

## Dramatic Dialogue at the World Water Forum 5, Istanbul 2009

Crossing Boundaries team was involved in a "Dramatic Dialogue" at the Opening plenary of the World Water Forum 5, Istanbul 2009. It was a 15 minutes role-play/skit that was written by Ms. Kamilla Hansema.

The Dialogue was in the form of a series of questions raised by a stereotypical hydrocrat played by Dr. Flip Wester from the Irrigation and Water Engineering Group of Wageningen University and the replies given by three young women water professionals ; Dr. Chandra Gurung Goodrich from the Crossing Boundaries Project who represented South Asia along with Dr. Aline Arroyo from Concertación ( Andes, Latin America ), and Phemo Agomotso, WaterNet, (South Africa).

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## Crossing Boundaries at the World Water Forum 5, Istanbul, 2009

*The side event organized by SaciWATERS at the World Water Forum 5 called for generating a visible demand for interdisciplinary studies on water in South Asia with a focus on creating a cadre of women water professionals to combat the 'masculinity' of the current water sector.*

The side event titled *Up-scaling IWRM Education in South Asia: Which boundaries to cross?* was organized by SaciWATERS for the Crossing Boundaries Project at the World Water Forum 5, Istanbul, Turkey. The session evaluated the current status of water resources education, assessed the demand for interdisciplinary water professionals and identified challenges, opportunities, and new initiatives in the realm of higher education for water resources in South Asia through the findings of the study titled "Strengthening IWRM Education in South Asia; Which Boundaries to Cross?".

Prof. S Janakarajan, President, SaciWATERS, welcomed the panel members and the session speakers and briefly described the purpose of the Crossing Boundaries Project, an endeavour of SaciWATERS with six partner institutions in four South Asian countries, to bring a paradigm shift in water resources management education in South Asia. Dr. Peter Mollinga, Convener, SaciWATERS, initiated the session by briefing the participants on the objectives of the study which

was to review the progress of the Project's initiative and to determine whether higher education system in South Asia was responding to the new IWRM challenges that face the water sector in South Asia and if so, how and what can be done to strengthen and support that transformation

Dr. Vishal Narain, Associate Professor, School of Public Policy and Governance, Management Development Institute (MDI), Delhi, further discussed the findings of the Study in North India by tracing the changing perceptions of IWRM among water professionals and emphasized the fact that though there is a demand for IWRM water professionals in the Government sector, a visible demand still needs to be created.

Prof. Nimal Gunawardena, Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and Steering Committee Member, Cap-Net, Sri Lanka, followed with a brief presentation on the status of the IWRM Education Programme in the Post Graduate Institute of Agriculture, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Ms. Nazmun Naher Mita, South Asia Water (SAWA) Fellow, Masters in IWRM, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh, shared her personal experience of being one of the first female students to take up the IWRM course in

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*“There seemed to be a strong consensus among the water professionals on the need for more inter-disciplinary approaches, as against a conventional, engineering oriented one.*

Dr. Vishal Narain

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South Asia with the help of SAWA Fellowship provided by the Crossing Boundaries Project.

Following this, the three panelists, Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Chief, Sustainable Water Resources Development & Management Section, Division of Water Sciences, Natural Sciences Sector, UNESCO, Paris, France, Dr. Paul Taylor, Director, Cap-Net, Pretoria, South Africa, and Dr. Joke Muylwijk, Executive Director, Gender & Water Alliance, The Netherlands, provided their comments and insights on the study.

Dr. Khan shared his vision of IWRM programme gaining a stronghold in the higher education sector. However he also expressed his disappointment in the Draft Istanbul Ministerial Statement of the World Water Forum 5, 2009, which he regrettably pointed out, focused on the technical aspect of water management ignoring the socio-cultural constraints of



implementing a change. He emphasized the urgent need to press the interdisciplinary approach to water resources management.

Dr. Paul Taylor, congratulated **SaciWATERS** and the partners of the Crossing Boundaries Project for the remarkable progress made in promoting IWRM Education in region and further emphasized the need for capacity building of higher level water professionals.

Dr. Joke Muylwijk lauded the report but also pointed out the lack of comprehensive gender-segregated data.

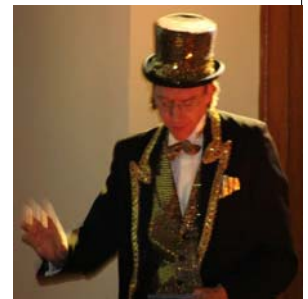
The participants of the session followed with various questions and comments on the issues of gender, capacity building of not only technocrats but also of social scientists and extending the programme to other countries of South Asia especially Pakistan.

## Dramatic Dialogue at the World Water Forum 5, Istanbul

The purpose of the skit was to show the rapidly changing scenario of the water sector which has moved from the conventional male dominated and technical perspective to a more gendered and interdisciplinary perspective. The three women water professionals highlight the fact that IWRM has transformed the water sector from being a purely technical arena to a process which invites participation of all stakeholders.

The feedback received after the session proved that the dramatic dialogue was well received by the audience as a refreshing and interesting session giving a very powerful and important message.

The participants of the session also commended **SaciWATERS** on the work that the CB Project is doing. The success and impact of the dramatic dialogue also shows that innovative and creative modes of presenting our work and output would not only be much more appreciated but also that the message would create more impact.





## Regional Capacity Building Networks on Integrated Water Resources Management

As part of a session on *Strengthening the Capacities of Local Organisations and People*, Dr. Anjal Prakash, presented a multiple case study titled "Influencing Change by Bridging Disciplinary Divides: Learning from three regional capacity building networks on Integrated Water Resources Management" on March 21, 2009

The case study written together with Dr. Edwin Rap, and Dr. Dinis Juizo discussed the experiences of three regional capacity building networks in the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM); WaterNet (Southern and Eastern Africa), Crossing Boundaries (South Asia), and Concertación (Andes, Latin America).

