



WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL



WSSCC

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WSSCC Annual Reports 2008 in French and Spanish are now available at www.wsscc.org/en/resources/publications/index.htm.

NEWSLETTER July 2009

News from the Secretariat

Sharing, Learning and Innovation at the Annual Planning Meeting of National Coordinators

The 2009 planning meeting took place from 11 to 16 May in Geneva, bringing together National Coordinators (NCs) or their representatives, coordinators of thematic nodes, new WSSCC Steering Committee members, and sanitation, media, advocacy and fundraising experts. While the number of WASH Coalitions reporting on their activities continues to grow, the Secretariat strives to provide them with better support and to better align country and thematic activities.



The Malagasy delegation, from left to right: Lovy Rasolofomanana, Michèle Rasamison and Jean Herivelo Rakotondrainibe.

WSSCC's involvement in a new thematic group on climate change and WASH was, for example, a result of previous requests from NCs and partners, while discussions on urban sanitation at the meeting will help shape the path for the Secretariat's engagement in further networking on the issue. WASH in schools, scaling up, multiple use systems and monitoring sessions were part of the programme, while a highlight of the sharing and learning activities was a Community-Led Total Sanitation session with Dr. Kamal Kar. Dr. Kar's detailed and passionate introduction of the approach has increased and improved understanding of CLTS for many of the participants.

The National Coordinators are natural focal points for media interviews. At the same time, advocating for a national sanitation policy and lobbying their governments, together with ongoing fundraising activities, are all part of their daily work. Therefore media, advocacy for policy development, and fundraising training were good bonding and interaction exercises that gave NCs the opportunity to share challenges and experiences in these fields and benefit from the skills and advice of professionals.

As we, at the Secretariat, like to put it, the National Coordinators are the heart and soul of the organization because they represent the national coalitions. Thus, the planning meeting is always a truly inspirational and intense week. While electronic communications seem to dominate these days, personal contact and human stories are more important than ever. So thank you all, and let's keep them going!

A comprehensive report on the meeting is available at www.wsscc.org/en/about-us/organisation-governance/national-coordinators/index.htm. For more information contact Carolien van der Voorden, Networking and Knowledge Management Officer, at vandervoordenc@who.int.

News from the Secretariat continued

WSSCC Endorses Sanitation as a Human Right

From 27 to 29 April WSSCC joined in an expert consultation to discuss the human rights obligations related to access to sanitation. The consultation was convened in Geneva, Switzerland, by Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, the UN's Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to safe drinking water and sanitation. WSSCC Executive Director Jon Lane spoke at the consultation, and in June, WSSCC submitted to Ms. de Albuquerque its official position on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation. The statement concluded: "WSSCC would be delighted to see the people's access to sanitation endorsed through the process and through the creation of a formal human right. Indeed, the formal recognition would ascribe sanitation the attention it since long deserves in the context of improving health, dignity and welfare of all."

WSSCC will monitor the developments and report on its **new website page** devoted to the subject. There, you can also find other background information and the full position.

Staff Participate in WEDC Conference

Hakim Hadjel, Global Sanitation Fund Programme Officer, participated in the 34th WEDC Conference held from 18 to 22 May in Addis Abba, Ethiopia, under the aegis of a cross-cutting and timely theme of "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Sustainable Development and Multisectoral Approaches."

Some 550 local, national and international experts participated. The GSF's interest was largely focused on the sessions relating to sustainable sanitation, CLTS, social marketing, financing and monitoring. The Ethiopian experience was largely represented by local practitioners and experts and effectively reflected the national strategies, policy development, sector strengths and fields of improvements as

well as the richness of the local approaches and cultural contexts. This event was a very good opportunity for the GSF staff to get a fresh update of the sanitation sector in Ethiopia and assess possible opportunities for WSSCC's contribution to the overall national efforts to increase sanitation coverage and improve living conditions for the 89% of the Ethiopian population without access to improved sanitation.

For more information, contact Hakim Hadjel at hadjelh@who.int.

The Global Framework for Action: Speeding up Progress Towards MDG Targets

The water supply, sanitation and hygiene sector is gearing up for targeted action to speed progress towards the MDG targets for drinking water and sanitation, especially in off-track countries, through the Global Framework for Action, or GF4A. No new institutions will be created, but the GF4A will provide concrete steps to generate greater political commitment, to mobilize additional resources for the countries in greatest need while arguing for increased effectiveness of already existing budgets, and to improve in-country capacity. This process brings together national governments, donors and other development actors. WSSCC is involved in the political and communications strategy work of the GL4A. If you are interested in learning more, or participating in one of the working groups (High Level Meeting, Governance, Aid-effectiveness & Finance, or Political & Communications Strategy), contact Cindy Kushner of UNICEF at ckushner@unicef.org.

