

“ It is estimated that pneumonia, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and malaria, which account for 20% of global disease burden, receive less than 1% of total public and private funds devoted to health research. “

## Up coming News

### ADB Water Week 2004 “Water for the Poor: Setting the Rules and Findings the Money”

Tentative Schedule : 26-30 January 2004,  
Manila, Philippines.  
Website: [www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)

### Delhi Sustainable Development Summit “Partnership for Sustainable Development”

Tentative Schedule : 4 – 7 February 2004,  
New Delhi, India.  
Website: [www.teriin.org](http://www.teriin.org)



### Tenth International Symposium “ Individual and Small Community Sewage Systems”

Tentative Schedule : 21–24 March 2004,  
Sacramento, CA, USA.  
Website: [www.irc.nl/source/item.php/1080](http://www.irc.nl/source/item.php/1080)

### Enviro 04 Convention “Water: Planning for the Future”.

Tentative Schedule : 28 March -1 April 2004,  
Sydney, Australia.  
Website: [www.enviroaust.net](http://www.enviroaust.net)

### EUROMED 2004 : “Desalination Strategies in South Mediterranean Countries”.

Tentative Schedule : 03 –06 May 2004, Agadyr,  
Morocco.  
Website: [www.irc.nl/source/item.php/148](http://www.irc.nl/source/item.php/148)



#### Editor

S.M.A. Rashid  
Executive Director, NGO Forum

#### Executive Editor

Shirin P. Biswas  
Chief, NRC, NGO Forum

#### Editorial Advisory Board

Dr. Md. Mujibur Rahman  
Professor, Dept. Of Civil Engineering, BUET &  
Director, ITN and CERM

Dr. Md. Sirajul Islam  
Head, Environmental Microbiology Laboratory,  
LSD, ICDDR,B

Dr. A. F. M. Afzal Hossain  
Head, Irrigation Management Division, IWM

*Water is . . .*

*a mark of our dubious origin*

*a symbol of ritual purity*

*far from a simple commodity*

**NGO FORUM**  
**FOR DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION**

3/11,Block-E, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207,  
Bangladesh.

Phone : 8154273, 8154274,9140112

E-mail : [nrc@ngof.org](mailto:nrc@ngof.org) Web site : [www.ngf.org](http://www.ngf.org)



December 2003  
ISSUE NO: 02

A Half-Yearly Newsletter of  
National Resource Centre

## Editorial

### Column

Bangladesh is facing a stage of development in WatSan sector which is quite incompatible to the achievement acquired in the context of the global scenario. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were adopted at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in September 2000 in New York. The decision adopted later at Johannesburg on sustainable development also stressed the decision adopted earlier. Later in Kyoto declaration the forum stressed for safe water supply and sanitation to all. In line with the concept NGO Forum has also adopted its strategy to contribute in WatSan sector according to the deadline set by the declarations. In the regional context the recently concluded SACOSAN meeting also reverberated the issues identified earlier in the global context. NGO Forum also adopted the recommendation of the meetings and gave emphasis towards strengthening software issues.

The National Resource Centre(NRC) is a creation which has been conceived earlier in line with the concept for software developments. Supported by DANIDA the centre is gradually drawing attention of the donor agencies in capacity building programme. Within a short time of its establishment it has established widespread network and recognition with various international bodies such as Streams of Knowledge, SKAT Foundation, IRC, WSSCC, ICDDR,B, ITN - Bangladesh etc. Supported by NGO Forum's existing institutional framework, NRC has made significant progress in boosting the capacity building process in software programme.

NRC is principally a resource centre dedicated towards dissemination of knowledge and technology, sharing of experiences, hosting of capacity building programme and training in WatSan sector. For numerous NGO's / PNGOs / CBOs working in the WatSan sector NRC is a

centre which can provide guidelines and technical know-how , impart training, carry out monitoring and evaluation of projects and act as an independent body to focus their achievements to the donors, NGO bodies in general, GoB and the society at large. It is a unique centre created to provide support in a holistic approach as a one stop mall. It is envisaged that NRC would ultimately function as a self-sustainable in the long run. Its mandate provides it with the scope to carry out consultancy projects as well as support to research programmes, academic studies and professional activities.

Six months back the first newsletter of NRC was published and circulated. In the meantime we have received numerous feedback and compliments both in verbal and in writing from our readers. We are indeed grateful that our readers consider this newsletter to be informative and helpful in their activities. In fact, the necessity of this newsletter is to bring about a collective effort to update all parties and agencies through information, experience and knowledge sharing. We are grateful to all who has sent their compliments to us in launching of this newsletter.

