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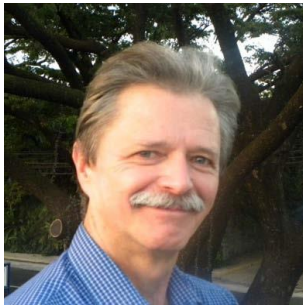
International  
Water Association



Water Safety Portal

## Asia Pacific WSPortal News November 2015

### Words from the Coordinator



I wish to greet you again with a new series of latest updates on how water safety planning is increasingly being implemented in Asia, as a result of the hard work of our WSP Champions. For 2015, the WHO/DFAT Water Quality Partnership while continuing its support for WSP establishment is focusing on water quality surveillance and WSP auditing as the critical role of these activities in long-term sustainability of WSPs has become clearer. Embedding WSPs in policies and regulations has remained a priority across the WQP program, with formal WSP requirements approved in a number of countries. Significant progress was also made to advance the development of regional and global resources to support WSPs, including a guidance document on developing and implementing WSP auditing schemes and a comprehensive regional urban WSP training package, both of which are targeted for publication later this year. Lastly, many countries are developing WSPs for various institutional settings during the reporting period, including health care facilities (HCFs), schools and monasteries.

#### **Report on WSP activities**

The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) project to implement infrastructure improvements identified through WQP project WSPs in Lao PDR and Bhutan was successfully completed at all project sites by April, resulting in improved water safety for more than 63,000 people in six towns through improvements to filters, chlorination systems and distribution

networks.

In Bhutan, urban and rural (village, school and monastery) WSPs were developed in all 20 districts. The focus now will be on monitoring and evaluation of WSP using the skills of the district engineers and Basic Health Unit staff trained in each district to audit/review WSPs using the national audit forms that have been developed.

Nepal suffered terribly due to the earthquake, but WSP work is now continuing and the program is now nearly back to normal - a significant demonstration of resilience.

In Indonesia, three of the six additional pilots planned in 2015 will be financed by the Government of Indonesia, in line with the national goal of government-funded WSP scale-up to all provinces in 2016.

In Myanmar, draft WSP templates for point sources were prepared and field tested in two states. In Samoa, three WSPs were reviewed and evaluated by international experts and an auditing training session is planned for Q3 2015. Four WSPs have been developed in both Tonga and Vanuatu despite major setbacks due to the tropical cyclones that hit the countries early 2015.

Baseline data on more than 100 urban and rural WSP sites in 12 of the 15 WQP program countries has been collected to allow for a bi-regional WSP impact assessment through a collaborative effort by the countries, WHO's South East Asia (SEARO) and Western Pacific Regional Offices (WPRO) and HQ. Post-WSP data will be collected from all sites in 2016 to allow a measurement of WSP impact. The impact assessment indicators will be reviewed and improved based on lessons learned with the goal of developing an internationally-accepted method for assessing the impact of WSP implementation.

Bangladesh is completing its rural and major city WSPs, but is now focusing on piloting the water quality surveillance protocol to assess its workability under their Water Safety Framework. It is also developing national IEC materials for long-term use by trainers and communities alike.

Both Bhutan and Nepal have started to prepare national Drinking Water Quality Standards (DWQS), which will include requirements for WSPs as well as monitoring guidelines. For Bhutan, this will be their first national standards. For Nepal, this will be an update to the groundbreaking standards of 2005.

In Timor Leste, to support urban and rural WSP implementation activities in five pilot districts, a two-week training program was held with district health staff, engineers and water supply operators on (i) how to develop operational monitoring plans and (ii) developing appropriate chlorination standard operating procedures.

In addition to the six main countries included in this program, SEARO has been supporting other countries in the region. The most notable success in the last six months has been Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has expanded its program significantly, and has been extremely satisfying to see the three WSP master trainers from Sri Lanka driving the process forward.

By officially requiring the establishment of WSPs for all drinking water suppliers, countries are demonstrating increasing country ownership of the WQP program. Another significant achievement during this reporting period was in Mongolia, where a Joint Order by Ministry of Health and Ministry of Construction and Urban Development was signed in early 2015, declaring WSPs compulsory nationwide.

