

"Water is a scarce resource. If we continue to over exploit and pollute our water bodies and destroy our natural ecosystems we may fulfill the prediction that 30 % of the worlds population will not have enough water for the next generation."

Up coming News

Streams of Knowledge



The headquarters of the Global Coalition of Resource Centres is located at IRC, in Delft, the Netherlands. In order to play a vital role as a knowledge broker & knowledge booster in the WatSan sector, certain Resource Centres around the world, at a meeting in 2000, agreed to form a global coalition of Resource Centres. IRC is the founder of this coalition. The objective of the coalition is to assist in capacity building of its partner Resource Centres and to provide guidance, quality control and mutual support. The proposal strives to establish bridgeheads in sharing knowledge and technology within the partners and to identify knowledge gaps and boosting-it up with better knowledge management. NRC is one of the partners of this coalition. Under the leadership of IRC, the coalition is progressing towards the desired goal, to turn the vision into reality that is, "safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene for all by the year 2025."

International Symposium on Water Resources Systems- Global Change, Risk Assessment and Water Management.

Tentative Schedule : 10-11 July 2003, Sapporo, Japan.

AARC Meeting

Tentative Schedule : 17-18 July 2003, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Sixth Water Information Summit, 2003

Tentative Schedule : 09-12 September 2003, Delft, the Netherlands.



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Water is . . .

a work engine for development

a key dimension in poverty eradication.

the key to socio-economic development and quality of life.

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JUNE 2003
ISSUE NO: 01

A Half-Yearly Newsletter of
National Resource Centre

Executive Director's Message

Knowledge in the field of WatSan sector needs to be acquired properly and appropriate measures undertaken to address the need of the community. NGO Forum along with NRC can establish the linkage symbiotically to a strategic approach for managing information, available technology and resources for coherent development.

Editorial Column

Knowledge and information play a vital role in the present day world. In the age of internet and information super highway, it is regarded as the most powerful tool in hand. An enriched database and rich archives of information is treated as a valuable possession. In fact resource centres are established to address such issues. They provide the scope and means to generate the foundation for creation of such institutions. With these objectives NRC has been established as a centre of excellence addressing WatSan related issues under the umbrella of NGO Forum for DWSS. It is still at its infancy but it has already made significant strides and contributions in the WatSan sector.

Housed in a floor of NGO Forum central office the NRC occupies a floor space of 1000 sft. It has already procured a rich collection of books, journals, reports etc, for its well-documented library and established connection with the information super highway. In the field of networking, NRC has established relation with renowned institutions and resource centres. It has also recruited skeletal staff required for various activities under its present scheme of operation.

The NRC has already contributed significantly in the WatSan sector. It has carried out exchange programme with IRC, the Netherlands. Meanwhile a number of renowned personalities from various corners of the world visited NRC. It has developed a number of R&D projects



with local NGO/GoB institutions and undertook capacity building programme. It has also established linkages with local universities and research bodies and has taken up research projects with them. In the field of consultancy its professional staff contributed effectively in WatSan sector studies in a number of projects within NGO Forum's activities.

Lastly, deep indebtedness is made towards DANIDA in providing the Technical Assistance (TA) grants for establishing the NRC. It has provided the incentives, financial support and technical guidance for NRC to operate as a centre using sophisticated technology for information management. It is anticipated that NRC will function as a self-sustainable institution with the vision to function as a centre of excellence. NRC seeks blessing, support and patronage from all concern for its operation, in-line with the objectives for which it has been established.

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“It is shameful, a scandal, that almost half of the world’s population does not have access to adequate sanitation.” Dr. Richard Jolly (WSSCC)

Information & Knowledge Management in the 21st century

The water & sanitation sector in Bangladesh is still languishing behind other countries in the region. Whatever strides are undertaken face major setbacks, which require of renewed information procurement and evaluating the necessities felt by the community.

To-date numerous programmes had been implemented which were not properly documented. Major investment had to be taken up afresh in a renewed scale without evaluating the needs for further consolidation of earlier programmes.

