

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

Up coming News

6th Cannes Symposium "Man and Water- Reframing the Relations"

Tentative Schedule : 28 June - 2 July 2004,
Cannes, France.
Website: www.symposium-h2o.com

3rd South Asia Water Forum (SAWAF-III)

Tentative Schedule : 13-15 July 2004, Bangladesh
Water Partnership (BWP)
Dhaka, Bangladesh
Website: www.gwpforum.org

14th Stockholm Water Symposium (World Water Week) "Drainage Basin Management- Regional Approaches for Food and Urban Security"

Tentative Schedule : 16 – 20 August 2004
Stockholm, Sweden
Website: www.siwi.org

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Fair

Tentative Schedule : September 2004
Harare, Zimbabwe
Website: www.iwsd.co.zw

Annual WARFSA/ Water Net Symposium

Tentative Schedule : October 2004
Windhoek, Namibia
Website: www.polytechnic.edu.na

Editor

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

Executive Editor

Shirin P. Biswas
Chief, NRC, NGO Forum

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4th IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition on Water Management Issues for All Regions of the World

Tentative Schedule : 19- 24 September, 2004
Marrakech, Morocco
Website: www.iwapublishing.com/template.cfm?name=iwa_news_35

30th WEDC Conference "People-centred Approaches to Water and Environmental Sanitation"

Tentative Schedule : 25- 29 October, 2004
Vientiane, Lao PDR
Website: www.wedc.lboro.ac.uk/conferences/conference1.php?ID=5

Global WASH Forum (WSSCC)

"Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for all - Building coalitions for the Millennium Development Goals"

Tentative Schedule : 22- 26 November, 2004
Dakar, Senegal
Website: www.wsscc.org/dakar



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 Web site : www.ngof.org



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A Half-Yearly Newsletter of
National Resource Centre

Learning & Sharing Meeting

With Key Stakeholders

National Resource Centre (NRC) jointly organized a meeting on "Learning & Sharing Meeting with Key Stakeholders" with IRC, International Water and Sanitation Centre held at the NRC conference room on February 17, 2004.

IRC the reputed Resource Centre (RC) networking and capacity building group came ahead to support the initiatives and strengthen the potential capabilities of NRC. Taking advantage of its wide network of RCs, it contributed in the development and capacity building of NRC since 2002. In its continued support towards development of RC in the region, IRC has taken up various programs in phases with NRC. A sequence of activities chalked out earlier has been undertaken, the stakeholders' participation meeting being one such initiatives.

The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. S M A Rashid, Executive Director, NGO Forum. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Teun Bastemeyer, Senior Programme Officer and Ms Trea Christoffers, Programme Officer from IRC. Key stakeholders from WatSan sector hailing from various GOB/NGOs, donors, international bodies, academic and research institutions participated in the meeting. Presentations on status of NRC activities and role of RC in the WatSan sector were also made to appraise them. Free and frank discussions and exchange of opinions took place following the presentations. Working sessions comprising the participants in groups were then carried out to explore and develop action plans that is felt required to be undertaken by NRC in near future. Formation of a steering committee to guide NRC's activities was also agreed for a more effective and strategic partnership with the local agencies and GOB offices. Furthermore, holding of periodical meetings with various local stakeholders was also identified for a more coordinated efforts and generating effective outputs.



Learning & Sharing Meeting
With Key Stakeholders



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Up Coming News

Editorial coloumn

NRC has entered into its second year of operation. We are pleased to inform our valued readers that it has started functioning as a resource centre providing expert services in the WatSan sector. Note worthy in its achievement is the establishment of the AARC secretariat in its premises. It has successfully conducted a number of seminars/workshop both at home and abroad and also held meeting of its members when ever a major event is held internationally.

NRC has also consolidated its footage in the WatSan sector at home. It has established a rich conventional library supported by a computational lab with LAN setup and broad band connection. It has also hosted its own webpage (www.ngof.org) along with NGO Forum's official web page in its web servers. Apart from this, it has established a WatSan database in a separate database server with assistance from the Institute of Water Modeling (IWM). The internet setup of NRC provides services to all section/units of NGO Forum head office. The centre is equipped with latest equipments and audiovisual aids.

The centre has carried out a number of consultancy services for both NGO Forum and its PNGOs. It has carried out a project with ICDDR,B executed a case study focusing achievement of NGO Forum on Arsenic issues, as well as a case study on Cost Recovery Mechanism in "Community Based Water Supply System in Bangladesh" jointly with IRC, the Netherlands. The centre has also provided support for development of a database for PNGOs and field level FGD programme for various NGO Forum's projects. In the international perspective it has chalked out collaborative research program with regional RCs and presently involved in coordination and documentation of "Grassroots Level Consultative Meeting on WatSan Issues" taken up under WASH-STREAMS initiatives. It has initiated a joint WASH-STREAMS

programme, which would be nationally launched in September 2004 under joint funding and support from STREAMS and WSSCC.

