



# WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL

Ready... Steady... Hurry up!



## WSSCC

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## IYS Advocacy Kit Launched

The UN-Water Task Force on Sanitation has prepared an information kit to support advocacy initiatives during the International Year of Sanitation and beyond. To download the kit: [www.sanitation2008.org](http://www.sanitation2008.org)

## NEWSLETTER June 2008

### News from the Secretariat

#### National Coordinators and Regional Reps Meet in Geneva

In what has re-established itself as an important annual review and planning gathering, the **WSSCC Meeting of National Coordinators (NCs) and Regional Representatives (RRs)** took place 5-9 May in Geneva.

After a two-year hiatus, the 2007 meeting marked the return of an event that enables National Coordinators to present their WASH activities, learn from colleagues and provide feedback and guidance to the Secretariat. The May meeting built upon the previous year's success and featured a wide-ranging agenda in 13 sessions for the 36 country representatives.

As in 2007, sessions which went to the traditional heart of WSSCC's work - reports on national and regional progress, discussions on sanitation behaviour change, updates on thematic networking and knowledge management, and an inspiring and idea-filled "WASH Café" - proved both popular and informative.

Also discussed were some activities which have developed further since last year. These included the new WASH Coalition Building Guidelines (suggested by NCs in 2007), the newly-launched Global Sanitation Fund, and the Steering Committee decision to merge the roles of Elected Regional Steering Committee Members and Regional Representatives. A WHO presentation on the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) and the Global Annual Assessment Report of the Water and Sanitation Sector (GLAAS) was also appreciated.

During the meeting, special recognition was given to Mr. Edgar Quiroga from Colombia, who is stepping down as an NC after many years of service, and Dr. Khin Lwin, from Myanmar, who overcame much difficulty to make it to Geneva because of the typhoon which struck his country just days before.

The meeting report is accessible at [www.wsscc.org](http://www.wsscc.org).

#### From Planning to Reality: Global Sanitation Fund Takes First Steps Forward

Launched on 14 March, shortly after confirmations of contributions from donors totaling more than \$50 million, the **Global Sanitation Fund (GSF)** is taking its first concrete steps in Nepal, Madagascar and Uganda. The GSF is a pooled fund whose purpose is to support national efforts to help poor people attain sustainable access to basic sanitation. To date donor commitments have been made by The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## News from the Secretariat continued

The key initial steps for setting up the GSF in any country are to obtain government approval, identify a Coordinating Mechanism, and develop the scope of work, which describes the objectives and organisation of the GSF in the country.

The scoping work is under way in Nepal, Madagascar and Uganda, and discussions with the governments of Burkina Faso, Senegal and India are in process. The final country likely to be a part of Round 1 GSF funding is Pakistan, which WSSCC representatives will visit in coming months, pending security clearance. Further, the call for expressions of interest from potential Executing Agencies for these countries is

### New Staff

WSSCC's professional staff expanded recently with the addition of Adly Sadek, Programme Officer Finance and Administration, and David Trouba, Programme Officer Communications.

Mr. Sadek, a Swiss national of Egyptian origin, joined the Council in February. He has more than 25 years of experience working with finance and administrative issues within the World Health Organization (WHO). Mr. Trouba is from the USA and joined WSSCC in April after 10 years at the Stockholm International Water Institute, where he served as Communications Director.

a decidedly brown tint. WSSCC will have a major presence at the event, moderating panels, organising events, hosting an exhibition and recruiting new members.

**WORLD WATER WEEK**  
in Stockholm,  
August 17-23, 2008

On 18 August, Executive Director Jon Lane will moderate a high-profile, high-level plenary panel entitled **For a Clean and Healthy World – The Role of Sanitation for the MDGs**. On 19 August, WSSCC and partners will convene a seminar entitled **The Best of Sanitation: Synthesis and Outcomes of the Regional Sanitation Conferences**. The same day, WSSCC will give an **Introduction to the Global Sanitation Fund** during a side event.

Advocacy is central to the International Year of Sanitation and to broader efforts to change human behaviour through communication. On 20 August, WSSCC co-hosts the seminar **Water and Sanitation Advocacy: How Can We Convince You?** WSSCC will also co-convene **The Lingering Failure of Sanitation - Why?** on 21 August.

Finally, during the 22 August Closing General Session, the **WASH Media Awards** will be presented by WSSCC and SIWI. All week long, a staffed exhibit will provide the latest information on WSSCC and offer member registration. For more information, visit [www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org).



WSSCC's Global Sanitation Fund consultant Robert Martin (in the middle) participates in Madagascar's press conference on 11 April. On his right is Mr. Rajoanson Hugues, Director of the Cabinet of the Energy and Mines Minister, and on his left, Dr. Jean Louis Robinson, Health, Family Planning and Social Protection Minister.

scheduled for September - October.