The new millennium has ushered scopes to consolidate the gains through a knowledge base which is the criteria



for evaluation of requirements and consolidating the achievements. NGO Forum has utilized this approach to evaluate and consolidate its initiatives in the sector through establishment of the National Resource Centre (NRC). NRC has been strengthened for the necessity of filling-in the knowledge gaps for a more sustainable approach in the sector.

In its quest to become a true knowledge base, NRC started functioning as a centre, managing information to link communities, policy-makers, stakeholders, researchers and donor agencies. NRC has taken sharp strategic focus in promoting various global knowledge initiatives. The major elements of the strategy include:

- ▶ Capacity building for knowledge management in the sector by promoting information sharing and thereby providing education at all levels.
- ▶ Establishing networking connectivity and access to knowledge base through application of information technology.
- ▶ Promoting generation and sharing of newly developed state-of-art global knowledge and technology.
- ▶ Enabling environment which includes information and knowledge sharing, availing communication technologies to the policy makers, stakeholders, donors, NGOs & GoB agencies in order to enhance the process.

National Resource Centre

Resource Centres play an active role in assisting clients to adopt information-based decision, establish access to collective memory bank and to a knowledge base in a composite and challenging world which can assist in learning from experiences.

NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation(DWSS), an apex networking and service delivery agency has taken the initiative of setting up a National Resource Centre (NRC) in its growing role in the WatSan sector. NRC started functioning with the objective in January 2001. The centre aims to provide various kind of support services in form of information database, research, documentation, advisory and referral services, dissemination of knowledge & technology to all GoB/NGO offices, academic institutions, donor bodies, international agencies as well as research foundations, local and foreign consultants, expatriates and allied institutions engaged in WatSan activities.

The NRC is further characterized by a demand driven & proactive approach in responding toward such requirements and services felt essential by various agencies in the sector. NRC also acts as a catalyst in



identifying the requirements of the society in WatSan field undertaking research case studies and providing support towards fulfilling any knowledge gaps.

Activities of NRC is not only centered within the territorial boundary of Bangladesh but also extends to support expatriates engaged in WatSan sector studies as well as research and development activities in the regional and international perspectives.

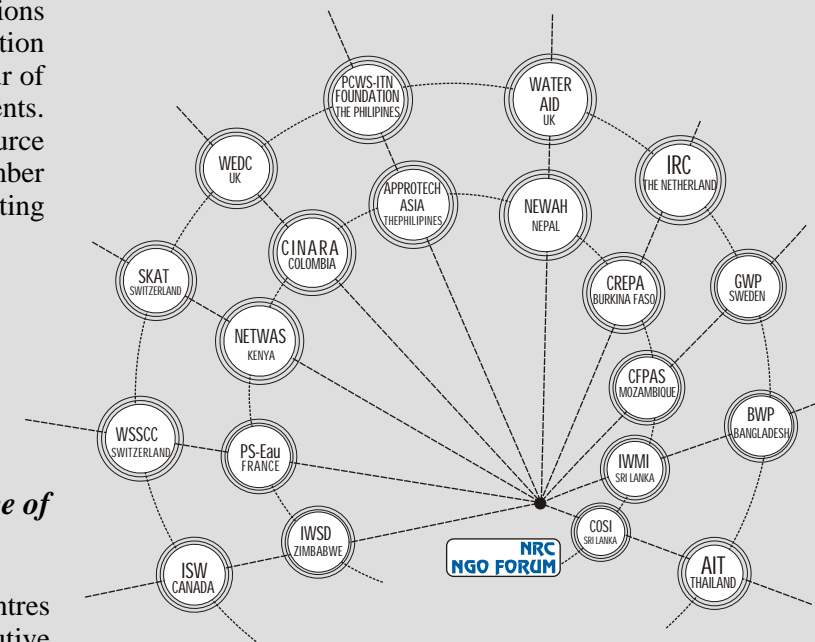
“Access to adequate water and sanitation is essential to a life of dignity and human existence.”

