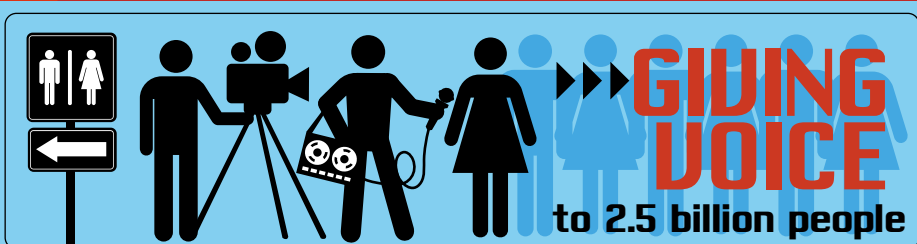




WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL



WSSCC

International Environment House
9 Chemin des Anémones
1219 Châtellaine - Geneva
Switzerland
telephone: +41 22 917 8657
www.wsscc.org

Content

News from the Secretariat

- New Steering Committee Members Elected
- WSSCC Makes its Mark at the 5th World Water Forum
- Linking WASH to other Sectors
- The Year that Was
- Giving Voice to the Unserved Through Journalism

News from WSSCC Members & Partners

- The Widening World of WSSCC
- Member Article - The Impact of Advocacy Workshops
- From Vision to Reality: WASH Coalitions Working for Safe Water and Basic Sanitation
- Reaching Out to People in a Language They Understand
- Hot Off the Press

WSSCC in Motion,
May - August 2009

Call for Contributions

Have a story idea for the WSSCC Newsletter?
Send your suggestions, photos or other thoughts to us via email at wsscc@who.int.

NEWSLETTER May 2009

News from the Secretariat

New Steering Committee Members Elected

Between December 2008 and February 2009, members around the world voted in elections for open seats on the WSSCC Steering Committee. As a result, seven new members were elected by their peers, six of whom joined the Steering Committee at its meeting on 23-24 March in Istanbul, Turkey. The newly elected members, including their constituencies, are:

- > Francophone Africa: **Cheick Tidiane Tandia**, General Director of CREPA, Burkina Faso
- > South Asia: **Mohammed Moniruzzaman**, Executive Director, AID Organization, Bangladesh
- > South East Asia: **Mr. Wilfrido C. Barreiro**, Water and Sanitation Engineer and Consultant, The Philippines
- > Central and Eastern Europe, West and Central Asia: **Akbar Suvanbekov**, Infectious Diseases Specialist, Solution 21, Kyrgyzstan
- > Open Seat: **Feri G. Lumampao**, Social Development Worker, Approtech Asia, The Philippines
- > Open Seat: **Satish Raj Mendiratta**, Senior Water and Environmental Sanitation Specialist, Jupiter Knowledge Management and Innovative Concepts, India
- > Partner Agency: **Andrew Cotton**, Director, Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC), Loughborough University, United Kingdom

The new members are serving three-year terms. You can read more about them at www.wsscc.org. The Steering Committee still has an open seat for a member from the Small Island Developing States (SIDS); the election will be held in the coming months.

Many thanks to all members who stood for election and to those who voted.

WSSCC Makes its Mark at the 5th World Water Forum

WSSCC was active in March at the 5th World Water Forum, where the Secretariat promoted the work and interests of members and National WASH Coalitions. The Forum drew 33,000 practitioners, politicians, development specialists and NGO representatives. One special event arranged by WSSCC was "Hurry Up and Join the Queue: Welcome Event for new and old WSSCC Members," which was



WSSCC's booth at the World Water Forum.

News from the Secretariat continued



Jacqueline Rowley, a journalist in the WSSCC-supported Forum media workshop, filming at a community-managed water and sanitation facility in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

chaired by WSSCC Chair Roberto Lenton and featured presentations from several National Coordinators as well as *The Big Necessity* author Rose George.

A strategically located WSSCC exhibition also proved to be a popular meeting point for members and other conference participants. WSSCC staff such as Jon Lane, Executive Director, and Barry Jackson, Global Sanitation Fund Programme Manager, were invited to give presentations in different sessions. Staff members were also able to arrange a number of productive meetings. For example, Carolien van der Voorden, Networking and Knowledge Management Officer, met with professional colleagues working to establish a National WASH Coalition in Liberia.

WSSCC also arranged a week-long workshop for media together with partners that included PATH, the UN Office to Support the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015, Water Advocates, the World Bank's Water and Sanitation Program, and the World Water Council. Forty journalists focused on the vital links between water, sanitation and health in low-income countries. The

workshop built media capacity and bolstered coverage of the impacts that climate change, shifting demographics, and water supply and sanitation programs have on the health of the world's poor. It also highlighted how achieving the Millennium Development Goal targets on water and sanitation is critical for reaching development targets on poverty reduction, education and child mortality, for example.

