



Water and Poverty in the 3rd World Water Forum

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
AWARD	Association for Water and Rural Development
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
CBO	community based organization
DSK	Dushtha Shasthya Kendra
FPI	Family Planning International
GAP-RDA	Southeastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration
GWA	Gender and Water Alliance
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP-CATAC	Central American Technical Advisory Committee for the Global Water Partnership
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDE	International Development Enterprise
IRC	International Water and Sanitation Centre
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JBIC	Japan Bank for International Cooperation
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JPM	joint monitoring program
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MARD	Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
MDB	multilateral development bank

MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	nongovernment organization
NRI	Natural Resources Institute
O&M	operation and maintenance
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PRSP	poverty reduction strategy paper
SAMTAC	South American Technical Advisory Committee
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SEWA	Self-Employed Women's Association
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN-ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
WDPP	Water Development Partners Panel
WEDC	Water, Engineering and Development Centre
WHO	World Health Organization
WPI	Water and Poverty Initiative
WSSCC	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization



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Report on the Water and Poverty Initiative in the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto

Introduction

ADB participation in the 3rd World Water Forum was the largest and most significant to date in such an externally organized event, with more than 50 staff members and consultants attending as well as 145 ADB-sponsored participants from 29 developing member countries.

The forum, held in the neighboring cities of Kyoto, Shiga, and Osaka, which share Japan's Yodogawa River basin, was the third and largest such event since the 1st World Water Forum in Morocco in 1997. A reported 24,000 people from 182 countries and 43 international organizations participated in hundreds of information sharing sessions in the three cities from 16–23 March 2003.

While the 2nd World Water Forum in The Hague in 2000 focused on water visions and frameworks for action, this third water forum focused on actions, learning from actions, and catalyzing further action. Participants in the forum made more than 100 new commitments on water actions.

ADB played a leading role at the forum, organizing six sessions on Water and Poverty through the Water and Poverty Initiative. ADB also organized the Water Development Partners Panel and prepared, based on extensive consultations, the statement to the Ministerial Conference on Water and Poverty. There were also 12 parallel sessions under the Water and Poverty Theme organized by other convenors, for which separate session reports have been prepared. This report summarizes the proceedings and outcomes of the sessions organized by ADB. The full list of Water and Poverty Theme sessions follows.

Organized by ADB Under the Water and Poverty Initiative

- Water and Poverty Opening Plenary: The Multiple Roles of Water in Poverty Reduction
- Securing Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods for the Poor
- Water, the MDGs,¹ and PRSPs:² Mainstreaming Poverty Reduction in Water Management
- Reducing Vulnerability: Managing Water-Related Disasters and Ensuring Health and Environmental Security
- Changing Policies and Improving Governance for Water Security for the Poor

¹ Millennium Development Goals.

² Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers

- Water and Poverty Closing Plenary: Building Partnerships for Action
- Water Development Partners Panel on Water and Poverty

Organized by Other Convenors

- **Ethical Dilemmas in Water Management and Use: A Global Perspective**, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- **Evaluation and Monitoring Instruments for Water Supply and Sanitation**, Agencie d'Eau Seine-Normandie
- **Living on the Edge: The Challenge of Wastewater Agriculture**, International Water Management Institute
- **Forming Effective Partnerships: Capacity Building Workshop for the Public Sector**, Building Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation
- **The Role of Water in the Eradication of Hunger: The Characteristics of the Humanitarian Water Programmes**, Action Against Hunger Spain
- **How Will the Poor Become Customers: Case Studies on Private Sector Preparation and the Role of Civil Society in Promoting a Pro-poor Agenda**, WaterAid
- **Water, a Drop of Oil in the Economy**, Self-Employed Women's Association
- **Water, Poverty and Development**, World Water Council and GAP-RDA³
- **Water Supply and Sanitation: Achieving Poverty Reduction through Public Private Partnership**, Agence Française de Développement
- **Living with Risk: Towards Sustainable Development**, UN-ISDR⁴
- **Forming Effective Partnerships: Capacity Building Workshop for NGOs**,⁵ Building Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation
- **NGO Panel Debate**, Freshwater Action Network

Several hundred participants attended these sessions. The ADB Water and Poverty Initiative sessions alone attracted over 1,500 participants. The presentations and discussions in the sessions provided a dynamic picture of the contemporary debates on water-poverty relationships and numerous examples of actions to reduce poverty through water management. Many varying views were expressed, and in a few cases, strong arguments emerged over controversial issues. Overall, however, there was a strong consensus that emerged from all sessions on the core issues that water management should be a major factor in poverty reduction strategies and that this potential is not being realized in most parts of the world.

The range of different issues discussed is reflected in the substance of session reports and the overall statement to the Ministerial Conference presented in the rest of this report. There are a few highlight issues worth mentioning here. These issues came through strongly in the discussions and reflect perspectives on poverty and water security that are innovative and are either generally not reflected in

³ Southeastern Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration.

⁴ United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

⁵ Nongovernment Organization

policies and actions in the field of water management or will require substantially greater efforts to address than those found that do exist. These issues are:

- The potential contribution of water to poverty reduction is not adequately reflected in existing national poverty reduction and development policies or PRS processes. This is in large measure because water practitioners have not effectively articulated these potentials to policy makers and politicians outside the water sector.
- Domestic water is widely used for productive purposes and can make a significant difference to the livelihoods of poor people. This includes activities such as vegetable gardens, livestock and fruit trees, small manufacturing, services such as laundering and hairdressing, food preparation for sale and others. Such activities are particularly important for extremely poor households with few other assets, for female-headed households, and for households with few other opportunities for cash income. Ensuring provision for these activities greatly improves the financial sustainability of water supply systems.
- Improving water supplies and sanitation bring a wide range of benefits, including many that are often not planned. This includes expected health and welfare benefits, timesavings that can be used for productive purposes, opening opportunities for a range of productive activities, improving equity and social organization, and others.
- The huge challenges presented by the commitment to improve sanitation, together with hygiene promotion, were identified as a particular cause of concern. There is no possibility that the target agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)⁶ can be realized by adopting a “business as usual” approach. The need for advocacy to increase knowledge of and support for large-scale efforts to improve sanitation, along with the need to find ways to increase coverage without greatly increasing water demands in scarcity areas, were identified as particular areas for action.
- Many positive experiences were identified, but there are formidable challenges to scaling these up and replicating them. This process of learning from and transferring positive experiences is a key to more effective water management for poverty reduction.
- Addressing a range of vulnerabilities related to health risks, ecosystems degradation, and disaster management must be a central component of pro-poor water policies and management. These vulnerabilities have traditionally been the responsibility of agencies outside of the water sector, but must be central to integrated water resources management.
- The importance of all stakeholders contributing in their own ways was a central theme. This includes governments, civil society, the private sector, the international community, and not least, poor people themselves. Partnerships to put the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities into practice are essential if the synergies between these different contributions are to emerge.

⁶ New sanitation targets agreed at the “Rio +10” summit in Johannesburg (August 2002) set the goal to halve the number of people currently without access to adequate sanitation by 2015.

The basis for creating these synergies is to empower the poor and then see how different stakeholders can support and respond to the needs of poor people.