## Content

Editorial Column

Sixth Water Information Summit WIS 2003

Meeting of AARC

Building the Capacity of NRC

News in Brief

Joint Publication with IRC, The Netherlands

Streams of Knowledge

WASH-STREAMS Campaign

Ecological Sanitation

Up Coming News

“The average distance that women in Africa and Asia walk in a day to collect water is 6 km”.

### Sixth Water Information Summit WIS 2003

The Sixth Water Information Summit (WIS-6) was held in Delft, the Netherlands from 9th to 12th September 2003. The summit was attended by number of participants from various countries. The summit continued for 4 days and sessions were divided among different agencies which sponsored the programme. The summit was sponsored by IRC, IW-Learn, UNESCO-IHE, UNESCO, Info-Dev, Cap-Net, Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC), and Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA), Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), Water-Web Consortium. Free and frank exchange of information, sharing of knowledge and experience took place at the summit. Experiences and case studies from various countries were also presented at various sessions while a number of keynote presentations were made to appraise the participants on specific areas.

Mr. S.M.A Rashid, Executive Director, NGO Forum was a participant in the WIS-6. He also attended the Resource Centre Development (RCD) meeting from 15th to 17th September, 2003. Presently NGO Forum plays a vital role in RCD activities in the region, hosting the secretariat



of Alliance of Asian Resource Centre (AARC). A parallel session reviewing the activities of AARC also took place in which Mr. Rashid played a key role.

Ms. Shirin Biswas, Chief, NRC presented a paper at the summit. The paper titled “*NGO Forum: A Nodal Point for Knowledge Sharing and Networking in Bangladesh*” was accepted earlier by the organizers as an institutional presentation. An in-depth interview session took place to review the paper on 10th September, 2003. The audience expressed their satisfaction on the performance of NGO Forum and its activities as a resource centre in disseminating information and sharing experiences in knowledge management. The general session of the conference took place on 9th September, 2003 attended by all participants.

The WIS-6 also heralded a Knowledge Management (KM) workshop from 15th to 17th September, 2003. Ms. Biswas took active part in the workshop and contributed in the interaction and knowledge sharing activities. Ms. Biswas was one of the two participants from Bangladesh; she played a key role in the workshop and drew attention on the activities of NGO Forum as a knowledge management agency in South Asia.

responsibilities of the officials holding various positions in the AARC were discussed. Funding source and future activities of AARC were also discussed in depth.

The participants from NGO Forum played an active role at the meeting in molding the goals, missions and vision of AARC. Needless to mention herein that Mr. Rashid is the present secretary of AARC secretariat based in NGO Forum, Dhaka. The next meeting of AARC is scheduled to take place in Dhaka, Bangladesh in February, 2004.



### Meeting of Alliance of Asian Resource Centre (AARC)

A meeting of Alliance of Asian Resource Centre (AARC) took place in Kandy, Colombo on 18th July, 2003. Mr. S. M. A. Rashid, Executive Director and Ms. Shirin Biswas, Chief, National Resource Centre (NRC), NGO Forum attended the meeting. The meeting was convened by the Chairperson of AARC, Mr. Ranjith Wirasinha from Sri Lanka.

The one-day meeting reviewed the activities of AARC and role of its secretariat, which is presently based at NRC, under NGO Forum, Dhaka. Function and

“At any one time it is estimated that half of the world's hospital beds are occupied by patients suffering from water-borne diseases”

### Building the Capacity of NRC

#### Through the JPO Exchange Programme

The Junior Professional Officer (JPO) Programme is a joint undertaking of International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC), the Netherlands and various Resource Centres (RCs). The purpose of the JPO programme is to provide young professionals from IRC and Resource Centres from different parts of the world the opportunity to enhance their experience. It assists in building their capacity in knowledge generation, sharing and dissemination in water and sanitation sector



of aspiring professionals. Through this exchange curriculum, the second objective of the programme, towards building the capacity of the RCs will be achieved as well.

The three-year JPO programme comprises of two parts. In the first part, four Dutch JPOs were selected by IRC; simultaneously four JPOs from four RCs: PCWS (Philippines), CINARA (Colombia), NETWAS (Kenya) and NEWAH (Nepal) were also selected. The Dutch JPOs and the JPOs from the RCs acquired working experience for a period of 14 months in this programme.