NRC has established good relations with STREAMS, the Philippines based global resource centre network. Under the programme various capacity building and research programmes are underway. Apart from this it has working partnership with IRC, the Netherlands. A number of projects have been identified under the partnership, chief among which is the JPO, exchange programme. NRC is also the current sole distributor of IRC publication in Bangladesh along with which a research programme on publishing WatSan success stories in the country is under way. Quite recently it has also initiated a collaboration programme with Water Partnership International (WPI), American NGO interested in micro credit programme in the WatSan sector in Bangladesh.

In the meantime, NRC has hosted a number of local seminar and workshops. These were mostly in-line with defining of strategy of NRC, chalking out its working areas and consultation process with working partners. It has been decided from various interactions with the clients and working partners that a steering committee should provide guidance to NRC's activities. In line with that concept a steering committee is in process of formation.

NRC has come a long way from its formal inception in June 2002. It has started contributing to the WatSan field in boosting up the knowledge base, capacity building, procurement and sharing of information and database. It has established working partnership with local bodies and government institutions and aspires to carry out consultancy services in the WatSan sector, which would boost up the WatSan sector. On the eve of publication of fourth bi-annual newsletter it seeks the blessing and patronage of all its partners and clients.

Case Study in Arsenic Mitigation Programme

The National Resource Center (NRC) under NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation (NGO Forum) conducted a case study entitled "Role of NGO Forum in Providing Sustainable Alternative Safe Water Options to Combat the Deadly Menace of Arsenic Poisoning"

The objective of the study is to assess how far NGO Forum's efforts have contributed in arsenic mitigation programme. The study was conducted in three arsenic affected areas under NGO Forum's intervention regions. These include Barisal, Rajshahi and Mymensingh regions. All the villages explored were NGO Forum's phased out villages. For the study purpose, different types of participatory method were used in data acquisition and obtaining in-depth views of the community people along with relevant local stakeholders. The findings from the study have been quite interesting and encouraging. One of the interesting findings of the study is that, the selection and

adoption of hardware-software mix approach in the arsenic mitigation programme has played significant role in sensitizing the community people towards the usage of safe water for drinking and cooking purposes. The study findings also revealed a positive change in



the perception of the community people regarding arsenic and its associated aspects. Earlier the community people used to consider arsenic as a infectious disease. Because of the forceful efforts made by the project staff of the arsenic mitigation programme, the people's perception regarding arsenic has radically changed. The community people are found to be very much convinced with the fact that if an arsenicosis patient takes nourishing food and does not drink arsenic contaminated water any longer, s/he would soon recover. The study clearly demonstrated the fact that the hardware-software mix approach possesses high potentiality to contribute in the arsenic mitigation programme in Bangladesh.