- Following this, capacity building is needed at all levels, and is particularly important at local government and community levels. Creating or enhancing institutional, legal, and policy frameworks to support this is a critical challenge.
- Although many types of actions are needed, one critical area is the mobilization of new funding sources. Again, much potential exists, but that of local, small-scale, private sector involvement in service provision in rural areas is one area where particular actions are needed. Such entrepreneurial activities produces more appropriate, less expensive, and more sustainable service provision and generates many additional multipliers through the local economy.
- There are many knowledge gaps that need to be bridged, including the development of effective indicators and monitoring systems to assess progress in realizing water-poverty targets. There is also a need for major advocacy programs to increase political and public awareness of and support for pro-poor water management.

These and the other points that emerge from the water and poverty sessions demonstrate clearly that in many ways a new agenda is needed. New thinking on pro-poor water management emphasizes the importance of partnerships, the need to link to wider development processes, and the need to tap into and build from the needs and potentials of the poor as the point of departure.

Achieving this will require far greater flexibility and a streamlining of procedures by governments, funding agencies, and international financial institutions, if they are to fulfill their intentions of supporting the poor and improving the role of water management in poverty reduction.

Statement on Water and Poverty for the Ministerial Conference of the 3rd World Water Forum

Key Issues: What role can improved water management play in poverty reduction?

The links between poverty and water security are widely understood and are enshrined in goals agreed in the Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Implementation from the World Summit on Sustainable Development. Achieving these goals will bring immediate and lasting benefits in poverty reduction through improved health, productivity, local economy, social status, and dignity for poor people.

Improved water management and sanitation can also make the livelihoods of poor people more productive and sustainable. Water is a key input into many livelihood activities such as agriculture and home-based enterprises, and is critical to large-scale economic development. Water management plays a critical role in conserving and sustaining the natural resource base and is pivotal in reducing the vulnerability to hazards such as floods and droughts that impoverish so many. Improved water management can play a key role in promoting gender and social equity.

The outcomes of the water and poverty sessions at the 3rd World Water Forum demonstrated that there is much that can be done. The key is to now build on this and move with vigor and determination to actions. We now have a much clearer picture of what these actions should be. The next step is to build partnerships that put principle into practice.

What actions can improve the water security of the poor?

- The delivery of improved water services (including both the quantity and quality of water), sanitation and hygiene and the management of water resources, guided by good policies and governance that improve equity and target the most vulnerable in society.
- The specific needs and opportunities of poor people identified and targeted as a priority in water management, even where this may affect other development objectives.
- Empower poor people, especially women, children, and other vulnerable groups, to be meaningfully involved in decisions over services and the management of water resources.
- Governments should include pro-poor water management as a key element in national poverty reduction strategies and associated programs with external support agencies.
- Improve the access of poor people to water resources by better governance to secure the rights and entitlements of the poor, especially for women, through reforms to laws, policies, institutional mandates, and participatory processes for decision making.
- Higher investments in water infrastructure and services that meet poor people's water needs, supported by capacity building in poor communities and service providers.
- Improve advocacy for awareness of and knowledge on pro-poor water policies and management by active campaigns that involve all stakeholders.
- Define and put in place strategies and monitoring systems to achieve clear targets and indicators, based on international commitments for poverty reduction and water security.

Recommendations: Pro-poor partnerships for water security

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. Such partnership arrangements will create a basis for water and poverty action initiatives that bring early and tangible benefits at local levels to achieve major improvements in securing water for poor people.

These water and poverty action initiatives should support effective national policies and strategies for poverty reduction and water investments. Water management alone will not solve poverty problems and poverty will not be reduced without improved water security for the poor.

Statement to the Ministerial Conference on Water and Poverty: Summary of Comments Received

The draft statement on water and poverty to the Ministerial Conference was widely circulated among partners in the Water and Poverty Initiative and was posted on the ADB web site prior to the 3rd World Water Forum. A number of comments and proposed changes were received and incorporated into the revised version of the statement that was distributed at the opening plenary of the Water and Poverty Theme sessions in Kyoto. When this draft was distributed, it was announced that further suggestions for revisions would be taken in over the subsequent two days and a final revised draft of the statement would be presented in the final water and poverty plenary session.

Over 30 comments were received, with several being on the same topic. In most cases, the suggested revisions were minor and were easily incorporated into the revision of the draft. These proposed revisions included:

- It was thought by several people that greater prominence should be given to the issue of sanitation. In one case it was suggested that every reference to "water" should be replaced by "water and sanitation". While it was felt that this was not necessary and would disrupt the flow of the statement, the references to sanitation were strengthened and it was agreed that this issue is one that should be extremely prominent in the minds of the ministers.
- The issue of targets and monitoring should be given greater emphasis. One proposed revision suggested that this should be the highest profile issue in the statement. While it was felt that this was not a consensus position, the references to targets and monitoring were strengthened.
- The issues of equity and gender were emphasized by many and given greater prominence in the final draft of the statement. References to children and other highly vulnerable groups were also included in the final draft, to reflect comments received.

In addition to these generally positive comments which proposed changes that refined and added value to the statement, one extremely strong and negative reaction to the statement was received, with proposed revisions totaling over 1.5 pages on a one page statement. This reaction rejected the basic premise of the statement and proposed that the key issues that the statement should focus on were privatization and globalization. The essence of the proposed changes would have turned the statement into an extremely strong rejection of all aspects of globalization. They would have also identified the rejection of the role of multinational water companies as the key issue in addressing water and poverty. While the passion behind this reaction was recognized, the details of the proposed changes were not thought to be appropriate for this statement and would clearly have not reflected the consensus position developed during the water and poverty sessions. In particular, the reduction of the complexities of water-poverty relationships to one issue of anti-globalization was clearly at odds with the general views and complexity of experiences discussed in the water and poverty sessions.

Opening Plenary: The Multiple Roles of Water in Poverty Reduction

Session Manager: John Soussan, Water and Poverty Initiative

9:00–11:00, 19 March, Annex Hall, KICH

Presentation	Time	Organization	Speaker
Opening Musical Number	8:45 – 9:05	Massukas, NGO	
Introduction to Session(s) and Overview of WPI Summary Paper and Actions Programs	9:05 – 9:25	Water Poverty Initiative	John Soussan
Opening Remarks	9:25 – 9:35	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	President Tadao Chino
Looking Back	9:35 – 9:50	WaterAid	Ravi Narayanan
AWARD Case Study, South Africa: Allocating Water for Home-Based Productive Activities in Bushbuckridge, South Africa	9:50 – 10:05	Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD)	Deryk du Toit
Keynote Address	10:05 – 10:15	The Nippon Foundation	Ayako Sono
Punjab Rural Water Supply Project	10:15 – 10:30	ADB	Shakeel Khan and Nadia Saeed
Short Film on the Punjab Rural Water Supply Project	10:30 – 10:45	ADB	Shakeel Khan and Nadia Saeed
Looking Forward	10:45 – 11:00	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)	Jan Pronk

Session Synopsis

The opening plenary introduced the 19 sessions to be convened under the Water and Poverty Initiative on 19 and 20 March, organized by ADB.

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

The session provided an overview of the progress and development of the water and poverty initiative in the period since the 2nd World Water Forum. Emphasis was placed on both the overview paper and ADB President Chino's opening remarks on ways water can contribute to the reduction of poverty.

There were calls for the work to focus on the experiences—and learn the lessons—from the past. Several presenters mentioned that while the principles on to how to reduce poverty through improved water management were agreed upon, (following the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg,

August–September 2002). The clear challenge remaining—and the basis on which development activities would in the future be judged—was how these principles would translate into actions.

It was suggested that these actions need to be based on better targeting and prioritizing, building on proven solutions, and involving partnership that build on differentiated responsibilities of work, based on individual and institutional strengths.

