

# Water Voices

DOCUMENTARY SERIES

## Technical Information

- Seven part series filmed in widescreen Digital Betacam
- Each program approximately 22 minutes
- Original English and International versions
- Available in PAL or NTSC Digital Betacam, or Betacam SP
- Non-broadcast formats: DVD, VHS

Produced by documentary filmmakers Halsey Street of New Zealand, in association with the Asian Development Bank's Water Awareness Program  
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# Water Voices

DOCUMENTARY SERIES



Compelling stories  
about people **tackling**  
**water problems** in Asia  
and the Pacific

India  
Bangladesh  
Cambodia  
Philippines  
Thailand  
Tonga  
Kiribati  
The Fiji Islands

# Water Voices

Stories about people who found local solutions to the worsening water crisis in Asia and the Pacific

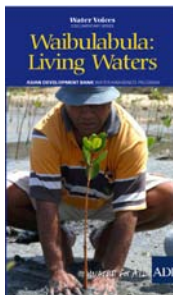
**W**ater is essential to all life. It brings good harvests, health, prosperity, and ecological abundance. But poor management of water resources has led to poverty, disease, environmental degradation, and human conflict.

- One in three Asians lack access to safe drinking water.
- Half the people living in Asia and the Pacific do not have access to adequate sanitation.
- Conflicts over sharing of scarce water resources are increasing throughout the region;
- Limited water resources of small island countries in the Pacific are threatened by climate change, pollution, and population pressures.

The **Water Voices** documentary series recognizes the power of good examples and lessons learned to inspire 'home grown' solutions to water problems.

## Waibulabula: Living Waters

Development over the years has caused critical damage to the reef and degraded village water sources on the Coral Coast in the Fiji Islands. Now coastal communities, a local NGO and a tourist resort are working together to save the reef, and protect and manage water resources.



## Walking for Water

During a three-year drought, women from the arid rural areas in the state of Gujarat, India were



spending at least three hours every day fetching water from a steadily diminishing source. Now the women are managing village water systems, and bringing water closer to home.

They use the extra time to earn a living through a handicraft cooperative.

## The Connection

Long years of war and civil strife left Phnom Penh's water supply system in ruins. An estimated 70% of the city's water was lost through the decrepit distribution system and illegal connections. Led by its dynamic director, Ek Sonn

Chan, the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority has overcome these challenges to become one of Asia's most effective water utilities, as it advances towards the goal of providing water for all of the city's residents.



## Upstream Downstream

There is conflict over water use between upstream and downstream communities on the Ping River in northern Thailand.



How can the competing demands for water be balanced? The Ping River Basin Committee brings all

stakeholders together to seek common ground on sharing and protecting this vital river system.

## Hidden Paradise

To the eye, Hidden Paradise in the city of Bacolod, Philippines is starkly different from other neighborhoods nearby. It's a community of former squatters with tidy homes and clean, dry streets, a safe



drinking water supply, and healthy children. Community leaders reveal how they transformed a slum into a hidden paradise.

## Water Tomorrow

The small island countries of Kiribati and Tonga in the Pacific rely mainly on fragile groundwater aquifers for fresh water. But groundwater sources just below the surface are highly vulnerable to pollution and salt water intrusion, as populations grow and concentrate in urban areas. Community organizers are working to change peoples' behavior to safeguard water supplies and the environment.



## Breaking Barriers

Dhaka is the fastest growing mega-city in Asia, with a population expected to reach 16 million by 2010. Over three million poor people live in squalid slums. Most are considered illegal squatters who have no access to city water or sanitation services. One solution gaining momentum is for poor communities to manage communal water points themselves, with assistance from a local NGO.

