



Issue 8, July 2004

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[News](#)
[Water Actions](#)
[Videos & Publications](#)
[Calendar](#)

Water for the Rural Poor

Focus on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

Focus

[Water Champion: Rebecca Ravalo on Bringing Water To The Rural Poor](#)

"She works tirelessly to enable communities to manage their own water systems," says Shige Muramoto, ADB's Project Engineer, of Rebecca Ravalo. Ms. Ravalo is the Program Manager of the Water and Sanitation office of the Philippines' Department of the Interior and Local Government. Whether promoting community participation, the new cost-sharing scheme between the national and local governments, or a holistic approach to capacity building, Ms. Ravalo knows the trick is to try and break down the barriers of unproductive paradigms or practices. Read Rebecca Ravalo's views on the challenges and prospects for rural water supply in the country.



[Water Today, Better Lives Tomorrow](#)

Transforming lives for the better. This is what access to clean water did for the more than 670,000 people living in poor, remote and rural areas of Nepal who benefited from ADB's 4th Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project. Increased water consumption, improved water quality, energy and time savings, and significant health benefits were only the starters. Communities, through water user committees, are now working to maintain their water and sanitation schemes and generate enough revenues in the process.

[Change Agenda- Changing the Focus of Lending](#)

It's high time that rural areas get a more substantial share of development assistance and government support towards gaining access to adequate water supply and sanitation. Most of Asia's poor live in rural areas, and they are the ones that lack access to good quality water services. Unfortunately, self-financing in rural areas is more challenging, partly because their size makes it difficult to generate economic and financial returns on investment. ADB is taking up the challenge of directing more investments to improve water supply and sanitation in rural areas.



News

[NARBO to Help Strengthen River Basin Organizations \(RBOs\) and Implement IWRM](#)

The Network of Asian River Basin Organizations (NARBO) is training 25 water professionals from Southeast Asia towards applying integrated water resources management (IWRM) in their work. The training course, which runs until 6 August, will enable participants to formulate roadmaps for implementing IWRM at organization, basin and country levels.



[Three New Pilot and Demonstration Activities \(PDAs\) Approved](#)

ADB's Water Sector Committee has recently approved 3 PDAs focusing on rainwater harvesting and irrigation technologies, wastewater management and integrated water resources management. PDAs are short-term activities designed to improve or promote innovative local initiatives that strengthen the management of water resources or delivery of water services. ADB started the PDA program in 2002 with the financial support of the [Cooperation Fund for the Water Sector](#).



[Water for the Poor Partnership with Viet Nam Going Strong](#)

ADB's partnership with Viet Nam to catalyze and improve the quality of investments in water security for the rural poor is producing results. Begun in 2003, the partnership is resulting in a national water and poverty assessment, a joint donor review of the Viet Nam water supply and sanitation sector, a national dialogue process on water and poverty and NGO participation in project design. ADB is now exploring the potentials of expanding the initiative to water operations in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, People's Republic of China, and Sri Lanka.



[Inputs to Proposed Revision on ADB Water Policy in Review](#)

The recently concluded [Interim Review of the Water Policy Implementation](#) resulted in a recommendation to revise a provision in the ADB Water Policy pertaining to large water resources projects that involve dams. Water agencies, NGOs, and other interested stakeholders were invited to send their comments to the proposed revision until 30 June 2004. ADB's Water Sector Committee is now reviewing the comments received.



[Integrated Strategy to Help Protect PRC from Destructive Floods](#)

ADB will help protect the People's Republic of China (PRC) from the destructive effects of floods by developing and integrated flood mitigation and flood management strategy. ADB's technical assistance (TA), amounting to US\$500,000, will be executed by the Ministry of Water Resources beginning in September 2004. The PRC government will contribute \$125,000. Read the [full TA report](#).



[Integrated Approach to Flood Protection Saving Lives and Money in Bangladesh](#)

Two ADB projects in Bangladesh successfully helped mitigate the negative impacts of floods. The Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project completed and augmented westerly flood protection embankment and floodwalls, rehabilitated existing drains, and constructed drainage facilities. The Secondary Town Infrastructure Flood Protection Project (STIFP) constructed river embankment and bank protection to secure secondary towns, and improved solid waste management services. ADB is currently in the process of launching the second phase of STIFP.

Water Actions: Rural Water Supply

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[Walking for Water](#)

During a three-year drought, women from arid rural areas in Gujarat, India were spending at least three hours daily fetching water from a steadily diminishing source. Now the women are managing village systems, and bringing water closer to home.

[Bringing Potable Water to the Far-Flung Islands of the Philippines](#)

On the average, 2 out of 3 Filipinos living in rural communities lack access to safe drinking water. An ADB project helped improve this statistic by providing safe and easily accessible water to 16 small island provinces.

[Ladies First: Accessible Water for Entrepreneurial Women in Pakistan](#)

Through the Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Project, the women of Punjab gained easy access to clean drinking water—a radical change that will continue to lift their lives for generations.

Videos & Publications

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Videos

- [Walking for Water](#) (2003)
- [Hidden Paradise](#) (2003)
- [River of Change: Peace Dividends Along the Mekong](#) (1995)
- [Asia's Water Crisis: The Struggle Within Each Drop](#) (1997)

Reports and Publications

- [Beyond Cost Recovery: Setting User Charges for Financial, Economic and Social Goals](#)
- [Draft PDA Report: Poverty Impacts of Public Irrigation Expenditures in Viet Nam](#)
- [Interim Review of ADB's Water Policy Implementation](#)
- [Policy Paper: Knowledge Management in ADB](#)
- [Project Completion Report: 4th Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Nepal](#)

Water Calendar

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26 July - 9 August	<p>Training Program on IWRM and Strengthening of River Basin Committees (Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand)</p> <p>The training program will strengthen river basin committees and enable water professionals in the region to integrate IWRM concepts into the planning process</p>
7-8 August	<p>Workshop on NARBO Web Design and Implementation (Bangkok, Thailand)</p> <p>Members and collaborating partners of the Network of Asian River Basin Organization will meet to design a NARBO website that is responsive to the needs of its users.</p>
16-20 August	<p>World Water Week/ 14th Stockholm Water Symposium (Stockholm, Sweden)</p> <p>Carrying the theme "Drainage Basin Management - Regional Approaches for Food and Urban Security," these events serve as a global platform for continuing dialogue on critical water and related issues.</p>
16-20 August	<p>HydroVision 2004 (Montreal, Quebec, Canada)</p> <p>Over 1,600 water professionals are expected to attend this series of workshops, seminars and tours concentrating on civil works safety; hydro policies and regulations; new hydro development O & M; strategic business and asset management; technical papers; and water, natural, and cultural resources management.</p>
31 August- 3 September	<p>7th International River Management Symposium (Brisbane, Australia)</p> <p>The symposium is part of the 10-day Riverfestival 2004 celebration, focuses on the world's best practices in river and watershed management, and provides an international forum for science, research, management and policy development.</p>
29 August- 2 September	<p>Good Water Governance for People and Nature (Dundee, Scotland)</p> <p>The conference builds on the declarations and decisions made in Johannesburg, Bonn and Kyoto, and aims to enhance the global debate on critical water governance issues.</p>

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