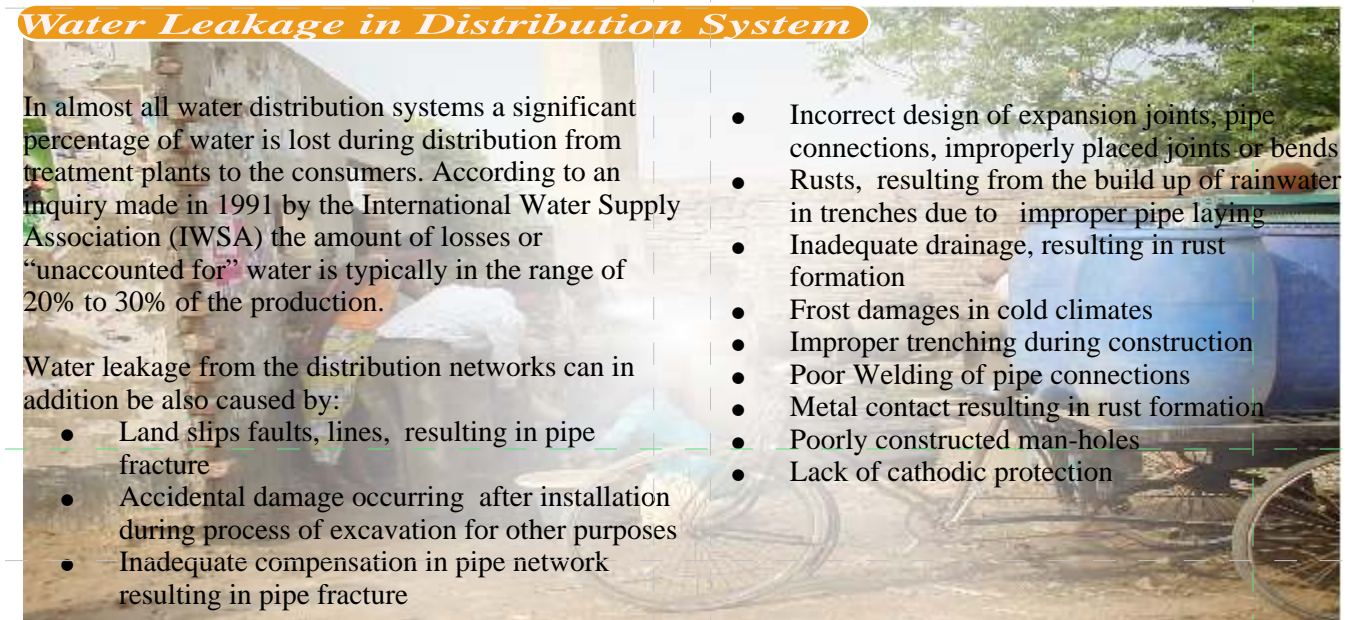
Water Leakage in Distribution System

In almost all water distribution systems a significant percentage of water is lost during distribution from treatment plants to the consumers. According to an inquiry made in 1991 by the International Water Supply Association (IWSA) the amount of losses or "unaccounted for" water is typically in the range of 20% to 30% of the production.

Water leakage from the distribution networks can in addition be also caused by:

- Land slips faults, lines, resulting in pipe fracture
- Accidental damage occurring after installation during process of excavation for other purposes
- Inadequate compensation in pipe network resulting in pipe fracture

- Incorrect design of expansion joints, pipe connections, improperly placed joints or bends
- Rusts, resulting from the build up of rainwater in trenches due to improper pipe laying
- Inadequate drainage, resulting in rust formation
- Frost damages in cold climates
- Improper trenching during construction
- Poor Welding of pipe connections
- Metal contact resulting in rust formation
- Poorly constructed man-holes
- Lack of cathodic protection



AARC Meeting

Representatives of member organisations of the Asian Alliance of Resource Centres (AARC) met for a two-day AARC meeting on March 3-4, 2004 in Bangladesh, hosted by NRC, NGO Forum. It was the first AARC meeting since NRC was assigned the task of holding of AARC Secretariat in July 2003.

The meeting was chaired by the chairperson of AARC, Mr. Ranjith Wirasinha. Besides participants from Bangladesh, including the Executive Director, NGO Forum Mr. S. M. A. Rashid and the Chief NRC Ms. Shirin Biswas, there were representatives from Resource Centres (RC) from the Philippines, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The participants of the meeting felt that it would be very important to have the rationale behind AARC clarified and thereby spent considerable time discussing on this issue. It was concluded that AARC working in the WatSan sector is very important, since Asian organizations and countries share regional characteristics. AARC would be able to bring together pragmatic experiences in the region and collect replicable models from RCs in the region. It can also play a role in track-records, documentation and sharing of experience. The AARC (secretariat) would not necessarily have to store all information, but could refer to locations where the required information could be found.

AARC would also be able to provide support to RCs at country level, if they require support from outside the country. Different organizations having different strong-points, can supplement each other with experience that are in their possession. AARC can facilitate this exchange, enabling more strategic cooperation between the different RCs (STREAMING-UP). In this way, AARC can stimulate South-South collaboration.

AARC could also facilitate regional initiatives focused on the poor, by playing a role in the conceptualization and execution of regional projects, which can be used to

develop, test (and promote) and disseminate replicable models.

AARC could furthermore play a part in the synergy between WASH and STREAMS program. AARC could collect and disseminate the status of WASH STREAM initiatives available with its member countries. The participants of the meeting worked together on an action plan for AARC initiatives.

The development of a joint regional project on Wastewater Agriculture and Sanitation for Poverty Alleviation (WASPA) was discussed by the participants. The WASPA program is a collaborative program IRC, IWMI and STREAMS. RCs in the region will be involved in the “implementation” process of action research associated with the program. AARC intends to coordinate a regional project within the framework of this program. The member RCs will be responsible for the execution of sub action research projects.

Finally, the participants from different countries shared their experience with the WASH campaign and the WASH-STREAMS initiatives. It was also decided that a good initial step for launching a WASH-STREAMS campaign in Bangladesh could be undertaken to organize a round table discussion.

It was agreed at the two-day meeting, that there had been good discussions in forging unity on ideology and concepts between the AARC members. Participants also agreed on specific actions and a time frame to implement them.



