

NGO Water and Sanitation Working Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting called by: WatSan WG Chair Type of Meeting: WatSan Working Group
 Chaired by: Rick McGowan - EMWF Note takers: Rick and Ha EMWF / NGORC
 Date: Friday, March 28, 2008

----- Agenda Topics -----

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| 1. Participant Self-introduction and Contact Information | All |
| 2. Sanitary Latrines Practices of WatSan WG Organizations (see table below) | Rick McGowan |
| 3. Wastewater Treatment Concepts for Industries in Rural and Urban Areas | Steffen Grothe |
| 4. Sanitation and Hygiene Information, Education and Communication (IEC) | All
John Pinfold |
| 5. RWSS Monitoring and Evaluation | All |
| 6. Water Quality Monitoring | All |
| 7. Water, Sanitation, Environmental, and Global Climate Change Seminars | Rick McGowan and
John Collett |

Next Meeting: Friday May 30 at 3:00 - 5:00

Participant Affiliation and Contact Information

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Discussion topics for this week's meeting on Friday May 28 at 3:00 – 5:00 included the following:

1. Sanitary Latrine Practices of WatSan WG members and CLTS

In order to collect basic information on the different sanitary latrine programs being carried out by our colleagues, we passed around a "Questionnaire for Latrine Use, Design, Cost, and Subsidies (see Appendix) to get a sense of what various NGOs in the WatSan WG are doing in this area. The results of this brief assessment will be discussed in the next meeting.

In spite of all the efforts of John Collett of PLAN in Vietnam made to get me the four Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) DVDs that he had obtained, they did not arrive in the mail until Saturday afternoon on the day after our meeting. As this was to have been one of the main issues discussed in this meeting, we will preset the DVDs at the next meeting on May 30. If anybody planning to attend the next meeting has any significant experience with CLTS, please contact us and let us know whether you could provide additional supporting information to complement the DVDs. Of particular note is the successful Sanitation Marketing Project in Dak Rong district in Quang Nam Province implemented by IDE Vietnam. IDE motivates rural, ethnic families to purchase low-cost (and unsubsidized) latrines, and successfully promotes improved sanitation and hygiene behaviors. After 19 months of project implementation (August 2006 to March 2008) the latrine coverage in project areas has increased from 4% to 22%. Among households who purchased latrines, 27% were classified as poor, and 48% are ethnic minorities. In part as a result of IDE's efforts, the ratio of latrine use in 30 communes of Quang Nam and Thanh Hoa has increased to 28% after 34 months of project implementation (from August 2003 to June 2006). All of these latrines were financed by the households themselves, without any external subsidies.

EMWF has recently initiated a sanitary latrine promotion program to complement its longstanding piped water supply program in Quang Nam and several other Central Region Provinces. EMWF has already supported the construction of an initial 500 latrines with a partial subsidy of 25% as a stimulant to encourage people to initially get involved. This market stimulant is intended to be steadily reduced and eventually eliminated over time. EMWF's intention is to work together with the local authorities to eventually achieve nearly 100% coverage of sanitary latrines in the communities where EMWF has installed piped water systems.

UNICEF also implemented a program together with MOH that combines promotion of both sanitary latrines and improved hygiene behavior, in particular, handwashing with soap. Latrines developed with UNICEF support cost 700.000 VND for one pour-flush latrine. This program is in part responsible for an estimated increase of sanitary latrine coverage of 7% at the district level, and 5% in the remote rural areas (the period over which this took place was not specified).

The German Red Cross (GRC) works together with GOV Programs 134 and 135 to provide support for totally subsidized family latrines in ethnic minority areas. GRC is also considering additional support for providing safe water and sanitation especially for ethnic minority communities who have very low coverage of sanitary latrines. (According to the latest figures from the Young Lives International Survey, only 6% of the ethnic minority population of Vietnam have access to improved sanitation facilities).

Everyone should follow the Government's guidelines about water and sanitation development, including the recently revised GOV Circular 80, which specifies a 75% subsidy to "demonstration latrines" for poor households but that there is no general subsidy for latrines and this engages the private sector. There was considerable discussion about whether or not to use subsidies to promote household latrines. IDE does not provide any cash subsidies at all, only technical and motivational support, along with developing trained latrine builders and community motivators. IDE supports people in cooperating communities to establish groups how to develop rotating loan systems for

financing latrines. Most participants felt that, except in the case of very poor communities, subsidies for constructing latrines should be avoided.

