

# Focus: Eye on Asia

Tuesday 18 August

Full Day Seminar

**Convenor:** Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Water Association (IWA), National Water and Sanitation Association of the Philippines (NAWASA), Network for Asian River Basin Organisations (NARBO), Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF) and Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Asia's water issues are well known. But are they known by the "right" people? People who make policies, take decisions, mobilize communities, innovate, and are committed to the efficient management of Asia's water resources? Why do we eye South Asia's lack of 24/7 potable water as a problem when local governments and customers seem satisfied with existing service levels? Should a country that is "on track" to meet the Millennium Development Goals at a numerical level accept that numbers without quality means cheating on the target? Eye on Asia will offer perspectives on these and other issues through non-traditional lenses.

09:00 Welcome and introduction to "Eye on Asia" -- Mr. Arjun Thapan, ADB, Philippines.

## Accessing Urban Water Supplies and Improving Sanitation

Tuesday 18 August

Morning Seminar

**Convenor:** Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Water Association (IWA), National Water and Sanitation Association of the Philippines (NAWASA) and Global Water Partnership (GWP)

While there are success stories, these are too few relative to Asia's urban consumers. The continent's water utilities remain challenged to deliver world class performance – there are high NRW levels, financial weaknesses, and serious governance issues. Meanwhile, small-scale water service providers are filling the gap where utilities have failed. The session starts with an overview of water issues in Asia followed by a presentation by a small-scale service provider and how the urban poor are benefitting from such service.

Improving urban sanitation has increasingly received attention in recent times. Studies have concluded that investment in sanitation pays. The second half of the session will present examples of current initiatives for improving urban sanitation in the region and a case study demonstrating that sanitation is a viable business.

### Water Supply Session:

- 09:10 Overview of Water Situation in Asia – Mr. Rudolf Frauendorfer, ADB
- 09:30 Filling the Gap: The Role of Small Scale Service Providers in Urban Water Supply - Elsa Mejia, Philippines
- 09:50 Panel Discussion: Mr. Rudolf Frauendorfer ADB, Ms. Elsa Mejia , Philippines, Mr. Ryan Yuen (IWA), + 1 TBC
- 10:10 Open discussion
- 10:25 Summary of Session
  
- 10:30 Coffee Break

### Sanitation Session:

- 11:00 Overview of Sanitation Situation in Asia - Mr. Arjun Thapan, ADB
- 11:20 Sanitation as a Business Virgilio C. Rivera Jr., Philippines
- 11:40 Panel Discussion: Ms. Amy Leung, ADB, Mr. Arjun Thapan, ADB, Virgilio C. Rivera Jr., Philippines, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, India, Paul Reiter, IWA
- 12:10 Open Discussion
- 12:25 Summary of Session
- 12:30 Close

# Facing Up to Climate Change Impacts and Costs

Tuesday 18 August

Lunch Side Event

**Convenor:** Asian Development Bank (ADB) Global Water Partnership (GWP)

Recent impact assessments indicate that Asia's developing countries will experience a disproportionately large share of the impacts of global climate change. Adapting to a whole new paradigm on water allocation and use will not be easy. The session will continue the debate begun at Asia Water Day 2008 regarding key policy concerns and the issue of who should pay.

- 12:45 Welcome and Introduction - Torkil Jonch Clausen, Lao PDR
- 12:50 Key note speaker: Mr David McCauley, ADB
- 13:10 Response: Michael Muller, Chair GWP TEC
- 13:20 Floor discussion – facilitated by Torkil Jonch Clausen, Lao PDR
- 13:40 Summary of Session - Torkil Jonch Clausen, Lao PDR
- 13:45 Close

# Advances in River Basin Management in Asia

Tuesday 18 August

Afternoon Seminar, part 1

**Convenor:** Asian Development Bank (ADB), Network for Asian River Basin Organisations (NARBO), and Global Water Partnership (GWP)

There is growing recognition in Asia that quality water is central to economic development just as poor quality water is an unacceptable environmental threat to human health and the life of rivers. This has informed the need for better river basin management on the continent. Integrated water resources management (IWRM) concepts and approaches have been promoted in parallel with the adoption of the river basin as the logical planning unit for water resources decisions. Increasing concerns about the state of rivers in the region is prompting the formation of new management institutions to facilitate the implementation of IWRM at river basin scale, generally in some form of river basin organization. These new institutions are intended to engage a broader section of stakeholders in decisions than was the case in previous sector-specific development decisions.

The workshop will assess recent experiences in creating improved access to water resources in Asia based on case studies of different forms of organizations that are emerging in selected basins.

- 14:00 Welcome and Introduction – Ian W Makin, ADB
- 14:05 Innovations and Advances in Basin Management in Asia, Mr Ganesh Pangare, Thailand (TBC)
- 14:25 Questions and Clarifications
- 14:30 Panel Discussion, Ganesh Pangare, Thailand, Watt Botkosol, Cambodia, Vadim Sokolov, Uzbekistan, Sardar Tariq, Pakistan, Ms. Do Hong Phan, Vietnam, Torkil Jønch Clausen, Lao PDR
- 15:00 Open Discussion
- 15:15 Summary of Session, Ian W Makin, ADB
  
- 15:20 Summary of Technical Sessions of Eye on Asia, Mr. Klauss Gerhaeusser, ADB
- 15:30 Close

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break