



Asia Pacific WSPortal News April 2015

Words from the Coordinator



It is again a pleasure for me to address you with the latest development towards providing safe drinking water to millions of people in the Region. Over 25 countries in the Asia Pacific Region are implementing water safety plans (WSP) by now, many of them in close collaboration with WHO through its Water Quality Partnership (WQP), which is sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – DFAT. The current WQP was initiated in 2004 and will come to an end in June 2016. I shall report back to you on the WQPs' most recent achievements.

The implementation of WSP is in full swing in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Laos DPR, Nepal, The Philippines, and Vietnam. Together these countries are planning the establishment of over 150 urban and over 350 rural WSPs before July 2016 - and the focus is beginning to shift to WSP monitoring, review and improvement, as well as priorities for long-term sustainability.

In those countries that joined the WQP in 2012, the focus continues to be on developing robust pilot WSPs and on preparing WSP training materials, many of which are already available in local languages. The Cook Islands is integrating WSP principles in the new drinking-water supply system being set up in its capital Rarotonga and into the new National Ridge to Reef Water Policy to be tabled for government approval by mid-2015. The Ministry of Health (MoH) Indonesia has embraced WSPs as core part of its WASH program in urban and rural locations. Besides the community WSP manual was translated into Bahasa Indonesia and Tetun for Timor

Leste. In Myanmar, MoH led work to develop village-based WSPs, using simplified WSP tools specific to point sources. Samoa is developing three new WSPs and Vanuatu is establishing the seven rural WSPs endorsed in 2014 by MoH. Further, in both countries, the additional manpower contracted recently will strengthen WSP mainstreaming. In Tonga, MoH is effectively supporting the establishment of four rural WSPs.

Country ownership of the WQP program is steadily moving forward and decisive WSP policies are being put in place. The establishment of WSP is now a legal obligation for all drinking water supplies, in all urban settings in Vietnam, and nation-wide in Bhutan, in Laos PDR, in Nepal and in The Philippines. In March 2015, Mongolia's Government re-confirmed this positive trend with the signature of a Joint Order between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development declaring WSPs compulsory nation-wide. The inclusion of WSPs into the 3rd Mongolian National Program of Environmental Health is well under way. These are models that many of us could follow.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the trainees who benefited from the 2014 Regional WSP Master Trainers program organized by WHO are expected to play a key role in serving as national and regional resource persons to support and sustain WSPs beyond 2016. The WSP Master Training materials will be published by mid-2015.

A significant achievement to be mentioned is the completion of baseline (pre-WSP) data collection to conduct WSP impact assessments (IA) in a total of 15 countries across a range of water supply system types and sizes. The 36 IA indicators are designed to measure water quality and health impacts of WSPs as well as operational, financial, policy, institutional and equity outcomes. Follow-up (post-WSP) data will be collected from the same sites in 2016, and WSP impacts will be assessed and reported at the end of the WQP.

In view of rendering their national WSP programmes more sustained, the WQP countries are consolidating and expanding their close working relationships not only with other sectors, but also with development partners and agencies supporting and promoting WSPs. One such case is the increasing countries' collaboration with the Asian Development Bank or ADB. China – see the Note on ADB's publication on WSP in China, in this issue*. Cambodia, Lao PDR and Bhutan, are receiving ADB loans for projects addressing infrastructure improvement needs identified through WQP-supported WSPs. Vietnam's Safe Water Improvement and Investment Plan, highlighting the need for larger scale investment, plans to attract donors and other funding sources and a national mechanism for Water Supply Companies (WSCs) to access funding sources, will be disseminated at a national workshop to be held in mid-2015. ADB will be invited to participate.

We are working in a period where water safety planning is beginning to take root. We are also beginning to bring together evidence of outcomes and impacts that water safety plans are delivering. Truly exciting times as we conclude the 2015 MDGs and contemplate achieving the targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals!

I would also like to draw your attention to an recent WHO/ UNICEF /WaterAid Report "[Water, sanitation and hygiene in health care facilities: Status in low and middle income countries and](#)

[the way forward](#)”, the first ever comprehensive, multi-country analysis on WaSH services in health care facilities that was released in March 2015. It evaluates available WaSH data from 66,101 health-care facilities in 54 low- and middle-income countries (in Asia there is a substantial lack of data) and found that 38 % of those facilities lack an improved water source, 19 % lack improved sanitation, and 35 % lack soap for hand washing -- situations that impede even basic health-care services such as safe child delivery. The Report calls for global action to push toward 100 % availability of these services through new policies, collaboration, training and monitoring. We are confident that countries will address this challenge successfully using our wide WSP experience!

Report on WSP activities

Two important activities started in the first quarter of 2015 coordinated by WHO’s South East Asian and Western Pacific Regional Offices (SEARO and WPRO)

- Collection of baseline data for an water safety plan impact assessment survey which will seek to assess objectively (through 36 indicators) the policy, operational, financial and institutional outcomes and water supply and health impacts of water safety plans being implemented in the region;

- Completion of a water quality (including water safety plan) surveillance survey by member countries to identify where the institutional responsibilities and laboratory capacity lie for water quality surveillance and priorities for future support. This is in advance of a bi-regional meeting on water quality surveillance which will be held in October 2015.

