



World Health
Organization



International
Water Association



Asia Pacific WSPortal News December 2015

Words from the Coordinator



Seasons Greetings!

As we wrap up the year, here I am to update you with a new series of latest updates on how water safety planning is being adopted, adapted and implemented across the Asia-Pacific region.

The focus in the countries that are now quite experienced with WSPs remains one of how to ensure that WSP activities are sustained in the longer term. The current program of work under the "Water Quality Partnership for Health" between WHO and the Australian government, that has kindly supported all of WHO's WSP work in South East Asia and the Western Pacific in recent years, will come to an end in June 2016. The IWA-WHO partnership through which we make these updates to you will continue. However as we enter another year,

we will undertake a review of how we broad-base the network and sustain and continue to enrich the learning platform, which is the WS Portal. We hope the WSP champions will continue to foster and sustain the efforts underway towards providing safe water. We have to explore and consider how WSPs can be sustained through the regulatory frameworks in country and through financing institutions and bilateral partners.

The [COP 21](#) and water

While one of the main outcomes of the COP 21 focuses on the fact that we will see, in the next decades, a significant shift in the global financial system away from fossil fuels towards more sustainable sources of energy, a significant step was taken towards improving water resources management. A wide geographic coalition of national and close to 290) river basin organizations (including cross-borders), governments, funding agencies, local governments, companies and civil society announced the creation of the international Paris Pact on Water and Climate Change Adaptation to make water systems more resilient to climate impacts. The rationale is that climate change, coupled with unsustainable use of water, are causing widespread impacts on societies and economies, creating droughts, floods and warming which affect all water systems and trigger negative and often fatal impacts. Without improved water resources management, the progress towards poverty reduction targets, the achievement of the SDGs, and sustainable development in all its economic, social and environmental dimensions, will be jeopardized.

The Paris Pact on Water and Climate Change Adaptation encompasses individual commitments to implement adaptation plans, strengthening water monitoring and measurement systems in river basins and promoting financial sustainability and new investment in water systems management. These major collaborative projects combined represent over US\$20 million in technical assistance and potentially over US\$ 1 billion in financing, some of which are planned to the benefit of Asian countries.

Report on WSP activities

Successful meeting of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WSH) working Group

The Thematic Working Group on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (TWG WSH), is a working group established in 2007 under the Charter of the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries. The TWG members, representing 14 countries, lead the Regional Forum's knowledge exchange efforts on all WSH matters. At the fourth meeting of the TWG WSH, held November 26 – 27, 2015 in Manila, Philippines, the 15 participants

representing ministries of Health, Agriculture and Environment from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam, identified new priorities and prepared a draft three-year strategic plan. (Brunei, China, Japan and Myanmar could not attend the meeting).

The TWG–WSH discussed ways to establish the future articulation of the TWG with the Regional Forum and ways to ensure the sustainability of its structure. Participating countries also presented progress reports on the implementation of Water Safety Plans (WSP), a priority area of the TWG and focussed on the analysis and the challenges ahead to prepare in view of attaining the 2030 SDG targets, based on an assessment of the 2015 MDG accomplishments.

The TWG adopted text to determine its vision, mission and goals as well as for the objectives for the next three years.

Vision: Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are safely managed ensuring good health and well-being, for all.

Mission: Promote access and use of WASH services for all, through effective regional cooperation.

Goals: 1. Serve as the most effective platform to enable national and regional actions achieve the SDG 6 targets; 2. Ensure resilient quality of WASH services that can adapt to climate change impacts and able to reduce vulnerability to disasters.

Objectives: To promote global, regional and local knowledge and information exchange on WASH among member states and partners, within and outside of the Region; To support strengthening of WASH surveillance and monitoring mechanisms to facilitate progress reporting towards the SDG 6 indicators; To facilitate coordination and integration of WASH promotion; To develop and implement strategies for resource mobilization.

South East Asia Region (SEAR) activities – progress and 2016 priorities

The main focus in 2016 will be on impact assessment data collection and WSP auditing, plus the development of strategies, documents and/or activities for longer-term water quality surveillance (which includes WSP auditing). SEAR is excited that many of the Master Trainers who went through intensive training in Bangkok, Thailand and Nagpur, India in 2014 will be leading international auditing of WSPs (with the support of international experts).