2. Wastewater Treatment Concepts for Industries in Rural and Urban Areas

A Water Demand Estimation Model for rural craft villages was developed for centralized and local water supply in the Red River Delta, Vietnam. This was a guest presentation of a study by German Geographer Steffen Grothe on the Integrated Water resources Management (IWRM) project in Nam Dinh Province. For metal working industrial companies (model "Industrial Group Tong Xa", Tong Xa village, Yen Xa commune, Y Yen district) the installation and operation of a pilot facility for heavy metal elimination will be realized. Additionally production processes shall be optimized e.g. for a reduced water and raw material demand. Ref: Institute of Geography and Geology: <http://www.uni-greifswald.de>. Also for sub urban regions (model "My Trung Industrial Zone", Nam Dinh city) the development of wastewater treatment and production integrated environmental protection is planned. The controlling of processes as well as material and energy flows of all users of an industrial area is here the key for a full refinancing concept for requested wastewater treatment facilities.

Waste water treatments systems for rural and suburban residential areas: For rural residential areas (model „Residential area Tong Xa“, Tong Xa village, Yen Xa commune, Y Yen district) adapted wastewater treatment systems will be developed. Subsequently treatment facilities (e. g. reed beds) will be installed and operated. All developments will be integrated in the settlement structure. For suburban residential areas (model "Nam Dinh city") it is planned to develop an adjusted pilot water treatment facility and adjusted channel network management.

3. Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

Ben Cole's CERWASS comparative study on IEC materials (*Report on the Collation, Assessment, and Dissemination of WES-Related Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials in Vietnam*, February 2007) was discussed in a WatSan WG meeting shortly after its release. This meeting's discussion of this topic focused on collecting information on what specific IEC activities and materials (if any) WatSan WG members typically apply in their projects. Note that there was a meeting the following week focusing specifically on this subject (see brief description of this in Section 7 below). It has been redistributed as part of the seminar introducing the new National CERWASS Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) IEC online library (see section 7 below). Please click the link below for the IEC presentation:

http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/system/files/docs/Watsan_EICAssesment_presentation_031106.pdf

4. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

M&E Updates: John Pinfold (Standing Office RWSS NTP II, Department of Water Resources) mentioned that the new M&E system will be approved later this month and includes 14 indicators, 8 at the sector level and 6 at the programme level. The water coverage indicator is divided into "clean" and "hygienic" water categories. Environmental sanitation indicators include latrine coverage for households/ schools/clinics and waste treatment for animal pens and trade villages. At the program level, indicators cover W&S outputs, investment costs and sustainability.

At the program level, GOV, multilateral (World Bank, ADB) and bilateral (country to country, e.g., AusAID, Danida, Finnida, etc.) donors and NGOs will report the required data to MARD through formats developed. Sector level is to be by village health workers or headman and relayed through local authorities. Training on who to do this will be provided to the local authorities. A workshop presenting the standardized M&E methodology and indicators will be arranged after its approval

around the end of this month. WatSan WG members should strive to consistently utilize these standardized indicators in their monitoring and evaluation programs.

5. Water Quality Monitoring

This is a recurrent issue under discussion at the WatSan WG meetings, as there are many different approaches and level of detail carried out by different organizations involved in providing RWSS services, and some organizations follow GOV regulations (which some might consider expensive and/or too detailed, for them to carry out for either financial, organizational or technical reasons. Several participants mentioned different kinds of testing equipment (e.g., Hatch kits, LaMotte Smart-II Colorimeter, etc.). These vary considerably in capacity and cost. But even if an organization does have its own WQ testing equipment, some groups are nonetheless required to get water samples tested by local government laboratories, which can be considerably costly indeed.

MoH is responsible for issuing guidelines / instructions on water quality monitoring (Circular No.15/2006/TT-BYT dated 30/11/2006). However, MoH is in the process of developing new rural hygiene water quality norms with a view to making rural water quality management more realistic.

6. Water, Sanitation, Environmental, and Global Climate Change Seminars

There were an unusually high number of seminars and workshops related to water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and global warming that took place over the last two months. We should make it a point to advise our membership of upcoming seminars or workshops that they might be interested in attending. Some of these workshops are sometimes publicized on very short notice, so that not all interested parties are able to participate. If you hear of any upcoming seminars or workshops that relevant to our water and sanitation interests, please let us know so that we can notify our membership to see if they are interested and able to attend (some workshops have limited membership / participation that will have to be respected). Among those workshops were:

