



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India



UN-HABITAT

**Framework of Action
for
Meeting the Millennium Development Goal
on Water and Sanitation
in the Asia-Pacific Region**

**AN OUTCOME OF
ASIA-PACIFIC MINISTERS CONFERENCE**

Jointly organised by

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

and

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

Government of India

New Delhi, 13-16 December 2006



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Foreword



Rapid economic growth is one of the most striking features of Asian Development. The impact of economic growth is vividly manifested in contemporary urban development in Asia. In many parts of Asia and the Pacific region, urbanization is being accelerated by a new global economy that is literally changing the face of the continent.

There has been a continuing progress towards reduction of poverty and yet the performance against many social indicators in the region is mixed. The Asia-Pacific region is experiencing the triple dynamics of economic growth, urbanization and poverty. The continent has to confront the reality that more than two thirds of the global poor live in Asia and the benefits of the economic growth are not equally shared. In the region alone, more than 650 million people live on one dollar-a-day or less which accounts for two thirds of the global ultra-poor. Asia is also the home to half of the world's slum population. The slum population is rising, despite economic growth and the contribution of cities in the growth. Some major challenges of urbanization and economic growth in this region are growing urban-urban divide, deteriorating inner cities, unplanned and haphazard settlements, insufficient urban infrastructure and basic services, land and housing shortage, environmental degradation, mounting poverty, unemployment and social exclusion.

Critical interventions are required for promoting sustainable human settlements and sustainable cities in the region. The Master Plans must be made inclusive with provision of adequate space for housing the poor and informal sector activities. City Governments should enable to have the capacities and skills to administer service outsourcing, public-private partnership for infrastructure development, effective services delivery and poverty alleviation programmes. We must accept "inclusion" of the poor as the core in all urban policies and programmes by emphasizing the need for "inclusive zoning", "inclusive planning" and "inclusive cities and municipalities".

The Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Human Settlements is unique as it provided a platform for advancing the Habitat Agenda for enabling the Asia-Pacific countries to speak with one voice on Sustainable Development. The Conference focused on four major themes of pro-poor urban governance and planning, slum upgrading, delivery of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for water and sanitation and financing sustainable urbanization in the Asia-Pacific Region, which helped in pursuing a common approach to the promotion of sustainable human settlements with focus on urban poor and slum dwellers. The Delhi Declaration on establishment of the Asia-Pacific Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the adoption of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization has been the resultant through the consultative mechanism of the rich experience from the Asia-Pacific Ministers and the Experts

I am happy that the publication is brought out as an outcome of the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference and provides a Framework of Action for meeting the MDG on Water and Sanitation in the Asia-Pacific region. It is indeed brought out at an appropriate time when only eight years are left to achieve the MDG. I am sure that the innovative approaches, strategies emerged from the deliberations would benefit the countries of region to bring in due changes in the policies as well as adopt and adapt appropriate approaches in implementation on the Sustainable Urbanisation in the region.

Kumari Selja
Minister of State
for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
Government of India

Executive Summary

UN-HABITAT in partnership with the Government of India organized the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Human Settlements from 13th to 16th December, 2006 in New Delhi, India, in which Ministers of housing and urban development from the Asia-Pacific region, High officials, Experts, Executive Heads of the relevant United Nations Organizations, Specialized Agencies, International and Regional Financing Institutions, Eminent Personalities and the Civil society from 38 countries participated. The Conference was aimed at developing a shared vision and broad strategic framework for overcoming the existing barriers for the accelerated achievement of the Millennium Development Goals relating to human settlements and the Governments of the Asia-Pacific to promote an integrated approach to sustainable development and poverty reduction using shelter and the basic amenities as a basis for transformation.

The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference was designed to capitalize the opportunities by engaging in a creative dialogue on measures to implement effective sustainable policies within the context of rapid economic growth. The four days Conference was divided into two segments of two days each. The first segment was the Expert Group Meetings comprising of presentations and discussions on various human settlements issues and to bring out an Enhanced Framework of Implementation. The second high-level segment was the Ministerial Meeting for adoption of the Enhanced Framework and a Declaration.

The high-level Ministerial Meeting was inaugurated by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the President of India, who emphasized a two-pronged strategy to address the problem of urbanization. He underscored the need for provision of amenities and promotion of basic services to the urban poor and the slum dwellers in the existing cities, by creating physical, electronic, knowledge and economic connectivity to minimize rural-urban migration. Kumari Selja, the Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, stressed the need for inclusive cities and pro-poor policies in the Region.

Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT, in her keynote address appreciated the Region Meet in quest of a new vision for sustainable cities and expressed concern for innovative and radical pro-poor solutions for urban management and service delivery aimed at creating socially inclusive cities. She reiterated the need for developing appropriate mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly set under Target 10 and 11 for access to clean water and sanitation and improving the lives of the slums. She encouraged the initiative of urban amenities in rural areas and the support of UN-HABITAT for sustainable urbanization in the region.

The Conference deliberated the issues of housing and urban development in the Asia-Pacific region by developing an "Enhanced Framework of Implementation" on the following themes by constituting four Working Groups:

1. Pro-poor urban Governance and Planning,
2. Slum Upgrading,
3. Delivery of the MDGs for Water and Sanitation, and
4. Financing Sustainable Urbanization.

The Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch (WSIB) of UN-HABITAT facilitated the deliberations of the Working Group III and the preparation of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation on the "Delivery of the MDGs for Water and Sanitation in Asia Pacific Region", wherein representatives from 12 countries of India, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Samoa, Lao PDR, Afghanistan, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Oman, Armenia and the Civil Societies participated. The participating countries of India, China, Nepal and Lao PDR are already being supported by UN-HABITAT to attain their water and sanitation related MDGs through the Water for Asian Cities (WAC) and the Mekong Region of Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) programmes in the Asia-Pacific region.

A Bureau was formulated to carry out the deliberations of the Working Group III comprising of a Chairperson from Nepal, two Co-Chairpersons from India and Lao PDR, a Rapporteur from Afghanistan and a Resource person from India.

Earlier, the WSIB in collaboration with ADB, WSP of World Bank, WaterAid London, GWP the Netherlands and APWF Japan and the Government of India had prepared the 'Vision 2020' document on the "Delivery of the

MDGs for Water and Sanitation in the Asia-Pacific Region” and a Consultative Workshop was organized in 15 November 2006 to discuss the document and identify local actions. Based on the suggestions from the partner organisations, the document was finalized and Mr. Ravi Narayanan, the resource person of the Working Group III presented this as Background / Theme Paper. After a brainstorming discussion, the Enhanced Framework of Implementation on the delivery of the MDGs for Water and Sanitation in the region was finalized and was adopted by the 12 Country Governments participated in the Working Group and witnessed by the Civil Society and the multi-lateral agencies. The framework recommended measures to achieve the MDGs on water and sanitation in the region by primarily adopting:

- the use of appropriate and affordable technologies and system models for sustainable management;
- partnerships with civil society organizations, private sector and the regional knowledge centers;
- awareness, capacity building and community empowerment;
- principled governance; and
- policies and programmes that pursue an integrated approach taking cognizance of the links among water, sanitation, health and hygiene between economy and the environment, and between urban and rural areas.

This Framework of Implementation prepared by the Working Group III and adopted by the High Officials at the Plenary was later endorsed by the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference at its concluding session.

The Ministerial Conference concluded with a consultative mechanism for promotion of sustainable urbanization in the region and adopted the “Delhi Declaration” on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD). The Conference also adopted the “Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific Region”, which was prepared by converging the Framework of Actions recommended by the four Working Group on the specific themes stated earlier. This Enhanced Framework provided a new political blueprint for better managed, more inclusive and sustainable towns and cities across the region with due emphasis on meeting the MDGs for shelter and basic services, primarily on water, sanitation, health, hygiene and environment. The Delhi Declaration emphasized on the political will, decentralization, good governance and the empowerment of national and local authorities as well as the adoption of the inclusive processes of decision making which are fundamental to address the housing and urbanization challenges in the Asia and the Pacific Region.

To mark the occasion, WSIB also participated in the Conference Exhibition which focused on the activities of Water for Asian Cities (WAC) and the MEK-WATSAN Programmes of UN-HABITAT. Under the WAC Programme in India, the focus was on the themes of:

- Pro-poor Urban Water and Sanitation Governance;
- Pro-poor Governance - Gender Mainstreaming Strategies;
- Slum Environment Sanitation Initiatives (SESI);
- Community Managed Water Supply Schemes; and
- Capacity Building.

WAC activities in Nepal presented the Urban and Environmental Improvement Projects and the Small Town Water and Sanitation Sector Projects. For the Mekong Region, the WAC activities included the Water and Sanitation Programmes for Secondary Towns in Lao PDR, Vietnam and the initiatives in Nanjing, PR China. The MEK-WATSAN initiatives mainly included the Fast-track Community based Water Supply and Sanitation Projects in the cities/towns of Simao & Jinghong cities in Yunan Province of PR China, Xieng Nguen District, Luang Prabang Province and Sayabouly town in Lao PDR and the initiatives to develop Water and Sanitation for Small and Medium towns along side of the Economic Corridors in selected cities of Lao PDR and Vietnam. The Exhibition had wider viewer-ship and was well appreciated by various Ministers, high officials, professionals and the civil society from 38 countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. The impact was mainly on the visual exposure, dissemination of different approaches of UN-HABITAT in meeting the MDGs of water and sanitation, which will be of high value to different nations of the region for their adoption and adaptation.

Introduction

Access to land, shelter and basic services are the key determinants for sustainable reduction of urban poverty and the creation of wealth as it provides the urban poor with the means to sustain livelihoods, accumulate assets and to improve health. Sustainable urbanization can only be achieved if these aspects are an integral part of the national development agenda. In view of the rapid economic growth and cities mainly contributing to such development in the large part of the Asia-Pacific region, and consequent upon urbanization and arising opportunities, the Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Human Settlements was designed to capitalize the opportunities by engaging in a creative dialogue on measures to implement effective sustainable policies. UN-HABITAT in partnership with Government of India organized this Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Human Settlements from 13th to 16th December 2006 in New Delhi, India. The Aide Memoire and the Programme of Events of the Conference is at Annexure – 1 & 2.

Aim and Objectives

The Conference was aimed at developing a shared vision and broad strategic framework for overcoming the existing barriers for the accelerated achievement of the Millennium Development Goals relating to human settlements and the Governments of the Asia-Pacific to promote an integrated approach to sustainable development and poverty reduction using shelter and the basic amenities as a basis for transformation.

The overall thrust of this first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference was to establish a standing high-level Forum, as existed in Latin America (MINURVI) and in Africa (AMCHUD), to serve as a consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of human settlements in the Asia Pacific region. The Forum will strive to place sustainable urbanization and urban poverty reduction at the forefront of public policy and investments throughout the countries of the region. The specific objectives that contribute to this overall goal include identification of strategies for turning the urbanization challenges into opportunities for sustainable development by adopting pro-poor solutions, socially inclusive approaches, sharing of replicable experiences and practices, mechanisms for monitoring the progress on MDG, faster partnerships including the Civil Society, develop investment opportunities among the Asian and the Pacific countries in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the **MDG on water and sanitation**, and to identify a permanent secretariat for the standing high-level Forum of the Conference.

Participation

Ministers of housing and urban development from the Asia-Pacific region, High officials, Experts, Executive Heads of the relevant United Nations Organizations, Specialized Agencies, International and Regional Financing Institutions, Eminent Personalities and the Civil society from 38 countries participated in the Conference.

Scope and Framework of the Conference

The four days Conference was divided into two segments of two days each. The first segment was the Expert Group Meetings comprising of presentations and discussions on various human settlements issues divided into the following four sub-themes:

1. Pro-poor urban Governance and Planning,
2. Slum Upgrading
3. Delivery of the MDGs for Water and Sanitation, and
4. Financing Sustainable Urbanization.

For this purpose, four Working Groups were constituted. Each Working Group came out with an Enhanced Framework of Implementation on the said sub-theme.

The second high-level segment was the Ministerial Meeting for adoption of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation and a Declaration. The recommendations of the framework of action on each of the sub-theme by the respective Working Group were presented to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Delegation for endorsement.

Based on their considerations, the Ministerial Conference adopted the 'Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia Pacific Region' by converging the Framework of Actions recommended by the four Working Groups. Followed by, the Delegation also adopted the 'Delhi Declaration' on the establishment of the high-level Forum, viz. 'Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development' (APMCHUD).

The UN-HABITAT developed the professional component of the Conference by elaborating the Conference Design and Agenda, Concept paper, pre-conference Documents, Session Papers, Inputs from various sub-regions of the Asia-Pacific and the final report of the Conference. UN-HABITAT shall submit the Conference outcome and recommendations to the Governing Council in April 2007, UN Commission on Sustainable Development and the World Urban Forum.

Opening Session: The Conference Vision

The high-level Ministerial Meeting was inaugurated by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, His Excellency, the President of India, who emphasized a two-pronged strategy to address the problem of urbanization in terms of developing rural growth centers capable of generating non-farm employment with urban amenities and promotion of basic services to the urban poor and the slum dwellers in the existing cities, by creating physical, electronic, knowledge and economic connectivity to minimize rural-urban migration. Kumari Selja, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, stressed the need for inclusive cities and pro-poor policies in the Region.

Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT, in her keynote address appreciated the Region Meet in quest of a new vision for sustainable cities and expressed concern for innovative and radical pro-poor solutions for urban management and service delivery aimed at creating socially inclusive cities. She reiterated the need for developing appropriate mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific region in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly set under Target 10 and 11 for access to clean water and sanitation and improving the lives of the slums. She encouraged the initiative of urban amenities in rural areas and the support of UN-HABITAT for sustainable urbanization in the region.

The inaugural address by the President of India, the Keynote address by the Executive Director, UN-HABITAT and the Special Address by the Union Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation of the Government of India are placed at Annexure – 3, 4 and 5.

The Conference Exhibition

As part of the Conference, an Exhibition was organized to display and disseminate information on various initiatives being taken up in the region.

WSIB of UN-HABITAT participated in the Conference Exhibition focusing on the activities of Water for Asian Cities (WAC) and the Mekong Region Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) Programmes. Under the WAC Programme in India, the focus was on the themes of Pro-poor Urban Water and Sanitation Governance; Pro-poor Governance - Gender Mainstreaming Strategies; Slum Environment Sanitation Initiatives (SESI); Community Managed Water Supply Schemes; and Capacity Building.

WAC activities in Nepal presented the Urban and Environmental Improvement Projects and the Small Town Water and Sanitation Sector Projects. For the Mekong Region, the WAC activities included the Water and Sanitation Programmes for Secondary Towns in Lao PDR, Vietnam and the initiatives in Nanjing, PR China. The MEK-WATSAN initiatives mainly included the Fast-track Community based Water Supply and Sanitation Projects in the cities/towns of Simao & Jinghong cities in Yunan Province of PR China, Xieng Nguen District, Luang Prabang Province and Sayabouly town in Lao PDR and the initiatives to develop Water and Sanitation for Small and Medium towns along side of the Economic Corridors in selected cities of Lao PDR and Vietnam.

The Exhibition had wider viewer-ship and was well appreciated by various Ministers, high officials, professionals and the civil society from 38 countries of the Asia-Pacific Region. The impact was mainly on the visual exposure, dissemination of different approaches of UN-HABITAT in meeting the MDGs of water and sanitation, which will be of high value to different nations of the region for their adoption and adaptation. Glimpses of the Exhibition on UN-HABITAT Water and Sanitation Programmes are given in Annexure - 6.