Action was called for in six key areas

- Pro-Poor Governance
- Improved Access to Water Services
- Pro-Poor Growth and Livelihoods Development
- Empowerment and Community Development
- Protection from Disasters
- Ecosystem Maintenance

Several case studies were presented to exemplify developments and highlight the issues to be explored further in the subsequent water and poverty initiative sessions. Work in South Africa (Derick du Toit) on the allocation of water for home-based activities highlighted the importance that needs to be placed on partnerships while a video documentary and presentation of a water supply and sanitation project in Gujarat, India (Shakeel Khan and Nadia Saeed) provided a vivid and poignant example of what can be achieved and how the lives of people can be improved, when communities are empowered, appropriate technology is utilized, and resources are targeted.

- **Partnership:** Partnership between different stakeholders is crucial and this should be differentiated based on the relative strengths of the partners. Government agencies, funding agencies, NGOs, and CBOs need to develop actions together, and build capacity to ensure that all partners can participate fully in the process.
- **Governance and Empowerment:** Policies, laws and institutions need to support communities in the task of governing their own resources. Without such changes, empowerment is often superficial.
- **Appropriate Technologies:** The focus should be on tried and tested appropriate technologies. There was some variation in views in later sessions where this was discussed as to the scale of this. But it was clear that people felt small-scale interventions have enormous potential for improving the livelihoods of poor households. There are many examples of best practices, which should guide the next phase of the Initiative.
- **Water as a Solution:** The case studies both showed how access to water can lead to improvements in the livelihood systems of the poor. Once access to water beyond that required for basic needs is achieved, households are often able to undertake a range of productive activities that can dramatically improve people's livelihoods. It is important that other supporting factors, such as access to credits, markets, and information, are in place, for the poverty reduction impact of access to water to materialize. As such, water is part of the solution, not just the problem.

⁷ Community based organizations

- **Gender mainstreaming:** As the de facto managers of domestic water supplies in most countries, improved access to water frequently has positive spinoffs in terms of raising the status of and empowering women where their involvement is secured. Water projects need to ensure gender equity in new project and plans.

Key Quotes

John Soussan, Stockholm Environment Institute

“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.”

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

“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 reduces 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 in the 21st century, wealth will probably be expressed by the amount of water available for utilization.”

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

Nadia Saeed, Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project

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

From the Film “Water at the Doorstep”

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

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

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 why 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.”

Securing Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods for the Poor

Session Manager: Maliha Hussein, Gender and Water Alliance

12:30–15:15, 19 March, Room D, KICH

Presentation	Time	Organization	Presenter
Thematic Paper: Community Development and Gender Mainstreaming; Capacity Building and Empowerment	12:30 – 12:45	Gender and Water Alliance	Jennifer Francis
Short Film: Self-Employed Women's Association, Gujarat Case	13:00 – 13:15	Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	
SEWA Case Study: Gender and Economic Benefits from Domestic Water Supply in Semiarid Areas: A Case Study in Banaskantha District, Gujarat, Western-India	12:45 – 13:00	SEWA	Neeta Patel
Productive Water Symposium Outcomes from a Meeting in South Africa	13:15 – 13:30	Natural Resources Institute (NRI)	John Butterworth
Microirrigation Case Study	13:30 – 13:45	International Development Enterprise (IDE)	Michael Roberts
Water for Food Security for the Poor	13:45 – 14:00	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	Intizar Hussain
Film Presentation: Secure Water? Poverty, Livelihoods, and Demand-Responsive Approaches	14:00 – 14:30	Overseas Development Institute (ODI)	Tom Slaymaker
Panel for Discussion and Response to Audience Questions	14:15 – 15:15		Gouri Ghosh, Ravi Narayanan, Frank Rijsberman (IWMI), and Priscilla Jana (GWA)

Session Synopsis

The presentations from the session on Securing Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods for the Poor demonstrated the differential impact that investments in water have on the various social groups. The importance of involving women in the design, implementation, and operation and maintenance (O&M) of water systems was highlighted by many of the presenters. Many showed that women's expertise often leads to increased effectiveness of water resources management. Women's involvement also led to changes in gender relationships and improvements in the livelihoods of all.

For instance, the presentation by the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) on a water supply project in India showed how women's status within society (their social capital) had dramatically improved as a result of their involvement in the project. Women were recognized in their own right, referred to by their own name rather than as someone's wife, asked by the community to represent them on committees, and given control of the facility's O&M. As a result of the improvements in O&M, all the households involved in the project showed increased livelihood diversity and increasing household income.

The importance of the diverse roles of the various actors in water resources development—community-based organizations, NGOs, local and national government institutions, and funding agencies—was highlighted. These roles must be seen as complementary.

Many of the presentations referred to the need for the capacity of community groups beyond simple management capabilities to be developed. Such groups also require training to develop leadership, legal and policy environment, and financial skills. There was also a call to develop the skills of agencies charged with supporting these community groups.

Finally, many presentations referred to the role of private sector involvement in water services provision, particularly in relation to transparency and accountability.

The discussion session began with several questions related to the MDGs and whether they can be reached by a demand-driven system, with many in the audience expressing the view that this approach is too time consuming.

Questions and comments relating to the role of the private sector focused on how they often relate and involve large, often multinational firms. There were comments that there is a need to greater emphasize the inclusion of smaller-scale local entrepreneurial businesses.

Questions also focused on how we relate small-scale/bottom-up and large-scale/top-down approaches. A number of speakers and participants raised questions about the negative impact of the large-scale interventions on equity and the livelihoods of the poor. Others argued that in some situations there is no alternative to large-scale changes in the water regime.

The possibility was highlighted that the productive use of water for micro-scale entrepreneurial activities at the household level could fall down an institutional gap. Many in the audience stressed the huge potential such small-scale developments have for raising household livelihood conditions and there was general consensus that such potential was not being maximized.

There are numerous examples of effective approaches, but the question is how to scale them up? In order to do so, more financial investments are needed.

Who must build whose capacity? Outsiders say they must build the capacity of the poor, but the question is whose capacity must be built? Local people understand more than the outsiders. Capacity-building is needed to create the situation for the poor to utilize their own potential. The poorest know what to do, but they may not be posing the right questions. If there are so many poor that are untouched, then they must utilize the potential of their vast numbers.

Actions and Recommendations

The speakers from the session raised a various of issues and recommendations for action.

- There is a need for the mainstreaming of gender into all water management policies and programs.
- Improvements through capacity building on issues of leadership and policy awareness are needed at the community level.
- The potential of productive uses of water for micro-scale entrepreneurial activities at the household level is not being maximized. Such activities can lead to a path out of poverty for many.
- The argument for community participation and empowerment in terms of involvement in water sector planning and implementation has been won. However, the means of undertaking this has not yet been defined. Many institutions do not have the institutional capacity to support such initiatives.

Key Quotes

Jennifer Francis, Gender and Water Alliance

“Meaningful participation involves holding decision-makers to account and includes the opportunity to gain redress for grievances.”

“Our task is beyond Kyoto to help create an environment to ensure the right to participate in the development of water resources and services.”

Self-Employed Women’s Association Film

“SEWA’s study was originally only concerned with water, but they found out that we had problems with employment and income.”

Village women: “It is the women, who know how important clean water is. The men have no idea.”

SEWA spokesperson: “We have to prove ourselves, nothing comes without struggle.”

Village women: “It has not been easy, but we have achieved a lot.”

“Women’s work used to be of no value, now we get pay and respect.”