- National CERWASS Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) IEC online library launch on Friday 4th April which introduced the new searchable website of WES IEC materials in Vietnam. It is co-sponsored by Plan, UNICEF and CERWASS, and can be reached at: www.cerwass.org.vn/wesieclib/uni/home/index.php. Also available in the launch information pack was a DVD copy of the website contents and the February 2007 report on the collation, assessment and dissemination of WES-related IEC materials in Vietnam that led to the creation of the online library.
- Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES) IEC Library in Vietnam which introduced the new searchable (somewhat) and broad ranging CERWASS website on many topics you would want to find out about related to water supply and sanitation (and many related topics) in Vietnam. It is co-sponsored by Plan, UNICEF and CERWASS, and can be reached at: (www.cerwass.org.vn/wesieclib/uni/home/index.php) (March 4). Also passed out at this seminar was a copy of Ben Cole's IEC Materials Assessment Study.
- A MONRE-sponsored conference on Environment protection and supply clean water in 2008—this was a very high level seminar that focused on water and environmental issues in the context of a rapidly developing Vietnam. Several very high level participants attended this meeting. This was co-sponsored by the Vietnam Association for Safe Water and Environment and MONRE.
- USAID Environmental Compliance Training (March 25-26) – A USAID senior environmental advisor gave a two day seminar on USAID environmental compliance, which would have been useful for any of you who carry out or review USAID environmental assessments.

- UNICEF Water and Sanitation – There was supposed to have been a multi-donor discussion at UNICEF about RWSS on April 10 (today), but it was delayed and focused primarily on dioxin / Agent Orange issues instead, with the intention that the WatSan issues would be addressed in a subsequent workshop.
- MONRE / MARD Global Climate Change - There was another MONRE and MARD seminar about a month and a half ago (January 22) on Global Climate Change. As you all know, this is a very hot issue that is being actively supported and soon to be funded by multilateral and bilateral donors, especially bilateral donors from the Northern European countries. All the major multilateral and bilateral donors heavy were in attendance (World Bank, ADB, USAID, Danida, CARE, Plan, EMWF, and many others).
- Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) / World Bank WSP International Year of Sanitation Action Planning Meeting, Ha Long 29 Feb-1st March 2, 2008.

For further detailed information on these and other issues related to water supply and sanitation development in Vietnam, please visit the link: <http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/node/216>

7. Next Meeting Topics

Topics tentatively proposed for our next meeting on 30 May 2008 include the following:

- Household water treatment technologies and applications;
- Experience and information sharing/program on biogas and composting;
- Further discussion on the issue of subsidies in promoting household latrines;
- The DVDs on Community Led Total Sanitation; and
- The soon to be released water and sanitation monitoring and evaluation guidelines.

As always, any proposed topics that you would be interested in discussing or presenting, please let us know, and we will review and/or help you prepare a brief presentation.

Questionnaire for Latrine Use, Design, Cost, Subsidies, etc.

1. Organization: _____ Name of WatSan Program: _____

2. Latrines: (circle appropriate answers)

- Kind(s) and Cost(s) of latrines that you support (circle answer)

- Pour/Flush Latrines w/Septic Tanks: Yes No How many total? Yearly: _____

- Eco-San: Yes No How many total? Yearly: _____

- Other kinds (specify): _____ How many total? Yearly: _____

- Cost of latrines that you support

- Type of Latrine: _____

- Avg. Cost of latrine: VND _____

- Type of Latrine: _____

- Avg. Cost of latrine: VND _____

- Type of Latrine: _____

- Avg. Cost of latrine: VND _____

- Financing – How are the latrines paid for? Pls briefly describe:

- Are any subsidies provided? Pls briefly describe.

3. Any ideas about new arrangements, designs, financing?

4. Handwashing Program: Yes No

Please describe:

The data collected from this questionnaire is summarized in the following table. I hope that we will be able to continue to update the information in this table with information from other NGOs and well as government agencies.

Quick Summary of Sanitary Latrine Types from WatSan WG Members

Organization	Program Name	Latrine Type(s)	# per year	Total Built		Cost		Subsidy
				household	school	household	school	
EAST Vietnam	Program Solidarity Eau	Pour/Flush/Septic	15-20	15-20	6	9,000,000	36,000,000	50%
UNICEF	Water Environ.Sanitation	PFS / EcoSan/DV /FP	no info	no info	no info	700,000	no info	700,000
MARD	RWSS NTP-II	PFS / EcoSan / DVP	000,000	000,000s	000,000s	varies	varies	75%
G-Red Cross	Comm.Health Care Devel	VIP double vault Pit Latrine		1500-2500	20	1,000,000 450,000	no info	100%
Habitat for Hm	Household WSS Support	Pour Flush / Pit	550	no info	no info	1-1.5,000,000	no info	"some"
French RC	Bac Yan WatSan Program	EcoSan/DV compost	400			700,000	(with out infrastructure)	
EMWF	Clean Water Sanitation	Pour/Flush Septic	500	752	243	1,600,000	243	25%
Intl.Dev.Enter.		Pour/Flush Septic	4000		0	1,700,000	septic tank	0%
						1,000,000	double vault	0%
						1,500,000	ptic w/ cement	0%