

Vol.

25

July 2009

Water and Climate Change : Vulnerability and Adaptation

Staff Training Programme

August 2-9, 2009

Dhaka, Bangladesh

The South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS) is organizing a training programme on 'Water and Climate Change: vulnerability and adaptation'.

It will focus mainly on the Climate Change as a phenomenon, its manifestations and impacts on ecosystems, and implications on water resources management in South Asia.

It will also deal with the vulnerabilities to livelihoods and the strategies for adaptation in the context of IWRM .

For more information turn to page 2

CB NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter of
Crossing Boundaries
Project

CROSSING
BOUNDARIES

In this issue

SaciWATERS at the World Water Week,
Stockholm P.1

Staff Training Programme 'Water and
Climate Change', Dhaka P.2

Fourth South Asia Water Research
Conference P.3

Gender, Water, & Equity Training P.6



Demonstration of Water Quality Test : Centre for Water Resource (CWR) , Anna University, India

SaciWATERS at the World Water Week, Stockholm, Sweden August 19, 2009

Crossing Gender Boundaries in the Water Sector:

The Status of Women Water Professionals in South Asia

Convener: Crossing Boundaries Project, South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (**SaciWATERS**)

Co-conveners: NetWWater, Sri Lanka, and Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), The Netherlands

The lower percentage of women water professionals in South Asia is recognized as one of the constraints for gender sensitive water resources management. At the same time, there is very little understanding on women water professionals in water institutions at the macro level. Most of this literature and work remains restricted to women's participation in community based water programmes. Similarly, most of the analysis around women's lack of participation at various levels in the water sector has remained limited to socio-cultural constraints.

There is very little understanding of how the culture and historicity of each sector contributes to constraining women to participate effectively. Little analysis is done on how democratic are the institutions and organizations that influence policymaking and implementation at the macro level.

It is in this context that a study on women water professionals was undertaken in four South Asian countries. Although, primarily of an exploratory nature to understand the profiles, numbers, and constraints of Women Water professionals in the region, the study has looked at some of the issues mentioned above and hopes to take this understanding to the macro level to bring visibility to the question of women water professionals. The session will discuss the study in detail. The focus would be on strategies in terms of policy advocacy and practice to highlight these concerns.

For more info please visit www.saciwaters.org

**WORLD
WATER
WEEK**
in Stockholm,
August 16-22, 2009

Water and Climate Change : Vulnerability and Adaptation Continued...

One of the most significant effects of climate change is expected in hydrological systems – both at global and local levels. This may bring changes in the occurrence and distribution of water resources and their seasonal and annual replenishment systems.



Climate change is now a recognized phenomenon. Manifestations and effects of climate change may differ from one geographic/ecologic region to another. One of the most significant effects of climate change is expected in hydrological systems – both at global and local levels. This may bring changes in the occurrence and distribution of water resources and their seasonal and annual replenishment systems. Such changes may have direct impacts not only on the natural ecosystems but also on the lives and livelihoods that are thriving within the ecosystems.

Changes in hydrologic systems will pose different types and degrees of vulnerabilities to the societies living under various ecological settings. These factors will add new challenges to the already complex problem of water resource management. Various adaptation strategies will have to be devised in order to develop resilience in societies under different physical, socio-economic and political settings.

SaciWATERS is organizing a training programme on 'Water and Climate Change: vulnerability and adaptation'. This training is to be organized for the faculty members from the Partner Institutions (PIs) of the **Crossing Boundaries (CB)** Project. The CB project has proposed a course module on Water and Climate Change to be included in the curriculum of the Master's Degree programme in its Partner Insti-

tutions. It is expected that the participants in the training programme will be able to understand the concept of Climate Change and its impacts on water resources and society and that they would be able to prepare and introduce a module on Water & Climate Change in their ongoing curricula.

The staff training will be organized in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in cooperation with Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) from August 2-9, 2009. It will consist of 5 days of classroom sessions (August 2-6), two days of field trip (August 7-8) and one day of discussion for developing a course module (August 9, 2009).

For more information and to download the programme scheduler please visit SaciWATERS website;

www.saciwaters.org

Partner Institutions Meeting (PIM) , Kandy, Sri Lanka

The Partner Institutions Meeting (PIM) was held in Kandy, Sri Lanka, during June 27-28, 2009. Every year the PIM is followed by PAC (Project Advisory Committee) meeting but this year, due to administrative reasons, PAC meeting has been

postponed to September. On the first day of the meeting, the PIs presented the progress made in the research and education related activities undertaken by them to fulfill the CB mandate. These activi-

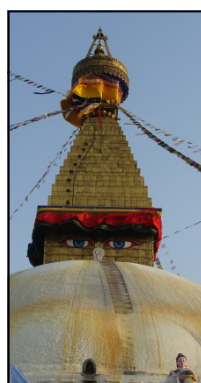
-ties were then reviewed by the CB team.

