

News from the

CROSSING BOUNDARIES PROJECT

April-July 2011

Congratulations!

We would like to take this opportunity to recognise the achievements of one of our SAWA fellows. Ms. Eva Manandhar (M. Sc IWRM from NEC), was awarded by the Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention (DWIDP) of the Ministry of Irrigation, on 7th July, for her research. The Director General, Deputy Director General and other high ranking officials attended the presentation, which was titled 'Study of Effectiveness of Water-induced Disaster risk reduction Initiatives by NGOs'.

As part of her research, Ms. Manandhar, has developed a completely new matrix to quantitatively assess the effectiveness of the activities of the institutes engaged in reduction of disaster risk in Nepal. She was awarded a cash prize of NRs. 35,000 for her work



India Water Forum, 13th- 15th April, 2011, New Delhi, India

New Delhi: The First ever India Water Forum (IWF) was organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in collaboration with several governmental bodies from 13th to 15th April in New Delhi. The forum is to discuss water in the context of climate change pertaining to South Asia. This year's theme was Water Security and Climate Change: Challenges and Opportunities.

SaciWATERS was represented by Executive Director, Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich and Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Jayati Chourey. Dr. Chanda was one of the 24 panelists for the Indo-German Roundtable on 'Water, Climate Change and Conflict in South Asia', that was organised on 14th April. The roundtable featured prominent names from governmental and non-governmental research circles, including Dr. R. K. Pachauri, Chairman of the IPCC and Professor Ramaswamy Iyer, Former Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources.

Dr. Chanda shared her experiences on successful regional level collaborations, from the CB project. "Such collaborative initiatives by and for water professionals can create an environment for fruitful dialogues in the region," she said. She also talked about the common challenges faced by regional level initiatives due to water politics in South Asia.

Dr. Chanda explained regional dynamics in water projects, drawing from examples, like from a research workshop in Bhutan, where, the use of the word "Crossing Boundaries", was treated as a taboo by local partners; and in an IUCN Bangladesh-India Initiative called Water Ecosystems for Life, the word "trans-boundary" was intentionally dropped from the original title.

"Thanks to exchange programmes, field visits and other ample opportunities to work together, students and faculties at CB Partner Institutions, are willing to continue partnerships beyond the project. We hope that the current students end up in powerful, decision making positions in the future," said Dr. Hari Krishna Shrestha, Principal, Nepal Engineering College, who was also present at the forum.

SAWA Fellows Training, 25th May – 4th June, 2011

Peradeniya: The fifth and final SAWA Fellows training programme, as part of the CB Project, was held on Participatory Field Research Methodology, from 25th May to 4th June, at PGIA. The SAWA fellows' training of this year was not included under the project document and there was no funds allocated for this activity this year. However, at the PIM and PAC meetings held in 2010, all three concerned Partner Institutes (BUET, CWR and PGIA) confirmed that they had the funds so they could hold this training with their respective funds. SaciWATERS was required only to help in the coordination. Thus this training was organised by the three PIs (BUET, CWR and PGIA) with the funds that they had. The fourth partner institute, NEC, was not included in this training as NEC does not have SAWA Fellows this year.

This year's training did not have any external resource persons, the faculties and Research Coordinators were the resource persons. The CB Project Director, Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich from SaciWATERS also participated in the training programme as a research person.

The programme covered both theoretical and practical aspects of the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools. It also covered SPQR and questionnaire survey. Some of the PRA tools covered included Social and Resource mapping, Pair-wise and matrix ranking, Time line diagram, Mobility map, Daily routine diagram, seasonal calendar etc. The training also included field visits and discussions with farmers. Participants, divided into groups, were asked to identify a research problem, based on their field visit, and submit a research proposal. Subsequently, the facilitators, helped them study the problem, using research tools and methods discussed in classes. Every group had a faculty member who would guide them individually. Finally, the groups presented the findings of the research.



The training included field visits and discussions with farmers

Resource Persons: Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, N. D. K. Dayawansa, H. B. Nayakekorala, S. Pathmarajah, Dr. Nimal Gunawardana, Dr. Mashfiq Salehin, Dr. A. K. M. Saiful Islam, Dr. Soorya Vennila, Dr. Prakash Nellyat, Mr. H. M. Ranasinghe, MR. A. M. Herath Banda, Mr. Edward De Mel, Mr. E. A. Premarathna, Mr. M. S. Samarasooriya and Ms. Seetha Senevirathna.

Water Justice meeting, 18th-22nd April, 2011, Pune, India

Pune: A pre-project consultation on Water Justice issues was organised here between 18th and 22nd April, by Wageningen University, SOPPECOM and the Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India. The consultation titled, "Exploring Possibilities of research on Water Justice in South Asia", was held as a prelude to a probable large project on Water Justice, thanks to a grant from the Interdisciplinary Research and Education Fund (IREF). This meeting explored ideas for building alliances and identifying thematic areas of research and collaboration between South Asia and Latin America.

There were about 40 participants in the meeting, from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, Executive Director, SaciWATERS, participated in the consultation meeting. The consultation explored in detail the empirical, theoretical and methodological development of the topic of water rights and justice, striving to identify core issues of water rights in the region. The workshop also traced probable partnerships in research, capacity building, policy and publication. The meeting was divided into various sessions, consisting of presentations, group discussions and field visits.

Dr. Dik Roth, Professor, Wageningen University, presented the key note address, in which he briefly explained, the proposed programme and the objectives of this meeting. He put forth three exploratory questions: (a) What do we share in terms of approaches to water rights and water justice? (b) What can or should be the elements in future justice cooperations (research, policy advocacy, capacity building)? (c) Who is interested in which elements?

Main Sessions: 1) Gender, Water supply and sanitation. (2) Surface and ground water irrigation: participation, decentralization and institutional arrangements. (3) Floods and hydropower and water politics. (4) Hydropower, water for industry, macro irrigation. (5) Water rights, right to water, livelihoods and privatisation. (6) Thematic and conceptual papers on water justice. (7) Water justice in South Asia: strategy, objectives and way forward. (8) Water justice issues in Maharashtra.