In May 2003, the second round of the programme has commenced in which four new RCs were involved. NGO Forum, through NRC is involved in this second round, together with CREPA (Burkina Faso), CFPAS

(Mozambique) and Mvula Trust (South Africa). The JPOs work intensively in groups, forming a network through which the partnerships between the RCs and IRC will be strengthened. Through this partnership, NRC will be benefitted from experiences acquired from all corners of the world.

After a preparatory period of 3 months, the Dutch JPO Ms. Marieke Adank arrived in Bangladesh in August 2003 and the JPO from NRC, Mr. Ehsan Ul-Haque departed for the Netherlands. Mr. Ehsan gave a presentation at IRC in Delft on the activities of NGO Forum in general and NRC in particular. Furthermore, he has been actively involved in the 6th Water Information Summit (WIS-6) and KM workshop. He will be involved in various IRC activities during his presence in the Netherlands.

During her 14 months stay in Bangladesh, Ms. Marieke will be involved in many activities of NRC. She will be contributing especially in the project focusing on scaling up community management for water supply and role of financing and cost recovery in this process. In order to familiarize herself with the way NGO Forum works, she recently made a field visit to Mymensingh, accompanied by her colleagues from NRC. Together they visited the regional office of NGO Forum, two of the Partner NGOs (PNGOs) and two communities. In the communities, they participated in meeting with the Village Development Committee (VDC) set-up by the PNGO, with support of NGO Forum to promote and manage safe water supply and sanitation systems and to promote hygienic behavior. Furthermore, the NRC delegation made a walk through the villages to observe different drinking water and sanitation options and to interact with the users on the implementation, operation and maintenance of the options and how they had affected their lives. It was indeed a very useful and interesting experience for Ms. Marieke.

NRC's involvement in the JPO program promises to become periodic in which both the JPOs as well as NRC will be benefitted to a great extent.

Recently a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning the co-operation in the context of National Resource Centre Positioning and Strengthening has been signed between NGO Forum and IRC to jointly develop yearly operational plan, budget and facilitate strengthening NRC, NGO Forum.

“The weight of water that women in Africa and Asia carry on their respective heads per day is the equivalent of your airport luggage allowance (20kg).”

## Database Development

### News in Brief

#### Support Programme for MS Student

NRC, at an early age of its functioning has proven to be a “Centre of Excellence” in WatSan sector. To address its goal NRC adopted diverse activities. From different activities initiated MS students support programme is of significance with the objective to address the challenge of providing internship to young “to be graduates”. This programme is open exclusively to students who are enrolled in a Graduate or Masters programme in different universities to gain “on-the-job experience” in the WatSan sector.

Under this programme Mr. Kamrul Islam, a student of Environmental Studies from North South University (NSU), has been working as an intern with NRC-NGOF. During the internship he is engaged in studies and activities at NRC under supervision of Chief, NRC. His objective is to acquire knowledge, experience, and career development opportunities in the process. It is indeed a scope awarded by NGOF to assist bright, well-educated, young people in initiating their career.

NRC shares the concept that there are no better achievements than that procured through experiences. Through this programme, students may avail the opportunity to develop essential skills different from those attained in academia. This enhances the transition of the students from a graduate student to a junior professional. The programme generates the best possible scope to groom educated personnel for their future career. Learning-by-doing and being exposed to professionals working environment provides them with valuable experiences, a professional referee and often leads to a position with the organization upon graduation.

NRC initiated a customized database software development services for NGO Forum for archiving data and information. Small to medium level database for various NGOs, UN bodies and private agencies were included in the programme. In this context several effective small database were developed to provide frequently asked information (FAQ) such as “Contact Database”, “Information Source and Demand”, “NGO Inventory” etc. Apart from this, NRC developed a customized training, evaluation and monitoring database software for the project jointly conducted by UNICEF, NGO Forum and Upokul.

The software is being presently used by the clients and has received full satisfaction from the users of the project. Detail information on training programmes conducted earlier for a number of individual courses comprising of various batches carried out in ten districts were archived. Different types of customized queries and reports were produced according to their area of interest and condition. Recently 38 districts are being covered in phases under this training project.

Depending on the outcome, it may be extended to all 64 districts in Bangladesh. According to the contract of the project, initially NGO Forum is working in 3 districts while Upokul concentrated in the rest 7 districts of the focused 10 districts. The database is customized in such a way that, it will be able to function perfectly for facilitating such huge volume of data from all 64 districts. NRC also provides support services for the development of such databases.



