

Session Report Cover Sheet

SESSION CODE: POVE – OP	
Name of Convener(s): ADB (Wouter Lincklaen Arriens/John Soussan)	
DATE: 19 - March, 2003	Session Title: The Multiple Roles of Water in Poverty Reduction
Contact information in Japan	Accommodation: Kyoto Prince Hotel
	Contact No.: 080 1093 8315/080 1092 9397
	Contact E-mail: wlincklaenarriens@adb.org/johnsoussan@hotmail.com

Session Report

SESSION CODE: POVE – OP
Reporter/Rapporteur: Matthew Chadwick
Contact E-mail : mc38@york.ac.uk

1. Key Issues

The session introduced the six water and poverty initiative sessions to be convened over the 19th and 20th March, sponsored by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with collaborating partners on the Water and Poverty Initiative. These are:

1. *The Multiple Roles of Water in Poverty Reduction*
2. *Securing Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods for the Poor*
3. *Water, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) - Mainstreaming Poverty Reduction in Water Management*
4. *Reducing Vulnerability - Managing Water-Related Disasters and Ensuring Health and Environmental Security*
5. *Changing Policies and Improving Governance for Water Security for the Poor*
6. *Building Partnerships for Action*

A total of 17 sessions are to take place.

The opening plenary presentations gave an overview of the development of the water and poverty initiative in the period since the 2nd World Water Forum. Emphasis was placed on the ways in which water can contribute to the reduction of poverty. Several case studies were provided exemplifying developments. The session also outlined issues to be explored further in the subsequent water and poverty initiative sessions.

2. Key Quotes

Professor John Soussan

“we agree on the principles [of action to reduce poverty through water management]: the challenge is putting them into practice.”

“water is not just a problem in poverty reduction – but part of the solution.”

“improving access to water changes people’s lives”

Tadao Chino (President, Asian Development Bank):

“Poverty reduction is ADB’s overarching goal”

“[the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg] defined the challenge against which all development activities must be judged – how the actions we take contribute to the reduction of poverty.”

“our common goal is to improve the water security of the poor.”

Ravi Narayanan (Director, WaterAid)

“people talk about the saving of time [in relation to collection of water] but of equal importance is the reduction on physical stress.”

“Drinking water supply is often an attracting force to an area. It helps establish a viable community, which then becomes a hub for economic development.”

“many governments do not place a high enough emphasis on water and sanitation in their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.”

Derik du Toit (Association for Water and Rural Development)

“Poor men and women have much to teach us, if only we had time to listen....Poor people need water for productive purposes.”

“people require 25 litres on average for personal hygiene... above this households can begin to move into a variety of productive activities.”

“The inability to access water reduced people’s ability to move out of poverty.”

Ayako Sono (Chairperson, The Nippon Foundation)

“ [the] wealth of the twentieth century may have been land and gold but the twenty-first century..... wealth will probably be expressed by the amount of water available for utilization.”

“Human beings must not steal water because that would be stealing life.”

Shakeel Khan and Nadia Saeed (Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project)

Nadia Saeed: “Previously water collection by women meant they had to neglect their families.”

From Film: Water at the doorsteps

Group of women in Punjab: “Carrying water has made me almost bald”.

Young Women: “We used to go to school but could not study because we had to collect water. Now I go to college.”

Another Young Women (from Chak 45): “Because of these [water supply] facilities I can now go to school.”

Jan Pronk (Incoming Chairperson, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council)

“Yesterday I met with children... a young girl said she was fed up with all the promises and repetition of statements. She asked how come they are not fulfilled... I felt ashamed.”

“There is the battle between two visions: do we go for sustainability or for security. They are not the same”.

“Sustainability requires three conditions to be met:

1. Keep the system. We need to keep the UN system and maintain them. They should not become the victim of the present insecurity.
2. In all decisions the question is “who is the victim”. It is always the poorest of the poor.
3. Learn the lessons of the past, apply them on a wider scale to make it possible so that we go for a safe place for everybody, particularly the poorest of the poor.”

3. Actions

4. Commitments

5. Recommendations