

Report from the: ENVIRO CLUTER DIALOGUE

Member Present: Mumbai

Dhaka
Phnom Penh
Yokohama
Center for Advanced Philippine Studies (CAPS)
Colombo
Thai Environment Institute

Speakers - 7 persons representing mostly cities
Resource Persons - 5 persons representing UNEP, UNESCAP, UNITAR, ADB and WTO
Total # of participants - 30 persons

Chairperson: Madame Shubha Raul, Mayor of Mumbai
Facilitators: Mr. Chamniern (Pal) Vorratchaipan, Thai Env'tl. Institute
Ms. Lilia Casanova, Center for Advanced Philippine Studies

Objectives of the Session:

- (1) Review the programmes and projects initiated by members and partners in solid waste management and water and sanitation
- (2) Formulate future plans

Expected Outputs:

- (1) Presentations on solid waste management and sanitation
 - (2) Cluster's Action Plans for 2010
 - (3) Cluster's Action Plans for 2010-2013
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Results of the Dialogue:

I. Presentations

- (1) Cooperation on Waterworks Management between Yokohama City and Banda Aceh
 - Yokohama assisted Banda Aceh reduce water loss due to leakage and illegal connection from 70% to 53% and increase area of service coverage from 40% to 60% in a period of __ years through direct technical assistance by 18 experts and training of 27 local staff .
- (2) City to City Cooperation on Decentralized Sewerage Treatment Using Eco-tanks between: a) Yokohama and Palembang; (b) Yokohama and Negombo; and (c) Yokohama and Hue
- (3) City to City Cooperation on Solid Waste Management between Phnom Penh and San Fernando City, La Union. San Fernando assisted Phnom Penh develop an integrated solid waste management system by starting with the good practice of waste segregation at source to a systematic and efficient collection system, which is most important, to the use of a materials recovery facility to support reuse and recycling of materials prior to final disposal of waste (that is absolutely waste) in a sanitary landfill. The Deputy Governor of Cambodia, Mr. Man Choern, however, bewailed the fact that only the schools are able to implement waste segregation diligently.
- (4) Presentation by Mr. Anand Chiplunkar, ADB Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist on: The databook "Sanitation in Asian Cities", a joint publication of ADB, UNCHS and City Net.
Some interesting highlights of briefing:
 - a) 1.8 billion people in Asia have no adequate sanitation. Open defecation is still practiced in many cities.
 - b) Only 40% or 10-11 cities of 27 CityNet cities surveyed have Sanitation Plans
 - c) Kunming, China and Thap Cham, Vietnam are the only cities in Asia with 100% coverage in terms of toilets per household.

In addition to the briefing on the databook, Mr. Chiplunkar informed the group that ADB has a program that can provide funding for sewage treatment projects and for SWM which utilize the CDM financing mechanism. Funds can be made available for:

- Project preparation; and
- Capital cost

Programme timeframe is 2012-2018, which is beyond the Kyoto Protocol timetable of 2012 to purchase carbon credits.

II. Interventions

(1) Contribution from Takehiro Nakamura, Director of UNEP-IETC:

Mr. Nakamura presented the idea of decentralized wastewater management systems as an option in wastewater management. He stressed that wastewater, carbon and nutrients are not waste but are resources that can be reused with application of appropriate systems and that there is linkage between wastewater and climate change by capturing carbon in wastewater treatment systems and there is linkage between wastewater and food security by allowing nutrients from treated wastewater to be returned to the soil. He spoke about ecological sanitation as a decentralized system that uses the principles of reuse of water, carbon and nutrients.

Mr. Nakamura also mentioned a related issue in solid waste management that seems to escape notice by cities and that is the issue of dioxins and furans from waste incineration. He informed the group that UNEP has published a set of Guidelines on Dioxins and Furans, which would be useful to cities before they plunge into incineration as a system for final solid waste disposal. He added that GEF funding would be available for projects that would reduce or eliminate dioxins and furans.

The facilitator, Ms. Casanova, noted that as reported by Mr. Aliana of UNESCAP, incineration is a technology or system that is approved by the UNFCCC. So, she insinuated that, perhaps, there is a need for UNEP and UNESCAP to have a dialogue on incineration.

(2) Contribution from Mr. Adnan Aliani, Head of the UNESCAP Sustainable Urban Development Unit: Mr. Aliani also promoted decentralized systems of wastewater management. Further, he admonished ways by which cities can generate resources/ funds for sanitation. Firstly, to ensure cost recovery, it will be good practice to integrate early on wastewater treatment charge with the water charge. He suggests that wastewater treatment schemes should be self-financing as much as possible. Cities can use the CDM mechanism for this purpose. He added that cities could easily generate resources/ funds for sanitation if they are able to show direct impact on health of the lack or inadequacy of sanitation because people are likely to pay for a service that will negatively affect them if they are deprived of it. Gender-sensitive statistics on sanitation can also help convince people to pay for services that can make the lives of women and girls in their societies less harshly affected, where this is a reality.

Mr. Aliani also mentioned a "Solid Waste Revolving Equity Fund" which cities can avail of to build Resource Recovery Centers or Materials Recovery Facilities to support reuse and recycling.