Indicator groups		No. of indicators in each group
OUTCOMES	POLICY OUTCOMES	
	Group P1: Formal regulatory changes	2
	Group P2: Changes in norms of practice	2
	OPERATIONAL OUTCOMES	
	Group O1: Changes in system infrastructure	1
	Group O2: Changes in operation and management procedures	1
	FINANCIAL OUTCOMES	
	Group F1: Cost changes	2
	Group F2: Changes in cost recovery	2
	Group F3: Changes in financial support and investment	2
	INSTITUTIONAL OUTCOMES	
	Group I1: Changes in communication and collaboration among stakeholders	3
	Group I2: Changes in water supplier knowledge and understanding	2
	EQUITY OUTCOMES	
	Group E1: Changes in consideration of equity	1
IMPACTS	WATER SUPPLY IMPACTS	
	Group W1: Water service changes	4
	Group W2: Water quality changes	7
	Group W3: Consumer satisfaction changes	4
	HEALTH IMPACTS	
	Group H1: Changes in incidence of water-related illness	3
Total # of indicators (between the 13 indicator groups) =		36

Water Quality Surveillance Survey

Goal - Improved water quality surveillance in urban and rural areas in the region, through:

Objectives

To understand

- policy frameworks and regulatory requirements for water quality surveillance
- roles and responsibilities of different agencies for water quality surveillance
- capacity of different countries for water quality surveillance
- linkage between capacity and roles and responsibilities

To identify

- Best practice
- Key policy, regulatory, capacity and resource gaps
- Solutions

To define

- Key national and regional priorities and actions for future water quality surveillance

Manual on Urban Water Safety Plan training

Comprehensive materials for urban water safety plan training have been finalized and will shortly be published by WHO SEARO. The materials have been thoroughly tested during many training sessions held in the region and at the program for master trainers held in Bangkok, Thailand and Nagpur, India at the end of 2014 and comprise:

1. Presenter's guide
2. PowerPoint note pages for presenter
3. Participant's handbook
4. Worksheets and other resources for participants
5. Table group worksheets (A3 size)

For information on these materials please contact David Sutherland at SEARO; Email: sutherlandda@who.int

Study on integrating household water treatment and storage (HWTS) into water safety plans

In the first quarter of 2015, a pilot study looked at water quality changes and risk factors

associated with existing HWTS practices in a town in Bhutan and integrated the findings into the existing water safety plan. The study:

- 1.characterized changes in water quality through the HWTS process;
- 2.identified the hazards, risks and appropriate control measures associated with existing HWTS and handling practices;
- 3.integrated this information into the town's water safety plan; and
- 4.provided a template for scaling-up this work in other water supply systems.

For information on these materials please contact David Sutherland at SEARO; Email: sutherlandda@who.int

Linking WSP with catchment management – call for case studies

IWA is promoting water safety planning with a catchment management and source protection perspective.

Healthy ecosystems in well-functioning watersheds are essential to provide the water supply to cities, sustain water quality for urban water supply, industries and recreation, as well as mitigate the impacts of floods and drought on the urban landscape.

Consequently, decisions made at the catchment level and the local level needs to be linked. In the case of many water utilities, there has been little control or engagements with the catchment and the control measures have tended to focus from the intake. However, WSP provides a framework which gives more priority to catchment initiatives with collaboration between water companies and catchment stakeholders.

IWA welcomes welcome your input through the submission of case studies that demonstrate how Water Safety Planning is linking and collaborating with stakeholders in the wider catchment and your suggestions on the scope for collaboration between water companies and catchment stakeholders.

To collect your case studies we have created an online form. Access the form here:

<http://goo.gl/forms/z8w8Fl54es>

The case studies will be used as part of ongoing training programmes on water safety planning, and will also be consolidated into an IWA publication in the future

Flood and Drought Management Tools – Water Safety Planning supported by technical tools

IWA, in collaboration with DHI, is executing the 'Flood and Drought Management Tool' project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNEP. The project is

being implemented from 2014 – 2018, with the purpose of developing tools within a decision support system (DSS) to facilitate the inclusion of information on floods, droughts and future scenarios into different scales of planning at the catchment and water utility level.

One of the outputs from the project will be software to support decisions within planning with focus on floods and drought, referred to as a Decision Support System (DSS). This DSS will contain a number of technical tools with different functionality.

Potential areas where the DSS and accompanying tools will be developed, tested and validated (application areas for DSS validation) is based on stakeholder feedback. In the case of water utilities, the entry point is water safety planning, and technical tools supporting each of the WSP modules will be developed with a focus on flood and drought implementation. The DSS aims to fit into the WSP framework and assist the water utilities in the different WSP stages in the context of flood and drought management planning.

