effectively after major disasters. A series of three weeklong courses were organized in the areas covering preparedness, assessment and monitoring of WES issues during emergencies. Work with RedR continues, with the development of SOPs, an aide-memoir, and an ongoing review of preparedness plans.

For these and more information contact Sarbjit Singh:

Sarbjit@RedRIndia.org or <http://www.redr.org/india/index.htm>.

- **Ektaparishad**

Ektaparishad envisages Janadesh, a march from Gwalior-Delhi, for ending the land right and livelihood issues by 2007, if the Government fails to address about this by then.

- **Waterdrops**

Poor people who drive the growth of the big Indian cities suffer due to inadequate basic services. This issue of WaterDrops focuses on the urban concerns.

Send your replies, feedback to

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