WSSCC's Executive Director Jon Lane has already encouraged National WASH Coalitions to express their interest in participating in Round 2 GSF funding; selection of those countries will be made by WSSCC's Steering Committee in March 2009.

### Awash in WASH Media Award Entries

Nearly 150 print, web, radio and TV entries were received from around the world for the **WASH Media Awards 2008**. They are now being evaluated by an international jury that will select a winner in the English, French and Spanish language categories, plus a "gender" prize. The four winners will participate in the World Water Week in Stockholm, 17-23 August, and be honoured during an Awards Ceremony. The winning journalists will be announced at [www.wsscc.org](http://www.wsscc.org) and [www.siwi.org](http://www.siwi.org) in August.

### Blue to Brown in Stockholm Town

With more than half of its 100 sessions dedicated to sanitation, the World Water Week in Stockholm 2008 in August has

## WSSCC Members & Partners

### WASH Case Study Series Premiers

WSSCC is excited to announce the launch of a new WASH Case Studies Series which showcases the evolution, activities and impact of national WASH Coalitions. The first three case studies cover Ethiopia, Nepal and Madagascar. In Ethiopia, a strong WASH movement has dominated the

awareness raising agenda in the country. In Nepal, media work has been at the forefront. And in Madagascar, the Diorano-WASH Coalition has become the main sector coordination body for hygiene and sanitation promotion. To download or read the case studies, visit [www.wsscc.org](http://www.wsscc.org).

### Support a G8 Sanitation and Water Petition

Sign WaterAid's petition targeting the 38th G8 Summit (7-9 July in Toyako, Japan) to agree and commit to a global action plan for sanitation and water. More information: [www.endwaterpoverty.org/take\\_action/39.asp](http://www.endwaterpoverty.org/take_action/39.asp)

## WSSCC Members & Partners *continued*

### 2009: Stockholm Water (and Sanitation) Prize

WASH Coalitions by their very nature are working to improve the health of individuals through concrete educational, awareness raising and development activities. Such efforts can be honoured with the \$150,000 Stockholm Water Prize. Visit [www.siwi.org](http://www.siwi.org) to learn more or submit a nomination for the 2009 prize by 30 September 2008.

### New National Coordinators Speak About their Experiences and Expectations

During the **Meeting of National Coordinators (NCs) and Regional Representatives (RRs)** in May, WSSCC's Tatiana Fedotova and David Trouba met the newest NCs to discuss the water, sanitation and hygiene issues in their countries, their WASH Coalitions and their impressions of the meeting in Geneva.



From left to right:  
Mr. André Toupe - Benin, Mr. Chea Samnang - Cambodia,  
Ms. Fatoumata Haidara - Mali and Mr. Fataou Salami - Togo

#### **Fatoumata Haidara – Mali**

In Mali, the WASH Coalition started this year and is closely linked to WaterAid's End Water Poverty Campaign, which has generated broad awareness of and mobilisation for water supply issues, says Fatoumata Haidara.

*"Now we need to achieve the same for implementing a sanitation strategy; all the societal layers need to be mobilised,"* Ms. Haidara says. *"Therefore we need WSSCC's support in the areas of capacity building, advocacy and communications,*

*documentation, case studies and networking, in order to be in contact with other organisations and with the global level, and to share experiences and learn from others."*

Ms. Haidara also said that it would be very helpful to visit other country partners as well, such as Madagascar and India. From that point of view, she found the planning meeting very useful since she could meet other National Coordinators.

*"We'll stay in touch and try to visit each other's projects,"* she added. *"These WSSCC contacts are very important for the coalition building and for implementing the sanitation strategy in Mali."*

#### **Fataou Salami – Togo**

Fataou Salami is part of the CREPA [Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement à faible coût] network in West Africa, and two years ago CREPA members in Togo were encouraged by the CREPA headquarters to start a national WASH Coalition. Thus encouraged, Mr. Salami met different ministers as well as WSSCC's Carolien van der Voorden, who visited Togo and explained WASH, its principles and strategies. *"It was disappointing to hear that such a network has been in existence for years, and that we were not part of it,"* Mr. Salami says. *"So we felt very motivated to join this WASH campaign, which is at the very centre of the sanitation sector."*

After meeting the other National Coordinators, he feels motivated to speak with potential partners such as CARE International, UNICEF, the French Development Agency, and others, in order to design an action plan and develop the national WASH Coalition.

*"We already started working on a 'clean village concept' with the seed funding received from WSSCC and will now move forward with media activities,"* Mr. Salami says. *"The sanitation sector definitely needs more institutional strength, meaning fewer divisions between different agencies and ministries. By the end of the year I would like to see a sanitation programme and budget adopted and implemented in Togo."*

To achieve this, he said, institutional support from WSSCC is crucial, since it enhances credibility at the national level and shows the government that Togo's WASH Coalition is serious and trustworthy.