The Challenge of Meeting the MDG on Water and Sanitation for the Asia-Pacific Region

Adequate supply of safe water and improved sanitation are essential ingredients of a healthy and productive life. Lack of access to water and sanitation contributes to a cycle of diseases and culture of poverty. Water and sanitation are potential elements to rescue people from the web of poverty. Nearly, two out of every ten people in the world have no source to safe drinking water. Around one billion of the world population lack access to safe drinking water and 2.6 billion people have no organized system of sanitation, relying only on noxious and unhygienic facilities. Globally, 2.2 million people die every year from diarrhoeal disease, including cholera, associated with contaminated water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Most of them are children under the age of five. Provision of basic sanitation facilities reduce the diseases by up to 77%. Water supply and sanitation are interrelated. Water supply, sanitation, health and hygiene need to be integrated in a realistic perspective, as it has been a yardstick for socio-cultural and economic development of a nation.

Cities and towns are centers of economic growth and generators of employment opportunities and essentially need basic amenities of drinking water, sanitation and proper housing, transport, environment, particularly to the urban poor. In fact, the dynamics of growth, urbanization and poverty manifests in varying degrees among the developing economies and more so in the Asia Pacific Region. The Asia-Pacific Region has been the home for two thirds of the world's poor mostly due to continued urbanization trends. Studies have shown that the rate of slum population is almost the same as the rate of urban growth in the region. As per the Human Development Report, 2006, almost two thirds of the global population without access to safe water and three fourths of the world population without access to safe sanitation live in Asia. In absolute terms, over 635 million people in the region are without safe water and 1880 million without safe sanitation. Of these, without access to water or sanitation, almost 90 percent live in rural areas are. It is interesting to note that the number of people without safe sanitation in urban areas of the region actually increased during 1990 and 2002.

Millennium Development Goal on Water and Sanitation

The Governments from 189 countries across the world including the Asia-Pacific Region gathered at the UN Millennium Summit in 2000 adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their nations for stronger global efforts to reduce poverty, improve health, promote peace, human rights and environmental sustainability. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that emerged from the Declaration is specific and measurable targets. The MDG bind countries to address and attack on inadequate incomes, widespread hunger, gender inequality, environmental deterioration, lack of education, health care, clean water and safe sanitation. The World Leaders promised to work together to meet concrete targets for advancing development and reducing poverty by 2015 or earlier.

It has been widely acknowledged the importance of safe water and sanitation as the fundamental and the basic requirement for development as well as well being and indeed has linkages to the MDGs for other sectors. The targets set for water and sanitation is the MDG 7, addressing at Target 10, "to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water", Target 11, "to achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers". The World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002 added another relevant target, "to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation". Subsequent studies including the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation and the Asia Water Watch 2015 have emphatically recognized the importance of the water and sanitation MDG target, and highlighted its pertinence to improving health, education and economic development and quality of life in general.

Challenges for attaining MDG on Water and Sanitation in Asia-Pacific Region

- In order to meet the MDG targets of the Asia-Pacific region on water and sanitation by 2015, according to the ADB study, an investment of about US\$ 8 billion would be required. On an average, there is not much more than US\$2 per year per person living in the Asian region. To provide water supply and sanitation

service for all, the investments required would be of the order of US\$16 billion per year or just under US\$5 per person in the region. Strong Government support as well as innovative pro-poor solutions to the sector are required if the investments of this magnitude and the MDG goals are achievable.

- Asia Pacific is a region of great diversity in all its aspects - systems of administration, culture and availability of water. There can, therefore, be no one blueprint approach for the full provision of safe water and sanitation services to the people of each country. Multiple routes to match each different set of circumstances particularly at the micro level need to be initiated.
- Ensuring the delivery of water and sanitation services is squarely the responsibility of the national government in Asia Pacific Region. Determined leadership and the political will are absolutely necessary to maintain the needed commitment.
- The burden associated with inadequate coverage and access, and of inefficient service delivery falls heavily on the most vulnerable and the poorest. Lack of access to safe sanitation affects the women most, not only in terms of their health but also their dignity and safety, particularly in areas of conflict or those affected by disasters. Women and girls especially find their productivity impaired by their social roles and the costly and time-consuming tasks of collection and storage of water. Because of the lack of access and the poor quality of services, low tariffs often do not help the poor and rely on informal vendors.
- Inadequate and ill directed financial flows together with poor technical and management capacities cripple water and sanitation service delivery and requires positive policy initiatives.
- Widespread environmental pollution caused by inadequacy of water, sanitation and solid waste systems.
- Restoration and upgradation of water and sanitation services affected by conflicts and natural disasters.
- Lack of general awareness on water and sanitation issues

Achieving WATSAN MDG in Asia-Pacific Region: Current Scenario

During the last decade, there has been exceptionally rapid economic growth in a large part of the region, with a number of countries of the region achieving economic growth rates of 5 to 10 percent per annum. Cities have been main contributors to this growth in the region with urban-based economic activities accounting for up to 80 percent of the gross national product in many Asian Countries. Asia has made a good start towards achieving the MDGs but the movement of the realization of targets set for 2015 has been very slow and a cause for serious concern. There has been good progress in achieving water supply targets. Between 1990 to 2002, around one billion people have gained access to improved water supplies. But "improved access" and "safe and adequate water" are two different aspects. There are many places still water quality is a concern. There have been glaring differences in the levels of water and sanitation coverage across cities in the Asian region. Especially among the poor, there has been high dependency on water vendors with low availability, high cost and dubious water supply. Inadequate water supply and sanitation services are the most critical problems of the unchecked city growth, when there are only 8 years left to achieve the set goals of the MDG.

Initiatives of UN –HABITAT in Asia Pacific Region

UN-HABITAT has two regional programmes in Asia-Pacific Region to support the participating Governments in attaining water and sanitation related MDG, viz, "Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme" and the "Mekong Region Water and Sanitation (MEK-WATSAN) Programme", by mainly promoting pro-poor governance, water demand management, environmental sanitation, and income generation for the poor, linked to community based water supply and sanitation. The WAC initiatives presently cover the countries of India, Nepal, Lao PDR, Peoples Republic of China (PR China) and the MEK-WATSAN covers the geographic area centred around the world's 12th largest river, the Mekong, supporting the countries of Vietnam, Yunnan Province of PR China, Lao PDR and Cambodia.

Theme Paper on “Delivery of MDG on Water and Sanitation in the Region – Vision 2020”

WSIB in collaboration with ADB, WSP of World Bank, WaterAid London, GWP the Netherlands, APWF Japan and the Government of India prepared the ‘Vision 2020’ document on the “Delivery of the MDGs for Water and Sanitation in the Asia-Pacific Region”. A Consultative Workshop was organized in 15 November 2006 to discuss the document and identify local actions. Based on the suggestions from the partner organisations, the document was finalized by Mr. Ravi Narayanan, the resource person for the Working Group III presented this as Background / Theme Paper.

The paper has articulated core elements of a region-wide approach to water and sanitation that rests on these values and aspirations, although conditions and challenges vary among countries.



Introduction: Water, sanitation and quality of life

“Every citizen, woman, man or child, without exception, in every country in Asia has the right to safe water and safe water and sanitation for her or his health and well being. It is in the power of every country to meet this obligation by 2020 through commitment, leadership, innovation and with full participation of all its citizens.”

Where we are: Realities and challenges

In September 2000, governments across the world, including Asia-Pacific region, made a commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals. This unprecedented step was a universal acknowledgement of the seriousness of the problems of poverty, its causes and consequences globally. The importance of providing safe water and sanitation in the fight against poverty was recognized from the outset. Specific targets were set to halve the proportion of people without access to safe water and sanitation by 2015.

Since then the importance of the provision of safe water and sanitation to fundamental aspects of development and well being, and indeed the linkages to the other MDGs, has been widely acknowledged. Subsequently, several studies and task forces, including the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation and the Asia Water Watch 2015 have emphatically made the case for the importance of the water and sanitation MDG target, and highlighted its pertinence to improving health, education and economic development and quality of life generally. The challenges, however, are considerable.

Scale of Service Shortfalls

Progress towards these targets in the Asia-Pacific Region has been less rapid than anticipated. The Human Development Report of 2006 states that almost two out of every three persons in the world without access to safe water and three out of four without access to safe sanitation live in Asia. Over 635 million people in the region are without safe water, and 1880 million without safe sanitation. According to the Asia Water Watch 2015 report the number of people without safe sanitation in urban areas actually increased between 1990 and 2002. At current rates of progress, the MDGs will not be met for sanitation in many countries of Asia.

The Challenge

A heavy burden on the poor, women and children

The burden associated with inadequate coverage and access and of inefficient service delivery falls heaviest on the most vulnerable and the poorest. Two out of three of the unserved earn less than \$2 per day, and are unable to make household level investments to compensate for unreliable and unsafe services. Poor citizens, women and children are also the most excluded from decision-making. Lack of access to safe sanitation affects Women the most not only in terms of their health but also their dignity and safety, particularly in areas of conflict or those affected by disasters. Women and girls especially find their productivity impaired by their social roles and the costly and time-consuming tasks of collection and storage of water. Because of the lack of access and the poor quality of services, low tariffs often do not help the poor, who are less likely to be connected in the first place and rely on informal vendors.

Sector transformation – a priority

The task ahead is, therefore, not just a mechanistic one about finance and infrastructure. The sector unfortunately suffers from a tendency to invest in the creation of new assets and facilities, while neglecting the management and maintenance of those assets over time. Financial dependence on higher tier funds further weakens local jurisdiction, leads to waste and a disregard for the requirements of customers and citizens. Higher tier support, ostensibly aimed at the poor, is often misdirected as generic subsidies fail to reach the poor. Rigid policy and legal frameworks deny the actual and potential roles of large and small scale private sector providers and financiers remain, and deprive the sector from the full contributions and innovations they could provide. These realities have left the sector inefficient, costly and out of touch with those it is supposed to serve.

Dealing with these challenges requires an unswerving commitment to address issues of equity and inclusion, balance the multiple requirements of urban, peri-urban and rural areas at a time of rapid and unplanned urbanization, and bring service provision in touch with the people required to use and pay for those services. Such a challenge calls for a sense of urgency and far-reaching transformation to instill sensitive, imaginative and accountable governance and fundamental changes in attitudes and behavior, a culture of service and responsibility and awareness by governments and citizens alike.

Above all the response needs to be imbued with a sense of urgency. Given the huge backlog and numbers involved it is no longer enough for countries in Asia to aspire to meet the Millennium Goals. As an obligation to their people and as an example to the rest of the world total provision of safe water and sanitation for basic human needs by 2020 can be the only option.

Closing the gap: Two cardinal sets of principles

Asia is a region of great diversity in all its aspects - systems of administration, culture and availability of water. There can, therefore, be no one blueprint approach for the full provision of safe water and sanitation services to the people of each country. There are multiple routes to match each different set of circumstances particularly at the micro level. However, there are a number of general or macro principles which, when adapted to the contextual circumstances of each country, can result in big and beneficial changes, particularly for the poor and vulnerable.

The fundamental premise on which progress can be made is that ensuring (which is different from directly providing) the delivery of water and sanitation services is squarely the responsibility of each national government in Asia. But to be successful they will need, above all, determined leadership and the political will that is absolutely necessary to maintain the commitment that will be needed.

Principled governance

The first step on this journey and the overarching framework is principled governance which in the context of the provision of safe water and sanitation will have its different nuances in each country in the region. But there are certain aspects of governance which are common and cover policy, attitudes and practice.

Pro-poor Approach: Of these there are several attributes related to attitude and approach which are particularly important in ensuring that governance is principled, both in the setting of policy and its practice, and goes

beyond efficiency (which is undoubtedly important) to a commitment to equity and the interests of poor and vulnerable people and in particular to women.

- The first is according the provision of water/sanitation services to poor communities (which in the urban context means a focus on slum settlements, both 'recognized' and 'unrecognized') top priority in the setting of policy and following it up with a commitment to provide the necessary resources. This would mean that MDGs are not just national targets and the first step to full provision but also targets at local level. The consequences of such an emphasis would be that reliable and affordable water and sanitation services for poor communities would not merely be the outcome of planned projects but the starting point in their design and execution and be based on an attitude of respect not patronage.
- The second is embracing a culture of accountability which would necessitate not just 'passive' transparency (e.g. putting out information on policies on the website) but also an active engagement in debate and discussion on policies and their consequences, project designs and their alternatives and impact assessments with unserved communities in locations and idioms where the participation of communities as key stakeholders is real and not a token activity on a check list.
- The third which is a natural consequence of the above two is a determination to reach the 'last mile', an emphasis on speedy delivery especially to poor communities. This can only be done if there is a willingness to understand the inherent diversity of communities and their different needs, try new approaches and avoid prevarication.
- The fourth which is especially important in an environment where there is a general shortage of resources, should be an emphasis on sustainability in all its aspects (technical sustainability of facilities e.g. operation and maintenance, financial sustainability ensuring the continued flow of funds to maintain services, institutional sustainability to preserve the standards of consistent service and environmental sustainability to ensure the continued supply of water and to avoid deterioration in quality).

Institutional Reform: While there is now a broad agreement about the need for institutional reform, performance remains patchy and in several countries urban policy in particular remains mired in confusion. There is no doubt that policy reform is a complex subject at a time of rapid growth and the diverging interests of several stakeholders. However there are some issues that need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

- While decentralization in the governance arrangements to local levels of government is important it has to move off the statute books and be accompanied by real devolution of fiscal and managerial responsibility and a clear understanding of roles. Timing and terms of transfer of responsibility are equally important so that changes in governance structures are accompanied by measures to ensure the requisite management capacity exists to undertake the expected tasks before transfer of responsibilities and that local entities are not saddled with unsustainable levels of debt. This may require one off write offs of debts in some cases.
- Whoever is the service provider, whether a government owned entity with independent authority or a local community owned network or a private sector or NGO provider or contractor the introduction of independent regulatory systems to ensure the affordability and reliability of safe water and sanitation services, particularly to poor people, combined with a system of incentives and sanctions to be applied to encourage the swift completion of projects is important.
- Finally, given the record of delayed projects or initiatives that have been reversed, short duration projects, using fast track mechanisms, which begin to deliver safe and affordable water and sanitation, within the span of a political cycle can protect the interests of poor communities from the effects of political changes, which can result from a competitive political environment.

From policy as intention to policy as practice

Meeting the exacting standards of good governance as described above and to actually deliver results is no easy task and would need a number of steps and initiatives. These include the following:

Focused generation and application of resources

Inadequate and ill directed financial flows together with poor technical and management capacities can and do frustrate otherwise positive policy initiatives and cripple water and sanitation service delivery. Corrective measures in the area of finance are often painful but necessary for the expansion of supply, for proper maintenance and

for an equitable distribution of costs and user charges. Measures to introduce improvements could examine the following:

- While there is an overall need for financial resources from general budgetary sources and in some cases from external sources (grants or loans) especially for capital expenditure, in many situations there is a need to transfer resources from the better off including industrial and commercial establishments (who often benefit from perverse subsidies and low tariffs) to poor communities (who suffer from high costs in terms of time and money from unreliable supplies of expensive water) through bold increases in tariff levels with generous and targeted subsidies for poor families. This politically unpopular move is necessary not only to generate resources to maintain and improve service levels but also to manage demand from a conservation point of view.
- Provision of sufficient resources for operation and maintenance may seem obvious but is often neglected in actual practice and may require continued subsidies for central funds to those local bodies/service providers who are not able to generate enough resources from consumers in their areas (applicable to both urban and rural situations where there are large numbers of poor people and fewer high payers including industrial and commercial establishments).
- Investment in training and skill development at all levels of local service providers (often the most neglected tier of government when the service provider is the local municipality) not just as a one off exercise but on a continuing basis to keep up with technical and system improvements as they happen in different parts of the region is necessary to ensure that water and sanitation services receive the kind of professional management that is proportionate to their importance as a fundamental basic service. A case can also be made for similar inputs focused on local elected representatives (mayors, members of locally elected bodies at town and village level) who can only discharge their obligations with proper information and some subject knowledge.
- Civil Society organizations not only champion the cause of poor people but introduce innovations in technical designs, management systems (including the role of women's groups in traditionally male bastions such as technical maintenance of public water and sanitation facilities) and accountability measures such as social audits. They are also generally more cost effective than either government departments or the private sector. Specific resources allocated to them would be a big step forward, particularly in outreach to poor communities.
- Public disclosure of water and sanitation budgets and the regular scrutiny of expenditure is part of an accountability mechanism which can help to direct resources to the right places (such as slum settlements) and to combat corruption. This is a measure to be applied across the board whoever is the user of funds, whether government departments or civil society organizations.
- Often it is the problems of big metropolitan centres that occupy the attention of policy makers and service providers. Secondary towns and peri-urban areas receive disproportionately small amounts of time, attention and resources. This is a situation that has to be corrected if there is to be any chance at all of achieving full provision of water and sanitation services.