(3) Contribution from Ms. Marielza Couto Silvia de Oliveira, Associate Director, UNITAR: Ms. Oliveira stressed the value of multisectoral participation in wastewater management and in solid waste management. She argued that the poor sectors of society are often neglected because there is bias or imbalance in the provision and extension of services. She suggests that efforts should be made by cities to remove discrimination in the allocation of services for solid waste management and sanitation.

(4) Contribution from Mr. Jack Sim, Founder of the World Toilet Organization: Mr. Sim shared his views on the need to design and develop sexier toilets in order to make it more attractive for people to equip their

households with a toilets. He observed quite accurately that poor people would not mind purchasing an expensive TV set but would forego acquiring a toilet. Because of the importance of toilet as the most basic form of sanitation, he has founded the WTO to spread globally this advocacy for toilets.

- (5) The Enviro Cluster did not have a presentation on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The resource person from ADB was unable to come. However, the facilitator noted that Mr. Nakamura of UNEP-IETC and Mr. Aliani of UNESCAP have both made presentations that dealt with climate change and were quite informative and Mr. Chiplunkar, ADB Specialist on Water Supply and Sanitation shared information on ADB's program that is able to provide funding support to projects that will avail of the CDM mechanism.

III. The Way Forward

- (1) Co-Facilitator, Mr. Chamniern Vorrattchaipan, Senior Director, Thailand Environment Institute, shared his views on the concerns of the cluster. He observed that the issues being discussed today are the same issues that were identified, noted and debated upon over the last 2 decades of the lifetime of City Net. So how to move forward from here is a dilemma that he has asked all members of the cluster to think through and come out with suggestions.
- (2) The facilitator, Ms. Casanova, reminded all participants to do away with sharing of problems and issues, since everybody is already quite heavily aware of these, but to focus on how to deal with these problems and issues and, in particular, on how City Net can help and can be used to facilitate problem solving.
- (3) Suggestion from Taipeh: Charge on garbage trucks. In Taipeh, Cities were given incentives to reduce waste so that they will have less to dispose. Taipeh achieved 68% waste reduction.
- (4) Suggestion from Sri Lanka: Enforce segregation strongly. Mixed waste for collection and disposal should be charged. Allow only clean packed food (not raw products like fruits, vegetables, etc.) to be sold in the cities.
- (5) Suggestion from India: There is a need to change the mentality of people especially among the LGUs about SWM. Reference is made to the mentality of LGUs of leaving it to the NGOs to take care of SWM problems in poor communities, including searching for funding to support SWM activities. On the other hand, the NGOs have the general mentality that LGUs should provide funding for all SWM activities at the grassroots. He suggests that there should be a fusion of the minds of the LGUs and NGOs and City Net should play that role.
- (6) Suggestion from a consulting firm: He cautioned that decentralized systems should not be considered as the only appropriate system for wastewater management in cities. Its effective application will depend on economies of scale as well as on other factors like geography and space.
- (7) Suggestion from Bangkok: Increasing awareness and effective communication are key to a successful solid waste management program. Waste segregation is a problem because people refuse to segregate waste. They refuse to segregate waste because they do not really understand the impact of waste on their own lives and health.

IV. Cluster Plans for 2010

Objectives:	Institutionalize basic sanitation and the 3Rs in solid waste management
Focus:	Change people's mindset against good practices in waste management and introduce values supportive of good practices in sanitation and solid waste management

1. Expand City-to-City Cooperation on projects that focus on transfer of 'soft' technology or good practices in waste segregation, waste reduction or minimization, materials recovery and recycling. Identify cities within CityNet that have good practices in these elements of ISWM and build partnerships for C2C cooperation with cities that require assistance in these same elements.
2. Introduce to CityNet the concept of sustainable sanitation (i.e., promoting the principles of reuse, appropriate systems and technology, returning nutrients to the soil, respecting the natural water cycle, food security, etc.) through roundtables and seminar-workshops where UNEP-IETC, UNESCAP, WTO and CAPS can be invited to provide information and expert resources.
3. Develop training modules on ISWM and on sanitation, including e-learning modules, and organize short term training courses using these modules for cities that need most in skills training and education. CityNet should tap training institutions within the network to develop the training modules, including e-learning, and to provide training.

V. Cluster Plans for 2010-2013

Objectives:	Eradicate open defecation in CityNet and waste reduction through more areas of reuse and recycling
Focus:	Enhance and strengthen existing institutions for sanitation and solid waste management

1. Support sanitation planning in all cities, especially in those that do not have yet sanitation plans. Projects will include:
 - a) Preparation of Sanitation Planning Guidelines for different kinds of cities – small, medium and large size cities;
 - b) Preparation of technical assistance project proposals that can be submitted to donors/ funders
 - c) Organize technical workshops on sanitation planning

Timeframe: 2010 - 2013

2. Introduce the concept of CLTS (Community Led Total Sanitation) to CityNet to eradicate open defecation in the region, in particular, within CityNet.

Projects will include:

 - a) Orientation-briefing on CLTS and designing a CLTS Program in target cities
 - b) Seminar-workshops on optional systems and technology for sanitation
 - c) Study tours for concerned cities

Timeframe: 2010 - 2013

3. Make an inventory of academic and training institutions in CityNet that have capability to develop training modules, including e-learning modules, and can conduct training on sanitation and solid waste management. This will be an important resource/ database for technical assistance, training, and research. Project will include publication of a CityNet Catalogue of Academic and Training Institutions for Waste Management.

Timeframe: 2010 - 2012