

WASH as entry point to reduce Covid-19 vulnerabilities and other hazards

Date &
Time

12 March 2021 **Fri**
15:30-16:30 (Japan Time)

Draft Programme

Opening remarks

- Overview of UN-Habitat's response to COVID-19 pandemic (*5 min*) – Mr Atsushi Koresawa, UN-Habitat Regional Representative, Asia-Pacific

Opening Session

- WASH as entry point to reduce Covid-19 vulnerabilities and other hazards (*10 min*) – Avi Sarkar ,Regional Advisor, UBS SEA

Technical Session

- Country cases (Fiji, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar) by country offices (*10 min each*) – Ms Inga Korte (Fiji), Ms Parul Agarawal (India), Mr Juan Torres (Laos) and Ms Oddy Angelo (Myanmar)

Summary

- Session summary – Mr Atsushi Koresawa (*5 min*)

Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_76BuAqHKQNum1u8yjZxlXw

Please Join Us!

Contact: APWF Secretariat (Japan Water Forum) : office@apwf.org

Overview

The impact of COVID-19 across Asia-Pacific Region has brought for the importance of robust WASH infrastructure systems into focus. While the unfolding crisis affects the entire population across the region, certain groups are more severely hit due to the existing challenging accesses and conditions related to water, sanitation and health systems. Limited access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene are problems that weaken health care systems across communities in Asia-Pacific every year. In addition, the limited mainstreaming of disaster risk and climate change considerations into urban plans or actions exacerbate these challenges that Governments face to achieve through responses in terms of adaptation, mitigation and improved resilience. A business-as-usual approach will not be enough to overcome the effects of the current pandemic and build resilience against the future shocks. Improved WASH services and infrastructures are key assets that need to be looked at to build lasting resilience in the post-pandemic scenario.

This Webinar will look into the COVID-19 response in several countries of the region, where on-going climate change related interventions have already made progress towards strengthening sustainable water resources management and service provision. This technical approach will look into three specific areas: (a) water resilient systems' impact in communities, (b) sustainable engagement of local governments and communities through participatory approaches, and (c) importance of producing evidence-based data, mapping and knowledge for informed decision making.

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About the Speakers:



Mr. Atsushi Koresawa

Atsushi Koresawa (Mr.) is the UN-Habitat Regional Representative of Asia and the Pacific. Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) is situated in Fukuoka city, Japan since June 2017. As the Regional Representative, he is responsible for 42 countries across the A-P Region, supporting country offices' activities and engaged in UN activities at global, regional and country levels. Before joining UN-Habitat, Mr. Koresawa served at several ministries and institutions of the Japanese government since 1988. He also served at international organizations including UN-Habitat (Nairobi), OECD (Paris) and the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (Kobe).



Ms. Inga Korte

Ms. Inga Korte is the UN-Habitat Team Leader Urban Climate Resilience for Fiji and the Solomon Islands. She has been working in the Pacific since 2019, supporting climate resilience informal settlement upgrading and community engagement programs. Prior to working in the Pacific, Ms. Korte supported the UN-Habitat office in Afghanistan on community development and local governance.



Ms. Oddy Angelo

Ms. Oddy Angelo is the Programme Coordinator of Community-driven Development Unit for Myanmar. She has been working with UN-Habitat since 2007, prior to Myanmar she worked in ROAP, Indonesia and Afghanistan. Oddy is engaged in humanitarian and development projects addressing issues of housing, WASH, basic infrastructure, and electricity, she is also involved in slum upgrading at operational and normative level.



Mr. Juan Torres

Mr. Juan Torres is information Management Officer for UN-Habitat Lao PDR Office. Mr. Torres holds a Master's Degree in International Cooperation for Development and Geographic Information Systems. For the past 10 years, Mr. Torres has participated in numerous projects as Information Management Specialist in emergency and development contexts in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia, focusing his activities in data collection, data analysis and data visualization.



Ms. Parul Agarwala

Ms. Parul Agarwala is the Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat, India office. In this role, Ms. Agarwala has worked on promoting the sustainability, inclusion and resilience into the national urban policy frameworks, spatial planning and urban management. Prior to India, she managed the Clean and Green Cities programme in Afghanistan developed to improve lives of the urban poor – with a special focus on women - by providing job opportunities and stability through paid work.



Dr. Avi Sarkar

Dr. Avi Sarkar is the Regional Advisor, South-East Asia, Urban Basic Services, UN-Habitat. In this role, Dr Sarkar has been involved in planning and implementing several water and sanitation projects in the Asia-Pacific region.

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The Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF)

About the APWF

The APWF is an independent non-profit multi-stakeholder network launched in September 2006. The objective is to raise the priority of tackling water security issues highlighted in the development agenda in the Asia-Pacific region in order to improve people's livelihoods and the environment.

It works collaboratively with a wide variety of water-related organizations in the region to build capacity and enhance cooperation, while boosting investment at the regional level and beyond.

Now, the APWF is planning to hold the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit (the 4th APWS) in Kumamoto City, Japan in 23-24 April 2022. At the 4th APWS, high-level delegates including heads of state and government and representatives of international organizations in the Asia-Pacific region will discuss various water-related priority issues and reach better alignment of priorities and actions at different levels for a water-safe and sustainable future. (<http://apwf.org/>)

The APWF Webinar Series is organized as an important part of the preparation for the 4th APWS. It aims to provide the government officials of the 49 countries in Asia and the Pacific with an opportunity to learn and deep-dive into water and water-related issues highlighted from different perspectives. Please join the APWF Webinar!

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