Michael Roberts, International Development Enterprise, in "Micro-Irrigation for Income Generation"

"Drip irrigation uses 50% less water and leads to 30-50% more yield."

"Treadle pumps and drip-irrigation technologies are biased toward the poor because they are self-targeting. In 15 years, 30 million households can benefit from these simple technologies."

"These micro-irrigation approaches deliver income directly to the rural poor."

"Micro-irrigation technologies have a positive gender impact."

Intizar Hussain, International Water Management Institute

"Irrigation has a strong land-augmenting role, in practice, often doubling the cultivatable area. This is particularly important for small and marginal farmers."

Tom Slaymaker, Overseas Development Institute

"Communities are often very divided and politicized and we need to find better ways to deal with that."

Maliha Hussain

"In creating access to water, the poor themselves need to take the crucial action. They must take the lead, organize themselves, and then the government must provide a supportive and enabling role. NGOs can play the role of a catalyst. The private sector can then allow people to make use of existing opportunities. Overall the poor must take the lead."

"The role of governments and agencies is to provide support; to provide an enabling environment."

Saleuddin Ahmed, BRAC

"Capacity building is one thing easier said than done. Scaling up is another."

"We need a moratorium on megaprojects."

Water, the MDGs, and PRSPs: Mainstreaming Poverty Reduction in Water Management

Session Manager: Shireen Lateef, Asian Development Bank

15:45–8:30, 19 March, Room D, KICH

Presentation	Time	Organization	Presenter
Presentation of the thematic paper Reaching the Poorest of the Poor	15:45 – 16:00	Water and Poverty Initiative	Dirk R. Frans
Report from UN Task Force on the MDGs	16:00 – 16:15	Columbia University	Roberto Lenton
WaterAid PRSP	16:15 – 16:30	WaterAid	Belinda Calaguas
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All Campaign and the Sanitation MDG Target	16:30 – 16:45	Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC)	Sir Richard Jolly
Statement on Water and Poverty	16:45 – 17:00	Academie de l'Eau Francais	Henri Smets
Global Population and Water: Access and Sustainability	17:00 – 17:10	UNFPA	Richard Leete
DSK: A Model for Securing Access to Water for the Urban Poor	17:10 – 17:25	Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) and WaterAid	Rokeya Ahmed
Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement in the Northwest Region in the Lao PDR	17:25 – 17:40	Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	Dr. Keoudom and Ms. Keodokmay Phouipaseuth
Panel to Respond to Audience Questions	17:40 – 18:30	Eusebius C. Katai and Richard Leete, UNFPA; Roberto Lenton, UN; John Briscoe, World Bank; Belinda Calaguas, WaterAid; and Sir Richard Jolly, WSSCC	

Key Issues

The Session commenced with a thematic paper outlining role of water management in relation to the MDGs and PRSPs. While only one of the MDGs mentions water specifically, all of them are impacted by access to water in one way or another. For instance, halving worldwide hunger heavily depends on better water management. Secure and easy access to drinking water frees women and girls from a heavy physical burden and allows them more time for productive activities and education. While better water management on its own is insufficient to alleviate poverty, none of the MDGs can be achieved without better water management.

The role PRSPs now play in directing national and international development activities was highlighted by several of the session's papers. Some appeared to be more in favor of focusing on PRSPs, while others believe that a separate strategy is needed to address the MDGs. However, there was general agreement that in the PRSPs there is too much emphasis on the economics and too little on the social sector indicators.

One of the presenters reiterated the importance of not viewing communities as a homogenous group but rather as one of the several groups with differentiated agendas and requirements. The wider issue of the importance of community empowerment and governance in achieving improvements in water management was noted by a number of presentations.

Several presentations highlighted the fact that while most PRSPs recognize impact of water on poverty, few prioritize water and sanitation interventions. Reasons for this included

- relatively weak poverty diagnostics of water supply and sanitation;
- lack of clear links between ministries and authorities in planning; and
- the sector's institutional complexity.

A lot of the discussion focused on the PRSPs. Participants pointed out that in many cases they were not produced in a participatory way. Panel members agreed that participation of the people and civil society in drafting the PRSPs is crucial. They pointed out that outside agencies cannot do much to effect this process, but that the local people have to put pressure on their governments to make the process more participatory.

There was disagreement on the need for large-scale interventions. Some participants were in favor of large projects arguing that they have helped create wealth in many countries. Others emphasized the negative impact of many such projects on the poor.

Actions and Recommendations

The speakers from the session raised numerous issues and recommendations for action.

- Few PRSPs recognize impact of water on poverty, even fewer prioritize water and sanitation interventions. This is a situation that needs to be corrected during future PRS cycles.
- To achieve this at various levels and among different stakeholders, the capacity and advocacy roles for water supply and sanitation and water resources management need to be strengthened.
- Involvement of stakeholders in the PRS process is varied. However, in all cases, improvements in the process of participation are required.

Key Quotes

Dirk R. Frans, Water and Poverty Initiative

"To ensure pro-poor water resource development, government and funding agencies must use pro-poor indicators."

"Man-made disasters, such as displacement due to building large dams (40–80 million in the last century), must be prevented as much as possible. If there is no other option, people affected should be properly compensated."

"Empowering local communities by implication means the present power-holders (government agencies and funding agencies) must give up some of their power."

Robert Lenton, Columbia University

"We must look at all the Millennium Development Goals as a set. We want to capture the synergies and do not want to achieve one target at the expense of the others. Water has a key role to play in all the eight MDGs. We need a more integrated approach so that one approach does not negatively affect other goals."

Belinda Calaguas, WaterAid

"We know that access to water and sanitation is linked to achieving the other poverty reduction goals. Yet, there is a historical under-investment in water and sanitation and those investments are ineffectively targeted at the poor and inefficiently used."

"There is a discontinuity between the water reform agenda and the strategies. For example one of the reforms focuses on demand-responsive approaches. To achieve that, communities need to be assisted so that it can make their demands heard. But very little of the strategies address this point."

Sir Richard Jolly, WSSCC

"Economic growth is not a prerequisite for achieving other development goals. Yet to sustain action in achieving the Millennium Development Goals you need economic growth."

"People themselves are already doing fantastic things. However, we need to change the laws as the poor are waiting for a space to get on. They are not waiting to be mobilized."

"In some schools there is competition between classes to keep latrines clean and they are. But to do so, they need water."

Henri Smets, Academie de l' Eau Francais

"Local solidarity between the rich and the poor to reduce water cost for the poor is financially bearable for the rich and socially useful to the poor. However, in very poor communities, this is not possible because there are too many poor and they need outside help ... international solidarity is needed."

Aswald M. Chanda, Zambia

"Partnerships in urban water supply and sanitation have worked. If you involve people right from the start, then you have success."

Rokeya Ahmed, DSK

"In 2002 Dhaka Water and Sanitation Agency started to scale up the water Supply for the Poor Project with the help of International NGOs."

Richard Leete, UNFPA

"Population pressures are neglected in the 3rd World Water Forum, though its impacts on demand across the board."

"The human development index shows a clear inverse relationship with total fertility rate per women."