In order that positive policy initiatives facilitate sustained water and sanitation delivery following measures may be considered within country context.

- Targeted fiscal support for those that cannot obtain access otherwise. The challenge is to achieve economic costing of water, and then to target those specific groups of consumers that need support.
- **A focus on operation and maintenance:** Fiscal, political and professional incentives are often towards asset creation. The need, however, is to develop and encourage appropriate fiscal incentives to improve operations and maintenance, and to mobilize the support of policy makers at all levels for such an approach.
- **Investment in training and skill development:** Concerted effort is needed to enhance the skills of officials at provider level, and the awareness of issues and options among providers, policy makers and regulatory agencies. At an institutional level such professionalization will benefit from a clearer separation of these roles. A well-designed awareness and capacity set of programs could bring to the fore the need for new approaches and equip those concerned to pursue those options. The area of greatest need is arguably that of local service providers, and it will be important not just to build capacity as a one off exercise but on a continuing basis. It should keep track with technical and system improvements, and knowledge sharing

throughout the region. Care should be taken to not merely focus on professional staff, but also to build awareness and understanding among local elected representatives (mayors, members of locally elected bodies at town and village level) who can only discharge their obligations with proper information and some subject knowledge.

- **Improved public disclosure:** The disclosure of water and sanitation budgets, regular scrutiny of expenditure, and release of information on operational conditions is part of an accountability mechanism which can help to direct resources to the right places. There is a need to create fiscal and legal incentives and systems that would enhance better disclosure. It should be applied to all government departments, public utilities or contracted private operators. A fully transparent sector would also entail accessible information on the activities of civil society organizations.
- **Improved Data:** Better information will make it more possible to measure performance, address problems (such as leakages) and serve consumers according to their specific requirements. Key elements of such improvement would be integrated information management, including reform of accounting and budgeting practices, development of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, consumer feedback systems and communications strategies and improving data about water production, infrastructure, payment, subsidies and operating costs, as well as customers. Civil society organizations can play an important part in the generation of accurate information about water and sanitation facilities, not just their availability but also their usage and their impact on the lives of poor people.
- **Fast-tracked project mechanisms:** The sustainability of improved delivery hinges on institutional change, but the record of delayed projects or initiatives requires special mechanisms to expedite projects. This is essential to address urgent backlogs and also a potentially powerful tool to develop good practices and approaches.

Integrated policy and planning

Confusion in policy development, administration and accountability between government departments with a stake in safe water and sanitation provision including the ministries of health, urban development, water resources and possibly others is not unusual and more likely in rapidly growing urban conglomerations. Various Government departments with a stake in safe water and sanitation provision including the ministries needed to take various steps to handle the situation arising out of rapidly growing urban conglomerations. Practical steps to improve the situation could include the following:

- **Inclusive and coherent policy and planning:** As far as national policy and planning is concerned, it is important to cut across different types of contexts – from big metropolitan centres to secondary towns and peri-urban areas. The requirements may be different, and it is important to adopt a differentiated approach that allows those at the implementation level to be creative and flexible, but within coherent policy frameworks on aspects like standards, issues of universal access, core governance criteria and fiscal and financial sustainability.
- **Environmental considerations:** In order to avoid harmful environment consequences such as water logging and mixing of sewage with storm water it is important to plan water and sanitation projects in an integrated manner and not sequentially. Sector planning can therefore not be insulated from broader city, district or local planning, or from, for example, planning for waste management, which could have serious consequences in terms of water pollution and the obstruction of natural drainage flows.
- **Dealing with wider planning and land issues:** Policies relating to land tenure and occupancy rights in 'unrecognized' slums in urban conglomerations sometimes result in very large number of poor people being left out of water and sanitation projects. This is an issue that cannot be neglected or delayed. People rather than formal land titles should be the basis for water and sanitation coverage efforts if full provision water and sanitation facilities are to be achieved of. Equally rehabilitation policies for people evicted from their dwellings should include provision for safe water and sanitation facilities.
- **Role separation to govern the policy-implementation link:** The effective implementation of projects, management of assets and delivery and financing of services requires a set of institutions with clear responsibilities and roles, on the basis of which they can be held accountable. The MDG targets will remain out of reach unless institutional transformation takes place.

The use of appropriate technology and system models

Current demographic trends and the rapid and chaotic growth of urban centres in many countries in Asia together with growing demands on existing water sources make the search for innovative technologies and neighbourhood centred approaches a task of considerable importance. A number of technological and system techniques and approaches can help in the rapid and focused spread of water and sanitation services particularly among poor communities. Among the ones which are worth pursuing are the following:

- The use of GIS to map urban and rural settlements to plan water and sanitation projects and to track coverage patterns particularly those of poor communities. This is a technique which could well be used by poor communities themselves and provide an important tool to ensure accountability.
- The use of e-governance systems for open administration including transparent user charge collection, attention to customer complaints and regular scrutiny of maintenance hot spots where special attention is needed to maintain service levels and quality.
- The development of systems to track leakages in piped networks, a measure with wide ranging benefits including reduction of wastage and increase in revenues. This is an area where the expertise of the private sector could be particularly relevant.
- The recycling of wastewater using newer technologies including membranes and filters.
- The introduction of local or in situ sewage treatment systems and technologies to avoid the environmentally unsustainable and financially unaffordable models of citywide water borne sewage systems.
- The introduction of techniques to collect and store rainwater to augment water supplies as a rigorously enforced policy.
- The introduction of small piped networks where the operation and maintenance of water and sanitation services are left to local communities or local entrepreneurs acting as service providers.
- The introduction of simple water quality testing kits which can be used widely and by many stakeholders including educational institutions.

All these are measures where there is a wealth of experience in Asia and where all stakeholders including governments and their agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations have played a notable part.

Partnerships

While the primary responsibility for water and sanitation services is that of national governments there is enough experience to show that they will need partnerships with others such as civil society organizations (not just NGOs but also user groups, community based organizations and associations, research institutions and others) and the private sector to be able to reach the levels of coverage, especially among poor communities that will be necessary to reach the ambitious objective of full coverage.

The need for clarity of roles for CSOs is particularly important. Currently they are often used in the role of contractors to develop 'awareness' or in the task of community organization to facilitate participation in water supply projects and schemes, the designs and operating parameters of which have already been decided. This approach is not likely to lead to the kind of joint effort that is necessary. The involvement of CSOs in the design phase and particularly in the scrutiny and assessment of progress will add huge value to joint efforts and in reaching the last mile of reaching poor communities. It is also worth mentioning that civil society organizations can play an important part in the generation of accurate information about water and sanitation facilities, not just their availability but also their usage and their impact on the lives of poor people. Partnerships by their very nature depend on trust. This will require demonstrated competence among the partners but also changes in attitude. Government authorities and civil society organizations, including NGOs, will need to adopt an open attitude to the sharing of information and the ability to work together.

Awareness

Though the task of reaching the MDGs and full service provision in countries is formidable but certainly achievable. It will require the active participation of all citizens. There needs to be a big investment in massive awareness campaigns involving educational institutions, legislatures, mass contact organizations and people at large with a concerted and imaginative use of the media and all types of communication methods to overcome the taboos

relating to discussions about sanitation and generate the levels of interest and understanding of issues relating to water and sanitation and most essentially hygiene and the enthusiasm which can sustain the energy and commitment to reach the goal of safe water and sanitation services for all the people of Asia.

Three imperatives are particularly important:

- The need for a concerted campaign over the next five years to raise awareness and generate the drive and momentum to change policies and governance practices and build sector capacity.
- The need for a multi stakeholder approach in each country to achieve synergies and a united effort.
- The need for active sharing of information and experience across the region as part of a region wide initiative.

With clarity of purpose and unity of effort the 2020 vision can be achieved.

APMC Working Group III

Deliberations on Delivery of MDG on Water and Sanitation in Asia-Pacific Region

During the Plenary Session – I on 13 December 2006 in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference four Working Groups were constituted for deliberations during the first segment of the Conference. The Working Group III was mandated to develop. WSIB of UN-HABITAT facilitated the proceedings of the Working Group III - “An Enhanced Framework of Implementation – Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation” was organised by WSIB. A bureau was formed which comprised of the following:

Chair: Mr. Kishore Thapa, Director General, Department of Urban Development & Building Construction, Kathmandu, Nepal

Co- Chairs: Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder, Sulabh International, New Delhi, India

Dr. Somphone Dethoudom, Director General, Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post, and Construction (MCTPC), Government of Lao PDR

Rapporteur: Mr. Jamal Nasir, Department of Planning and Coordination, Afghanistan

Resource person: Mr. Ravi Narayan, Former CEO, WaterAid, London

Facilitator: Mr. Andre Dzikus, Programme Manager, UN-HABITAT Nairobi

The Working Group III session had two parts. In the first part the theme paper on Vision 2020 was presented by Mr. Ravi Narayan that was prepared in consultation with WSP, ADB, Water Aid, APWF, GWA, Government of India and Sulabh International along with UN-HABITAT. In the second part of the session, country statements were made on the issue.

The highlights of the presentation of the paper were developed on the framework of 3 pillars:

1. Current situation: Asia is the epicenter of unserved sanitation coverage which is much less than water. The impact is hardest on the poor and most vulnerable are women and children.
2. The challenge:
 - a. Challenge is much more than the money and the structure
 - b. Need to adopt pro-poor approach
 - c. Need for attitudinal change to develop culture of service than taking it as an administrative task.
 - d. There is no single blue print as we have to learn from good example
 - e. There is need to address problems of secondary towns or small towns where there is highest concentration of people without services and are in lowest scales particular in respect of sanitation
3. Necessary steps to overcome challenge
 - a. Principled governance
 - b. Priority for the poor
 - c. Culture of accountability with consultative attitude
 - d. Sustainability of finance, institution, environment, O & M
 - e. Fundamental institutional reform – decentralization not just administrative feature but supported by empowerment and capacity building

Policy implementation

- Focus on allocation of budgetary resources to the tune of three to five percent of GDP, leveraging of other financial resources through other channels like microfinance, institutional finance and private sector finance.
- Integrated planning where different organizations like water resources departments, public health ministries, and public works ministries/departments need to work together to focus on MDGs and not overlap activities that lead to waste of resources.
- Use of appropriate technology, affordable and culturally acceptable technologies suitable to each country. The technology should be short looped system, quick win and easy to implement and maintain.
- Transparent information and monitoring system needs to be developed for each country.

Multi stakeholder partnership

Water and Sanitation issues should not be considered to be the government responsibility. These should be everybody's concern where private sector, civil society should join together with clarity of roles of each partner.

Create awareness

The fundamental consideration is to create awareness of urban citizens with accurate information and wider dissemination of issues, risks and solutions. Media has a greater role to play for transformation of attitudes of the people and allow wider reach to educate people

Working Group III – Floor Discussion on 13 December 2006

General Discussion on Issues

Paper was well accepted by the participants who made several remarks to support the document presented by resource person. Discussion was focused more on sanitation Following are the major points that emerged out of the discussion:

- Local initiatives along with local design and technologies which are socially acceptable should be focused on
 - o Balanced funding between water and sanitation and realistic tariff should be charged
 - o Solid waste management should be an integral part of water and sanitation delivery
 - o Local people should be trained on local technologies.
 - o On-site sanitation with source separating system should be promoted rather than sewer and drainage system
 - o Standards and norms should be country specific.

Country level statements

Of the twelve countries participating in the Working Group III, nine countries participated in the discussion and presented their specific views:

India

- Need for better definition on safe sanitation with norms and standards for poor that can be different from country to country.
- Public, private people's participation is crucial to address water and sanitation sector.
- Integrated planning should include vertical integration between water engineers, highway engineers and architects. In addition, green building and infrastructure also should be the agenda.
- Small-scale water vendors to be promoted.

Turkey

- Municipality needs support in financing, technical assistance for better service delivery. Bankers are providing capacity building of local authority to operate.

Samoa

- The change of focus of implementation on small towns or sub-capital may reduce the resource allocation without compromising standards.
- Effective public private partnership including all stakeholders including religious organisations like church and other communities into framework.

Indonesia

- Empowerment of community at local level with integrated action and approach.
- Realistic tariffs including operation and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities to be imposed.

Oman

- Water Supply and Sewerage infrastructure are provided by the government and operated by the private sector.

Afghanistan

- Because of security threat water and sanitation services could not be delivered. Need to enhance local capacity by training to local people on technologies to avoid long time taken by external experts to understand the country's situation

Sri Lanka

- Supplying individual connection to multi-storied tenements and expanding their services in low-income communities and low-lying areas.

China

- China had undergone institutional reforms and facilities were built on civil demands that was successfully achieved in collaboration with different agencies like ADB and UN-HABITAT.

Nepal

- Need for decentralized approach for wastewater management facilities and community participation for better service delivery in water and sanitation sector. There are several good examples in Nepal, which are undertaken by government and different stakeholders on decentralized wastewater management and community based water and sanitation programme.

Floor Discussion on 14 December 2006

Second day session comprised of two events:

A. Group discussion

Rapporteur, Mr. Jamal Nasir from Afghanistan presented the findings of first day group work on "Enhanced Framework of Implementation – Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation". All participants from 12 countries provided their comments to finalize the draft document.

B. Finalization of Implementation Framework

On the basis of additional inputs from group discussion "An Enhanced Framework of Implementation – Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation in Asia Pacific Region" has been adopted by Working Group III by 12 Government representatives and witnessed by Civil Society and multi-lateral agencies. This document comprises of the following issues:

1. Challenge for attaining MDGs on Water and Sanitation in Asia Pacific Region
2. Steps to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation:
 - a. Principled Governance
 - b. The Use of Appropriate Technology and System Models
 - c. Awareness and Community Empowerment
 - d. Partnerships

C. Recommendation for declaration of commitment for implementation for framework of Action

At the end of group session the government representatives also approved nine point recommendations for declaration of commitment for implementation for framework of action.

Event II: Plenary Session – High Officials Segment

The Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Delivery of MDGs for Water and Sanitation finalized and unanimously adopted by the Working Group III, which was presented by the Group Chair Mr. Kishore Thapa in the plenary session of the High officials segment. The document was well accepted during the plenary session.

Working Group III Recommendations

Adoption of an Enhanced Framework of Implementation on Delivery of MDG on Water and Sanitation

Unanimous Adoption of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation by the Working Group III

After a brainstorming discussion, the following Enhanced Framework of Implementation on the Delivery of MDG on Water and Sanitation was finalized and adopted by the 12 Governments participated in the Working Group, which was witnessed by the Civil Society and the multi-lateral agencies.