The second day saw financial reporting followed closely by a discussion on phase II of the CB project.



Interfacing Poverty, Livelihood and Climate Change in Water Resources Development: Lessons in South Asia

May 4-6, 2009 , Kathmandu , Nepal



The **Fourth South Asia Water Research Conference** was inaugurated by Mr. Shanker Prasad Koirala, Secretary at the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Nepal. The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Upendra Gautam, Chairman of Nepal Engineering College. Prof. Deepak Bhattarai, Principal of NEC, welcomed the participants and Dr. Dibya R. Kansakar, the CB Project Director, set the stage by

presenting the conference agenda. Mr. Dipak Gyawali, NWCF, delivered a key-note address.

The inaugural programme was attended by the conference participants and invited guests. Dr. Upendra Gautam concluded the formal session with a closing remark, while Mr. P. B. Adiga, the IWRM programme coordinator at nec offered the vote of thanks. This research conference focused on ways and means

of interfacing the issues relating to poverty, livelihood, and climate change with water resources agenda in the South Asian context. The conference papers were organized under five sub-thematic sessions;

- Increasing access, equity and productivity of land and water to combat poverty and diversify livelihood opportunities

Contd.,

NEXT ISSUE ; SAWAS E-JOURNAL

Articles, book reviews, and perspectives are invited for the next issue of SAWAS e-journal, Volume 1, Issue 3, which shall be released in January 2010.

Please visit the website www.sawasjournal.org or write to managing_editor@sawasjournal.org for more information.

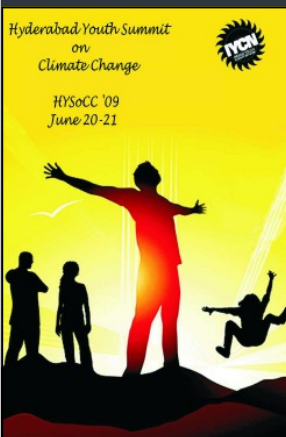


SaciWATERS Blog

The Crossing Boundary Project Staff at SaciWATERS endeavours to share valuable experience as they venture out for fulfilling the objectives of the Project together with its partner institutions. The blog can be accessed on this page www.saciwaters.wordpress.com.

If you wish to be part of the initiative please send a request to ;

Ms. Anu Maheshwari,
Communication Specialist ,
SaciWATERS ,at
anu@saciwaters.org



- Promoting multiple water-use systems while ensuring secured access and equity
- Land and water resources degradation and resulting threats to ecosystem services and livelihood
- Climate change and adaptation vis-à-vis poverty alleviation and livelihood improvement
- Reforms in policy and institutions to prepare for future.

There were two additional sessions dedicated for papers by the SAWA fellows only. A total of 26 research papers were presented in the conference, including the five papers presentations by SAWA Fellows.

The papers by the SAWA Fellows were evaluated by a jury consisting of Dr. Hari Krishna Shrestha, NEC, Mr.

Ajay Dixit, NWCF and Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, SaciWATERS, and the best paper was selected for the award of the “Best SAWA Fellow Paper”, which carried a cash prize of US\$ 150 and a citation. Ms. V. Veeralakshmi from CWR, Anna University, won this award for her paper entitled “**Policy Adaptation to Changing Scenario in Chennai City Water Needs**”, which was co-authored by N.K. Ambujam and K Karunakaran (India).

At the concluding session on May 6, 2009, Mr. Ajay Dixit, NWCF, highlighted the interdisciplinarity nature of water issues and presented some ideas for future research endeavours in this sector. Dr. Dibya

Kansakar highlighted the conference deliberations while Dr. Hari Krishna Shrestha, NEC, thanked everybody and closed the conference. The key-note paper by Mr. Dipak Gyawali and summing up of the conference papers and the ideas for ways forward in interdisciplinary research in water sector presented by Mr. Ajay Dixit were the highlights of the conference.

Organised by:

SaciWATERS

Co-organisers:

Nepal Engineering College

Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF)

Kathmandu, Nepal

Hyderabad Youth Summit on Climate Change, 2009

The first Hyderabad Youth Summit on Climate Change (HySoCC'09) was held in the Deloitte Campus in Gachibowli, Hyderabad on June 20-21, 2009. The summit was organized by the Indian Youth Climate Network (IYCN) with the support of WWF-India, Deloitte, and Andhra Pradesh Environment Connect (APEC). SaciWATERS was represented at the Summit by two young professionals Ms. Sreoshi Singh, Research Associate, and Ms. Anu Maheshwari, Communication Specialist.