“ Comparative costs: In Europe \$11 billion is spent each year on ice cream; in USA and Europe, \$17 billion is spent on pet food; in Europe \$105 billion is spent annually on alcoholic drinks, ten times the amount required to ensure water, sanitation and hygiene for all. ”

## Joint Publication with IRC, The Netherlands

NRC under NGO Forum initiated a joint publication program with IRC, the Netherlands. The joint program will include a compilation of case studies on “Community Managed Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes” in Bangladesh. The case study is anticipated to be published sometimes in 2005 from Dhaka, Bangladesh under sponsorship of IRC, the Netherlands. NGO Forum, which has a long standing reputation in WatSan sector as the apex service delivery body and awareness building has many success stories which may be published; one of such success stories will be focused through this publication. NRC, is the latest creation of NGO Forum with wide arena of activities and curriculum; it has been entrusted to coordinate and compile the projection.

In connection with the above-mentioned program Ms. Sascha de Graaf, Publication Manager from IRC, the Netherlands arrived on an exploratory visit to Dhaka, Bangladesh in June 2003. During her stay in Dhaka she was shown around the premises of NGO Forum and



briefed on its activities. She also undertook field visits to become appraised of NGO Forum's wide field of activities in the rural areas of Bangladesh. Ms. Sascha also met the Executive Director (ED), NGO Forum and exchanged views with NGO Forum's Cell Chiefs from various operational cells. She was also given a brief demonstration on various projects of NRC. She became well appraised of NRC's activities in the field of WatSan sector. She was also briefed on various proposals underway at NRC. Ms. Sascha de Graaf met with two of the principle contributors of the case study, Prof. Dr. Mujibur Rahman, Director ITN and CERM, BUET and Mr. Md. Zakaria, Research Coordinator BRAC.

Both the contributors have exclusive experience in their respective fields. This experience along with NGO Forum's success stories will be blended in a composite way in the publication. It will reflect the past experiences as well as reveal present state of affairs and also provide a glimpse on the future projection. Basic literature guide, compilation and coordination action for the project is being carried out by NRC presently.



Under a joint agreement between IRC and NRC, NRC is entitled to market WatSan publications of IRC to all GOB, NGO/CBO/Libraries/Universities, and research bodies, consultancy houses etc. The advanced publication would be made available in hard form at a nominal charge for boosting up and dissemination of the recent knowledge and information in the sector. Requirement of any advanced IRC publication by any quarter in WatSan sector can be made available from NRC library.

“The population of Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya pay up to five times the price for a litre of water than the average American citizen ”

## Streams of Knowledge

### Partnering NRC to Mobilize Strategic Resources

NGO Forum is a member of global coalition of resource centers, the Streams of Knowledge (STREAMS). The objective of the coalition is to assist in capacity building of its partner Resource Centers (RCs) and to provide guidance, quality control and mutual support. STREAMS, in its efforts to strengthen the RCs, recruited 5 global Fund Raising Associates (FRA) from

Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Columbia. It arranged a training workshop of the global fund raising team in Manila, Philippine from 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> July 2003. The workshop was very lively and in participatory approach that focused on :

- ◆ Presentation on participants' organization
- ◆ Managing knowledge in networking and global environment
- ◆ Techniques of resource mobilization
- ◆ Skills related to raising funds
- ◆ Building strategic partnership and
- ◆ Best practices in business

Mr. Md. Nahidul Islam, the FRA for the Asian region, participated in the workshop and was placed to work on behalf of NRC for a period of 12 months. The main objective of the FRAs is to assist strategic resource mobilization process. The functions of FRA are to explore fund raising scopes for STREAMS and NGO Forum. Such resource mobilization will effect in strengthening the RCs' and sector development in Water Supply and Sanitation.

The initial list of countries include the following:

Kenya	Nepal
Madagascar	Bangladesh
Ghana	Philippines
Burkina Faso	Bulgaria
South Africa	Colombia
Mozambique	

The thematic topics included for the WASH-STREAMS partnership are as follows:

- ◆ Youth for water environment, sanitation and hygiene promotion
- ◆ Small towns water supply and integrated water resources management
- ◆ Sustaining and scaling up community water supply management
- ◆ Environmental sanitation and hygiene
- ◆ Gender and equity

WASH-SREAMS recognizes the prime importance of the following:

- ◆ People-centred approaches
- ◆ Partnership building
- ◆ Sustainable positive progress
- ◆ Promotion of gender equality
- ◆ Synergies to act as pressure groups
- ◆ Information dissemination.