Reducing Vulnerability: Managing Water-Related Disasters and Ensuring Health and Environmental Security

Session Manager: Ian Fox, Asian Development Bank

8:45–1:30, 20 March, Room D, KICH

Presentation	Time	Organization	Presenter
Presentation of the Thematic Overview of the Connection between the Environment, Aquatic Ecosystem Services, and the Well-Being of the Poor	8:45 – 9:00	Water and Poverty Initiative	John Soussan
Thematic Paper on the Linkages between Health and Water	9:00 – 9:10	World Health Organization	Robert Bos
Thematic Paper and Case Excerpts on Water-Related Disaster, Flood Management, and the Poor	9:10 – 9:30	Asian Development Bank	Ian Fox
Coastal Zone Policies and Livelihoods in Bangladesh: Bangladesh Coastal Policy Case Study	9:30 – 9:45		Shamsul Huda
Pro-Poor Water Harvesting Systems in Drought-Prone Areas: A Case Study of Karez in Balochistan, Pakistan – IWMI Pakistan Case Study	9:45 – 10:00	International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	Virginia Appel and Saleem Baloch
IISD-IUCN-SEI Task Force on Adaptation Strategies	10:00 – 10:15	IISD-IUCN-SEI	Brett Orlando
The Water Poverty Index – TBC	10:15 – 10:00	Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Wallingford	Caroline Sullivan
Mountain-River-Lake Integrated Water Resources Development Program, People's Republic of China	10:30 – 10:45	Global Water Partnership (GWP)	Dajun Shen
Panel to Respond to Audience Questions	10:45 – 11:00		Brett Orlando, IUCN; Robert Bos, (WHO); Dajun Shen, GWP); Caroline Sullivan; and Hasna Moudud

Session Synopsis

The fourth session of the Water and Poverty theme focused on the key issues associated with water-related vulnerabilities that poor people face. These include disasters, such as floods and droughts, health risks associated with poor access to safe and sufficient water and sanitation, and environmental security related to the integrity of ecosystems upon which poor people depend.

A mixture of ideas papers are first presented highlighting the links between water and environmental security, water and health, and managing water-related disasters.

All focused on the overarching theme of vulnerability and sustainability. The paper on environmental security focused on various aspects of sustainability.

- What levels of exploitation are sustainable?
- What are the effects of seasonal and annual variability?
- What decision making tools are needed to answer these questions?

It also highlighted that the household vulnerability is linked to poor definition of rights to access. Vulnerabilities can only be reduced where issues of governance and the empowerment of local people to manage their own resource base have been resolved. The role of many ecosystems in the management of disasters was also outlined.

The thematic paper on water and health highlighted the fact that health is almost invariably considered the preserve of the health system. However it argued that this is indeed not the case, but that other sectors, including the water sector need to take responsibility for health issues.

Some of the thematic papers and several of the case studies emphasized the importance of indigenous knowledge systems in limiting vulnerability. Such coping and adaptive strategies need to form part of any approach to reduce people's vulnerabilities. They also emphasized the need to provide an enabling environment in which such strategies can in partnership be developed into appropriate management plans. There was also a call for more emphasis to be placed on determining appropriate means to monitor progress in water sector projects and more widely in terms of monitoring water-related targets in PRSPs.

The presentations were followed by a discussion with a panel from a range of organizations to provide different perspectives that need to be taken into account in understanding the nature of vulnerability.

Much of the discussion focused on both the impacts of water-related disasters had on achieving the MDGs. A question was also raised regarding the need to assess how existing water user rights would be impacted following the development of new management regimes in part to meet with MDGs.

The audience also commented on the fact that, in their view, many of the problems were already identified. What was needed was the political will to put solutions in place. The need to gain commitment to resources was highlighted and suggestions on how to achieve this discussed.

Members of the panel agreed with the presenters on the importance of indigenous coping strategies in the development of strategies to reduce vulnerability to water-related disasters, citing several examples.

Issues relating to water-related indices were discussed and questions raised as to the degree of complexity that is required in these.

The speakers from the session raised a several issues and recommendations for action.

- Indigenous coping and adaptive strategies are an integral element to reducing the vulnerabilities of households to water-related disasters and to wider-environmental security. Such approaches need to be supported and fostered in management plans.

Actions and Recommendations

- There are benefits to water-related events such as flooding. Management plans need to recognize this and attempt to maximize these benefits.
- Resource flows for existing, proven management approaches need to be improved. Tools to aid/force policy makers to assess the situation and face the difficult decisions of prioritization in the water sector need to be developed. Similarly tools are required to enable them to evaluate the impacts of the decisions made in a transparent manner.

Key Quotes

John Soussan, Stockholm Environment Institute

On the connection between the environment, aquatic ecosystem services and the well-being of the poor:

“Why have we got a session which brings together environmental management, health and disasters? Because the key to all of these is vulnerability.”

“We need to look at tackling these problems from an ecological context, we need to understand how people are vulnerable.”

Robert Boss, WHO

On linkages between water and health:

“Often health is considered the preserve of the health system. This is not the case, other sectors also need to take responsibility for the health issues relating to the water sector.”

Ian Fox, Asian Development Bank

On water-related disasters, flood management, and poverty:

“ADB’s approach to flood management is to manage rather than react to floods, to avoid loss of lives by flood-proofing, to provide emergency evacuation measures for vulnerable communities ... and to use flood control measures communities can afford, keeping in mind the risk and long-term maintenance costs.”

Shamsul Huda

On the development of coastal management policy in Bangladesh:

“Development of physical infrastructure is an important first step in vulnerability reduction and in improving the livelihood conditions of the poor. Such efforts need to be linked within an integrated framework of poverty reduction.”

“Narrow focus on structural solutions did neither prepare the agencies nor the stakeholders to confront the unexpected second generation problems.”

Virginia Appel and Saleem Baloch, International Water Management Institute

On pro-poor harvesting systems in Balochistan, Pakistan:

“When there is enough water in the *karez*, communities are assured of enough food and good health ... when there is not enough water they face the loss of their animal herds, sickness, and death.”

Changing Policies and Improving Governance for Water Security for the Poor

Session Manager: Peter Rogers, Harvard University

2:30–15:15, 20 March, KICH

Presentation	Organization	Presenter
Introduction to the Session and Themes	Global Water Partnership	Albert Wright
The South African Water Policy Experience	Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa	Barbara Schreiner
Action Agenda Report from NGO Consultation	Freshwater Action Network	Danielle Morley
Subsidies for Sustainable Sanitation, India	WaterAid	Roger Fitzgerald
Participatory Watershed Development in Anhdra Pradesh	Center for Economic and Social Studies	Malla Reddy, Accion Fraterna, Ratna Reddy
Public and Private Water Supply: Brazil	Ondeo	Alain Mathys
The Water Security and Poverty Challenge in Beijing	People's Republic of China	Zhongya Ma
Irrigation Management and Governance in Sri Lanka and Pakistan	Japan Bank for International Cooperation	Yasuo Fujita
Panel Discussion/Questions	Department of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands; Ondeo, GWP	Bert Diphoom, Mai Flor, Alan Hall, Danielle Morley, Malla Reddy

Session Synopsis

The session focused on the key issues of good governance “the range of political, social, economic and administrative systems that are in place to develop and manage water resources, and the delivery of water services, at different levels of society” (GWP). Governance is essential to increasing the access of poor people to water resources and services, but there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed, including equitable access to water, improved stakeholder involvement in governance and policy-making, and international considerations. Modern governance systems need to provide a balance among state, market, and society.

Integrated water resource management (IWRM) has a significant role to play in water governance including to

- overcome fragmented approaches to water management and provision;
- improve coherence in policy, legislation, and regulatory mechanisms;
- promote equitable and efficient use; and
- sustain resources.

Water management should be at the basin and national level to take into consideration upstream and downstream issues and requirements.