Networking Partners NRC

Mandate of the Global Coalition of Resource Centres

A global core group shall provide leadership to the establishment of regional networks and Alliance of Resource Centres. The intention is to provide direction towards development of tools and techniques to improve the effectiveness of management in member organizations. Advocacy is an essential role of Resource Centres in capacity building for organizations working in the similar fields and sectors. The coalition strives to promote the ideals, guiding the behaviour of Resource Centres in providing services to the clients. The coalition plans to intensify the image of Resource Centres by maintaining the management of member organizations, in particular by improving the marketing of services and products.

The NRC has interest in establishing links with other organizations through creating networks and alliance. It maintains a strong networking relationship with all agencies around the world engaged in WatSan and environmental studies.



NRC, the Secretariat of AARC

NRC to Function as the Secretariat of Alliance of Asian Resource Centres (AARC)

A two-day consultative meeting of Resource Centres was held in Bangkok, Thailand attended by executive heads of Resource Centres from Asia. The meeting was facilitated by International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), the Netherlands and PCWS-ITN the Philippines. The meeting in principle agreed on establishing the secretariat of the Alliance of Asian Resource Centres (AARC) at NGO Forum, Dhaka.

AARC functions as the co-ordination body of Asian Resource centres. It chalks out programmes and negotiate knowledge sharing and information exchange between them. The secretariat office of the association will be housed at the NGO Forum, Dhaka, Bangladesh as the parental body and made operational by its most recently formed wing, National Resource Centre. The activities of NGO Forum in its last 20 years glorious history have earned the recognition to host the AARC secretariat.

Mr. S.M.A. Rashid, Executive Director of NGO Forum, Bangladesh attended the consultative meeting from 6th to 7th March, 2003. On his return to Dhaka he was accompanied by Mr. Teun Bastemeijer, Sr. Programme Officer, IRC, the Netherlands and Ms. Rory Villaluna, Executive Director, PCWS-ITN, the Philippines and facilitator of the meeting. The AARC secretariat started functioning within a short span of time endorsed by partner Resource Centres in Asia.



“More than one billion people on the earth lack safe drinking water and almost three billion lack adequate sanitation.”

News in Brief

Strategic Meeting of National Resource Centre

A day long strategic workshop on corporate planning for National Resource Centre (NRC) was held in Dhaka on March 10, 2003. Mr. Teun Bastemeijer, Sr. Programme Officer, IRC, the Netherlands and Ms. Rory Villaluna, Executive Director, PCWS-ITN, the Philippines participated in the workshop and facilitated the programme. The two expatriates arrived in Dhaka following the consultative meeting of Alliance of Asian Resource Centres (AARC) held in Bangkok, Thailand.

All cell chief's, section heads and other senior staff working in NGO Forum attended the workshop. It addressed the formulation of the strategic corporate plan and developing an action plan for NRC. The day long programme imbued the participants with the new concept of resource centre, its sustainability issues and operation in open competition with other agencies. The Executive Director, NGO Forum also attended the meeting.

The workshop also chalked out plan of action of the AARC secretariat to be setup at NGO Forum. Focus on activities of the secretariat, its modus operandi and exposition to other Resource Centres in the region and Asia as a perspective was also discussed. The workshop also reflected greater role of NRC in the backdrop of recent development. With a 20 years long experience in WatSan sector, NGO Forum can provide the support as a wonderful base on which NRC can lead to attain the objectives of WatSan sector in Bangladesh as a Resource Centre.

Research and Development

NRC fills -in the gaps in knowledge and generates questions to motivate the next steps in research through information management. Research & development scope is also provided to any foundation or research agencies as assistance from the centre, to carry out detailed coverage, in a narrow spectrum as well as broad based overview on advanced topics. NRC generates required manpower development and skills to attain



NEWS

Advocacy Works and Support Services

NRC imparts consultancy services to various agencies to provide continuously advanced tools and services for the upliftment in WatSan sector. The clientele body to be supported under such a scheme includes WatSan sector service agencies, local government, community based organizations as well as donor and international agencies. This is intended to be implemented through unbiased and impartial studies taking assistance from the centre which acts as a neutral agency.

Call Centre (Hotline Services) is maintained by NRC to furnish information on WatSan projects, statistics, status and queries.