Challenge for attaining MDGs on Water and Sanitation in Asia Pacific Region

1. Asia Pacific is a region of great diversity in all its aspects - systems of administration, culture and availability of water. There can, therefore, be no one blueprint approach for the full provision of safe water and sanitation services to the people of each country. There are multiple routes to match each different set of circumstances particularly at the micro level.
2. However, the fundamental premise on which progress can be made is that ensuring the delivery of water and sanitation services is squarely the responsibility of each national government in Asia Pacific Region. But to be successful they will need, above all, determined leadership and the political will that is absolutely necessary to maintain the commitment that will be needed.
3. The burden associated with inadequate coverage and access and of inefficient service delivery falls heaviest on the most vulnerable and the poorest. Lack of access to safe sanitation affects Women the most not only in terms of their health but also their dignity and safety, particularly in areas of conflict or those affected by disasters. Women and girls especially find their productivity impaired by their social roles and the costly and time-consuming tasks of collection and storage of water. Because of the lack of access and the poor quality of services, low tariffs often do not help the poor, who are less likely to be connected in the first place and rely on informal vendors.
4. Inadequate and ill directed financial flows together with poor technical and management capacities can and do frustrate otherwise positive policy initiatives and cripple water and sanitation service delivery.
5. Widespread environmental pollution caused by inadequacy of proper water, sanitation and solid waste system in Asia Pacific Region
6. Restoration and up gradation of water sanitation services destroyed by conflict and natural disaster
7. Lack of general awareness on water and sanitation issues

Steps to Achieve the Millennium Development Goal on Water and Sanitation

Measures to achieve the MDG on water and sanitation would include the following:

1. Principled Governance

Enhancement of investment in water /sanitation services including government allocation, use of institutional finance (including banks), microfinance, and people's own resources.

- Transfer resources from the better off including industrial and commercial establishments (who often benefit from perverse subsidies and low tariffs) to poor communities (who suffer from high costs in terms of time and money from unreliable supplies of expensive water) through bold increases in tariff levels with generous and targeted subsidies for poor families, with cost recovery for sustainability.
- Provision of sufficient resources and incentives for operation and maintenance including continued subsidies

from central funds to local bodies/service providers who are not able to generate enough resources from consumers in their areas (applicable to both urban and rural situations where there are large numbers of poor people and fewer high payers including industrial and commercial establishments).

- Investment in training and skill development at all levels of local service. A case can also be made for the capacity building of local elected representatives (mayors, members of locally elected bodies at town and village level) who can only discharge their obligations with proper information and some subject knowledge.
- Civil Society organizations not only champion the cause of poor people but also introduce innovations in technical designs, management systems (including the role of women's groups in traditionally male bastions such as technical maintenance of public water and sanitation facilities) and accountability measures such as social audits. Specific resources allocated to CSOs as would be a big step forward, particularly in outreach to poor communities.
- Public disclosure of water and sanitation budgets and the regular scrutiny of expenditure is part of an accountability mechanism which can help to direct resources to the right places (such as slum settlements) and to combat corruption.
- Often it is the problems of big metropolitan centers that occupy the attention of policy makers and service providers. Secondary towns and peri-urban areas receive disproportionately small amounts of time, attention and resources should adequately provided.
- There is a need to create fiscal and legal measures (such as right to information) and systems that would enhance better disclosure. It should be applied to all government departments, public utilities or contracted private operators at other service providers.
- Better information will make it more possible to measure performance, address problems and serve consumers according to their specific requirements. Civil society organizations can play an important part in the generation of accurate information (including mapping) about water and sanitation facilities, not just their availability but also their usage and their impact on the lives of poor people.
- The sustainability of improved delivery hinges on institutional change, but the record of delayed projects or initiatives requires special mechanisms to expedite projects.
- Confusion in policy development, administration and accountability between government departments with a stake in safe water and sanitation provision including the ministries of health, urban development, water resources and possibly others is not unusual and more likely in rapidly growing urban conglomerations. Practical steps to improve the situation could include the following:
 - o As far as national policy and planning is concerned, it is important to cut across different types of contexts – from big metropolitan centres to secondary towns and peri-urban areas.
 - o In order to avoid harmful environmental consequences such as water logging and mixing of sewage with storm water it is important to plan water and sanitation projects in an integrated manner and not sequentially.
- Policies relating to land tenure and occupancy rights in 'unrecognized' slums in urban conglomerations sometimes result in very large number of poor people being left out of water and sanitation projects. Suitable measures needs to be addressed to ensure great exclusivity.

II. The Use of Appropriate Technology and System Models:

- Use of appropriate technology for water quality, solid waste management and including promotion of green technologies for sustainable environment management
- Use of mapping tools like GIS to map coverage, resources and monitoring of quality and access to environmental services

II. Partnerships

While the primary responsibility for water and sanitation services is that of governments and appropriate local authority there is enough experience to show that they will need partnerships with others such as civil society organizations, the private sector and regional knowledge center to be able to reach the levels of coverage, especially among poor communities that will be necessary to reach the ambitious objective of full coverage.

IV. Awareness and Community Empowerment

Three imperatives are particularly important:

- The need for a concerted campaign over the next five years to raise general awareness (of problems and solutions) about issues concerning water, sanitation, hygiene and the environment and generate the drive and momentum to change policies and governance practices, builds community empowerment and sector capacity.
- The need for a multi stakeholder approach in each country to achieve synergies and a united effort.
- The need for active sharing of information and experience across the region as part of a region wide initiative.

Above all priority to sanitation provision should be an overriding theme.

Recommendation for Declaration of Commitment for Implementation for Framework of Action

1. Adopt and implement policies and programmes that pursue an integrated approach to urban water resources management taking cognizance of the links between water, sanitation and health between economy and the environment, and between urban and rural areas.
2. Promote partnerships among countries and among all actors within countries from public, private, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, with a view to harness the resources of the civil society based on mutual strength and comparative advantages.
3. Provide the enabling environment for such partnership building.
4. Build capacity in national and local institutions and in the cooperative sector.
5. Facilitate partnerships and collaboration for greater flow of investment and increased efficiency in the sector.
6. Seek enhanced support from the international community, through multilateral and bilateral cooperation, to complement and support domestic resources of the region.
7. Endorse the rapid and time bound implementation of the action priorities.
8. Recommend that governments at appropriate levels develop programmes of action at national and local levels based on these action priorities and undertake various activities outlined below:
 - a. Public awareness raising on social, environmental and economic aspects of water and sanitation.
 - b. Mobilization of Political Will through advocacy and exchange of information.
 - c. Developing pro-poor urban water governance frameworks.
 - d. Strengthening regional, country and city level capacities for integrated water and sanitation management.
 - e. Demonstration and piloting of new and innovative approaches to service provision for the urban poor.
 - f. Monitoring of progress towards achieving Millennium Goal targets in the water and sanitation sector in cities.
 - g. Creating a new ethic among children and community through water, sanitation and hygiene education.
9. Establish a mechanism of exchange in the Asian Region including establishment of a Ministerial Forum for Water and Sanitation.

Outcome of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference

Unanimous Endorsement of the Framework of Implementation for Water and Sanitation

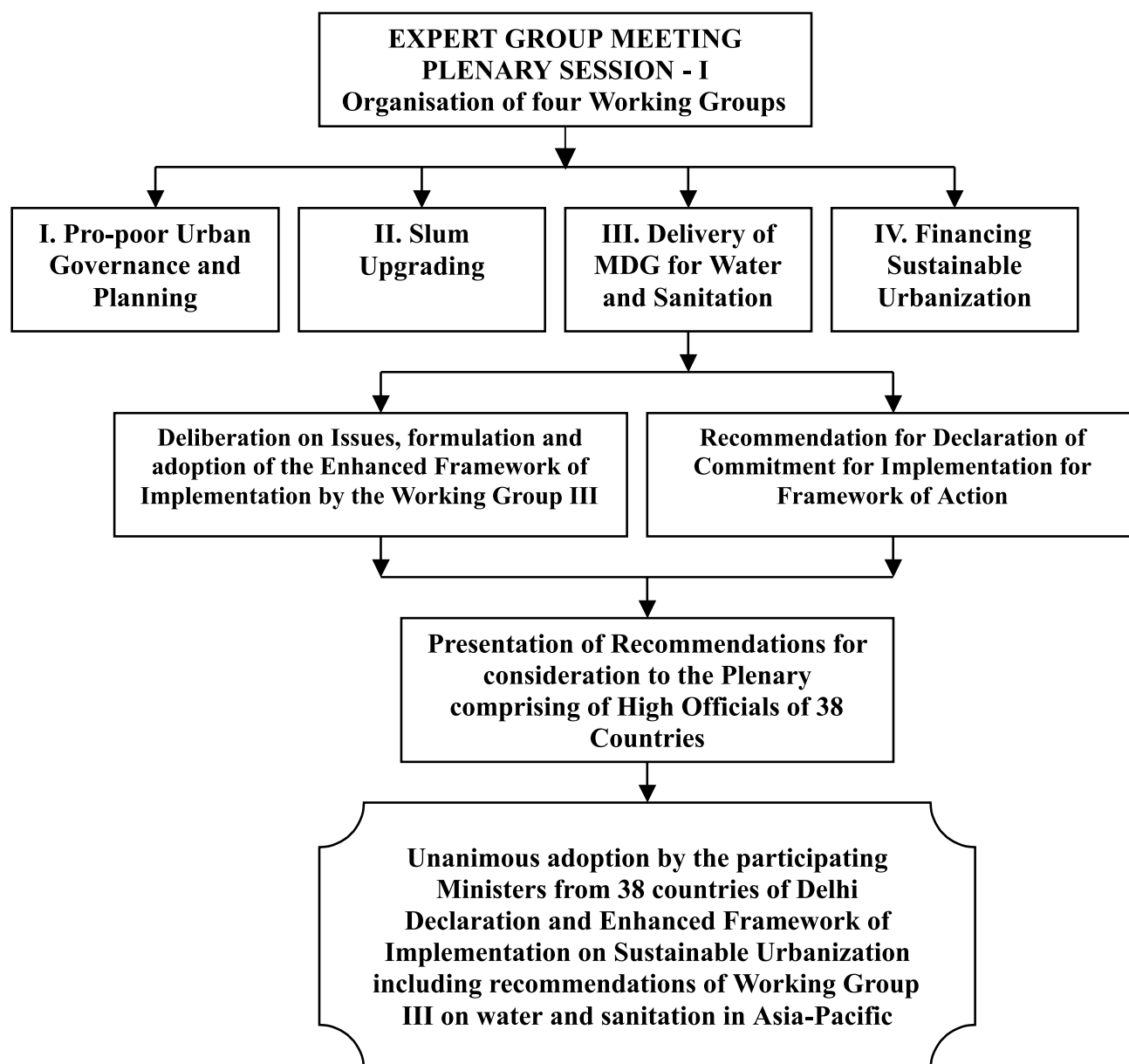


Chart: APMC Process of Plenary Recommendations on Water and Sanitation

Delhi Declaration and Enhanced Framework of Implementation on Sustainable Urbanization in Asia-Pacific Region: the Focus on Water and Sanitation

All the Four Working Groups presented the Enhanced Framework of Implementation on the respective sub-themes and was endorsed by the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Delegation after detailed discussions and consensus. The Ministerial Conference concluded with a consultative mechanism for promotion of sustainable urbanization

in the region. The Conference adopted the "Delhi Declaration" on the establishment of a high-level Forum, viz. the 'Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development' (APMCHUD). The Delhi Declaration emphasized on the political will, decentralization, good governance and the empowerment of national and local authorities as well as the adoption of the inclusive processes of decision making which are fundamental to address the housing and urbanization challenges in the Asia and the Pacific Region.

The Conference also adopted the "Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific Region", which was prepared by converging the Framework of Actions recommended by the four Working Groups on the specific sub-themes. This Enhanced Framework provided a new political blueprint for better managed, more inclusive and sustainable towns and cities across the region with due emphasis on meeting the MDGs for shelter and basic services, primarily on water, sanitation, health, hygiene and environment.

Recommendation / Measures to meet MDG on water and Sanitation in the Region

The Declaration provided due emphasis on the delivery of MDG on Water and Sanitation in the Asia-Pacific Region, which is of great diversity in several aspects, particularly in respect of the availability of water and sanitation facilities and therefore no one blueprint approach can be possible for the full provision of safe water and sanitation services to the people of each country. Multiple routes to match each different set of circumstances particularly at the micro level need to be addressed, which inter alia, include:

- Determined leadership and the political will;
- Positive policy initiatives for water and sanitation service delivery;
- Enhancement of investments on water and sanitation services through innovative financial mechanisms including people's own resources;
- Sharing of resources amongst various stakeholders with cost recovery for sustainability;
- Provision of sufficient resources and incentives for operation and maintenance;
- Capacity building and training at all levels of local service;
- Involvement of Civil Society organizations, a big step forward in outreach to poor communities, generating accurate information including mapping;
- Public disclosure of water and sanitation budgets by creating fiscal and legal measures (such as right to information);
- Due importance to secondary towns and peri-urban areas and allocation of adequate resources;
- Integrated approach in planning and implementation of water and sanitation from big metropolitan centres to secondary towns and peri-urban areas.
- Suitable measures for policies relating to land tenure and occupancy rights in 'unrecognized' slums in urban conglomerations;
- Use of appropriate and affordable technologies for water quality, solid waste management, sanitary services including green technologies for sustainable environment management and system models including GIS, etc and information sharing;
- Overriding emphasis on sanitation provision;
- Partnerships with civil society organizations, private sector and regional knowledge centers for increased coverage;
- Concerted campaign to raise awareness concerning water, sanitation, hygiene and the environment and community empowerment;
- Multi stakeholder approach in each country to achieve synergies and a united effort;

The recommendations on Water and Sanitation as endorsed by 12 participating countries in the Working Group on the 'Delivery of the MDG on Water and Sanitation' and adopted by the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Delegation at Item 5 of the Enhanced Framework of Implementation for Sustainable Urbanization in the Asia-Pacific Region are as below:

V. Delivery of Millennium Development Goals on Water and Sanitation in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Asia Pacific is a region of great diversity in all its aspects – systems of administration, culture and availability of water. There can, therefore, be no one blueprint approach for the full provision of safe water and sanitation services to the people of each country. There are multiple routes to match each different set of circumstances particularly at the micro level.
- However, the fundamental premise on which progress can be made is that ensuring the delivery of water and sanitation services is squarely the responsibility of each national government in Asia Pacific Region. But to be successful they will need, above all, determined leadership and the political will that is absolutely necessary to maintain the commitment that will be needed.
- The burden associated with inadequate coverage and access and of inefficient service delivery falls heaviest on the most vulnerable and the poorest. Lack of access to safe sanitation affects Women the most not only in terms of their health but also their dignity and safety, particularly in areas of conflict or those affected by disasters. Women and girls especially find their productivity impaired by their social roles and the costly and time-consuming tasks of collection and storage of water. Because of the lack of access and the poor quality of services, low tariffs often do not help the poor, who are less likely to be connected in the first place and rely on informal vendors.
- Inadequate and ill directed financial flows together with poor technical and management capacities can and do frustrate otherwise positive policy initiatives and cripple water and sanitation service delivery. Further, restoration and up gradation of water sanitation services destroyed by conflict and natural disaster require special attention.
- Enhancement of investment in water /sanitation services including government allocation, use of institutional finance (including banks), microfinance, and people's own resources.
- Equal sharing of resources amongst various stakeholders including industrial and commercial establishments (who often benefit from perverse subsidies and low tariffs) and with poor communities (who suffer from high costs in terms of time and money from unreliable supplies of expensive water) based on bold increases in tariff levels with generous and targeted subsidies for poor families, with cost recovery for sustainability.
- Provision of sufficient resources and incentives for operation and maintenance including continued subsidies from central funds to local bodies/service providers who are not able to generate enough resources from consumers in their areas (applicable to both urban and rural situations where there are large numbers of poor people and fewer high payers including industrial and commercial establishments).
- Investment in training and skill development at all levels of local service. A case can also be made for the capacity building of local elected representatives (mayors, members of locally elected bodies at town and village level) who can only discharge their obligations with proper information and some subject knowledge.
- Civil Society organizations not only champion the cause of poor people but also introduce innovations in technical designs, management systems (including the role of women's groups in traditionally male bastions such as technical maintenance of public water and sanitation facilities) and accountability measures such as social audits. Specific resources allocated to civil society organizations as would be a big step forward, particularly in outreach to poor communities.
- Public disclosure of water and sanitation budgets and the regular scrutiny of expenditure is part of an accountability mechanism, which can help to direct resources to the right places (such as slum settlements) and to combat corruption.