International issues such as war and conflict, globalization, and trade issues also require consideration as they profoundly affect water governance at the national

level. Currently, water services are being negotiated into the Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the implications could be far-reaching for national governance and access to water services.

Access to domestic water services is high on the agenda of water governance and is highlighted in the water MDGs, but water for productive purposes is critical to meeting other MDGs and in the fight against poverty. Good water governance can contribute to economic growth, employment, incomes, education, and empowerment, all of which are essential for poverty reduction, protecting people from water-related vulnerability, such as floods and droughts, and protect ecosystems that provide services for the poor.

Central to good governance and development as well as the implementation of effective and equitable legislation and policies is stakeholder involvement. The challenge is to ensure that you reach the poor, and the poorest, among whom are women, and bring them in on consultative approaches. The creation of Catchment Management Agencies and Water User Associations in South Africa for instance, provide pro-poor and representative structures.

Where water service provision for the poor is taking place through private or public-private partnerships people's participation is also important. There must be demand from the community, a willingness to pay for services, and involvement in development of the scheme. In conjunction with this, participation of local and state authorities, external and national support agencies, and civil society, ensures legitimacy and sound resources management.

In areas where access to water has improved, such as in Andhra Pradesh, India, where watershed management is taking place, many positive benefits can be seen. However, access to water is a necessary but not sufficient condition for poverty reduction. Also, a number of other aspects are essential to ensure these benefits.

Actions and Recommendations

Good governance is essential to ensure access to water, and for maintenance of ecosystem integrity, on which poor communities rely. However, governance is not a simple concept and is influenced by national and international factors, including competing demands at all levels (e.g., trade and conflict). A number of tools are therefore required for development and implementation of legislation and policy, which require people's participation and concerted efforts to include poor people.

In all aspects of water government the value of water needs to be recognized to redress the problems of poor quality and convergence of service provision but service providers in both the public and private sector must be regulated and accountable.

However, water is a human right and access to the poor and marginalized should be guaranteed by support mechanisms such as the provision of a minimum monthly quota.

Valuing the resource, not just its provision is also important and provision should be made for ensuring resource and ecosystem integrity, such as calculation and implementation of reserves.

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

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 organizations provide a reliable structure and systems for program 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

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

In 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 has declined from 1,800 m³ in 1949 to 300 m³ 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

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

On Poverty Reduction, Integrated 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 recognize 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 America ... the legal framework precludes extension into areas with nonlegal title. [We are] trying to provide an informal title that could be used to extend coverage, as this has been done in Central America.”

Closing Plenary: Building Partnerships for Action

Session Manager: Wouter Lincklaen Arriëns, Asian Development Bank

17:30–19:30, 20 March, Main Hall

Presentation	Time	Organization	Presenter
Introduction and Opening Remarks	17:30 – 17:40	ADB	Wouter Lincklaen Arriëns
Presentation of the Ministerial Statement	17:40 – 17:50	ADB	Shireen Lateef
Water Words	17:50 – 18:00	Water Words NGO	John Soussan, John Lane, and Peter Glieck
Urban Water Services Project	18:00 – 18:10	World Council for Sustainable Development	Gerard Payen
Bangladesh Minister for Rural Water Poverty Action	18:10 – 18:15	Minister of Water Resources	L. K. Siddiqi
Rural Water and Poverty Action Initiative: Arriëns Overview; Knowledge Partners (signing); Viet Nam Announcement	18:15 – 18:35	ADB, Various NGOs, and MARD	John Soussan
The World Bank	18:35 – 18:45	World Bank	John Briscoe
Ryan's Well and Report from Youth Forum	18:45 – 19:00	UNICEF	Ryan Hreljac and Blessing David
Partnerships of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Multilateral Development Banks	19:00 – 19:10	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven
Presentation of the UN-HABITAT Water for Cities Programs	19:10 – 19:20	UN-HABITAT	Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka
Final Keynote Presentation: The Statement to the Ministerial Conference	19:20 – 19:30	ADB	President Tadao Chino

Session Synopsis

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 levels.

The specific commitments focused on innovative approaches to improving the contribution of water management to poverty reduction. The need for targeted, demand-led, inclusive approaches was agreed and the need for partnerships that included all stakeholders recognized. 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.

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.
- ADB 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.
- ADB, UN-HABITAT, and the Government of the Netherlands 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, 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.
- ADB is working with other international organizations to establish agreements among them on supporting such initiatives—critically mainstreaming them in normal funding processes.

Key Quotes

Wouter Lincklaen Arriëns, 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? Among 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 1,000 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 five libraries were delivered last month to Malawi, Barbados, (Timor-Leste), Ethiopia, and India.”

Alain Henry, Director Infrastructure, Agence Française de Développement

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

John Soussan, announcing the Rural Water Poverty and Action Initiative

“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 the 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 on 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 Viet Nam, to agree on country level action initiatives.”

“The Asian Development Bank commits its full resources to support these Rural Water and Poverty Action Initiatives.”

2

Key Issues from Other Water and Poverty Sessions

Introduction

A DB was directly responsible for 6 of the 18 sessions under the Water and Poverty theme. The outcome of those six sessions is reflected in the session summaries presented above and the statement on Water and Poverty presented to the Ministerial Conference. There were a further 12 sessions on different aspects of water and poverty that were organized by other organizations. This section provides an overview of the most relevant parts of the reports on these other 12 sessions.⁸ The following were the 12 sessions.

- Ethical Dilemmas in Water Management and Use: A Global Perspective
- Evaluation and Monitoring Instruments for Water Supply and Sanitation
- Living on the Edge: The Challenge of Wastewater Agriculture
- Forming Effective Partnerships: Capacity Building Workshop for the Public Sector
- The Role of Water in the Eradication of Hunger: The Characteristics of the Humanitarian Water Programs
- How Will the Poor Become Customers: Case Studies on Private Sector Preparation and the Role of Civil Society in Promoting a Pro-poor Agenda
- Water, a Drop of Oil in the Economy
- Water Supply and Sanitation: Achieving Poverty Reduction through Public Private Partnership
- Water, Poverty and Development
- Living with Risk: Towards Sustainable Development
- Forming Effective Partnerships: Capacity Building Workshop for NGOs
- NGO Panel Debate

Ethical Dilemmas in Water Management and Use: A Global Perspective – San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Do we as water management professionals and experts have a responsibility to concern ourselves with the drivers of increased demand?

There was a great deal of debate on the topic of privatization and questions as to whether a private sector entity or corporation, which clearly possesses a profit

⁸ The full reports on all the sessions are available on the web at: <http://ap.world.water-forum3.com/>

motive, is the best developer or manager of public assets ... Sustainable water management practices should always be the goal of projects regardless of:

- Local versus central control
- Public versus private ownership

Giving leadership and ownership to the community is critical for the long-term management and maintenance of sustainable programs. Involving them in identifying solutions and focusing on capacity building will ultimately be better than just giving them the answers: "begging for water never quenches the thirst."

We must work hard to avoid being self-congratulatory in order to honestly and objectively set performance targets and manage them. Community members should be involved in setting the proper goals and project objectives for programs that will affect them. We must be willing to share our mistakes as well as our successes. We must avoid getting into the habit of reporting on activities and implementation as a measure of success and more importantly focus on outcomes. Third party assessments performed by a neutral party can be an effective way to measure results. The Government or State should also have an obligation to conduct an honest evaluation or assessment.