Seminar/Symposium Hall caters to the need for holding sophisticated workshops, which may require of specialized venue and facilities. Such facilities will also have the provision to support the client in every possible way including publishing of proceedings.

Society/Clubs of WatSan agencies is a good forum for NGO/GoB/donors/international bodies to practice and exchange ideas through memberships. Such a society formed through assistance of NRC expands networking facilities for like-minded agencies.

these objectives. NRC supports the sector staff to adapt knowledge generated locally and from other parts of the world to ensure that it matches with the local environment. The centre undertakes collaborative research with external organizations to channel it through various communities, enriching their experiences.



“Water and sanitation will become a matter of major public health concern across the world.”

Working Visit to IRC

Workshop on “Resource Centre Strengthening”

A day-long workshop on “Resource Centre Strengthening” was held at NRC, NGO Forum on September 28, 2002. The workshop was jointly hosted by IRC, the Netherlands and NRC, NGO Forum for DWSS. Mr. Han Heijnen, Environmental Health Advisor, WHO, Bangladesh chaired the workshop. The Executive Director, NGO Forum also gave a speech on global and local level participation, resource sharing, collaboration, and coordination towards attaining the WatSan goals in Bangladesh. The keynote speaker was Mr. Teun F. Bastemeijer, IRC, the Netherlands. The Chief, NRC, Ms. Shirin Biswas also gave an in-depth presentation on NRC.

The workshop was conducted by forming groups from the participants. The members of each group gave their views and opinion relating to the establishment, nurturing and sustainability of the NRC. The views of the participants were presented in the plenary session. A round-up discussion took place following which Mr. Bastemeijer gave a wrap-up lecture.

The workshop was very fruitful and a conclusive one. It gave clear indication and received commitments from all WatSan sector agencies on Resource Centre setup by NGO Forum. The feedbacks from the participants provided clear-cut indications on the sustainability of the NRC and confirmed their assurances to support the centre by seeking its services.



International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC) has initiated a 5 year programme to strengthen Resource Centres from 18 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. The programme objectives are to improve the positioning of the Resource Centres and support their activities in order to serve better the national water and sanitation sector & strengthening the capacities to be efficient and effective knowledge brokers and knowledge boosters in their respective countries.



As a part of this programme Chief, NRC, NGO Forum carried out a working visit to IRC for a period of one month. Since IRC is a knowledge based institution, it has accumulated vast experience in knowledge generation and technology transfer in water and sanitation sector. The visit provided the opportunity to enhance knowledge, experience and identifying tasks to boost up activities of NRC. During her visit Chief, NRC acquired extensive knowledge and experience on appropriate institutional requirements, which includes capacity building, networking scheme, staff development, HRD plan and annual budgeting process for proper functioning of NRC.

- ▶ Sanitation is a way of safe life
- ▶ Safe water is the key of safe life



“NRC combines practical & theoretical strengths, an outward looking & learning attitude and a willingness to share knowledge & skills.”



"Each person in the world requires a minimum of 40 liters of water per day for adequate hygiene and use of latrine."

Hygiene Promotion Consultancy Services by NRC

ICDDR,B in a joint collaboration with NRC carried out a study on "Hygiene Promotion" funded by the WELL project of DFID. The study, which explored the activities of various NGO/GoB working in Health & Hygiene promotion, was a task, which required of a quick overview on the issue within the shortest possible time. A deadline was set by WELL foundation co-coordinator and a set of questionnaire used for the institutional survey was prepared and tested by NRC staff. It was found satisfactory by the WELL foundation and approved for the implementation plan before execution of the survey. The NRC along with



the support from NGO Forum and PNGOs carried out the task diligently and to the satisfaction of the client. The questionnaire was also devised to capture the real scenario of the situation prevailing relating to hygiene promotion, awareness and education. NRC could

Exchange Visit:

International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), the Netherlands has reached an understanding with NGO Forum to support capacity building programme of NRC. In a drive towards implementing such a programme Ms. Rosalie L. Castro from PCWS-ITN, the Philippines made a working visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh for a 8 week period. She was prepared to proceed to IRC, the Netherlands and as a preparatory scheme spent a part of her training programme at NRC, NGO Forum. More of such exchange programmes have been chalked out by IRC, based on success of the programme. It is anticipated that very soon a Dutch Junior Professional Officer (JPO) from IRC will also visit NRC for a 14-months programme starting from August 2003 for gaining experience through assignments. In exchange, JPO from NRC will also carry out working visits to IRC the Netherlands, for 17-months programme starting from May 2003 for similar programmes.

