

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL 2.6 billion peo

WSSCC

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2.6 billion people are looking for a toilet 大大大大大大大大大大大大大大大大大大大

NEWSLETTER April 2008

News from the Secretariat

The Global Sanitation Fund is launched!

2.6 Billion people or 40% of the world's population do not have access to basic sanitation. In other words - they don't have basic toilets. Their health, dignity, education and even their lives are at risk every day when nature calls, and it calls everyone without exception. The impacts on the environment and economic activities are also enormous.



To date there has been no global financing mechanism solely for hygiene and sanitation. To help fill this gap the WSSCC has launched the **Global Sanitation Fund**. The Fund is not a separate organization. It is one of the key pillars of the WSSCC, and it is therefore hosted in WHO. The main objective of the Fund is to boost sanitation and hygiene expenditures by concentrating on people-centred and demand-driven work programmes, thus contributing to the achievement of the sanitation MDG target. The cost of reaching that target is \$9.5 billion per year. With more than \$50 million already committed by the governments of the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK, the Fund aspires to a turnover of up to \$100 million per year.

The International Year of Sanitation is a call to action, to stronger commitments and open discussion to get rid of remaining taboos. WSSCC takes it very seriously. The launch of the Global Sanitation Fund is a significant contribution to the Year and beyond.

World Water Day 2008 Central Celebrations in Geneva

The **World Water Day 2008 celebrations in Geneva** on 20 March were dedicated to sanitation. A press conference was followed by **speeches** by Mr. Serguei Ordzhonikidze, Director General of the UN in Geneva, Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands, Chair of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), Ms. Beate Wilhelm, Assistant-Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, Mr. Philip O'Brien, Regional Director of the UNICEF in Geneva and Mr. Jon Lane, Executive Director of WSSCC.

As emphasized by Jon Lane, the celebrations in Geneva were meant to show our support to activities in the field, while many colleagues around the world used the World Water Day to launch the International Year of Sanitation (IYS) in their countries.

Good new material is available to communicate sanitation messages and World Water Day saw the launch of the **IYS advocacy and media kit** prepared by the UN Water Task Force on Sanitation.

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News from the Secretariat continued

To draw more attention to the sanitation crisis, WSSCC organized a toilet queue at the premises of the UN Palace in Geneva. His Royal Highness Prince Willem-Alexander of The Netherlands said that "repetition breeds recognition, and recognition is what we need to make people act". The aim was therefore to mobilize people to point once again to the appalling number of human beings who have nowhere to hide from illness, shame and even death because of the lack of basic sanitation. The bushes are no help in that. Hard work, plain speaking, strong leadership and demand creation are four essential points to achieve sanitation for ALL according to Jon Lane. So let's roll up our sleeves and get there.

AfricaSan - Sanitation moving up the Priority Ladder

The second African Conference on Sanitation and Hygiene - **AfricaSan+5** - took place from 18 to 21 February 2008 in Durban, South Africa. WSSCC had been actively involved in the preparations for the conference, and was present with an exhibition stand and active participation in a number of sessions and events. Among others, WSSCC members from Madagascar, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso presented their national WASH coalition experiences, and Secretariat staff made presentations on the Global WASH Campaign and the Global Sanitation Fund. As a first, the Secretariat also

organised a special side-event for WSSCC members attending the conference, to update them on WSSCC business and ask for their feedback.

Almost six years after the first AfricaSan conference, it became clear that sanitation has definitely moved up the priority ladder in recent years, even though achievement of the sanitation MDG might still be a long way off for most African countries.

With over 30 Government Ministers and 600 delegates in attendance, the event resulted in some firm commitments. For one, the delegates agreed on an Action Plan that articulates the critical actions to be further developed, funded and monitored by



African Ministers launch the International Year of Sanitation during the AfricaSan closing ceremony

2010 in order to put Africa "back on track" to meet the sanitation MDG. The African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) was mandated to monitor progress against the national plans and report on progress during the next AfricaSan meeting in 2010. At the conclusion, the Ministers signed the eThekwini Declaration in which, among other undertakings, they pledged to create separate budget lines for sanitation and hygiene in their countries and to aim to commit at least 0.5 percent of GDP to sanitation.

The event also saw the launch of the AfricaSan Awards, an award-scheme for special achievements in sanitation and hygiene, to be administered by WSSCC.

WSSCC Members & Partners

Sanitation & Hygiene in South Asia - a Practitioners' View

In January 2008, a group of 53 South Asian practitioners in a Dhaka workshop organised by IRC, WaterAid and BRAC with support from WSSCC, shared some interesting experiences on conducting rural and urban sanitation and hygiene programmes in their region. While the workshop, entitled 'Beyond Construction, Use by All', was a gathering of practitioners, much of what they discussed had far-reaching policy and strategy implications. For one, the speed of urbanisation coupled with the growing scale of the urban slums accounts for an ever-increasing amount of faeces let loose in the urban environment. A lot of work is ongoing to find the most effective and efficient way of collecting the faeces, but not enough emphasis is placed on the rest of the sanitation chain, i.e.