We will avoid "either/or" discussions. There is no one right answer or solution to these dilemmas. We must remain open and listen and stay in a stance of active self-evaluation, looking inward for constructive ways to dialogue and come up with solutions.

Evaluating and Monitoring the Access to Water Supply and Sanitation – Agencie d'Eau Seine-Normandie

Background information on the water supply and sanitation sector remains poor and many experts still question the reliability of existing statistics on this issue. Moreover there is no general agreement on the instrument and methodology that should be used to monitor progress toward the MDGs at national and local levels.

The UN, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and some stakeholders have already started to take action on this issue. Thus, in 2000, the Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) put a figure to these commitments in terms of people requiring access to drinking water and sanitation.

The national decision-makers should endorse the MDG targets already set up in the 2000 global drinking water and sanitation evaluation report (UNICEF/WHO/WSSCC). Furthermore, local authorities should commit themselves both to defining the level of services and to planning and monitoring the implementation of the MDGs on their respective areas particularly in the most badly provisioned.

Living on the Edge: the Challenge of Wastewater Agriculture – International Water Management Institute

No session report available. The following information is taken from the pre-session briefing.

Agriculture consumes more than 70% of exploited water resources globally. With increasing water scarcity, it is mandatory to find ways to save water in agriculture. Reusing urban wastewater is an efficient way to conserve higher quality water for other uses. It also has the advantage that nutrients are recycled and consequently, pollution of surface water is prevented. Wastewater reuse can thus be viewed as an attractive joint strategy for water conservation and pollution prevention.

Despite risks from using untreated wastewater, farmers do so. Why? Can we speak of acceptable limits or risks?

Forming Effective Partnerships: Capacity-Building Workshop For the Public Sector – Building Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation

No session report available. The following information is taken from the pre-session briefing.

The workshop will enable public sector participants to review the incentives, constraints, and possible contributions of different stakeholder groups. The workshop would also look at what constitutes different types of partnership, cover partnership basics and common misconceptions, review expected roles and responsibilities, and examine the costs and benefits for the public sector of entering partnerships.

The Role of Water in the Eradication of Hunger: The Characteristics of the Humanitarian Water Programs – Action Against Hunger, Spain

No session report available. The following information is taken from the pre-session briefing.

The session would be mainly to discuss the role of water in the eradication of hunger. Water is a critical component in the health and the development of the poorest. It is critical to both health and livelihood. Access to safe drinking water is one of the key issues in the fight against malnutrition.

Solutions to the crisis: Advocacy + intervention ... Responses to the crisis: between the emergency and the development: Preparedness ... The compromise of the NGOs to show that the solutions exist: The Action Against Hunger Blue Revolution project.

New Rules, New Rules: Does Private Sector Participation Benefit the Poor? – WaterAid

Private sector participation (often mistakenly characterized as privatization) was the most contentious issue arising out of the 2nd World Water Forum. It has been oversold as the panacea to solving the under-performance of the public sector and to achieve the additional financing required to meet the needs of the unserved poor.

The question, however still remains: How do we strengthen the capacity of the public sector, especially at the local government municipality level, to play a decisive role in the development, management, and implementation of water and sanitation services; and where appropriate and within a strong regulatory environment, to bring into partnership civil society groups and the private sector (domestic private sector and international private sector). The decisions on the delivery mechanisms for services must be decided by governments and public authorities and their citizens, and not imposed as conditions of loans or grants.

Insufficient thinking is given to building on the capacity of households and civil society groups as the starting point for the development of financing. One panelist said “this is where the Camdessus Panel should have started from.”

The methodology for gathering information for the report published by WaterAid and Tearfund could be used as a template for a greater people-centered approach within policy formulation.

Water sector reform must reshape the relationship between government, the business sector, and civil society. Resources must be committed to this process.

Water, a Drop of Oil in the Economy – Self-Employed Women’s Association

No session report available. The following information is taken from the pre-session briefing.

Combining improved water supply with micro-enterprise development has much potential to alleviate poverty in semiarid areas. Action research (IRC et al., 2001) by IRC, SEWA, and FPI revealed that both time released by an improved water supply, and the water itself enabled SEWA micro-enterprise members to make a substantial contribution to the household income, especially at times of crisis such as droughts. Moreover, gender relations have changed in favor of these women. Hence, improving domestic water supply is not just a welfare issue focused on “soft” issues like reducing the drudgery of water collection or improving health, hygiene, and sanitation, but also a critical economic issue.

The principal aim of the session is to showcase and promote integrated approaches that combine: an improved domestic water supply, micro-enterprise development, and capacity building for women, as a strategy for poverty reduction. The session will highlight:

- The importance of women’s role in rural economies and the economic additional water and timesaving from improved domestic water supplies.
- Operation and maintenance of the domestic water supply as a source of employment.
- The need to include the “people’s sector” in current development such as globalization, privatization, and technology.

Water Supply and Sanitation: Achieving Poverty Reduction through Public-Private Partnership – Agence Française de Développement

Deprived areas in big towns and medium-sized towns (what is generally called the semi-urban) have specific features (heterogeneous demand, priorities between the basic needs, etc.), which call for specific answers in terms of service offer, management of the systems, social intermediation. Besides, looking at the connection rates of many capitals in the world shows that sometimes more than 50% of the population does not have a private connection, which means that the challenges in terms of providing access to poor populations largely rest on designing appropriate solutions to these areas.

Delegating the service to skillful operators, under a strict control of the public authorities, can improve the current situation of populations living in these areas. Private operators can indeed bring efficiency and reliability to the systems in place. Besides, the needs in investment require the involvement of various partners.

Building multiple partnerships involving national and local public authorities, the local and international private sector, NGOs, and users committees, is the response to these challenges.

Obtaining successful results implies a number of conditions:

- Resorting to social intermediation is essential in order to design sustainable managing structures;
- Delegation to the private sector should enable existing small-scale independent providers to maintain a diversified offer;
- Capacity building for local or national authorities in order to institute a strong regulation is necessary if the service is delegated;
- Financial contribution of users (through tariffs) should cover quasi-integrally operation and maintenance; and
- Mechanisms such as output based aid should be encouraged to allow for the provision of services in areas with potential non-profitability.

Water, Poverty, and Development – World Water Council and GAP-RDA

No session report available. The following information is taken from the pre-session briefing.

There is an immensely powerful link between water and sustainable human development. Water resources development is not an end in itself, it is a means to an end. The end is to alleviate poverty, improve the quality of life and to maintain the integrity of the environment and the ecosystems. Properly planned and managed water projects can also successfully reduce regional disparities and contribute to significant improvements in social well-being. This session seeks to analyze the relationship among water, poverty, and development through an interdisciplinary approach.

Given the dependence of people on water, the way in which water resources are allocated and developed will play a major role in determining how human poverty is alleviated or exacerbated in the near future. How can we break the vicious cycle of poverty and water resources use?

Based on the experiences and observances gained all over the world, what kind of water use, management, and development options are available for poverty eradication?

In line with the interdisciplinary approach, what kind of political, social, legal, and economic institutions for management of water, can be created at various levels (e.g., international, national, and regional)?

Living with Risk – UN-ISDR

The recommendations of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (chapter IV, paragraph 37), recognized that on the one hand the impact of disasters, in particular water related disasters, such as floods, droughts, storm surges, and landslides have created widespread social, economic, and environmental disruption, and on the other hand, that the principle cause of the increase in the impact of water related hazards, is due primarily to the underlying vulnerability of the poorer communities.