WSSCC at the World Water Week: Accessing Sanitation for the Common Good

Once again water and sanitation professionals will turn their focus to the



World Water Week in Stockholm. The theme is "Responding to Global Changes: Accessing Water for the Common Good, with Special Focus on Transboundary Waters."

WSSCC will be at the 16-22 August event and will fly the flag high for sanitation, which is critical for the common good because poor sanitation by a person or village adversely affects many others.

Visit www.wsscc.org/en/events/2009/world-water-week/index.htm for details on the WSSCC-affiliated events.

Thinking Globally with Kamal Kar on CLTS

While in Geneva to participate in the WSSCC Annual Planning Meeting of National Coordinators, Dr. Kamal Kar took time out to be interviewed about the latest CLTS trends. The interview was broadcast 7 June by Think Globally Radio under the title "Ending Open Defecation - One Community at a Time." To listen to the interview, visit www.thinkgloballyradio.org (click on the media player in the upper right-hand corner of the page).

Albert Wright Joins GSF Advisory Committee

The Global Sanitation Fund Advisory Committee, which supports the Secretariat's GSF staff with the best and latest advice on sanitation and hygiene programmes at scale, met in Geneva 15-16 June and also welcomed a new member, Albert Wright.



Dr. Albert Wright

News from the Secretariat continued

Through his work over the last 30 years at and for many multi-lateral, intergovernmental, non-governmental and academic institutions, Dr. Wright has played a significant role in water

resources and sanitation at global, African and national levels, including in his native Ghana. He joins the other globally renowned experts on the committee: Prof. Sandy Cairncross (Chair), Ashoke Chatterjee,

Eddy Perez, Roland Schertenleib, Sophie Tremolet and Barbara Evans (resource person).

Welcome, Dr. Wright!

WSSCC Members & Partners

Benin: When Voices of the People Meet Political Will

When it comes to successful sanitation policies, André Toupé, WSSCC National Coordinator for Benin, has no doubts –giving voice to the beneficiaries is the key. And so it is, through the ‘Blue Book’ initiative –a process and report– launched by the International Secretariat for Water and supported by the National WASH Coalition. The Blue Book initiative is coordinated through a National Committee, chaired by Mr. Toupé, and a Secretariat, both including former ministers, members of parliament, local, national and international NGOs, local governments, mayors, and others.

The initiative gives people the opportunity to evaluate their government’s efforts on sanitation and hygiene situations in each of Benin’s 12 departments. The Blue Book was presented at the World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009 and the next step is to set up local projects that, based on the book’s findings, will lead to better communal technical empowerment to respond to demand for water supply, sanitation and hygiene services. A corresponding advocacy campaign by the WASH Coalition will encourage the government to allocate more financial and human resources to sanitation, hygiene and health. Local governments are in turn invited to integrate sanitation, hygiene and water programmes in their communal development plans, and then look for funding to implement them.

“The timing is right for targeting the government, and advocacy efforts are paying off as the political will is becoming more and more apparent,” observed Mr. Toupé. He noted that in 2008 a National Sanitation Day was declared and celebrated a second time this year on 15 April. The first edition concentrated

on hand washing, while the second one emphasized food hygiene, with a massive awareness raising campaign organized in Cotonou’s food market and continuing through various media such as radio campaigns.

Another direction of the WASH Coalition’s activities is the creation of a parliamentarians network designed to influence the laws’ adequacy on WASH issues. Discussions are in progress with several MPs, together with the President of the Laws Commission, among others to update the national Hygiene Code, which dates to 1985 and needs to be updated and adapted to new situations and tools, as well as for decentralization purposes. The network will update MPs on sanitation and hygiene issues, problems and opportunities, to raise their awareness on the situation of their fellow citizens, to organize field trips, and to inform them about international commitments that can motivate them to take action.

For more information contact André Toupé, WSSCC National Coordinator for Benin, at andretoupe@yahoo.fr.

AQUACOL: Providing Services and Information for Colombian Communities

WSSCC’s people-centred approach is put into action by its National WASH Coalition in Colombia, which gives voice to community members through the *AQUACOL Bulletin*.

In Colombia, the national government is responsible for providing water and sanitation infrastructure, but in the rural areas approximately 90 percent of the water and sanitation services are in the hands of community-based organizations. AQUACOL is an association of 33 community-based

organizations which provide services to 70,000 inhabitants in the rural and peri-urban areas from the regions of Valle del Cauca and Cauca. Those service providers work on a voluntary basis, being both the suppliers and the beneficiaries.