## WASH-STREAMS Campaign

The WASH-STREAMS partnership kicked-off and launched a media campaign in the Philippines in August 2003. Streams of Knowledge (STREAMS), a global coalition of water and sanitation resource centers, and

Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) have undertaken a collaborative effort to provide water, sanitation and hygiene for all. The focus areas of the partnership are :

- ◆ Awareness building
- ◆ Mobilization of strategic support
- ◆ Creation of a visible platform for advocacy
- ◆ Capacity building support
- ◆ Access to information and knowledge sharing
- ◆ Participatory monitoring on Millenium Development Goals (MDGs)

WASH-STREAMS will contribute on a number of selected countries to optimise resources, complement programmes and create impact in relation to the MDGs'.



“ About a third of the population in the developing world (1.6 billion) is infected with intestinal worms which can be controlled through better sanitation, hygiene and water.”

## Ecological Sanitation

Cities in developing countries are now subjected to critical environmental degradation. Their peri-urban areas are among the worst polluted and disease ridden habitats of the world. Much of this pollution is caused by a lack of toilets and inadequate sanitation services which leads to high rates of disease, malnutrition and deaths. Every year more than three million people die from water-related diseases; over one billion people lack access to safe drinking water and more than 2.4 billion people do not have access to hygiene sanitary facilities. Within 20 years it is expected that an additional two billion will live in towns and cities mainly in the developing countries demanding safe sanitation.

As cities expand and population increases, the situation will grow even worse and the need for safe, sustainable and affordable sanitation systems will be even more critical. In addition the existing conventional sanitation systems such as pit toilets or water borne sewage will fail to solve the sanitation needs for developing countries.

In water based sewage system a small amount of human faeces is allowed to contaminate not only the relatively harmless urine but also a huge amount of pure water used for flushing. It is estimated that over a year, for each person some 400-500 litres of urine and 50 litres of faeces are flushed away with 15,000 litres of pure water. Furthermore, over 95% of the sewage in developing countries is presently discharged completely untreated polluting the surface water. The other conventional sanitation system in developing countries, the pit latrine has also its shortcomings especially in densely populated areas with severe risks of contaminating the groundwater. Subsequently, sewage disposal practices in developing and underdeveloped countries divest the agricultural sector of valuable natural nourishment that human excrement could provide.

The excreta of a person (average 500 litres urine and 50 litres faeces per person/year) contain a significant percentage (80-90%) of the nutrients needed to produce the annual food demand (equivalent to 230 kg of cereal) per person. In agriculture research, the continuing decline in soil fertility is of growing concern. Many researchers claim that presently applied farming methods are not sustainable. By failing to return natural fertilizer to the land, nutrients of the soils depletes ultimately diminishing the food supply. In a situation of food insecurity and decreasing soil fertility there is a need to utilize the valuable nutrients in human excreta.

It is obvious that this enormous challenges lead to a need to rethink about the status of sanitation and new approaches. Ecological sanitation is a concept that provides a more holistic approach towards ecological

and economically prudent sanitation. The system of this approach are based on the systematic implementation of a material flow oriented recycling process as a holistic alternative to conventional solution.

Ecological sanitation or “EcoSan” is a cycle or closed loop system which treats human excreta as a resource. The key objectives of EcoSan are prevention of pollution and disease caused by human excreta, treatment of human excreta as a resource rather than as a waste product and recovery & recycling of the nutrients. In this system excreta are processed on-site until they are free of pathogenic organisms.

In a world that is becoming increasingly urbanized and water stressed and whose soil are being depleted and damaged by intensive agriculture, ecological sanitation offers many benefits:

- ◆ The opportunity of conserving and protecting aquifers,
- ◆ Preventing sewage pollution of rivers, water bodies and coral lagoons,
- ◆ Enhancing soils and reducing the requirement for chemical fertilizers,
- ◆ Offering more comprehensive protection of public health than is attainable or affordable under current approaches,
- ◆ Providing sanitation where it is most needed with out the pre-requisite of extensive Infrastructure.

Ideally, ecological sanitation systems enable the complete recovery of all nutrients from faeces, urine and greywater for the benefit of agriculture and the minimization of water pollution. At the same time it ensures that water is used economically and is reused to the greatest possible extent, particularly for irrigation purposes.