For more information see <http://fdmt.iwlearn.org/en/about-the-project/newsletter>

WSP Champion



In this issue we feature Mr. Gyewoon Choi, CEO of K-water. K-Water is a public enterprise in the Republic of Korea. It plays a vital role to enhance water resources development and management, besides supplying safe water. [Read the full interview here](#).

Upcoming Events

African Utility Week and Clean Power Africa 12-14 May 2015, Cape Town, South Africa

African Utility Week and Clean Power Africa is first of its kind, “must-attend event” for the power and water utilities professionals in Africa. The conference features exclusive 3 keynote and plenary sessions featuring the most sought-after speakers and you can choose from 8 different break-out sessions focussing on specific topics addressing the latest industry developments.

For more details see: <http://www.african-utility-week.com/conference>

World Water Week 23-28 August 2015, Stockholm, Sweden

World Water Week in Stockholm is the annual focal point for the globe’s water issues. It is organized by SIWI. This year is the jubilee year for both the Week and the Stockholm Water Prize. The theme is **Water for Development**.

The programme of 2015 World Water Week consist of over 160 events and 8 workshops. During the 90-minute events, the most relevant topics relating to “Water for Development” will be discussed – i.e. Financing, SDGs, Integrity, Gender issues, Climate Change, Energy, Sanitation, Food, Conflict Resolution, Water Management, among others.

For more details see: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

Watertech India 02-04 September 2015, NewDelhi, India

Watertech India 2015 will be the premier event for water, waste water management, desalination, membranes & membrane, ion exchange resins & technologies.

The show held from 2 — 4 September 2015 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi will play a primary role for domestic and international markets providing market ready solutions. For more details see : <http://watertech-india.in.messefrankfurt.com/newdelhi/en/exhibitors/welcome.html>

3rd Global WOPs Congress 16-18 September 2015, Barcelona, Spain

The 3rd Global WOPs Congress is dedicated to the work of these service providers in contributing to our sustainable development. Utilities, donors, knowledge institutions and key urban water sector stakeholders from around the world will gather in Barcelona to advance knowledge, exchange experience, and initiate support for water and sanitation operators through Water Operators' Partnerships.

The event will be held from September 16-18th, 2015 at Barcelona's Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site and will be conducted in English, French and Spanish.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be the focus of this year's Congress.

For more details see: <http://gwopa.org/index.php/what-gwopa-does/global-wops-congress-and-general-assembly>

Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 18-22 October 2015, Jordan

The Water and Development Congress & Exhibition brings together thought leaders and decision makers from within and outside the water sector to address the key issue of '**Water Security for Sustainable Growth**'. Organised by the International Water Association (IWA) in Jordan from 18 – 22 October.

The Water and Development Congress & Exhibition is the biennial global event on water solutions for developing and emerging countries. You are invited to contribute to this event by sharing your knowledge and expertise with fellow professionals working on water resource, water supply and sanitation with a focus on emerging economies. You will join over 1000 water professionals from government, research institutes, consultancies, technology companies, NGO's, service providers, and other key stakeholders from within and outside of the water sector.

The Congress focus will be on key topics that catalyse transformational change and support transition to new ways of managing water resources and delivering water services. You can contribute to this event in various ways, by submitting a paper, becoming a strategic partner, exhibiting, sponsoring or joining the discussion as a delegate; there are plentiful opportunities to showcase your work and experiences and to hear from others.

For more details see: <http://www.iwa-network.org/WDCE2015/>

***Note for the Issue**

[Mainstreaming Water Safety Plans in ADB Water Sector Projects: Lessons and Challenges.](#)

A recent Asian Development Bank (ADB) report documents the pilot application of the guidance note for mainstreaming WSP in water projects supported by ADB as piloted in the Chongqing Municipality in the Peoples' Republic of China. The guidance note seeks to promote systematic assessment and management of water safety risks from infrastructure construction to operation. The pilot concluded that WSP could be effectively integrated into ADB's project preparation with careful scoping, planning, and evaluation. The report also summarizes challenges and lessons learned from the pilot. A key conclusion from the pilot demonstration activity in Chongqing Municipality, People's Republic of China was that WSPs could be effectively integrated into the project preparation of ADB with careful scoping, planning, and evaluation.

Nepal Earthquake

As you must be all aware, Nepal was hit by a massive earthquake on 25 April 2015. At the time of compiling this newsletter, the death toll as per official estimates has crossed 5000. Relief and rescue operations are on in full swing with the international community coming with all resources to help rebuild Nepal.

Our deepest condolences for the lost lives in Nepal. We stand in solidarity with the people of Nepal in their hour of crisis. We hope the efforts are sustained over time and varied needs addressed, including those of water and sanitation. WHO's South East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) is closely working with the Government of Nepal in coordinating health and medical needs of the affected. To read more about WHO-SEARO's work in Nepal you can visit <http://www.searo.who.int/entity/emergencies/nepal-earthquake-2015/en/>