The main activities by country will be:

In Bangladesh, water quality surveillance piloting will have been completed by the end of 2015 and consequences for wider implementation will be considered;

In Bhutan, the Drinking Water Quality Standards (DWQS) are close to being finalized and in 2016 the focus will be on how to implement;

In Myanmar, the focus will be on piloting and developing final point source WSP materials for national use. If time permits, then a surveillance protocol will be developed to complement the DWQS that were approved in 2014;

In Nepal, DWQS have been drafted and SEARO and Darryl Jackson will work with the Thematic Working Group on Water Quality to finalize these in the first half of 2016. A pilot surveillance program will also be completed and will inform the DWQS finalization process;

Timor Leste, DWQS are awaiting approval and the main focus will be on how to operationalize these;

In Thailand, a review of WSP status will be carried out with recommendations on how to improve. WHO has enjoyed constructive work with the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority in Bangkok and propose to use them as a centre of excellence in the future.

Bi-regional workshop on water quality surveillance, WSP auditing and post-2015 WASH monitoring, 12-16 October 2015

In workshop was held at the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority in Bangkok attended by more than 120 delegates from more than 25 countries to:

- review water quality policy frameworks, regulatory requirements and the capacity of countries for water quality surveillance;
- identify best practices and opportunities for strengthening water quality surveillance in countries;
- introduce a new WHO guidance document on auditing of WSPs;
- define key national, regional and global priorities and action plans for monitoring of drinking water and sanitation (in the post 2015 era) to ensure that:
 - reliable and up-to-date national, regional and global data for monitoring sustainable access to safe drinking-water and basic sanitation coverage status and trends is compiled and analyzed;
 - data is disseminated to support informed policy- and decision-making by national governments and international development partners;
 - new indicators and data collection mechanisms related to sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation are developed and validated, focusing on the needs of post-2015 monitoring; and
 - developing countries have the ability to accurately monitor status and trends with respect to the use of safe drinking-water and basic sanitation, and safely managed WASH services.

The meeting was highly informative and with many examples from the region and beyond of good practice and of tools, equipment and technical advice available to help in this important area in the future. The full meeting report will be published in the first quarter of 2016 but the key issues and questions relating to surveillance were summarized as:

- Many surveillance activities involve MoH and ministries in charge of water supply, so

- how to coordinate with each other and with statistical offices for SDG monitoring?
- Protocols will be required for surveillance/auditing to support SDG and inform their monitoring
- Surveillance / auditing at this stage more about encouraging than penalizing

Regulatory frameworks

- Identify legislation required to give authority to develop standards and carry out surveillance and enforcement
- Drinking water quality standards and monitoring guidelines should be progressed to support surveillance
- Establish realistic water quality surveillance systems and inventories
- Prepare, pilot and implement water quality surveillance guidelines and protocols
- Develop and pilot certification schemes for WSP compliance

Capacity development

- WSP (and audit) templates
- Training for WSPs – operational monitoring and auditing
- Assessing testing capacity and training on testing at district / province / village level
- Accreditation of training institutions
- Certification of auditors
- Accreditation of WSPs (even down to village level - awards)

Data Management

- Identify different options for transparent data reporting, management and feedback
- Development of GIS and link WQ surveillance indicators to WASH MIS
- WSP monitoring system linked to SDG

How to test

- Identify able/willing water quality testing partners (government, academia, private sector)
- Identify appropriate and available testing kits
- Innovative partnerships for water quality testing

Status of Flood and Drought Management Tools (Decision Support System - DSS)

The DSS development has focussed on the following topics:

- Platform and tools for the DSS
- Drought management

- Support for Water Safety Planning (WSP)
- Climate processing (short, medium and long term)

Click [here](#) to read the full note.

Flood and Drought Symposium

To contribute to improving and stimulating the use of information about floods, droughts and future scenarios into planning across scales, from basins to water utilities, IWA and DHI in partnership with CapNet and the Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute (HAI) held the Flood and Drought Symposium, on 23 November 2015, at the United Nations Convention Centre. Click [here](#) for more information on the Symposium.

Flood and Drought Technical Training in Thailand

Between November 24 and 26 2015 IWA and DHI organised a technical workshop in Bangkok, Thailand. The event was the first of a series of trainings planned to enable users to consolidate information that can be used to make decisions on how to prepare and respond to extreme events. Click [here](#) to read the overview and agenda of the training

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

WSP Champion



In this issue we feature Mr. Chanthone Sanaphay, Deputy Director, Luang Prabang Water Supply State-Enterprise, Luang Prabang Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic. [Read the full interview here](#) .

Upcoming Events

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 Princesa 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>