- Often it is the problems of big metropolitan centers that occupy the attention of policy makers and service providers. Secondary towns and peri-urban areas receive disproportionately small amounts of time, attention and resources should adequately provided.
- There is a need to create fiscal and legal measures (such as right to information) and systems that would enhance better disclosure. It should be applied to all government departments, public utilities or contracted private operators at other service providers.
- Better information will make it more possible to measure performance, address problems and serve consumers according to their specific requirements. Civil society organizations can play an important part in the generation of accurate information (including mapping) about water and sanitation facilities, not just their availability but also their usage and their impact on the lives of poor people.
- The sustainability of improved delivery hinges on institutional change, but the record of delayed projects or initiatives requires special mechanisms to expedite projects.
- Confusion in policy development, administration and accountability between government departments with a stake in safe water and sanitation provision including the ministries of health, urban development, water resources and possibly others is not unusual and more likely in rapidly growing urban conglomerations. Practical steps to improve the situation could include the following:
 - o As far as national policy and planning is concerned, it is important to cut across different types of contexts – from big metropolitan centres to secondary towns and peri-urban areas.
 - o In order to avoid harmful environmental consequences such as water logging and mixing of sewage with storm water it is important to plan water and sanitation projects in an integrated manner and not sequentially.
- Policies relating to land tenure and occupancy rights in 'unrecognized' slums in urban conglomerations sometimes result in very large number of poor people being left out of water and sanitation projects. Suitable measures needs to be addressed to ensure great exclusivity.
- Use of appropriate technology for water quality, solid waste management and including promotion of green technologies for sustainable environment management.
- Use of mapping tools like GIS to map coverage, resources and monitoring of quality and access to environmental services.
- While the primary responsibility for water and sanitation services is that of governments and appropriate local authority there is enough experience to show that they will need partnerships with others such as civil society organizations, the private sector and regional knowledge center to be able to reach the levels of coverage, especially among poor communities that will be necessary to reach the ambitious objective of full coverage.
- Three imperatives are particularly important:
 - o The need for a concerted campaign over the next five years to raise general awareness (of problems and solutions) about issues concerning water, sanitation, hygiene and the environment and generate the drive and momentum to change policies and governance practices, builds community empowerment and sector capacity.
 - o The need for a multi stakeholder approach in each country to achieve synergies and a united effort.
 - o The need for active sharing of information and experience across the region as part of a region wide initiative.

Above all, sanitation provision should be an overriding theme.

Annexures

Aide-Memoire

VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC BY 2020

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

"Cities and towns are centers of growth and generators of employment opportunities. Our cities need to have a new look for which they need massive investment and renewal. They need basic amenities like sanitation, drinking water and proper housing for the poor. They need public transport, parks and playgrounds. We need cities in which the working poor can live with self-respect and dignity; cities in which children and women feel safe and secure. ...I see a glorious decade of city development ahead of us."

H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister of India

1. The above overview was made by His Excellency, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India, during his national address at the Independence Day anniversary in August 2006. This address captures the triple dynamics of growth, urbanization and poverty which manifest themselves to varying degrees within the region.
2. Indeed, economic growth has been exceptionally rapid in a large part of the region, with a number of countries achieving economic growth rates of 5 to 10 percent per annum. Cities have been the main contributors to the economic growth of the region with urban-based economic activities accounting for up to 80 percent of gross national product in many Asian countries.
3. Yet, the Asia-Pacific region is also home to two-thirds of the world's poor. And as urbanization trends continue, most of these poor will be located in cities. Recent studies have shown that in many countries in the region, the rate of slum formation is almost the same as the rate of urban growth. These studies further show that access to land, shelter and basic services is a key determinant of sustainable reduction of urban poverty and the creation of wealth as it provides the urban poor with the means to sustain livelihoods, accumulate assets, and to improve health and nutrition. Sustainable urbanization can only be achieved, if these aspects are an integral part of the national development agenda.
4. Ten years ago, it was not clear if many countries in Asia would be on track in meeting the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda – Shelter for All and Sustainable Human Settlements Development. Today, in view of the rapid economic growth in many Asian countries, and consequent urbanization, unique opportunities appear on the horizon. The Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference is designed to capitalize on these opportunities by engaging in a creative dialogue on measures to implement effective sustainable urbanization policies within the context of rapid economic growth.

The First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements is being jointly organized by UN-HABITAT and the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India in New Delhi, India.

1. Conference goal and objectives

The overarching goal of the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference is to establish a standing high-level forum to serve as a consultative mechanism on the promotion of sustainable development of Human settlements in the Asia-Pacific region. The forum will also strive to place sustainable urbanization and urban poverty reduction agendas at the forefront of public policy and investment throughout countries in the region. Such forums exist in Latin America (MINURVI) and in Africa (AMCHUD).

Specific objectives that will contribute to this overarching goal include:

- i) To identify a permanent secretariat for the standing high-level forum of the Asia-Pacific Housing and Urban Development Conference.
- ii) To develop a work programme for the secretariat that includes identification of strategies for turning the urbanization challenge into an opportunity for sustainable development through socially-inclusive approaches to housing and urban development; and to share experiences and learn from best practices in the implementation of pro-poor urban policies and enabling legislation.
- iii) To develop a uniform mechanism for monitoring and reporting on progress on the Millennium Development Goals.
- iv) To foster partnerships and develop investment opportunities among Asian and the Pacific countries in support of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the MDGs.

2. Conference outcome

The conference will produce a conference report containing:

- a. Extracts of theme papers by experts on access to land, housing, housing finance, water and sanitation, and other services.
- b. A strategic framework and vision for the implementation of sustainable housing and urban development for the Asia-Pacific region by 2020;
- c. A Declaration by the Ministers;
- d. The establishment of a Bureau (Executive Committee) with a secretariat to provide technical and administrative support and for follow-up.

UN-HABITAT will submit the Conference outcome and recommendations to its Governing Council (April 2007), the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (2007) and the World Urban Forum (2008).

3. Guiding themes and questions

The first Inter Ministerial Conference human settlements for Asian and the Pacific countries aims at developing a shared vision and broad strategic framework for overcoming the existing barriers for the accelerated achievement of the Millennium Development Goals relating to human settlements. The main question of this Ministerial Conference is the "must do's" by Asian and the Pacific Governments to promote a more integrated approach to sustainable urban development and poverty reduction using shelter as a basis for transformation.

Discussions in the Conference will be held around the four sub-themes:

1. Pro-poor Urban Governance and Planning
2. Slum Upgrading
3. Delivery of MDG for Water and Sanitation
4. Financing sustainable urbanization

4. Substantive documentation

UN-HABITAT will elaborate a concept paper for the Conference and will call for papers. UN-HABITAT in consultation with India and inputs from various sub-regions of Asia Pacific shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of the provisional agenda and the pre-session substantive papers for the Conference. UN-HABITAT and Government of India shall also be responsible for the preparation of the final report of the Conference. The plenary and the Working Group will discuss and come out with the recommendations for the draft vision statement and declaration. The provisional areas to be addressed include:

1. An urban management and governance approach for ensuring shelter for all;
2. Pro-poor gender-sensitive urban policy reforms to ensure access to land, finance and services;
3. Mobilizing domestic and external financing for urban investment;
4. Replication and scaling-up of successful slum-upgrading practices;

5. Participation

Participation in the Conference shall be open to the following upon invitation by mutual agreement between UN-HABITAT and the Government of India:

- i) Ministers of housing and urban development from the Asia-Pacific region;
- ii) Experts identified by member states;
- iii) The Executive Heads of the relevant United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and international and regional financing institutions;
- iv) Other eminent persons invited by the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and by the Government of India.

The public sessions of the Conference shall be open to duly registered representatives of the print and electronic media.

6. Secretariat

UN-HABITAT and the Government of India shall jointly designate and constitute a Joint Secretariat to service the Conference.

7. Implementation, monitoring and follow-up

UN-Habitat and the Bureau of the Ministerial Conference of the Asia-Pacific countries shall jointly coordinate the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the outcome of the Conference.

8. Duration and venue of the conference

The conference will be for four days which will be divided into two segments of two days each. The first segment will be the Expert Group Meetings comprising of presentation and discussion on various human settlements issues and topics and come out with the enhanced framework of implementation. The second high-level segment will be the Ministerial meeting to adopt the draft framework and to have a declaration.

The Conference will be held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, India, from 13 to 16 December 2006. The President of India had agreed to open the Ministerial segment on 15 December and the Prime Minister of India has agreed to deliver valedictory statement on the closing the conference on 16 December 2006.

9. Accommodation

The Government of India shall facilitate to arrange for adequate accommodation in hotels at discounted commercial or special government rates for persons participating in or attending the Conference.

10. Transport

The Government shall provide local transport to all participants as per need/requirement. This shall include, but not limited to, transport between New Delhi airport, the principal hotels and the conference area for all participants and the secretariat staff servicing the conference. Special and adequate standard transport vehicles will be provided to the Ministers and other High Level Officials attending the conference for the duration of their stay.

11. Exhibition

As part of the Conference, an exhibition space will also be provided for participating countries to display and disseminate information on the various initiatives being taken; including innovations, products, expertise, models and designs relating to promoting sustainable urbanization. Details on the specification and cost of each stand will be provided in a different communication. However, countries are encouraged to begin preparations for taking part in the exhibition.

For further information, please visit the website: www.apmcindia.com

Also Contact:

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0900 1800	<p>Tuesday 12 December 2006</p> <p>Arrival and Registration at Vigyan Bhawan Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi-110011</p>
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EXPERT GROUP MEETING
13-14 December 2006

	<p>Wednesday 13 December 2006</p> <p>OPENING CEREMONY (PLENARY HALL)</p>
0800 1800	Registration of Delegates continues
0930	<p>ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS (PLENARY HALL)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Election of the Presiding Officer / Bureau (Chair / Co-Chair / Rapporteur)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Adoption of the Agenda</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Adoption of the Work Programme</p>
1020	Inauguration of Exhibition by Kumari Selja, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
1040	Arrival of Guests
1045	Invocation Song
1047	Lighting of Lamp
1050	Welcome by Mr. Ranjit Issar, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India
1058	Statement by ESCAP / ADB / WB
1103	Statement by Former Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
1111 1121	Statement by Kumari Selja, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India
1131	Release of publications of NBO/BMTPC/HUDCO
1135	Inaugural address by Chief Guest Mr. Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Urban Development, Government of India.
1145	Vote of Thanks by Shri Pankaj Jain, Joint Secretary (HUPA)
1145 1200	TEA / COFFEE BREAK

PLENERAY SESSION – I (PLENARY HALL)

1200	<p>Introduction of Conference Theme (by the Chair) <i>Theme, Context, Objectives, Inputs, Activities and Expected Outputs</i> <i>Background to Developing an Enhanced Framework of Implementation and Formulating Delhi Declaration and establishing a consultation of Ministers of Housing and Human Settlements</i> <i>Organization of Working Groups</i></p>
1300	<p>The Challenge of Urbanisation, Housing and Human Settlements in the Asia-Pacific Region (by the Co-chair) <i>Vision for the Sustainable Urbanization in Asia-Pacific 2020</i> Pro-poor urban Governance and Planning Slum Upgrading Delivery of MDG for Water and Sanitation Financing sustainable urbanization</p>
1300 1400	LUNCH

WORKING GROUPS

(Each Working Group to have a Chair and Co-Chair and Rapporteur)

	WORKING GROUP 1	WORKING GROUP 3
1400 1700	<p>AN ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION – PRO-POOR URBAN GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING Land – The Core Issue; Efficient and Intensive Use of scarce Urban Land; Land Tenure and the Poor; From non-conforming to conforming urban state.; Urban Utopia - a far cry?; Issues in Urban renewal; The March to a Perfect Urban State; Regional / City Planning; Inclusive Cities; Vision 2020 of the Perfect Future City.</p>	<p>AN ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION – DELIVERY OF MDGs FOR WATER AND SANITATION MDGs and the City – Concerns, Progress and Achievability; Urban Water and Sanitation; Solid and Liquid Waste Management; Approach to Green and Intelligent Building and Infrastructure.</p>
1530 1600	TEA / COFFEE BREAK	
	WORKING GROUP 2	WORKING GROUP 4
1400 1700	<p>AN ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION – SLUM UPGRADING Urban Poverty Issues – concerns of Urban Poor, Street Vendors and Slum Policies; Making Cities inclusive.</p>	<p>AN ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION – FINANCING SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION Urbanisation Trends and Issues – Migration, Causes and Effects; Urbanisation – A necessary Cause or Panacea for all ills?; Social Housing – Need, Affordability, and Economic Demand. Possible Best Practices; The need for Investment, Private and Joint; Possibilities and solutions and innovations. User Charges and viability Gap Funding; Towards greater Sustainability in Urban Housing and Infrastructure.</p>

1730 1800	PRESS BRIEFING (Spokespersons from the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and UN-HABITAT)
1830 2030	Reception by the Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India (Venue: Hotel Maurya Sheraton)

Thursday 14 December 2006				
0900 1200	WORKING GROUP 1 <i>FINALIZING A DRAFT ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION & RELATED OUTPUTS</i>	WORKING GROUP 2 <i>FINALIZING A DRAFT ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION & RELATED OUTPUTS</i>	WORKING GROUP 3 <i>FINALIZING A DRAFT ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION & RELATED OUTPUTS</i>	WORKING GROUP 4 <i>FINALIZING A DRAFT ENHANCED FRAMEWORK OF IMPLEMENTATION & RELATED OUTPUTS</i>
1200 1300	CONSOLIDATION OF FINAL REPORT			
1300 1400	LUNCH			

PLENERAY SESSION – II (PLENARY HALL)
Chair / Co-chair / Rapporteur

1400	Presentation by Working Group 1
1410	Presentation by Working Group 2
1420	Presentation by Working Group 3
1430	Presentation by Working Group 4
1440 1500	INTERVENTIONS BY DELEGATES
1500 1600	Consideration and Recommendation of: A Draft Enhanced Framework of Implementation in Promoting Vision for Sustainable Urban Development in the Asia-Pacific Region; Draft Delhi Declaration Draft Proposals on Establishing a Consultative Mechanism for Ministers of Housing & Urban Development; PRESS BRIEFING (Spokespersons from the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and UN-HABITAT) Dinner hosted by NAREDCO

HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL MEETING
15 – 16 December 2006

Friday 15th December 2006	
0800 0900	Registration (Continued)
0900 1015	Visit to Exhibition in Lawn adjacent Annex