As countries develop, adapt and implement WSPs, national authorities are expressing a need to strengthen drinking water quality surveillance and WSP auditing/reviewing. Lao PDR and Mongolia have developed first drafts of surveillance guides that will be completed soon. In the Philippines, guidelines for WSP auditing were tabled early 2015 for official approval by the Department of Health.

WSPs continue to be promoted to serve the WASH needs of health facilities. In Mongolia, the national “Essential Environmental Health Standards” are being applied in 15 HCFs using the WSP risk-based approach. Cambodia is also conducting an assessment of 18 randomly-selected HCFs, in cooperation with WaterAID Australia, Rainwater Cambodia and Emory University.

WSP principles are also being adapted, in an innovative fashion, to strengthen national teams in eliminating schistosomiasis by 2017 in Cambodia, Laos PDR and the Philippines. Formal national NTD-WASH task forces are coordinating the community-led initiatives to eliminate schistosomiasis by improving sanitation, hygiene and water quality. The initiative has commenced in four districts in Lao PDR, and is due to be implemented in six locations in the Philippines and two districts in Northern Cambodia in the second half of 2015. This initiative accompanies the recent release of WHO’s global Strategy for accelerating and sustaining progress on reducing neglected tropical diseases by implementing WASH interventions.

## **Improving resilience to uncertain climatic impacts through WSP**

Climate change, which is altering weather and hydrology, is changing the frequency, severity and predictability of extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. Its disruptive impact on human wellbeing, ecosystems and economies is driving a growing sense of urgency around the need to improve resilience within river basins.

The [Flood and Drought Management Tools](#) (FDTM) project is an initiative undertaken by the IWA in partnership with DHI and the United Nations Environment Programme, to improve planning around extreme weather events, positioning itself as an important bridge between and within countries to mitigate the risks associated with flood and drought events through proactive planning and response. The project is developing a computer software-based decision support system (DSS), containing tools to support improved planning from catchment to consumer by including better information on climate impacts specifically floods and droughts..

For water service providers, management of water resources beyond the boundary of the water utility (wider catchment) is essential to meet the increasing demand for safe, good quality, clean and reliable) for consumers. The DSS will help influence decision-making, guiding short term (operational) and long term (strategic) planning around flood and drought management across scales. At the local (utility) level, this embraces the Water Safety Plan (WSP) approach. The project

engages with utilities across three basins (Volta, Lake Victoria and Chao Phraya) and various partners (e.g. World Health Organization) to gather knowledge and experience for the development of the tools relevant for utilities and will continue to build on these experiences to address needs of utilities to improve their resilience to the uncertain flood and drought events.

Floods are a regular feature in Thailand and continue to be aggravated climate change and human activities. However, with the recent drought concerns in Thailand, the project has put a focus on drought management for the [Chao Phraya Basin](#). Working in close collaboration with the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute, and other key stakeholders, e.g. Royal Irrigation Department (RID), Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), will be testing and validating the software-based DSS towards the end of this year. Drought planning tools will enable users in Thailand to evaluate the current drought impact (according to indicators), provide early warning of drought onset, determine drought severity and spatial extent, and convey consolidated information for decision making. The aim is to develop an integrated drought approach covering the process from drought status, impact assessment, planning to implementation and evaluation.

Download FDMT [utility information sheet](#) for more information on utility engagement in the project and the FDMT [drought management information sheet](#) for more information on the drought management approach in the project.

[Contact](#) the Project Management Unit (PMU) for any questions regarding the FDMT project.

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## WSP PUBLICATIONS

WHO Geneva is continuing to lead the development of several guidance documents including:

- Developing and Implementing an Audit Scheme for Water Safety Plans was published in October at the IWA Development Congress in Jordan where a half day WSP auditing training session was also held.
- Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality: Small Water Supplies (or Volume 3 of the WHO's Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality) and development of the associated Field Guide to Water Quality Surveillance for Small Community Water Supplies are being updated.
- Guidance document Climate-resilient Water Safety Plans: Guidance to support the application of the Water Safety Plan approach to identify, manage and mitigate climate change associated risks to drinking-water safety is being finalized and should be published by end of 2015.