Ms. Castro during her stay at NRC was introduced to all aspects of involvements and field activities in which NGO Forum is presently associated. She was especially involved in setting up of the NRC library in Dhaka. She visited the countryside on Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in the Southeast, Southwest and North Central region of Bangladesh on WatSan activities with ethnic community. Her visit was also focused in getting her acquainted with far-flung NGO offices, PNGOs & CBOs

perform the task to the fullest satisfaction of the client and the report was well accepted by them.

The WELL project consultancy was the first international contract that NRC carried out and its effectiveness is a milestone in NRC activities. It laid the foundation of NRC being a centre of excellence in providing services to the full satisfaction and within the deadline set by the client.



across the country. Through her working visit she was apprised of various WatSan activities in NGO Forum.

In a nutshell the JPO programme will update NRC with new experiences from all corners of the globe. It is anticipated that such programme will contribute in developing professional skills, capacity building and developing professionalism. In order to operate as a self-sustainable centre of excellence such scheme is invited from all organizations, donor bodies & international agencies for supporting NRC.



"Without adequate sanitation and hygiene practices water has limited impact on public health.."

Online Database

i n W a t S a n

Database is a conglomeration of all necessary information and data stored in a systematic manner which can be retrieved conveniently within the shortest possible time in order to provide support for chalking out programme for planning purpose.

Internet is another tool, which has become widely popular and familiar for prompt communication and delivery of information. In the new millennium it has become even more strengthened with the new frontiers of space age, satellite based technology and submarine cables. Combined with internet technology and access to database for any particular issue, it has revolutionized the world and opened up new dimensions in real time data transfer.

NRC has chalked out programme to access its WatSan sector database to all interested quarters who are involved in such studies or programme. The NRC database is in the process of hosting a complete sequence of available data in WatSan sector in Bangladesh for ready use by researchers, project professionals, policy makers, donor agencies etc. Under the scope one can easily access the meta-database of the available data set that has been compiled by NRC. In this way, NRC intends to establish itself as a centre of knowledge broker providing information to whoever seeks for whatever information in WatSan sector.

The interesting issue is that NRC also generated the scope to educate people and focus on awareness building by linking its library with the internet. A worldwide exchange of ideas, prevailing situation and stock of data at NRC can be made available whereby all interested quarters can contact and easily avail the data.

10,000 CHILDREN DIE IN DHAKA EVERY YEAR!!!



Health is a vital possession of human being. Health services receives the highest priority in comparison to other sectors. Ensuring safe water supply and sanitation is a vital issue in ensuring health to the community. Water-borne diseases are the prime debilities, which plague the society. However, with a little effort from the NGO and GoB sector this can be ensured through safe water supply and sanitation programme. The environment itself can radically change and millions of money saved from the national exchequer by prevention of such water-borne community diseases.

Another vital issue is educating the community on safe water supply and sanitation. Bangladesh has a poor literacy rate resulting in masses being unaware of safe health tips and living in sub-standard areas. Under the circumstances awareness programme and appropriate campaign among the poorly educated community is a task, which is felt essential and a burning need. Only through massive campaign this mass can become aware and mobilized to address this issue. Thereby the role of NGO/ GoB as collective agencies should be undertaken to educate the mass for general upliftment in health sector and ensuring a good life to the community.

Almost every year at least 10,000 children die of water-borne diseases in Dhaka city alone. It only transpires because about 2.5 million people in Dhaka lacks safe water supply and 70% do not have adequate sanitation facilities. However, the scenario is pretty much similar with the actual global situation whereby one billion people across the world do not have access to safe drinking water and three billion people lacks adequate sanitation facilities! Another alarming news, which is very much obvious in the country, is that only one physician is available for every 16,000 people and barely 40% of the total population has access to health services .

