

## Session Report Cover Sheet

<b>SESSION CODE: POVE-02-2<sup>nd</sup> session of the afternoon</b>	
<b>Name of Convener(s): Peter Rogers</b>	
<b>DATE: 20 March</b> <b>- March, 2003 (12.45 – 3.30 )</b>	<b>Session Title: Changing Policies and Improving Governance for Water Security for the Poor</b>
<b>Contact information in Japan</b>	<b>Accommodation: Room D KICH</b>
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## Session Report

**SESSION CODE: POVE-02-2-nd session of the afternoon**

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### 1. Key Issues

The session focused on the key issues of good governance and improved water policies, both of which are essential to increasing the access of poor people to water resources and services. The challenges associated with understanding how to improve governance and policies were explored and a number of case studies were presented to illustrate where progress is possible.

### 2. Key Quotes

**Barbara Schreiner, Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa, discussing Changing Policies and Improving Governance for Water Security for the Poor – the Case of South Africa:**

“Lack of access to water (be it for drinking or for productive purposes) is an intrinsic element of the general state of deprivation that is poverty. If you do not have access to water you are by definition poor.”

“If we can solve the crisis of governance, we can solve the crisis of water.”

“It is easier to develop policy and legislation than to put those into practice but a firm grounding in legislation gives a spring board for moving into implementation.”

**Roger Fitzgerald, WaterAid, speaking on The Soozhal Initiative: A Model for Achieving Sanitation in Low Income Areas in Cuddalore District, India:**

“Why is the government struggling to implement sanitation and how is the NGO sector coping and making progress?.....The government has numerous resources that are not being tapped properly.”

“Community based organisation provide a reliable structure and systems for programme implementation. ... Hygiene promotion through [them] multiplies the effects and the reach providing enhanced results.”

**Rattna Reddy, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, presenting findings from a study on Watershed Development in Andhra Pradesh, India:**

“High indebtedness and high incidence of suicide among farmers due to the drought, high input costs and lack of market support, are a worrying fact...”

“The poor include the landed because less than 20 % of households are landless ... the limiting factor is therefore water, not land. Water reform must come before land reform”.

“The rich and medium farmers benefit more than the poor [from the Watershed Development Programme] because they can assess high cost government interventions ... but the poor benefit from additional employment, higher wages and reduced migration.”

**Alain Mathys, Ondeo, speaking on Public Private Partnership for Addressing Water Poverty, The Manaus Concession, Brazil:**

“Community motivation, willingness, demand and participation are central [to water service provision].”

“Reduction in household expenditure on water [was observed in the project area] it is not always the case that the private sector results in an increase.”

**Ma Zhongyu, Renmin University of China, making a presentation on Sustaining Beijing’s Water Supply: Implications for Integrated Water Resource Management and Poverty Reduction.**

“Beijing is rich in water resources but per capita annual water availability this has declined from 1800 m<sup>3</sup> in 1949 to 300 m<sup>3</sup> at present, in line with a population increases in the period from 2.2 to 14 million”.

“Low water prices not only stimulate water consumption, but also reduce funds available for securing sustainable water supplies or improving demand management, thus creating a vicious cycle.”

**Kaoru Hayashi and Naoko Shinkai, Japanese Bank for International Cooperation Institute, presenting findings on Infrastructure Development and Poverty Reduction: A Case Study of Irrigation Infrastructure in Sri Lanka:**

“Studies have been conducted to investigate the macroeconomic impact of infrastructure development. However, there are relatively few studies conducted on the microeconomic effects of development aid such as that for infrastructure on poverty reduction”.

“The dynamic impact of irrigation on poverty is seen in the smoothing effect of irrigation on monthly expenditures.”

**Danielle Morley, Freshwater Action Network, Action Agenda Report from NGO Consultation:**

“Governments and NGOs should guarantee the right to water and then work out how to achieve it”.

“Water and trade services are currently being negotiated into Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the social, environmental and democratic implications are horrendous – the

round of negotiations ends this year and Kyoto needs to push to keep water out of these negotiations.”

“Corruption is rife and is linked to participation, as this reduces corruption. Community driven options are usually cheaper and reduce opportunities for corruption. NGOs therefore call for an international convention that guarantees access to information, not just from governments but also from corporations, international financial institutions and the WTO.”

Albert Wright, Global Water Partnership, speaking on Poverty Reduction, Intergrated Water Resource Management and Governance:

“[It is necessary to] Overcome traditional fragmented approaches to water to provide coherence in laws and regulatory regimes, guarantee the sustainability of the resource and ensure its equitable and efficient use.”

“[There is a need to] Increase the profile of water in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers as the present low profile indicates that governments still do not recognise the importance of water for development.”

### **Open Panel Discussion**

Mai Flor, Ondeo, “The aspect of title of land is not so important if providing a water service is required.”

Diego Rodriguez, Inter-American Development Bank In Latin Am ... The legal framework precludes extension into areas with non-legal title. [We are] trying to provide an informal title that could be used to extend coverage, as this has been done in Central America.”

### **3. Actions**

The Beijing Hebei Ecoregion Project aims to reduce water centered conflicts by both removing institutional obstacles that prevent efficient and equitable negotiation between upstream and downstream stakeholders and enhancing the capability and incentives for the key actors for adopting more environmentally appropriate practices and technologies.

### **4. Commitments**

### **5. Recommendations**