The advantages of being an association include improved representation and lobbying ability. The more community organizations become official and group together, the more they can improve their level of representation in the water and sanitation sector, thus participating more actively in the related political decisions, and making more visible their needs, problems and strengths.

The guiding principles for growth in AQUACOL are related to work among equals, the capacity to influence state policies, the reduction of operating and maintenance costs through economies of scale, and the generation of larger-scale projects by the associated organizations. However, delivering water and sanitation services requires knowledge on issues that are often complex. In the region where AQUACOL works, communities are also far from each other, and access to information is poor. In order to improve knowledge sharing and the water and sanitation services, CINARA, which is based at the University of Valle and coordinates WSSCC’s WASH Coalition, helped AQUACOL create the *AQUACOL Bulletin* to enhance the flow of information.

The *AQUACOL Bulletin* simplifies water and sanitation information and makes it understandable. Previously, technical information about water and sanitation was not shared with many people. The bulletin is written by the communities for the communities. To improve the authors’ communication skills, workshops are organized to give them the opportunity to enhance their editorial and analytical abilities.

WSSCC Members & Partners continued

A great advantage of the *AQUACOL Bulletin* is that its authors are constantly in contact with the target audience, i.e. the water and sanitation professionals in the communities, which makes the bulletin's information demand-driven and relevant.

For more information on the *AQUACOL Bulletin*, contact Paola Chaves at paochave@univalle.edu.co. To download the bulletin (in Spanish) visit: <http://cinara.univalle.edu.co/index.php?seccion=ARTICULO&area=37>.

Call for Total Sanitation in Pakistan by 2015

At least 51 million people continue to defecate in the open in Pakistan, and the cost of diarrhoea and typhoid equals 1.8 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, according to the Director General of the Environment, Javed Ali Khan, at the first national conference on sanitation, or PACOSAN, held in Islamabad on 28-29 May 2009. It took stock of provincial strategies, action plans and actual implementation of the National Sanitation Policy approved by Federal Cabinet in 2006.

In his keynote address, Arif Hasan urged a shift from projects to large-scale sanitation programmes. Media campaigns and informed public demand are essential for translating policy commitments into action, he said. Revitalizing provincial institutions, an inclusive approach, transparent rules for developers, appropriate training materials and effective extension are the other key elements, he added. Officials from the provinces and federal territories reported on the status of sanitation plans. Adopting a community-led approach, Union Council Samaro in Sindh province has already achieved total sanitation which, it was reported, has been verified by a six-month long independent monitoring process.

The Environment Minister, Hameedullah Jan Afridi, called for a commitment to achieve total sanitation nation-wide by 2015. Ayub Qutub, WSSCC's National Coordinator for Pakistan, said that the target was achievable through ownership

by Union Councils (UC), the immediate tier of local government.

"At a rate of just one household per day converted to sanitary practices, the 7,000 UCs across the country could achieve the total sanitation objective over the next 2,000 days till 2015," Mr. Qutub said. The delegates, comprising federal, provincial and local government officials, and civil society representatives, along with resource persons from South Asia, deliberated on the elements of a national sanitation action plan. In his concluding remarks, Secretary for the Environment Kamran Lashari asked for clear thinking on how to build community pride in a clean environment.



National WASH Coalition poster on display at PACOSAN

PACOSAN sponsors were the Ministry of Environment, Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia (WSP), Rural Support Programs Network (RSPN), UNICEF, Plan-Pakistan, WaterAid, and USAID. For more information, contact Mr. Qutub at squtub@yahoo.com.

QUIZ

1. What percentage of the Colombian population has access to improved sanitation?

- A. 78% B. 95% C. 68%

2. What is the reason why most people in Benin don't have running water at home?

- A. There are not enough freshwater sources in the country B. The water infrastructure is extremely expensive for the towns C. The Government has no constitutional obligation to provide water to the citizens

3. What proportion of Sri-Lankan households have no access to sanitation?

- A. one-third B. one-quarter C. one-fifth

WSSCC in Motion, July - September 2009

A brief listing of events and milestones involving WSSCC staff, National WASH Coalitions, partners and members in the coming months.

July 6-10

Regional Course on IWRM and WASH, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, organized by WSSCC/WASH Ethiopia Movement, CAPNET, Nile-IWRM-Net, and others. More info: vandervoordenc@who.int

August 16-22

World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden, "Responding to Global Challenges – Accessing Water for the Common Good". More info: www.worldwaterweek.org

September 2-3

Water Integrity Network (WIN) and WSP workshop, Uganda. More info: vandervoordenc@who.int

September 22-24

International Forum on Water Resources and Sustainable Development, Wuhan University, China. More info: jhsuanga@public.wh.hb.cn