The Summit brought together young students and professionals from across the city of Hyderabad to engage in a two day discussion on environment and climate change in Hyderabad. It also brought together some experts and specialists in various fields of energy, water, waste, biodiversity, etc., to share their learning with the young audience .

The vibrant group of 120 young participants from diverse backgrounds actively worked on the Hyderabad Youth Charter on Climate Ch-

-ange, which was infused with bright ideas for alleviating the environmental problems faced by the city . The Charter reflected the aspirations of the youth and young professionals regarding development related policy.





SAWAS
South Asian Water Studies

SAWAS e-journal Second Edition June 2009

The **second edition** of SAWAS e-journal, a free, open accessed peer-reviewed South Asian online journal, is now available on the SAWAS website. SAWAS e-journal is published twice a year on www.sawasjournal.org.

SAWAS publications aspire to broaden the South Asian water resources knowledge base by critically analyzing the water issues that are at play. It also engages in comparative research on water resources issues in different parts of the sub-continent and study the localized water resources management process. SAWAS aims to share knowledge of successful resolutions of water related problems as well as constructive analyses of deadlocks and failures.

The editorship of the SAWAS e-journal is organized on a regional/international basis with Chief Editor, Prof. Vishwa Ballabh, and Country Editors from Bangladesh,

Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The Country Editors share the task with the Chief Editor of finding good manuscripts and getting them sent for review. The Editorial Board is composed of many of the scholars and practitioners from the field of IWRM across South Asia.

SAWAS welcomes contributions that discuss any dimension of water resources development, technology, management and use, and their relation with society and the environment. The SAWAS team hopes to receive enthusiastic support and cooperation to take this innovative

approach to further the cause of intellectual debate on South Asian Water. For more information on submission details please visit www.sawasjournal.org.

Volume 1, Issue 2 of the SAWAS e-journal brings forth interesting reflections and case studies on water-use conflict, Irrigation Management Transfer, transboundary cooperation, periurban water crisis, etc., from various parts of South Asia. The issue also features a thought-provoking perspective on the pluralized water policy terrain and two interesting book reviews.

SAWAS SPECIAL ISSUE, December 2009

SAWAS e-journal is coming out with a special issue in December 2009. The title of the Special Issue is '**Changing water governance in India: taking the longer view**'. The guest editors for this issue are Dr. P.P.Mollinga, ZEF, Bonn, and Mr.S.P.Tucker, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.

Papers are to be submitted to Dr Daphne Gondhalekhar at ZEF, Bonn (daphneg@mit.edu) not later than **September 30, 2009**. The target is papers of maximum 5000 words. Papers will be peer reviewed. For more information, please visit www.sawasjournal.org

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The Third South Asian Gender, Water, & Equity Training Workshop

November 23 - 27, 2009 , India

The training workshop on 'Gender, Water and Equity' is third in a series of trainings for researchers, policy makers, development practitioners, academics, and activists from the South Asian region as part of the Crossing Boundaries Project of **SaciWATERS**, Hyderabad, India. The project focuses on regional capacity building on Integrated Water Resources Management and Gender in the South Asian countries.

This training workshop is hosted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India, together with SaciWATERS, the Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune, and the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA). It seeks to raise participants' awareness on key gender, water, and equity issues in South Asia and the challenges in mainstreaming a gender equity perspective in water policy and practice through interactive sessions, case study analysis, and small group discussions.

How to Apply?

Please write to Dr. Anjal Prakash at anjal@saciwaters.org with your background and interest for complete Application Package

Last Date for submission of Application

The last date for submission of application using the Application Package is August 30, 2009 at 1700 hours Indian Standard Time.

For more information on the workshop, please visit SaciWATERS website www.saciwaters.org

GWET helped to bring a nuanced understanding of gender which allows assessing and embedding gender equity issues at pre-project stage and improving the quality of implementation of programmes.

Amitangshu Acharya,
Arghyam, India

The training was very well organised with a perfect blend of information and practical ways of seeing the situation from a gendered perspective.

Usha Baaniya,
Rural Village Water Resources Management Project (RVWRMP), Nepal

CROSSING BOUNDARIES PROJECT PARTNERS

Crossing Boundaries Project, a joint effort of SaciWATERS and Water Engineering Group at Wageningen University, is being implemented in collaboration with six South Asian partner institutions. The main focus is on capacity building on gender and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in South Asia of water professionals through higher education, innovation and social learning-focused research. The project also works towards knowledge base development, and networking.



SaciWATERS



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