1020 1040	Organisational Matters (Plenary Hall) o Election of Bureau (Chair/Co-Chair/Rapporteur) o Adoption of Agenda/Work Programme
1040 1100	TEA / COFFEE BREAK
	OPENING CEREMONY (PLENARY HALL)
1100 1130 1132 1133 1135 1139 1145 1150 1158 1213 1214 1215	Assembly of guests in Plenary Hall Arrival of VVIP & welcome by bouquet National Anthem Invocation Song Lighting of lamp Welcome Address, Summary of proceedings and draft Delhi Declaration by Mr. Ranjit Issar, Secretary, HUPA. Statement by ED, UN-HABITAT Statement by Kumari Selja, MOS (Independent Charge), Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Govt. of India. Address by VVIP Vote of Thanks National Anthem VVIP Leaves
1230 1330	Hall No.: Round Table for Substantive Discussion of the Draft of An Enhanced Framework of Implementation of the Vision for Sustainable Urbanisation in Asia Pacific Region 2020 and Delhi Declaration
1330 1430	LUNCH
1430 1630	Hall No.: Round Table for Substantive Discussion of the Draft of An Enhanced Framework of Implementation of the Vision for Sustainable Urbanization in Asia Pacific Region 2020 and Delhi Declaration
1630 1645	TEA / COFFEE BREAK
1645 1730	The secretariat to finalize the final Recommendations/"Draft Delhi Declaration".
1730 1750	PRESS CONFERENCE (by the Hon'ble MOS (Independent Charge) , Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and UN-HABITAT)
1830 2030	Cultural Show and Dinner hosted by Kumari Selja, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, Govt. of India Venue: Purana Qila

Saturday 16th December 2006	
0940 1040	PLENARY HALL Adoption of Enhanced framework of implementation of the vision for sustainable urbanization in Asia Pacific Region 2020. Adoption of Delhi Declaration/ Recommendations/Resolutions. Date & Venue of Second Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing & Human Settlements. Election of Officials of Permanent Bureau of APMCHHS Any other business.
1040	TEA/COFFEE BREAK
1050 1120	Donors Meeting
CLOSING CEREMONY	
1120	Guests to be seated
1145	Welcome of Chief Guest by bouquets
1150	Welcome address by Shri Ranjit Issar, Secretary, HUPA
1200	Address by Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, ED, UN-HABITAT
1210	Announcement of Enhanced Framework for Implementation and Delhi Declaration by Kumari Selja, MOS (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
1230	Address by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Dy Chairman, Planning Commission, Govt. of India
1245	Vote of thanks by Shri Pankaj Jain, Joint Secretary (HUPA)
1250 1310	PRESS CONFERENCE (by the Hon'ble MOS (Independent Charge), Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and UN-HABITAT)
1310 1400	LUNCH
END OF CONFERENCE	



**Inaugural Address by the President of India
at the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference
on Housing and Human Settlements
Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

I am indeed delighted to participate in the inauguration of the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and UN-HABITAT. I am happy that the Conference is going to deliberate on issues such as pro-poor urban governance and planning, slum upgrading, delivery of millennium development goals for water and sanitation and financing sustainable urbanization. My greetings to all the Ministers and representatives from different countries assembled here on this occasion. Since I am in the midst of executives concerned with development of human settlements, I would like to share my thoughts on development of human settlements particularly in India which may have some relevance to other nations. I would like to share some thoughts on the topic “Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA): A Vehicle for Sustainable Development”.

Ambience in the Nation

In the Indian history, very rarely our nation has come across a situation, all at a time, an ascending economic trajectory, continuously rising foreign exchange reserve, reduced rate of inflation, global recognition of the technological competence, energy of 540 million youth, umbilical connectivities of 20 million people of Indian origin in various parts of the planet, and the interest shown by many developed countries to invest in our engineers and scientists including setting up of new R&D centers. The distinction between the public and the private sectors and the illusory primacy of one over the other is vanishing. India as the largest democracy in the world has a reputation for its democracy and for providing leadership for the one billion people with multi-cultural, multi-language and multi-religious backgrounds. And also our technological competence and value systems with civilizational heritage are highly respected. Foreign Institutional Investors are finding investing in India attractive. Indians are also investing in abroad and opening new business ventures. Indian economy is growing with an average annual growth rate of 8% GDP.

Economic development (Transforming India into a developed nation)

However, there is a need to lift up the economic conditions and lifestyle of over 220 million people out of the one billion plus population. One of the reasons for this situation is that large part of the growth comes from manufacturing and services sector. If we have to uplift the 220 million people living below poverty and provide improved quality of life, we have to ensure that the overall GDP has to be increased to 10% from the existing 8% and maintained for a decade. For this employment generation, particularly in the rural areas is very essential. This necessitates the spread the development process to the rural sector. That is what the PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) programme involving 4 connectivities namely Physical, Electronic and Knowledge leading to Economic connectivity envisages. Hence, the entire country should have 7000 PURAs encompassing over 600,000 villages. The theme of PURA, apart from concentrating on reinforcing agriculture, will emphasize on agro processing, development of Rural Craftsmanship, dairy, fishing, silk production, so that the non-farm revenue for the rural sector is enhanced, based on the core competence of the region. Also the rural economy will be driven by renewable energy such as solar, wind, bio-fuel and conversion of municipal waste into power. In this approach, the aim is to make sustainable development using the core competence of the rural sector.

In India, the development of a rural sector is very important. Government, private and public sectors have been taking up rural development in parts. For example, starting an education institutions, starting a healthcare centers, laying roads, building houses, building a marketing complex, giving a communication link in a particular rural area have been taken up in the past as individual activities. During the last few decades, it is our experience that these initiatives starts well, just like heavy rain resulting into multiple streams of water flow. As soon as the

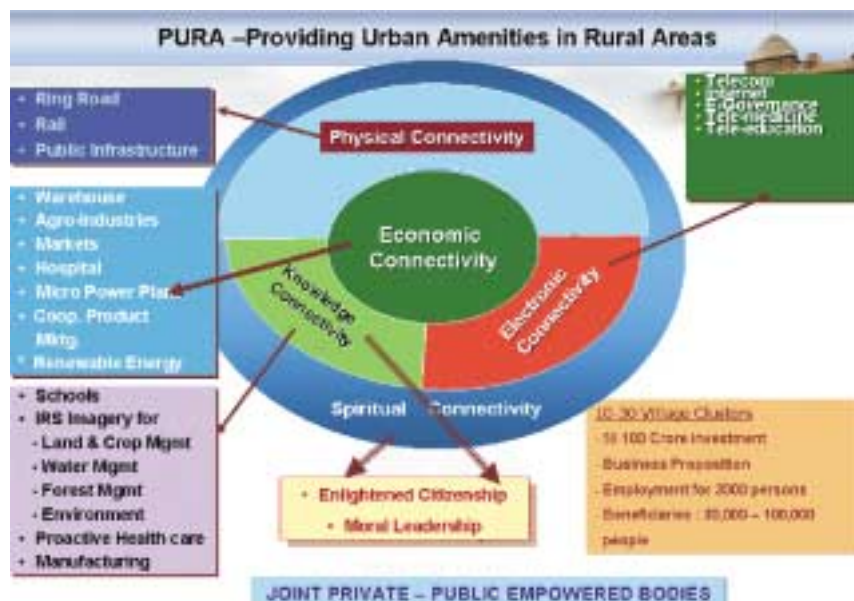
rain stops, few days later all the streams get dried up because there are no water bodies to collect the surplus water and store it at the right place. For the first time, PURA envisages an integrated development plan with employment generation as the focus, driven by provision of the habitat, healthcare, education, skill development, physical and electronic connectivity and marketing in an integrated way.

Hence, I would like to concentrate for today’s discussion on how to implement PURA in Indian setting.

I. PURA Mission

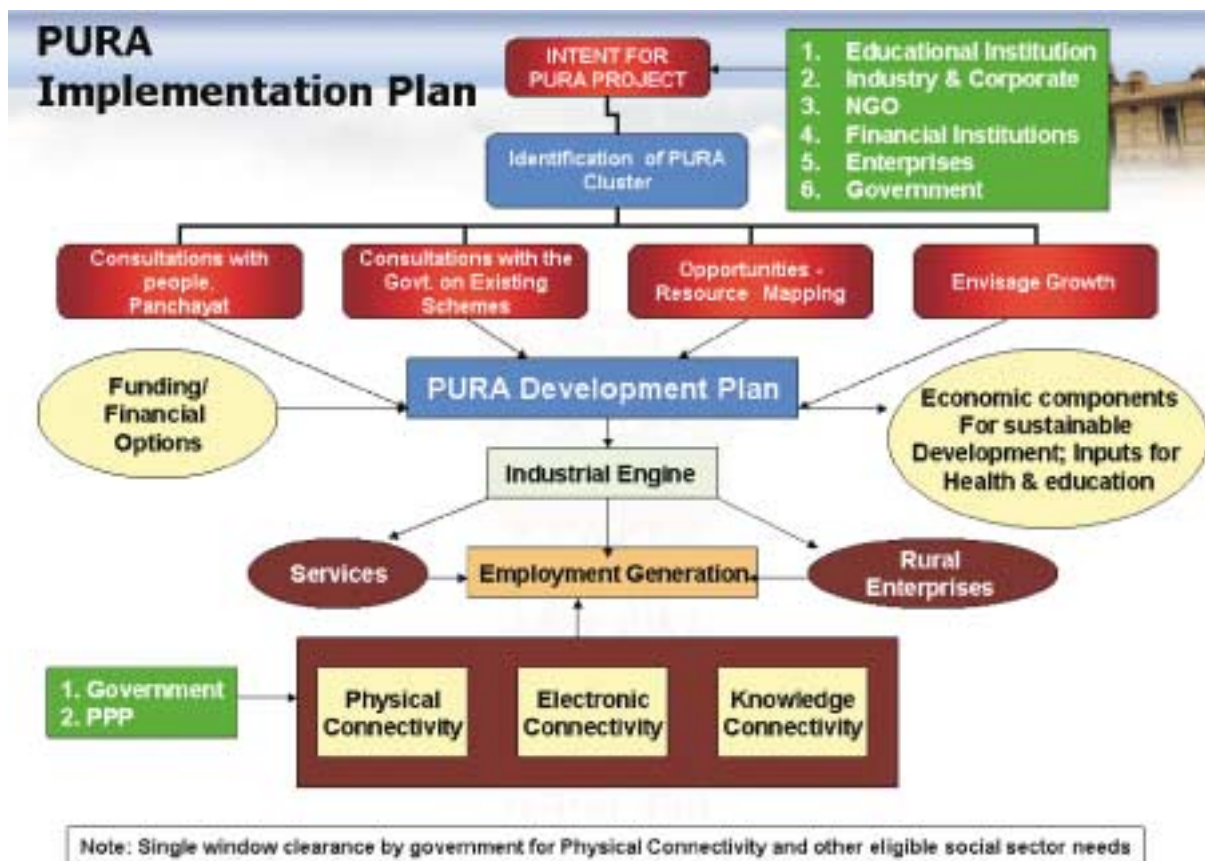
I have discussed the important aspects of design, planning and the implementation of PURA in different parts of the country with Prof P V Indiresan, former Director, IIT a pioneer in PURA and Dr. P.S. Rana, former CMD, HUDCO a specialist in PURA. I would like to share the thoughts arising out of these discussions for the consideration of this conference.

Profile of PURA Mission: Based on the terrain and climatic conditions there could be four types of PURA in our country. They are plain terrain PURA, hill PURA, coastal PURA and desert PURAs. The population in the Plain terrain and Coastal region PURA may be in the region of 20,000 to 100,000 in a cluster of 20 to 30 villages, whereas in the Hill or Desert PURA may have a population of 7,500 to 15,000 people in a cluster of 30 to 50 villages or hamlets. We understand that even by definition these clusters will be reclassified as urban. It will lead to in-situ urbanization of rural area reducing the burden on mega cities. However, our efforts should be to maintain the rural ambience through planned and balanced regional development so that each village has access to urban amenities within less than an hour of travel time. These growth centers will ultimately accommodate about 70% of the total population. About 15 to 20% in the surrounding areas within 30 minutes travel distance and remaining 10 to 15% within 60 minutes travel distance.



As per 2001 census, there are over 5151 towns in the country of which, 423 have population over 1 lakh. The remaining 4728 towns along with their rural hinterland can become the potential growth centers as part of the total 7000 PURA for the nation. The remaining 2278 PURA clusters should be identified to achieve a balance regional development, across the whole country as envisaged earlier. Priority will be accorded for making use of the rail or river corridors. The key economic activity could be any one or more such as Herbal / Agro based, Dairy, Poultry, Meat processing & animal husbandry, Food processing, BPO, Engineering, Manufacturing and Service industries.

PURA could also be developed on various models linked to Hydel project programmes, steel projects, Mega industrial projects, Special Economic Zones, Coastal area, tourism and religious centers, Food processing zones, automobile ancillary zones. These growth centers will be maintained environment friendly.



Redevelopment of Urban Slums: We believe that effective implementation of PURA programmes will reduce the further influx of population to urban slums. However, the existing slums also need immediate attention, since the location of slums generally linked with the job opportunities in their vicinities as far as possible in-situ development of existing slums needs to be initiated. The existing Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is effectively addressing this need, so that all our existing and future cities cater to the needs of the poor and improve their quality of life. While executing JNNURM care may be taken to see that the habitats are made of high quality with the participation of the people.

Since this conference is on housing and human settlement, I would like to concentrate on the parameters to be taken into account while planning the habitats for the people in the PURA complexes. For a nation like India, a critical mass is required to make the amenities viable. It is estimated that the population size of one to three lakh is necessary to sustain the economy of the growth centre and the viability of the social infrastructure. Water, energy and sanitation are the basic requirements determining the quality of life of people. Hence I would like to address this problem first.

II. Water Security and Energy Independence

Energy is the lifeline of modern societies. But today, India has 17% of the world's population, and has just 0.8% of the world's known oil and natural gas resources. We might expand the use of our coal reserves for some time and that too at a cost and with environmental challenges. The climate of the globe as a whole is changing. Our water resources are also diminishing at a faster rate. As it is said, energy and water demand will soon surely be a defining characteristic of our people's life in the 21st Century.

A. Water Security

Water front as an economic centre: Today most of our water during the monsoon goes unutilized as there are no planned adequate storage capacities in the urban and rural sector. In addition to the mega Hydel projects, it is desirable to create reservoir in the plains along the rivers. This will help to store adequate quantity of water which is going as waste.

India is blessed with more than 7000 km of coast lines and several thousand kilometers of river lines and almost every major city is located on the bank of a river. It is time we pay attention to our rivers which is a lifeline to our society. We should rejuvenate our rivers as the life line of cities by storing the surplus waters during monsoons by creating series of reservoirs along the rivers in the plains and inter-linking of the reservoirs wherever feasible. Most of the developed cities in the world located on sea coast and the banks of the river have made use of the water front in an effective manner to create major economic activities and they have become the prime locations for the cities. I would like to show some illustrations. Some of the examples of such effective use of water fronts are London, Paris, Prague, or Florence, or perhaps those of Washington, New Orleans, Baltimore. All of these are cities whose centers are linked intimately to waterfront destinations teeming with public and private activity, day and night. People find places to live, work, recreate, eat and socialize along the waterfront, enjoying a tranquil ambience not found elsewhere in such cities.

Typical examples of which are being proposed to manage the water in the plains are development of Thane creek as a fresh water lake in Mumbai, use of Buckingham canal and Koovam river in Tamil Nadu, Kali Bein rivulet in Punjab developed by Baba Balbir Singh Seecheval and development of water reservoirs in the National Capital Region of Delhi along Yamuna and Hindon rivers. These and other similar water management systems can enhance the availability of water and eliminate scarcity of water and also help in managing floods and recharge the underground water table. Series of artificial lakes and canals network can be used as the inland waterways for transport of goods and personnel. It will also provide a special attraction to the tourists in some places and enhance the eco-system as a whole.

In addition to the overall water management, there is an urgent need to implement local water harvesting systems in each habitat including water recycling systems.