With this in mind, the participants of the joint the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction/Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ISDR/ADRC) session entitled “Living with Risk” call on the 3rd World Water Forum Ministerial Conference to address both the root causes of the problem, namely, the lack of awareness of hazards, the condition of human settlement and infrastructures, the nature and application of public policy, the financial resources available for disaster reduction, and the lack of integrative approaches, as well as the source of the hazards such as floods and droughts.

Specifically, we call for:

- An integrated, multi-hazard, inclusive approach to address vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, along the priorities set out in the framework for action for the implementation of ISDR, as an essential element of a safer world in the 21st century.
- The integration of the reduction of risk and vulnerability, including risk assessment and risk sharing, into water resource management policies and initiatives, particularly, in the context of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). This more integrated approach can support the reduction of communities’ vulnerability to disasters by enhancing social equity and will have important implications for flood and drought management. Disaster reduction also involves the development of early warning systems, vulnerability mapping, technological transfer, education, and training, among other elements.

Forming Effective Partnerships: Capacity-Building Workshop for NGOs – Building Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation

No session report available. The following information is taken from the pre-session briefing.

The main issues that will be discussed during the capacity building workshop are:

- How to strengthen NGO capacity for partnering with the public and private sectors in the provision of water and sanitation services to poor communities;
- To discuss the early stages of partnership formation and formalization of a partnership framework (memorandums of understanding, etc.) to help offset balance of power issues;
- To review how the NGOs negotiate with likely partners over objectives, roles, responsibilities and governance and ensure that major concerns are fairly considered and addressed; and
- To review the opportunities and threats to NGOs in entering partnerships;
- The main objective of the capacity building workshop will be to debate the issues detailed above and to suggest that a key step for civil society organizations (whether they play a role in service provision, advocacy, or as a watchdog) considering partnerships (whether with the public sector, the private sector, or both) is an internal assessment of what partnership will mean to their organization. Issues for further review will include the nature of different types of partnership, partnership basics and common misconceptions, conducting cost/benefit analysis for NGOs thinking of entering partnerships, etc.

NGO Panel Debate B – Freshwater Action Network

Recommendations:

- Governments must reaffirm that access to water and sanitation is a basic human right in the Kyoto Declaration and must always respect and protect human rights in all water policy and water resource management decisions.
- Recognize the legitimacy of NGOs and community organizations as contributors to sustainable development.
- Community based approaches require more formal political and financial support so they can be replicated and scaled up.
- Build the capacity of public service providers, community cooperatives, and small-scale entrepreneurs to provide water.
- Base Integrated Water Resources Management strategies on people's participation and provide adequate mechanisms for dialogue and conflict resolution within river basins and across national boundaries. NGOs are ready to work with governments to set up these mechanisms.
- Governments, International Financial Institutions and the private sector, should cease to promote water mega-projects without reference to international agreements and must always incorporate the recommendations of the World Commission on Dams into water and energy planning processes, including reparations.

- Governments have to close the financing gap, increase financial efficiency and eliminate corruption and funding agencies must meet their commitments to debt relief.
- Financing should be targeted toward low cost technologies and community developed systems.
- Governments must keep water resources and services out of the WTO and all other regional and international trade negotiations and agreements and in particular the General Agreement on Trade in Services.
- NGOs will continue to work with governments to develop water policies that prioritize ecosystem security and environment health of river basins to provide sufficient flow, quantity and quality of water for human livelihoods, development, and biodiversity.
- As enablers of participation in planning, implementing, and monitoring, we require full and free transparent access to information held by governments, international agencies, and corporations.
- We call for a rejection of the Camedessus Report as the product of an unaccountable, unrepresentative, inaccessible process no longer suitable for this day and age.

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Report on the Water Development Partners Panel

3rd World Water Forum, 21 March 2003, Kyoto, Japan

Background

Water and poverty was a central theme at the 3rd World Water Forum. The Water Development Partners Panel involved the partners who play a key role in funding projects and initiatives as well as conference participants in general. Participants responded to questions, either from the floor or selected from those submitted to the coordinator in advance of the session. In the WDPP, guided by host-coordinator Coco Quisumbing, panelists clarified their roles in addressing the challenges of reducing poverty through water-related projects and initiatives. This report summarizes the main points raised during the discussion for the Ministerial Conference. The points do not reflect the views of all participants or firm conclusions. Rather, they are the main issues that emerged from a wide-ranging and dynamic discussion.

Panelists

- **Agnes van Ardenne-van der Hoeven**, Minister for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- **Tadao Chino**, President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Asian Development Bank
- **Yasuo Matsui**, Vice President, Japan International Cooperation Agency
- **Koji Tanami**, Deputy Governor and Managing Director, Japan Bank for International Cooperation
- **Peter Woicke**, Managing Director, World Bank and Executive Vice President, International Finance Corporation

Discussants

- **Antonino Aquino**, President, Manila Water Company, Incorporated
- **Jerson Kelman**, President, National Water Agency, Brazil
- **Ravi Narayanan**, Director, WaterAid
- **Ruhakana Rugunda**, Minister of Water, Land and Environment, Uganda

Issues

The first conclusion that emerged from the discussions was the importance of improving the contribution of water management to poverty reduction. Water was seen as central to the lives and livelihoods of poor people and the attainment of overall development aspirations.

Many agencies have changed their policies to place greater emphasis on stakeholder participation and integrated approaches. The need to speed up and develop more flexible procedures was also stressed, though this should not be at the price of proper preparation, participation, or accountability.

The need was stressed for developing countries to take primary responsibility for establishing good governance and water management plans and to ensure that water was integrated into PRSPs. It was agreed that a structure of good governance is essential for sustainable solutions to the water needs of poor people in developing countries.

Capacity development has become a focus of policies, but the need for much more action in this area was recognized. Particular emphasis was placed on building capacities in local government agencies and among local communities.

The role of the private sector and the importance of public-private partnerships was discussed and a range of opinions expressed. Overall, the need for private sector involvement was emphasized, particularly to mobilize new funding sources and the realization of the MDGs. The potential of private capital within developing countries was identified as a resource that has not been adequately tapped. The need for proper regulatory regimes was stressed. The case was made for pro-poor subsidies and the need for appropriate tariff structures, set at no more than a small percentage of household income, was identified.

The panel agreed that in most cases poor people were both willing and able to pay for good quality water services, although not always at full cost. Paying for investments in infrastructure is more problematic and often needs external support. The ability to pay and the sustainability of investments is greatly enhanced where the water needs of small-scale livelihoods activities were included in service provision.

The need for major increases in investment in large-scale water infrastructure was highlighted. The panelists stressed their willingness to support such investments as long as there were appropriate social and environmental safeguards. Alternative measures were also considered. Some panelists indicated that their policies were changing and that they would give greater consideration to financing major water infrastructure in the future.

Many points were made on the source of and arrangements for water sector finances. The need to safeguard water investments against macroeconomic uncertainties was stressed. Possibilities such as a devaluation liquidity backstopping facility were discussed. The need for major innovations in this field was agreed. The exciting potential of initiatives such as the African Water Facility was seen as deserving strong support.

The importance of providing support to small-scale local investments was stressed, whether by NGOs or local authorities. This is a particular problem for loan-based financing and the need for greater flexibility was emphasized. Multilateral development banks (MDBs) are exploring mechanisms through which they can provide support to local communities, NGOs, and other community based entities.

The scope for ensuring that financial disbursement schedules took account of the time necessary for stakeholder participation. The need for capacity building was also stressed, as was the need for greater flexibility in procedures and project design.