Case study on Cost Sharing and Financing of Rural Water Supply Systems

On a request from IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, the Netherlands, NRC took up a case study on cost sharing and financing of rural water supply facilities in Bangladesh. For this purpose, NRC assessed the policy on cost sharing and financing, as described in the National Policy for Safe Drinking Water Supply. Many stakeholders and decision makers were consulted to share their view on the policy and how different organizations implemented the policy in practice.

After establishing this overview, field visits were undertaken to acquire an in depth analyses on feeling of

cost sharing and financing practices at grass root level and to provide insight in the perceptions on this from the beneficiaries.

Currently, the case study report is being compiled and will be shared with a variety of sector stakeholders in Bangladesh as soon as it is completely finished by means of a peer reviewing meeting.

Based on results of the case study, a paper has been prepared to be presented at the WEDC Conference in Vientiane, Laos, in October, 2004. This paper has been made accessible to all interested persons through the NRC website (<http://www.ngof.org/nrc/>).

Collaboration within the Sector

Local and International Perspective

NRC has played a very explicit role in the last 2 years of functioning in the water supply and sanitation (WatSan) sector in Bangladesh. It has established a cordial relation with the donor bodies and international agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, Water Aid, ICDDR,B, DANIDA etc. The NRC was founded under a Danish Technical Assistance (TA) program. The recent Danish Appraisal Mission lauded the performance of NRC. Apart from this the local Head, WHO office facilitated most of its seminar. The NRC has assisted ICDDR,B in carrying out a project in WatSan sector. It has also very good rapport with UPI and Sector Program Support (SPS Office) unit in the WatSan sector. Presently NRC is also actively exploring for research projects supported by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) through International Development & Research Council (IDRC).

In the local chapter it has established excellent relation with local universities such as Bangladesh University of Engg & Technology (BUET), Dhaka University (DU), North South University (NSU) and Jahangirnagar University (JU) with whom it has begun a graduate support program. In fact Masters student from these universities have already been trained at NRC. It has also established relation with local research bodies such as International Training Network (ITN), Centre for Environmental Research & Management (CERM), Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), Center for Environment and GIS (CEGIS) etc. It has also carried out collaborative programs with ITN and CERM; the database and website resource generation for NRC was implemented with support from IWM. It has also explored for collaborative research study with BUET.

With the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) offices NRC has also carried out numerous programs. It has explored for a research program with Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA). It has also worked in a projection case study with assistance from Bangladesh Arsenic Water Sector Mitigation Program (BAMWASP), a project of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE). It is presently exploring for more of such project with DPHE. The NRC has established linkage with Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) and is actively exploring for projects under the Bangladesh Water development Board (BWDB) where Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and Water Supply & Sanitation (WSS) are being conceived conjointly.

NRC has also carried out a number of projects with the local NGO, PNGO and CBO's. It has nice working relations with local “think-tanks” agencies like Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), WSP, World Bank and other such local bodies. Within the NGO Forums activities it has carried out support services for various cells and established excellent relations with various PNGOs and CBO's that functions across various part of Bangladesh. This has been made possible through various projects and program that it has undertaken with them.

In the last one and half year NRC has also established good relationship with various international Resource Centres (RCs). It has an excellent rapport with IRC, the Netherlands. In the meantime it has carried out a number of human resource development and capacity building program. IRC has supported NRC to generate its resources through establishment of database, internet facilities and hosting of webpage. Apart from this, NRC has established very good working relation with STREAMS program. Under this scope it has developed networking capacities, information and knowledge sharing program. Apart from this, it has established perfect linkage with Rcs in the region including, PCWS. The networking connections of NRC are growing exponentially by day.



The reason why the water in wells becomes colder in summer is that the earth is then rarefied by the heat, and releases into the air all the heat-particles it happens to have. So, the more the earth is drained of heat, the colder becomes the moisture that is concealed in the ground. On the other hand, when all the earth condenses and contracts and congeals with the cold, then, of course, as it contracts, it squeezes out into the wells whatever heat it holds.

“Women and children travel an average of 10-15 km to get water. It is not uncommon for them to spend 4-5 hours a day on hauling water”

WatSan Database

NRC under NGO Forum developed a database software to archive and systematically retrieve data as well as information of Water and Sanitation (WatSan) sector. The software covers areas on “who is doing what” in this sector, specially on the organizations & contact details, experiences, major achievements as well as past project information, lessons learnt, future plans and available documents in soft form.