Sanitation: (Close Loop System of Waste Management) - When I think of sanitation first thing comes to our mind is the provision of sanitation facilities with adequate water for all the households in the village cluster. This activity itself can be made an economic wealth generating activity for the rural areas. For example, in some of the villages the toilet facilities have been made out of fibre glass by the village self-help groups. I have seen the fabrication of toilet facilities by the villagers in Kirapalayam, Ahmedabad and Vallam. Such facilities brings down the cost of each toilet substantially. As a second step it is to be ensured that all the toilets are functional at all times. This will need training in plumbing and maintenance of toilets by a group of village personnel who can provide the service to the villagers for a fee. As a third step we have to ensure that continuous availability of water to the toilets. With the depleting water resources this can be possible only if we have a system of recycling of used water including the linkage to water harvesting in every home. This also must become part of the total sanitation programme. As a fourth step, there is a need to connect the individual toilets to a common sewerage system for central disposal without which all the efforts taken in providing hygienic toilet facilities in individual dwellings may not yield the desired results. I have come across a model which has been executed by Shri H.G.S.Gill, an NRI at Karodi village in Hoshiarpur District, Punjab, very close to Martyr Bhagat Singh birth place. He has used a technology through which individual toilets are connected to a central village sewerage system which is being taken to a remote place through underground closed drainage system. There is an open sewerage tank exposed to sun, where the waste is constantly agitated and water gets separated. Also, the sewerage water is treated and is being used for agricultural purposes. Mr. Gill is ensuring that the individual households are maintaining their sanitation system without being blocked and the central system is also being maintained through specially trained staff for this purpose. After few months when the central tank is cleaned the solid waste is converted as manures and used for agricultural purposes. He is extending this model to two more villages in Hoshiarpur District namely Jain and Jandiala. What I would like to emphasize here that it is not adequate only to bring toilets to each house. It is essential to consider the overall problem of total waste disposal and treatment for the sewerage system so that the environment is maintained clean and tidy at all times.

Now let me talk to you on the energy independence with reference to the human settlements.

B. Energy Management

Energy independence rests on two principles. The first, to use less energy to provide services and cut down energy losses. Simultaneously, we should access technologies to provide a diverse supply of reliable, affordable, renewable and environmentally sustainable energy.

Hence, the typical features cited for the Buildings in PURA complexes are noteworthy goals towards greater energy efficiency and use of renewable energies, efficient water management and above all caring for the environment through proper sanitation system with well planned waste management programmes. All these features can be accomplished by popularizing the mission of green buildings in our rural complexes.

Energy consumption: Targets - In a growing economy when our population is expected to grow approximately at 1.3% energy consumption rate is expected to grow at 4.3% per annum. This trend would strain the energy sector to a large extent. Building sector being the major energy consumer can contribute to a large extent to discuss this issue since green buildings have the potential to save 30 to 40% energy. Some of the salient features of the Green Building are:

- minimum disturbance to landscape and site condition
- buildings have to be architected with sun and earth orbit conditions such that maximum natural light and breeze are received and minimum heating is possible
- use of non-toxic, recycled and environment friendly building material including material made using fly ash
- efficient use of water and water recycling
- use of energy efficient and eco-friendly equipment
- use of renewable energy
- high quality indoor air, provisions for human safety and comfort and friendly to differently challenged people.

Experience in using the nature: I would like to narrate some of my experiences in Rashtrapati Bhavan. In Rashtrapati Bhavan I have two offices, one in the ground floor and the other one in the first floor. When I started working, I found that all the doors and windows with beautiful curtains were kept covered. Because of this practice, the electric lights used to be switched on; from the time I enter the office until I complete my work for the day. During my usual walk in Rashtrapati Bhavan, it occurred to me that when the beautiful sun is all around, why all the doors and windows were covered with curtains and the room has been made dark. Either the intention could be that the President should not see the nature at its pure form or it is due to some security concerns. I discussed this with my team and finally I decided to open the curtains and allow the sun light to come into my office. Once the curtains were opened the available sun light was more than sufficient for my work during the day time. Energy saving in every room is possible. Even the visitors who come to meet me notice the difference. The message is that when we design buildings we should ensure that we are able to make maximum use of the nature's gift such as light, heat and breeze for providing the comfortable living for the occupants. In all the PURA complex buildings, this feature must be fully taken into account.

Renewable energy makes economic sense: While I visited BR Hills in Karnataka, I found that each house has a solar panel which provides necessary electricity for the household. I am sure, similar systems can be standardized for the dwelling units in the PURA complexes and made available for each house. This will be a cost effective solution for meeting the household energy requirements and also maintaining a clean environment. Along with solar panels, use of LED crystal based lamps could also be made for conserving the overall energy requirements for lighting purposes. Another method to be to utilize the solar thermal. They use solar collectors intelligently to provide power for hot water and other heaters. In fact for lighting, fans and air- conditioners can be run by solar thermal.

Apart from solar energy, the PURA settlement can also consider creation of centralized bio-gas plants and electricity generation using municipal waste of the village complex. This approach apart from waste disposal usefully will provide additional electricity for the rural enterprises and the energy needed for household cooking purposes.

III. Green Building (Take Green technology to people)

I have one question in my mind. In our country, there are 300 million people who are in the mid income group category and about 220 million people are living below poverty line. Every one of them dreams about having a roof above their head. In order to make their dreams a reality we need about 100 to 130 million houses to be built in the next 15 years. In fact this massive construction effort will form the backbone of our economy. Green Building specialists are already addressing methodologists through which they can make habitat using green

technology to the middle class and below, and incorporating special safety requirements for earthquake prone and coastal regions. The PURA complexes should adapt the standardized technologies while planning the total habitat for the programme.

Conclusion

In my view, provision of habitat and creation of human settlement has to become a part of total self-sustaining economic activity for promoting a happy, prosperous and peaceful society. It has got two components, one is to improving the quality of life in the present settlements, particularly in the slums in the existing cities and the creation of new settlements developed as PURA growth centers which will reduce the pressure on the mega cities. The overall aim of the settlements will be to create a balanced economic growth with societal equity resulting in creation of livelihood as the basis for the development of the settlements providing all the amenities required for improving the quality of life of all the people across the regions.

I would recommend the participants of First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements to discuss the above model during the deliberations for implementation in different regions.

With these words, I inaugurate the First-Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements and my best wishes to all the participants in their mission of improving the quality of life of all the people in the planet Earth through provision of employment opportunities, habitat, healthcare, education and above all clean environment.

May God bless you.



Keynote Address by Mrs. Anna K. Tibaijuka Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on the occasion of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

Your Excellency President Abdul Kalam of India,
Honorable Kumari Selja, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, India,
Honorable Ministers from Asia and the Pacific,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Colleagues in the United Nations,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured to present this keynote address to such a distinguished forum. This is an auspicious time for us all because a new Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki-moon has just been sworn in. His appointment ushers in a new era for the peoples of the United Nations and especially for the people of this region. As you know he hails from South Korea, one of the fastest developing 'tiger' countries – a country with an excellent track record in development and poverty reduction. He takes office pledging to strengthen the three pillars of our United Nations – security, development and human rights – so that we can build a more peaceful, more prosperous and more just world for succeeding generations.

It is also auspicious because your gathering today marks the first time that key decision makers from the world's most populous region meet in quest of a new vision for sustainable cities by the year 2020.

So, first, I wish to thank His Excellency President Abdul Kalam, Honourable Ministers Selja and Reddy for hosting this conference and helping us steer it in the right direction. I also express my deep appreciation to the Honourable Ministers and representatives of countries across the region who have made it their business to be at these important deliberations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are now at a very significant turning point in history: The year 2007 will be the year in which for the first time, half of humanity will be living in towns and cities. It marks the beginning of a new urban era.

It is projected that by 2030 that figure will rise to two-thirds. Make no mistake, we live at a time of unprecedented, rapid, irreversible urbanisation. The cities growing fastest are those of the developing world. And the fastest growing neighbourhoods are the slums.

Another and unacceptable feature of the new urban age is that 2007 will also be the year in which the global number of slum dwellers is forecast to reach the 1 billion mark. UN-HABITAT's latest research shows that this region is already home to half the world's slum population of 581 million.

Urban poverty is a severe, pervasive – and largely unacknowledged – feature of modern life. In this new urban era, it is unacceptable that today millions of people in cities across the Asia-Pacific do not have adequate shelter, that children are growing up undernourished, exposed to disease without hope of education or a future.

The outgoing Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan, warned us: "The locus of global poverty is moving to the cities, a process now recognised as the urbanisation of poverty."

Remember too, that slums are the hub of rising crime and violence, that when it comes to climate change urban poverty is one of the biggest polluters. In this global village, someone else's poverty very soon becomes one's

own problem: of lack of markets for one's products, illegal immigration, pollution, AIDS, other diseases, insecurity, crime, fanaticism, terrorism.

Honourable Ministers,

You know better than I that by 2020, Asia will be home to 12 of the world's largest cities with populations of over 20 million. Thanks to impressive growth in China and India, the region has made some headway in dealing with poverty. It is impressive too that both countries are looking elsewhere in the world to spread their expertise. The recent China-Africa conference being an example that immediately comes to mind.

However, in both these two countries and others in this region the gap between rich and poor is growing.

This is why the huge urban growth in this region is crying out for new methods of urban planning, management, financing and service delivery aimed at creating socially inclusive cities.

In this broader context, we need to develop a uniform mechanism for monitoring and reporting progress in the Asia-Pacific region on the Millennium Development Goals, especially Target 10 on halving the number of people without access to clean water and sanitation by the year 2015, and Target 11 on improving lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020.

We cannot let our cities be places where the majority of people are poverty-stricken. We must not let down our young people. Already, and you are well aware of this too, youth up to the age of 24 are in the majority in this region. We have to invest in all of them, be they young or poor!

This conference must therefore seek to share experiences and learn from best practices in the implementation of pro-poor urban policies and enabling legislation.

Two similar regional conferences in Latin America (MINURVI) and in Africa (AMCHUD) have established permanent secretariats as part of a new regional collaboration to keep growing urban poverty high on the agenda, and hold governments to account. I have now doubt that such a similar process will emerge here.

To those who ask why we need a regional vision, the answer is simple: Over the past 10 years, intra-regional trade in Asia has become more significant than ever before, indicating the need to forge a common set of economic, social and environmental goals across the region.

There is another and very important reason we have to improve our towns and cities and reduce urban poverty: When it comes to earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, typhoons and disasters wrought by climate change, everywhere it is the urban poor who are most vulnerable. All too often, they live in places where no-one else would dare set foot – in places prone to flooding or landfalls, polluted places or in shaky structures that would be destroyed the instant a hurricane hits causing untold loss in lives and destruction.

In this new urban age, many mega-cities in the Asia-Pacific with populations of 10 million or more loom as giant potential flood and disaster traps. Tokyo, Osaka-Kobe, Shanghai, Dhaka, Mumbai, Karachi, to name just some. The United Nations has calculated that one dollar invested in disaster reduction today, can save up to seven dollars tomorrow in relief and rehabilitation costs.

At UN-HABITAT we know only too well, as you do what the costs are. I have seen first hand the suffering after the Indian Ocean tsunami in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. I have also seen the aftermath of earthquakes in Pakistan and Japan. From our regional headquarters in Fukuoka, Japan, UN-HABITAT is working with the communities and the governments to help rebuild homes and lives across this region. I was thanked by communities able to rebuild their homes in dignity with the assistance of UN-HABITAT. UN-HABITAT is also doing considerable post-conflict work in Afghanistan, Iraq and Timor Leste. This work has gone a long way towards consolidating their security of tenure, and promoting the peace process in these countries.

In recalling some of the work we do in governance and city management in Papua New Guinea, the disaster vulnerability, environmental and urban problems of the small island developing countries must not be overlooked.

Your Excellency, Mr. President,

As India moves from IT to BT – information technology to bio-technology – ever striving for the convergence of technologies and excellence, it is setting us all a formidable example. The Bharat Nirman Abhiyan programme

to ensure the integration of socio-economic infrastructure from the national through the regional and down to the local level, I have no doubt will transform this country; not least the PURA drive for Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas. I think too of excellent progress of the National Slum Development Programme and the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and the social investments in youth.

And today, Mr. President, I can inform you that UN-HABITAT will be pleased to support this important initiative. As we meet, senior officials are discussing how best to do this.

In 2003, UN-HABITAT established the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund as a direct response to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. The fund is now actively engaged in partnership with the Asian Development Bank. It is already committed to bring new investments of \$500 million dollars for water and sanitation to the urban poor. The fund is also supporting the efforts of the Government of India to improve water and sanitation in four cities in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Other countries now benefiting from the UN-HABITAT trust fund include Cambodia, China's Yunan Province, Laos, Nepal, and Vietnam. It is with pride that I can say also that in the past three years, the Trust Fund has stimulated new investments worth \$300 million dollars in the Asia-Pacific region.

Distinguished delegates,

It is important to recall here UN-HABITAT's new Slum Upgrading Facility. Its aim is to help poor people find the money to invest in their own housing and utility services. The facility is there to help poor communities borrow small sums from the private sector. It will also help municipalities and housing groups with the start-up capital to establish housing loan guarantees. It will help and advise poor people unable to get commercial loans.

Muhammad Yunus, the Bangladeshi banker and Nobel laureate says: "Conventional banks look for the rich. We look for the absolutely poor." As he sees it, credit is a human right, enabling a person "to unwrap that gift of one's self and find out who he or she is." Yet the concept he pioneered has proved to be much more than kind-hearted charity: 99 percent of his Grameen borrowers repay their debts—despite the fact that they borrow without providing collateral – and the bank makes a modest profit.

Our own limited experience with the Slum Upgrading Facility pilot projects in Ghana, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Tanzania tell us the same. We must exploit this opportunity to define clearly how governments can help and encourage the private sector to invest in the noble, worthwhile and most important cause of affordable housing for the urban poor.

Like Grameen Bank, we can assure you that small loans will not only be good returns on the investments made. But providing people with security of tenure, helping them own their homes, improve their neighbourhoods, makes for healthier and happier communities. The problems of crime, disease and unemployment are automatically reduced. It is a win-win situation.

A decade ago, when we in the United Nations system spoke of sustainable development as the key to the future, the Chinese Government, most notably at the Habitat II summit in Istanbul, insisted that the slogan should read, sustainable economic development. And look how much better Chinese cities are today. From Bangladesh and India, to China and beyond, there are plenty of examples to follow, from practice to policy.

And finally, distinguished delegates, in this new urban era it is imperative that we seek out new and sometimes radical solutions, that we even change the politics. The tiger cities of this region have shown the world what can be done.

It is my fervent hope that your deliberations will lead to a new regional mechanism that will help serve and guide the cause of urban renewal and urban poverty reduction.

I assure you that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is ready to offer the Asia-Pacific every support in this important endeavour.

Thank you.



Special Address by Kumari Selja, Minister for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation at the inauguration of Ministerial Segment of the first Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference in New Delhi

“His Excellency Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the President of India, Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN Habitat, Hon’ble Ministers from various countries of Asia-Pacific region, Excellencies, State Ministers, Shri Ranjit Issar, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, Sector Exports, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

A very warm welcome to you all this morning in this Conference of Asia-Pacific Ministers on Housing and Human Settlements. In today’s fast developing and urbanizing world, cities are integral contributor to economic growth. They are reservoirs of skill, capital and agglomeration economies. They are centres of culture, creativity and innovation. However, we are also witnessing the negative consequences of this urbanization such as shortage of housing and civic infrastructure, growth of slums and rising poverty.

The Asia-Pacific region is experiencing the triple dynamics of economic growth, urbanization and poverty. It accounts for 34% of the global urban population and is also a home for over 40% of slums population.