QUIZ		
1. The average return on investment for \$1 invested in sanitation is		
□ A. \$9	B. \$12	C. \$7
2. Private and separate latrines in school can increase girls' enrolment by		
□ A. 20%	B. 11%	C. 8%
3. For every 1% increase in female literacy a country's economy can grow by		
A. 0.7%	B. 0%	C. 0.3%

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storage, disposal, treatment, etc. In rural areas, the current success of demanddriven approaches requires a stable supply chain and sufficient service providers, but needs a strong system of quality control, to ensure programmes really reach the poorest of the poor. In general, it became clear that too little is known about the actual cost of sanitation and hygiene programmes, when taking into account hardware, software, and so-called project overheads, such as costs for planning, management and staff. *For more information about the workshop please visit www.irc.nl/page/39469*

Zura Mendikulova, WSSCC National Coordinator for Kyrgyzstan, speaks about the International Year of Sanitation

1. What are your working plans for the International Year of Sanitation (IYS)?

Our most important goal is Zura the creation of partnerships. In Kyrgyzstan we have many different national and international organizations working in the fields of sanitation, water and environment and I would like to bring them together to pool their knowledge and enhance the working efficiency of each of them. For the time being they mostly work by themselves and have very little information about each other's projects and I think it's important to coordinate their activities, all the more so because most of them have the same beneficiaries.

2. What kind of organizations are they?

They include the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. UNICEF sponsors activities related to the fight against parasites and works closely with the Department for Sanitation and Epidemiologic Control that has just organized a vaccination drive. Another department is dealing with women and youth issues. There are also population activities, one of the current projects being the publication of a school manual on "how to lead a healthy life", which would include a chapter on sanitation. Thus we would like to link this with the Department of Education so that each year the World Water Day is celebrated in schools and that children have compulsory classes on sanitation and hygiene practices. There are also projects of the Swiss Red Cross that involve village health committees, and I would like to unite all these efforts linked to water. sanitation. health and women under the banner of the International Year of Sanitation, so

> that everyone know about this year and substantial actions be undertaken in our country. It is very important that all those fields be linked. For example, if you conduct a vast vaccination campaign but don't inform people about hygiene practices they will still be ill and contaminated with intestinal parasites.

Zura Mendikulova, WSSCC National Coordinator for Kyrgyzstan

3. Do you think the IYS provides a good incentive to sanitation activities on the national level?

Yes, I think it is a very good incentive indeed. However, not enough people, including politicians and decision-makers, are aware of it. But on the other hand it is a very positive moment for soliciting them with these issues. Sometimes I am being asked about information on the International Year of Sanitation and about sanitation activities, best practices and manuals on advocacy work, but very little is available in Russian, not to mention the Kyrgyz language, which is a real problem. If we could have these documents in Russian, we could disseminate them among the village health committees for example, which could have a real impact. But at the national level we unfortunately don't get funding for this.

4. Does it mean that the lack of funds is the most important barrier to a real sanitation leap forward in Kyrgyzstan?

Yes, definitely. For example when we approached the Ministry of Education, they were very willing to work on a policy for hygiene and sanitation education in schools, but they asked us to provide the information and the manuals. And we need funds to find the right people and to organize this. Kyrgyz authorities are not ready yet to include this kind of sanitation projects in the national budget. Plus, the heads of departments change quite often, which complicates the negotiation on these issues. We start working with someone, then this person changes and we have to start all over again.

In fact, most of the development projects in Kyrgyzstan are made possible through grants or loans from external bodies, while very little comes from the national budget. And sanitation issues are for the time being very closely associated with water projects, because it is easier to get funding for water. But much more awareness raising is needed for the sanitation component of water projects because people don't always understand that water can be dangerous. Kyrgyzstan is a mountainous country, the water is clear, which doesn't mean that it can't be polluted and dangerous for human beings. People need to be aware of that. This proves that not enough work is done on sanitation issues. It is of course easier to build a new pipe than to change people's habits and mentalities. To achieve that you need to work with very young children, so that they develop the right understanding and the right habits. At the same time you need to educate the mothers. All of this means that you must tackle the sanitation problem from all sides and with all these different actors, from children, to the government and the implementing organizations.

Zura Mendikulova has been the WSSCC National Coordinator for Kyrgyzstan since 2002. She is an economist and historian by profession and worked in different water and sanitation projects, including those of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. She is chair of the Centre for the advancement of water supply, sanitation and hygiene issues in Kyrgyzstan.