The software is still in alpha release version and expecting for a final release by September, 2004. After the final release, data entry could be made to store data in the database which would in turn be made available to the clients. The idea behind the concept is that since NRC, is working as the knowledge management body in the sector, it is in need of details in WatSan database to provide information to all. To make data easily accessible, it was decided to develop a software database to



preserve data electronically which will be linked with the dynamic website in the sector.

It has also a functional library which will be maintained with the Library Information System (LIS) software. Thereby through the dynamic website, clients will be able to search for any type of data, book or journal related to WatSan sector by querying the back-end of the database. This seems to be the most effective way to disseminate information in the sector.

NRC Website

Recently NRC hosted its website “<http://www.ngof.org/nrc/index>” along with its other recent activities. Presently it covers static pages of NRC, activities, projects, publications etc. At a later stage, this website would have a portal like look for the WatSan sector when it will be connected with the electronic WatSan and Library Information System (LIS) database. Hence any one seeking to know anything in the WatSan sector, will be able to have access to the proper information and guidelines where he/she will get his/her required information from the website.



NRC Library

The NRC is a venture of NGO Forum where information and skills are blended together to support activities that would strengthen the provision of water and sanitation services. It is the primary aim of NRC to function as the country's memory bank in WATSAN sector.

The centre is well equipped with advanced library system containing a wide range of collection and information services. Its services are designed to anticipate and to be responsive to the individual's information needs in WatSan sector.

The library has a computerized database on a rich collection of more than 1500 books, reports especially on WatSan related issues. It also accumulated a number of national, international journals, periodical magazines and newsletters. The library is housed in an air-conditioned floor with internet, email and online database searching facilities. Access to the library resource is open for all. There is also a provision for reproduction service with a nominal charge.

“The percentage of the world's water which is drinkable is 1/100,000 or the equivalent of a teaspoon from a 450L barrel”

WASH STREAMS Collaboration

WASH-STREAMS is a concerted effort to mobilize awareness, support and actions to end the suffering of the 1.1 billion people without access to safe water, and the 2.4 billion people without adequate sanitation.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and Streams of Knowledge (STREAMS) signed a Memorandum of Agreement in 2003 whereby they agreed to work together in promoting and managing projects under the WASH-STREAMS global campaign. WSSCC, in particular, spearheads the advocacy component, while STREAMS through its network of resource centers (RC), is taking the lead role in managing and/or monitoring WASH projects at the grass root level.

The WSSCC is a leading international organization operating with a mandate from the United National General Assembly that enhances collaboration in the water supply and sanitation sector, especially in order to attain universal coverage of water and sanitation services for poor people around the world. The mission of the council is “to accelerate the achievement of sustainable water, sanitation and waste management services to all people, with special attention to the unserved poor, by enhancing collaboration among

developing countries and through concerted action programs”.

Streams of Knowledge (STREAMS) is a global coalition of Rcs actively involved in addressing the global crisis in WatSan and hygiene sector through action learning, knowledge management and capacity building.

The WASH-STREAMS initiative aims to strategically contribute to the achievement of the WatSan related MDGs in the following ways:

- By making realistic assessments of the current status of the sector on the ground, by local actors. Such realities vary considerably from international data monitoring and requires of local skills to assess WASH issues and livelihood situations.
- By providing local actors (people, households, communities, NGOs, local authorities) with access to the means (knowledge, expertise, information, technology, credit) to change these realities for better performance.

Strategic Global Mobilization of STREAMS Fundraising Team

Streams of Knowledge Global Coalition (STREAMS) organized the 2nd workshop on strategic resource mobilization in February 2-6, 2004 at Eugenio Lopez Center, Antipolo City, Philippines. The global fundraising team members were the main participants at the workshop through representation of the STREAMS Executive Secretary, Global Fundraising Coordinator and Regional Fundraising Associates. Several directors representing the STREAMS members and resource centers (Rcs) also attended the meeting.

The workshop aimed to review the implementation of the fundraising strategy formulated in the first workshop in July 2003 and to refine the targets, activities and operations of the global team. It was also an opportunity to refine the way the fund raising team operates and to recognize their contributions and good work.

The specific workshop objectives were the following:

- To assess the organization's fundraising performance to-date

- To share a common understanding of fundraising targets specified in the 2004-2005 business plan
- To share and consolidate information on prospects and concept notes
- To identify/conceptualize priority projects and match these with potential donors
- To build skills in face-to-face solicitation
- To refine fundraising policies and standard operating procedures
- To practice using the donor database program
- To develop a fundraising action plan for 2004-2005.

Specific outputs were: (1) the STREAMS' 6-month accomplishment report, (2) the concept notes for “Streamed-Up” projects and (3) fundraising activity plan. An additional output was the development of key messages of STREAMS.