A field trip to Ethiopia and India following the workshop gave journalists the chance to see solutions like low-cost water purification technologies and eco-san toilets in action, and provided access to the individuals who are driving change where the problems are an everyday concern. In Ethiopia, the journalists were accompanied by WSSCC Communications Officer Tatiana Fedotova on field visits kindly arranged by WSSCC National Coordinator Michael Negash.

Linking WASH to other Sectors

WSSCC has launched a new knowledge product line entitled Reference Notes. These short, handy guides link water, sanitation and hygiene issues to other critical human development and environmental issues. They also identify key resources and institutions on the themes and topics covered. Developed by WSSCC's Networking and Knowledge Management Department, the first two notes are *HIV/AIDS & WASH* and *Disaster risk reduction & emergency response for WASH* and are available for download at www.wsscc.org/en/resources/publications/index.htm.

The Year that Was

2008 was a fruitful and productive year for the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council. The English-language version of the 2008 WSSCC Annual Report is now available at www.wsscc.org and documents the work of WSSCC's members, the National WASH Coalitions and the Secretariat.



Giving Voice to the Unserved Through Journalism

WSSCC and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) have announced the **third edition of the WASH Media Awards**. The competition builds awareness of WASH issues and welcomes articles or broadcast reports that give voice to the 2.5 billion people without good sanitation and to the 900 million who still lack access to safe drinking water. Entries can be submitted in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian until 1 April 2010. For more information, visit: www.wsscc.org/en/media/wash-media-awards/2009-2010/index.htm – and share the announcement with your local media!



WSSCC Members & Partners

The Widening World of WSSCC

The newest National WASH Coalition was officially launched in Cameroon on 5 May by His Excellency the Head of Government

Inoni Ephraim at a ceremony that was also attended by WSSCC Executive Director Jon Lane.

The coalition was born out of an initiative by the Ministry of Energy and Water and key

sector organizations such as UNICEF and CREPA Cameroon. However, membership of the coalition is wide ranging and includes many individual WSSCC members in the country who had been promoting the idea of establishing a National WASH Coalition.

WSSCC Members & Partners continued

This is in line with WSSCC's member-targeted approach, where the impulse for the creation of new coalitions comes from within a given country, and not from the Secretariat.

"The main goal of the coalition is to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs in Cameroon by advocating jointly for sustainable access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene," said Carolien van der Voorden, WSSCC's Networking and Knowledge Management Officer. "Since 75% of the rural population still defecates in the open, and about 70% lack access to safe drinking water, the need for action in the country's water and sanitation sector is crucial."

The coalition has four specific objectives. First, it aims to strengthen institutional support, including a further definition of a national sanitation policy. Second, it will contribute to scale up capacity building by, for instance, supporting the decentralization process and promoting hygiene in schools by enhancing the knowledge of teachers. Third, the coalition wishes to develop advocacy tools to raise funds for the benefit of the water supply and sanitation sectors, with an emphasis on improved sanitation. And finally, the coalition aims to develop the awareness and education of different target audiences, in particular by making promotion efforts on hygiene and sanitation in rural areas.

WSSCC welcomes the Cameroon WASH Coalition, which brings the total number of coalition countries to 36, and looks forward to working together.

From Vision to Reality: WASH Coalitions Working for Safe Water and Basic Sanitation

WSSCC relies on its National WASH Coalitions to turn its vision of safe access to water and basic sanitation into actions at the national level. During the year 2008, WSSCC financially supported around 25 coalitions, giving them the opportunity

[Member Article] The Impact of Advocacy Workshops

In order to strengthen grassroots advocacy, Tearfund and its local partner AEL organize regular workshops in communities in Liberia. The workshops target local authorities, youth, church- and community-based organizations (CBOs). One such workshop carried out in Tappita Statutory District Nimba County, Liberia, brought about change in one man's life. Chester, a strong youth leader who in the past was involved in advocating for development projects in his community, had an encounter a couple of years ago that left him demoralized and no longer willing to carry out advocacy.

Chester's out-going character and zeal to bring about change in his community as well as his accommodating and trusting nature led him to a non-governmental organization (NGO) that promised to help his community build a school. Chester made a formal introduction of this NGO to his community and assured the community on the credibility of the NGO. A few weeks later, the NGO signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the community members. In the MOU, it was agreed that the community would provide sand and rocks for the construction, while the NGO would provide the remaining funds for completion of construction. However, about four months after the MOU was signed, none of the staff of the NGO were around and no funds for the construction of the school had been disbursed. As months passed, anxiety began growing in the community and the blame and distrust fell on Chester. For Chester, this proved a very difficult time as he felt betrayed by both the NGO and his own community. Following the incident, Chester decided not to take part in

any advocacy work or developmental work that was on-going in the community. Being one of the only educated and outspoken people in his village, this had a big effect on other on-going development projects in his community.