#### **André Toupe – Benin**

According to André Toupe, Benin is in an organisational phase for its national WASH Coalition. More civil society mobilisation is needed, he said, to make decision-makers aware of the urgency and importance of water and sanitation needs.

*"Before we start fundraising at the national level, we need more visibility and we need to show the added value of our movement to decision-makers, and convince them of our capabilities,"* Mr. Toupe says. *"Therefore we expect WSSCC's support in terms of advocacy and capacity building, not only in the capital city, but in the areas where the problems are most acute as well."*

He said Benin will build up a strong central component for the coalition, but that decentralisation will be a key to success of the programme in the long run. He said that young people will be a focus of the effort. *"Otherwise, we'll never achieve the much needed change in hygiene and sanitation habits,"* Toupe says, adding that the next three years of WSSCC support are important.

#### **Chea Samnang – Cambodia**

Chea Samnang stopped practicing internal medicine in 1993, but he hasn't stopped working on behalf of the health of Cambodia's people. As Director of the Department of Rural Health Care in the Ministry of Rural Development, he has a leading role to participate in improving living standards and alleviating the poverty of rural people. He has the credentials to serve as the National Coordinator in one of WSSCC's newest WASH Coalitions, but he also welcomes new inspiration.

*"I'm active in WSSCC because of the opportunity to learn,"* says Dr. Samnang. *"Meeting colleagues from Africa, South Asia and elsewhere provides an opportunity to share knowledge and find new ways to improve our own sanitation and hygiene work in Cambodia."*

## WSSCC Members & Partners continued

Today, only 16 percent of the population in rural areas of Cambodia have access to a clean and private place to defecate. Dr. Samnang sees great opportunities for promoting home hygiene and he envisions a quick start-up to WASH activities since strong water supply and sanitation sector

coordination already exists between governmental and non-governmental actors.

Strong political commitment also exists: in November 2007 Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen presented a six-point plan to ensure the efficiency and sustainability in rural

sanitation improvement. The momentum generated has led to a series of regional sanitation, health and hygiene meetings; increased International Year of Sanitation advocacy, and an accelerated programme to meet Cambodia's MDG sanitation target of 30% coverage by 2015.

## News on the Website

### Send an E-Card, Save a Life

Seven **electronic post cards (e-cards)** are now available with the WASH images and slogans in English, French and Spanish. Hurry up! Send one, raise awareness and generate action for the billions of people who lack access to safe water and adequate sanitation.

### Nigerian First Lady Launches National Handwashing Campaign

In May, Nigeria's first lady Hajia Turai Yar'Adua launched the National Hand Washing Campaign in Abuja to promote good hygiene practices as a strategy for improved public health. Read the full story on the **Nigeria page**.



### New Nepalese WASH Calendar

The Nepalese WASH calendar, first introduced in 2004, has been completely updated and highlights sanitation-related issues through cartoons in simple language targeted towards the rural population. The popular calendar has been disseminated widely across the country. **Visit the Nepal page** to learn more about this creative and useful communications tool.

## QUIZ

### 1. WSSCC has members in more than

- A. 30 countries       B. 80 countries       C. 50 countries

### 2. Sanitation coverage rates in Africa from 1990 to 2006

- A. increased slightly (33% to 38%)       B. decreased slightly (38% to 33%)

### 3. What percentage of the world population is using improved sanitation?

- A. 42%       B. 54%       C. 62%

## WSSCC in Motion, June-September 2008

### 18 June

Jon Lane video presentation at SWAN (Sanitation and Water Action Network) Canada Meeting.

More info: [www.swanacanada.org](http://www.swanacanada.org)

### 23-27 June

WSSCC visit to WASH Senegal.

More info: [vandervoordenc@who.int](mailto:vandervoordenc@who.int)

### 24 June

Jon Lane presentation at Fourth Caribbean Environmental Forum and Exhibition, St. George's University, Grenada.

More info: [www.cehi.org.lc](http://www.cehi.org.lc)

### 30 June

Deadline for nominations for WSSCC Steering Committee By-election for Anglophone Africa and Latin America. More info: [www.wsscc.org/en/members/steering-committee-elections/index.htm](http://www.wsscc.org/en/members/steering-committee-elections/index.htm)

### 7-11 July

WSSCC visit to WASH India. More info: [casteleins@who.int](mailto:casteleins@who.int)

### 17-23 August

WSSCC participation at World Water Week in Stockholm.

More info: [www.worldwaterweek.org](http://www.worldwaterweek.org)

### 7-12 September

WSSCC participation at the IWA World Water Congress, Vienna.

More info: [www.iwa2008vienna.org](http://www.iwa2008vienna.org)

### September

Publication of the WASH Coalition Building Guidelines.

More info: [vandervoordenc@who.int](mailto:vandervoordenc@who.int)

### September

Publication of the Source Bulletin.

More info: [troubad@who.int](mailto:troubad@who.int)