Some major challenges of urbanization and economic growth in this region are growing urban-urban divide, deteriorating inner cities, unplanned and haphazard settlements, insufficient urban infrastructure and basic services, land and housing shortage, environmental degradation, mounting poverty, unemployment and social exclusion. These have to be met through effective planning, appropriate strategies, action plans and a paradigm of good governance. This will include strategic vision, consensus orientation, rule of law, participation, equity, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

India with its initiatives and economic reforms has been able to achieve a growth rate of 8% per annum in the last few years and is now aiming a growth rate of 9% in the next five years. India has 286 million people living in over 5000 cities and towns with over 40 per cent of them living in 60 metropolitan urban agglomerations. There are 61.7 million urban people living in slums and squatter settlements today. It is projected that urban population of the country will grow to 468 million by 2020. This would have serious impact on housing, civic infrastructure, basic amenities and employment.

Conscious of the issues of slums and poverty, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government in India through the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has committed itself to a comprehensive approach to urban renewal with emphasis on social housing, inclusive city growth and slum upgradation and development. Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) last year to address the problems of slums and civic amenities to the poor in an integrated manner and has allocated an amount of US \$ 12.5 billion as central grant which would leverage state share, institutional finance and beneficiary contribution.

Considering that reforms in cities are critical for sustainable urban development, the Mission aims to bring about mandatory reforms both at State and city levels in order to improve urban governance. Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling Act, Rationalization of Stamp Duty, Amendment to Rent Control Act, Property Tax Reforms, Disclosure laws, GIS mapping etc. are some of the major reforms. Besides, provision of 7 Basic Services to the Poor i.e. Land Tenure, Affordable Shelter, Water, Sanitation, Education, Health and Social security is included in it. Mission is a fast track, demand-driven, community-partnering mechanism with emphasis on public-private-people participation in urban planning and implementation.

Government of India through its National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy will earmark specific role to various stakeholders to address housing issues in a time bound manner. The Central Government will give attention to planning for sustainable cities and devising macro economic policies to enable flow of resources to the housing and civil infrastructure sector. Government will also provide a more supportive environment to Street Vendors through a comprehensive policy and a model Act.

However, there are three areas where critical intervention is required for promoting sustainable human settlements and sustainable cities in the Asia-Pacific region:

First, the traditional system of Master Planning of cities based on the Western model of segregation of residential uses from commercial and institutional uses has led to social exclusion and unequal growth. There has been little planning in this system for the informal sector including vendors, hawkers, construction workers and other vulnerable groups in cities. The Master Plans must be made inclusive with provision of adequate space for housing the poor and informal sector activities.

Second, the complexities of urban administration have grown manifold due to urban growth, population concentration, mounting poverty and unplanned spatial activities. There is lack of institutional and managerial capacities in implementing poverty alleviation and slum upgradation initiatives in urban civic bodies. City Governments should enable to have the capacities and skills to administer service outsourcing, public-private partnership for infrastructure development, effective services delivery and poverty alleviation programmes.

Lastly, we must accept "inclusion" of the poor as the core in all urban policies and programmes. My Ministry has been emphasizing the need for "inclusive zoning", "inclusive planning" and "inclusive cities and municipalities". I would urge this august gathering to deliberate on strategies to make our cities inclusive and adopt the theme of "inclusion" as the dominant paradigm in all our programmes. India would be glad to support a "Forum for Inclusive Cities", which could be a think tank – a bank of best practices in inclusive civic development and an agent of change for pro-poor governance and service delivery in cities.

The Secretarial Meeting of this Conference held during the last two days has focused on four major themes namely pro-poor urban governance and planning; slum upgrading; delivery of Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation; and financing sustainable urbanization in the Asia-Pacific Region. Four Working Groups have submitted their reports on the themes, which will help in pursuing a common approach to the promotion of sustainable human settlements with focus on urban poor and slum dwellers. I hope this Conference over the next 2 days will discuss these recommendations and will enable governments to foster new partnership in monitoring and implementing the Millennium Development Goals. I hope that this Conference will become a permanent feature of Asia-Pacific development agenda.

This conference is unique as it provides a platform for advancing the Habitat Agenda. This would enable Asia-Pacific countries to speak with one voice during regional and international fora like World Urban Forum, UN HABITAT Governing Council and meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

We are looking forward to the innovative approaches emerging from the deliberations of the Expert Group Meeting for adoption of the framework on sustainable urbanization in Asia-Pacific region. I would like to thank Hon'ble Ministers from various countries and State for their august presence here. Their rich experience I am sure will enhance the level of deliberations in the conference.

I wish the conference all success and hope that you will have a comfortable stay in New Delhi".

Thank you

Jai Hind

**Glimpses of Exhibition
on
Water for Asian Cities and Mekong Region
Water and Sanitation Programmes**

**Asia-Pacific Ministers Conference on
Housing and Human Settlements**

New Delhi

13-16 December 2006



UN-HABITAT



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Pro-poor Urban Water and Sanitation Governance

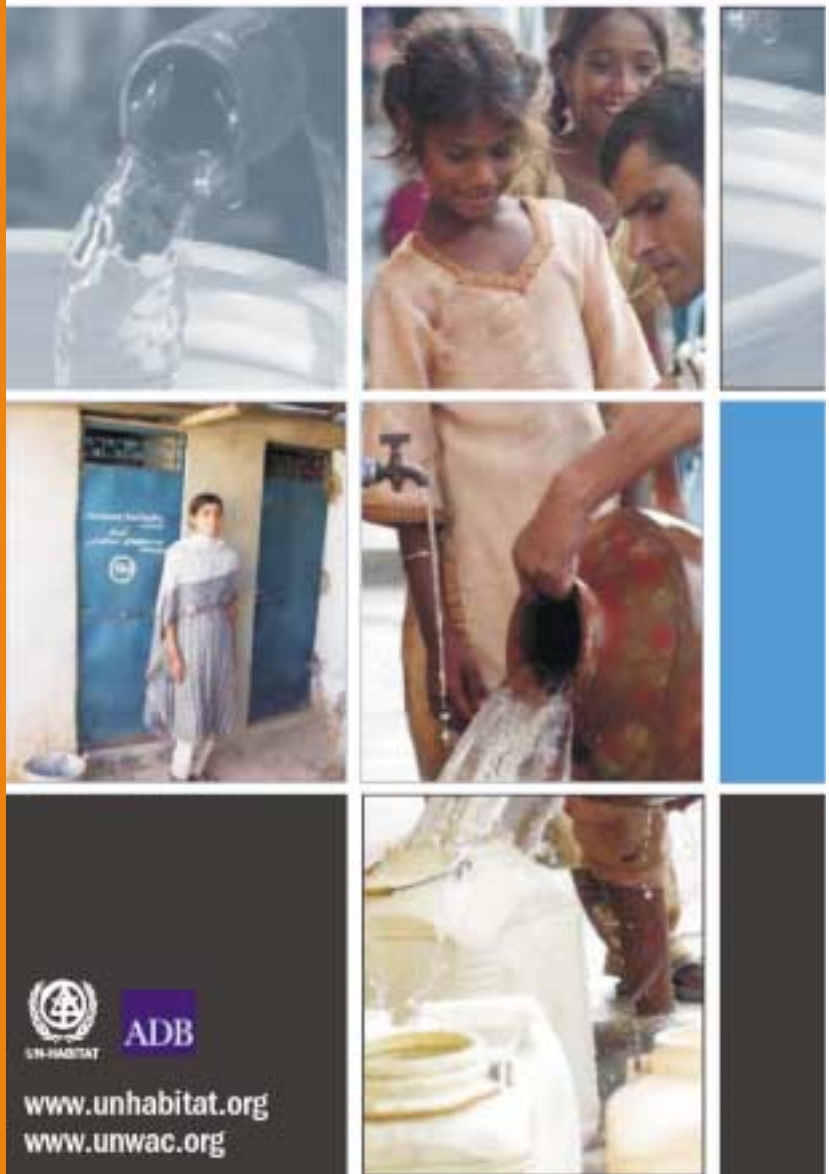
This pilot initiative aims at improving the lives of the urban poor and the disadvantaged by connecting them to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The focus

- Strengthening capacity for the poor by providing guidance with innovative and interactive, training and capacity building and empowerment;
- Provision of high quality and sustainable urban water and sanitation services;
- Creating environment for pro-poor investments;
- Encouraging market oriented policies' development process, especially for the pro-poor.

Areas of Implementation

- Four cities of Shiksha Prastha – Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior and Jabalpur



ADB

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Community Managed Water Supply Scheme (CMWSS)

This pilot initiative in support of ADB's small piped water network aims at improving the lives of the urban poor and the disadvantaged by connecting them to safe drinking water.

Approach

- Community's full ownership of the assets through Community Water and Sanitation Committees (CWASCs).
- 100% responsibility of Operations and Maintenance (O&M) with the community.

CMWSS in Greater

Greater Chennai Corporation
 Greater Kalyan City Corporation
 Greater Kharagpur Corporation
 Greater Mumbai Corporation
 Greater Noida Corporation
 Greater Panaji Corporation
 Greater Thane Corporation
 Greater Varanasi Corporation
 Greater Visakhapatnam Corporation
 Greater Warangal Corporation
 Greater Yamuna Nagar Corporation

CMWSS in Indore

Indore Municipal Corporation
 Indore Municipal Corporation
 Indore Municipal Corporation
 Indore Municipal Corporation
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 Indore Municipal Corporation
 Indore Municipal Corporation
 Indore Municipal Corporation
 Indore Municipal Corporation
 Indore Municipal Corporation

CMWSS in Jabalpur

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Capacity Building Programme

The Programme entails the creation of a conducive environment for the four corporations of Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior & Jabalpur to effectively perform their functions and govern the cities.

Objectives

- Enhance the institutional capacity of the corporations
- Strengthen the financial and administrative systems
- Promote the use of modern information technology in the corporations
- Enhance the capacity of the corporations to deliver quality services

Capacity building in

- Administration
- Financial management
- Information technology
- Project management and implementation
- Public relations and community participation

Programme Participation

Four water utilities in India: Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur



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INDIA

WATER FOR ASIAN CITIES PROGRAMME
A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE OF
UN-HABITAT AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Pro-poor Governance Gender Mainstreaming Strategy

The Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for Water and Sanitation has been developed in partnership of UN-HABITAT and Mahila Chatra Manch.

Approach

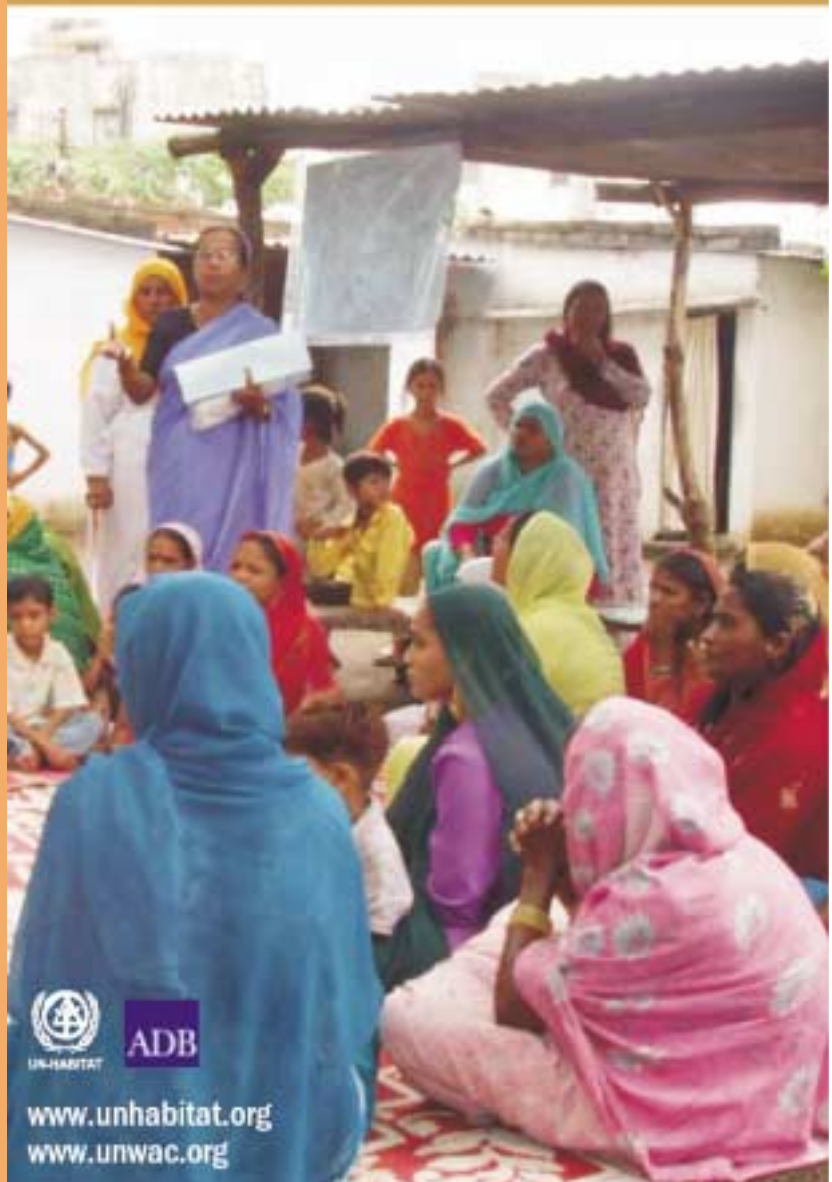
1. The strategy is developed in partnership with the Mahila Chatra Manch, a women's organization in the community.

Objectives

1. To ensure that the strategy is developed in partnership with the Mahila Chatra Manch, a women's organization in the community.

Action Plan

1. To ensure that the strategy is developed in partnership with the Mahila Chatra Manch, a women's organization in the community.



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Urban and Environmental Improvement Project

The Urban and Environmental Improvement Project (UEIP) initiated in 2003 to promote Sustainable Urban Development in nine selected urban areas outside the Kathmandu Valley with financial assistance of US\$ 33.6 million.

Project Scenario

- Strengthening of Municipal Institutions and Revenue Mobilization;
- Urban and Environmental Infrastructure Development;
- Supplementary urban facilities;
- Community Development;
- Assistance to Project Implementation.



ADB

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NEPAL

WATER FOR ASIAN CITIES PROGRAMME

A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE OF
UN-HABITAT AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project

The Small Town Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project (STWSSSP) was formulated with support from Asian Development Bank (ADB) to assist the Government of Nepal in implementing a part of its 15-year plan for developing water supply and sanitation in small towns.

Objectives:

- Improve health and quality of life of people living in the project towns by developing water supply, drainage and sanitation facilities and providing health and hygiene education;
- Capacity building of Community based Water Users and Sanitation Committees and promoting Community Participation in the implementation of the Project;
- Community-based water quality monitoring.



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MEKONG REGION

MEKONG
WATER AND SANITATION
(MEK-WATSAN)
A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE OF
UN-HABITAT AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK

Initiatives

1. A Quick-Win Community based Water Supply and Sanitation Projects to acquire safe water, adequate sanitation and capacity building of the public utilities and the civil society in:

- Simao City, Yunan Province of PR China;
- Jinghong City, Yunan Province of PR China;
- Xieng Ngeun District, Luang Prabang Province in Lao PDR;
- Sayabouly town, Lao PDR.

2. Initiatives to develop water and sanitation for small and medium towns along side of the economic corridors in selected cities of Lao PDR and Vietnam.



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MEKONG REGION

WATER FOR ASIAN
CITIES PROGRAMME

A COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE OF
UN-HABITAT AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENT
BANK

Initiatives in Nanjing, PR China

Objectives

- Identifying major constraints impeding provision of water and sanitation services;
- Recommending policies that address these constraints;
- Identifying areas for technical assistance and follow-up investment.

Approaches

- Promotion of Human Values based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education;
- Developing Water Demand Management;
- Capacity building of all stakeholders including teachers with exposure to international experiences.



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