WHO South East Asia Regional Office has been working on three publications which should be out in the second half of 2015:

- Capacity Training on Urban Safety Planning which provides a comprehensive set of training materials including presenter's guide, PowerPoint slides and notes for presenter, participants' handbook, worksheets and other resources including case studies, exercises, puzzles, games and videos.

- A guide to strengthening chlorination practices in small- to medium-sized water supplies based on training given to operators in Bhutan and Timor Leste.
  - A guide to strengthening operational monitoring practices in small- to medium-sized water supplies also based on training given to operators in Bhutan and Timor Leste.
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## WSP Champion



In this issue we feature Ms. Tshering Chhoden, Executive Engineer, Water and Sanitation Division, Government of Bhutan. [Read the full interview here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

### **2015 International Water and Climate Forum, 07-09 December 2015, San Diego, USA**

The evidence is clear. Climate change is happening. Rising global temperatures have been accompanied by changes in weather and climate. Many places have seen changes in rainfall, resulting in more floods, droughts, or intense rain, as well as more frequent and severe heat waves. As these and other changes become more pronounced in the coming decades, they will present more significant challenges to our society and our environment.

On behalf of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, Water Research Foundation, American Water Works Association, Water Services Association Australia and Water utility Climate Alliance, the International Water Association would like to invite you to the [2015 International Water and Climate Forum](#) at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego. The Forum, taking place from December 7-9, is an opportunity for water and climate leaders (water,

wastewater and stormwater utility leaders and managers; government representatives and policy makers; scientists and researchers) to exchange information, ideas and experiences on the role of utilities in implementing climate adaptation and mitigation strategies.

This is your occasion to contribute to the global discussion around climate change resiliency. If you are interested in attending the Forum, you can e-mail [registration@waterclimateforum.org](mailto:registration@waterclimateforum.org) directly to receive follow up details on the event.

For more information on the Forum, visit the Forum website or contact Erica Brown, [info@waterclimateforum.org](mailto:info@waterclimateforum.org) or Raul Glotzbach, [raul.glotzbach@iwahq.org](mailto:raul.glotzbach@iwahq.org).

## **Water Loss 2016, 31 Jan. - 03 Feb. 2016, Bangalore, India**

The [IWA Water Loss 2016](#) will be held between January 31st & February 3rd, 2016 at The Lalit Ashok, Bangalore, India. The event is jointly organised by The International Water Association (IWA), Water Loss Specialist Group (WLSG) and India Water Works Association (IWWA) along with MM Activ Sci-Tech Communications.

The Water Loss 2016 is a critical meeting of water professionals, regulators and policy makers to address the challenges and solutions to help business and water utilities tackle water loss.

Water Loss 2016 is the right platform to foster partnerships & new collaborations. Thought leaders, decision makers, researchers and business representatives from inland & overseas will be a part of this event.

For more details see: <http://www.waterloss2016.com/>

## **Global Water Safety Conference, 25-28 April 2016, Puerto Princessa City, Palawan, Philippines**

Drinking-water quality monitoring and management is key to the realization of government commitments to provide their citizens with a reliable supply of clean and safe drinking-water. The risk-based drinking-water quality management methods and procedures applied along the chain of water extraction, treatment, distribution and supply, known as water safety planning (WSP), is gradually becoming best practice in countries around the world.

Water safety planning identifies risk points along this chain and proposes risk management measures to reduce or eliminate them, with an incremental impact on drinking water quality. Currently, the implementation of water safety plans is the best possible approach to guarantee the supply of safe and clean drinking water. It is a transparent, cost-effective procedure based on tested methods and allows for targeted corrections when needed.

To support efforts towards achieving global development goals as well as the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water, this process requires acceleration through

comprehensive capacity development, combining the strengthening of human skills, capabilities and capacities with the creation of an enabling legal, policy and institutional environment. To that end, the International Water Association (IWA) and the Philippine Water Works Association (PWWA) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) are organising the Global Water Safety Conference: A pathway to universal access of safe drinking water and sanitation and improved service delivery, to be held from 25 to 28 April 2016 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines.

For more details see <http://www.iwa-network.org/events/global-water-safety-conference>