

## Session Report Cover Sheet

<b>SESSION CODE: POVE-02- Closing session</b>	
<b>Name of Convener(s): Wouter T. Lincklaen Arriens</b>	
<b>DATE: 20 March March, 2003 ( )</b>	<b>Session Title: Building Partnerships for Action</b>
<b>Contact information in Japan</b>	<b>Accommodation: Main Hall</b>
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## Session Report

<b>SESSION CODE: POVE-02-2-nd session of the afternoon</b>
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### 1. Key Issues

This final session of the Water and Poverty theme focused on defining actions and commitments to improve the water security of poor people. A number of partnerships and initiatives were presented with different stakeholders committing to specific measures to take beyond Kyoto and into implementation. Some partnerships and commitments were at the individual level, others at the national and international level.

The specific commitments focused on innovative approaches to improving the contribution of water management to poverty reduction. The need for targeted, demand-led and inclusive approaches was agreed and the need for partnerships that included all stakeholders recognised. The commitments made included the need to change procedures to streamline and make more inclusive the process through which investments and other interventions are planned and implemented.

### 2. Key Quotes

#### Wouter Lincklaen Arriens, Asian Development Bank

While there was broad consensus on common goals of promoting water actions to reduce poverty, there was much discussion about how this can best be done.

#### Statement on Water and Poverty for the Ministerial Conference of the 3rd World Water Forum (presented by Shireen Lateef, Asian Development Bank)

What actions can improve the water security of the poor? Amongst other, empower poor people, and especially women, children and other vulnerable groups, to be meaningfully involved in decisions over services and the management of water resources.

Meeting these challenges will require all stakeholders to be active participants, through partnerships that are based on common but differentiated responsibilities to improve the water security of poor communities.

#### Peter Gleick (on behalf of individual water professionals)

We decided to bring 1000 water 'libraries' of information to the poor. We fund to purchase and deliver

sets of books and materials on water supply and sanitation, water and health, engineering, and management. The first 5 libraries were delivered last month to Malawi, Barbados, East Timor, Ethiopia and India.

Alain HENRY, Director Infrastructure, Agence Française de Développement

Water is a prerequisite for economic and sustainable growth and poverty alleviation. Business is interested in viable communities and healthy people.

John Soussan, announcing the Rural Water Poverty and Action Partnership

This Letter of Intent is a knowledge and advocacy partnership of WSSCC, IWMI, IUCN, WaterAid, SEI, GWA, WEDC and network partners. This is just a starting point and we expect others to join.

Ryan Hreljac, Canada (11 years old)

Right now there are wars over oil in future there might be wars over water.  
One person, you, can make a difference.

Blessing David, Youth Forum

I hope that you agree with me that although we are from different countries, water is everybody's business, everybody's need, everybody's concern.  
We thank UNICEF for seeing the adults in us, children.

Hon. Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven, Minister for Development Cooperation, the Netherlands

Political commitment must be at the top of the agenda, that is not producing more papers but doing what we agreed to do.  
A child in a developed county will use 30-50 times more water in its life than a child in the South.

Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, UN-Habitat

In Johannesburg we agreed a partnership for the Africa Water for Cities program.... We can now extend our work to Asian cities.

Tadao Chino, President, Asian Development Bank

We (ADB) are already in advanced discussions with two countries in Asia, Bangladesh and Vietnam, to agree country level action initiatives.  
The Asian Development Bank commits its full resources to support these Rural Water and Poverty Action Initiatives.

### **3. Actions and Commitments**

The Water and Poverty Initiative will continue after the end of the Forum to develop and implement country-level Rural Water and Poverty Action Initiatives that target pro-poor, demand-led interventions aimed to improve the contribution of water management to poverty reduction.

The Asian Development Bank is in discussion with Viet Nam and Bangladesh to create country-level Rural Water and Poverty Action Initiatives. These will include national-level partnerships with a range of stakeholders. Further discussions with other Asian countries have started and will be followed up after the Forum.

The Asian Development Bank, UN-HABITAT and the Netherlands Government have joined together in the Water for Asian Cities Program that will channel additional resources to meet the water supply and sanitation needs of the urban poor in a number of Asian cities.

The African Development Bank will strengthen poverty-focused water actions in Africa through focusing more on rural programs, implementing the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative and supporting the African Water Initiative.

The Inter-American Development Bank has developed a partnership with CARE and GWP SAMTAC and CATAC for a regional initiative to work on water and poverty.

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, the Gender and Water Alliance, IUCN the World Conservation Union, the International Water Management Institute, the Stockholm Environment Institute, the Gender and Water Alliance, WaterAid and WEDC and their network partners signed a letter of intent to form a Knowledge and Advocacy Partnership to support Rural Water and Poverty Action Initiatives.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development announced a two year Urban Water Project. This project will create a structure that will bring together different stakeholders to improve the water security of the urban poor.

The Agence Française de Développement announced a 9 million € program to improve the water supply of 110,000 people in the south of Mali.

The ADB is working with other international organizations to establish agreements amongst them on supporting such initiatives – critically mainstreaming them in normal funding processes.

#### **4. Commitments**

#### **5. Recommendations**