On 6 September 2008, Tearfund announced advocacy training and encouraged Chester to attend. This training was able to equip Chester with better skills as well as confidence in advocacy:

'I had decided never to participate in any community development in my town. This workshop has encouraged me to continue advocating for my community. I made mistakes during my interventions in the past simply because I never understood how to advocate. What is expected of an advocate, what to do and what not to do. Now, with this training, I can continue to advocate for good things for my community.'

Chester's story is just one illustration that shows the difference capacity building in advocacy makes. Advocacy training is key in equipping those in the communities who carry out advocacy with the relevant skills and knowledge, to ensure proper dissemination of information and research on any undertakings. In a case like Chester's, his withdrawal from advocacy was caused by a feeling of self-blame and betrayal; yet, the training gave him the opportunity to learn the approaches, hurdles and challenges faced in advocacy and ways to overcome these challenges and continue advocating for change at the local level.

For more information, contact WSSCC member Bilha Joy Keiru, Policy and Learning Officer, Tearfund, Nairobi, Kenya, at joy.keiru@tearfund.org. For general water, sanitation and hygiene advocacy information and tools, visit www.wsscc.org.

to carry out their activities. Building partnerships, lobbying national governments and communities, improving communication with the media and monitoring progress have been part of their day-to-day tasks. The **WSSCC Country Activity Report** for 2008 provides an overview of the work of committed people who forged an alliance to give a voice and means to our fellow human beings still suffering the consequences of unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation.

Reaching Out to People in a Language They Understand

As a global language, English is useful, but to reach people locally, you have to speak with their tongue. For that reason, the National WASH Coalition in Nigeria, the National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS), held a four-day advocacy materials translation workshop from 20 to 25 April in Jos,

WSSCC Members & Partners continued



Workshop participants pre-test the effectiveness of the newly translated and recorded WASH jingles with citizens in the streets of Jos.

Nigeria, with WSSCC support. The theme for the workshop was "Promotion of safe water, sanitation and hygiene". According to National Coordinator Ifeomea Charles Monwuba, the workshop aimed to increase the knowledge of media personnel on basic sanitation and hygiene issues; to develop appropriate information, education communication materials for sanitation and hygiene promotion; and to translate key messages for sanitation and hygiene into four major Nigerian languages. Participants were drawn from the print, TV and radio professions, as well as from the NGO community. There were lectures, message development and translations, and pre-testing of designed materials.

As a follow-up to the International Year of Sanitation 2008, Nigeria has declared 2009 to be the National Year of Sanitation. According to Ms. Monwuba, awareness-building efforts will be enhanced now by the availability of sanitation and hygiene messages in Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba and Pidgen English developed at the workshop. The workshop included the participation of David Trouba, WSSCC Communications Programme Officer, who also met separately with members of the NTGS and the Nigeria Water and Sanitation Media Network and was briefed on plans for a post-AfricaSan follow-up meeting.

For more information, contact Ms. Monwuba at ifeomacharlesmonwuba@wateraid.org. To learn more, visit Nigeria's page at www.wsscc.org/en/what-we-do/networking-knowledge-management/national-level-activities/nigeria/index.htm.

Hot Off the Press

Did you read the *WASH Coalition Case Study on Madagascar* published last year and like the practical example it gave of value-added coalition work? For wider sharing it is now available in French. Check out www.wsscc.org/en/resources/publications/index.htm.

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the International Network of Basin

Organizations (INBO) have produced a *Handbook on Integrated Water Resources Management in Basins*, which provides useful advice to improve governance of freshwater resources in the basins, using practical examples of projects already undertaken in various countries. The handbook is published in English and French and can be downloaded at www.gwpforum.org.

QUIZ

1. *At the current rate of progress, when will the MDG sanitation target be reached in Sub-Saharan Africa?*

A. 2015

B. 2076

C. 2050

2. *How many tonnes of human waste go uncollected and untreated around the world per year?*

A. 200 million

B. 200

C. 200 thousand

3. *In which Millennium Development Goal is the sanitation target included?*

A. Reduce child mortality

B. Ensure environmental sustainability

C. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

WSSCC in Motion, May - August 2009

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

4-6 May

Launch of the Cameroon WASH Coalition, Yaoundé, Cameroon
More info: vandervoordenc@who.int

11-16 May

WSSCC Annual National Coordinators Planning Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
More info: vandervoordenc@who.int

11-22 May

WEDC 34th International Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
More info: hadjelh@who.int

16-17 May

9th SuSanA Meeting, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
More info: info@susana.org

26-27 May

Water and Sanitation Conference 2009, Cape Town, South Africa
More info: ola@amabhubesi.com

22-26 June

Singapore International Water Week
More info: www.siww.com.sg

August 12-15

Dry Toilet 2009 Conference, Tampere, Finland
More info: www.drytoilet.org/dt09

August 16-22

2009 World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden, "Responding to Global Changes - Accessing Water for the Common Good"
More info: www.worldwaterweek.org