This case study was documented for the purpose of exchanging lessons, cross-fertilize activities, and mutually enrich these networks, as well as to generate useful lessons for other similar South-South-North networks in the field of water resources management. The case dwells upon the challenges and successes of the three networks from

different regions to draw larger learning on capacity building approaches such as regional networks of knowledge centres on water.

These networks have combined comparative strengths and filled a real knowledge gap to show that such networks are viable options for sustainable solutions to water resource management. The investment in human resource and particularly women professionals by producing a cadre of water professionals with analytical and managerial skills and interdisciplinary



outlook inputs into to sustainable water utilisation and should be supported as long term capacity building agenda for sustainable water management in regions.



## Bridging Disciplinary Divide

The broad themes of the three networks are:

- integrated water resources management at the watershed level, involving for example inter-sector water allocation, institutional reform, and stakeholder participation;
- local water management and the strengthening of authorities and organizations: decentralisation requires new capacities for local and regional organizations;
- regional and international policies for integrated water management: current water laws and policies on IWRM often stem from the international level and are similar for the Andean region
- legal pluralism, water management and recognition policies: the existence and recognition of different normative repertoires in water management;

## Concertación, Crossing Boundaries, & WaterNet

## Wetlands as Water Infrastructure: A South Asian Experience

*"Wetlands offer important ecological services and are instrumental in influencing the lifestyle and development of the communities. Economic value of wetlands should be established and they should be understood and treated as water sector infrastructure in development decision making"*

Ms. Jayati Chourey  
&  
Mr. Missaka  
Hettiarachchi



Ms Jayati Chourey presented her paper in the session titled "Ecosystems for Water; Water for People, Ecosystems for People" under the sub-theme "Preserving natural ecosystems: Ecosystems for Water and Life" at the World Water Forum on March 20, 2009. The Conveners of the session were United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE) and the Swiss Government.

Key questions addressed during the session were:

I. When changing the paradigm "water for nature" to "nature for water", which policies-provisions will ensure the sustainable use and protection of ecosystems? How to link IWRM plans, national forest programmes, biodiversity strategies, and land-use planning to ensure a sustainable water management and supply of drinking water? Which are the gaps and obstacles?

II. What is key to successful use of economic instruments such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)? Are they balanced tools to implement IWRM/MDGs and

sustainable development? Which are the gaps and obstacles?

Ms. Chourey made a joint presentation with Mr Missaka Hettiarachchi, Research Fellow at the University of Moratuwa (Sri Lanka) on Wetlands as Water Infrastructure: A South Asian Experience. She presented a case study of Kondakarla Ava wetland of India, while Mr. Hettiarachchi presented a case from Colombo Flood Detention Area Wetlands of Sri Lanka.

Wetlands serve as green components in some urban and rural human settlements throughout South Asia. They offer important ecological services to the stakeholder communities living in their vicinity. Especially the water related services offered by these wetlands couldn't be replaced by engineered solutions in an economically feasible way considering the limited monetary allocations for public infrastructure in developing countries. Many of these wetlands serve as potable water sources, helps food production, facilitate storm water drainage, attenuate floods, and act as wastewater sinks. Therefore the presenters contend that these wetlands should be understood and treated as water sector infrastructure in development decision-making. Their economic value as water infrastructure should be well established in addition to their value and

importance as ecological features or as livelihood support.

The studies presented were multidisciplinary action research, which encompassed water-quality investigation, ecological analysis, and socio-economic surveys. Both studies were carried out comprehensively over a period of more than three years and proposed Best Management Practices within the framework of participatory ecosystem based management and wise use concepts.

Both presenters emphasized that, "Wetlands offer important ecological services and are instrumental in influencing the lifestyle and development of the communities. Economic value of wetlands should be established and they should be understood and treated as water sector infrastructure in development decision making".

The presentation concluded with an understanding that the present management system appeared to be very complex with no linkages between and amongst different user groups. A participatory institution for ecosystem-based management, comprising all the stakeholders, is the need of the hour.



5th WORLD WATER FORUM  
ISTANBUL 2009



BRIDGING DIVIDES FOR WATER  
16-22 MARCH 2009 • ISTANBUL, TURKEY

EYE ON IT  
Upcoming  
Events

## Crossing Boundaries Project Staff at the WWF 5, Istanbul 2009



1. Fourth South Asian Regional Research Conference titled “ Interfacing Poverty, Livelihood and Climate Change in Water Resources Development : Lessons in South Asia ” during May 4–6, 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal.

For more info: [click here](#)

2. The Partner Institute Members( PIM) / Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is scheduled to be held during June 27– July 01, 2009 in Sri Lanka.

**NEXT ISSUE ;  
SAWAS  
E JOURNAL**

Articles, book reviews and perspectives are invited for the next issue of SAWAS e-journal, Volume 1, Issue 2, which shall be released in June 2009.

Please visit the website [www.sawasjournal.org](http://www.sawasjournal.org) or write to [managing\\_editor@sawasjournal.org](mailto:managing_editor@sawasjournal.org) for more information.

**Volume 1, Issue 1,** of the SAWAS e-journal can be accessed [here](#)



## Staff Training Programme on Water and Health

**February 16-23, 2009  
Hyderabad**

South Asia is marked with increasing population, rapid urbanization, unsustainable agricultural practices, industrial development and poor water management regulations. These factors have adversely affected the availability of safe water, posing public health hazards in the entire region. Realizing the seriousness of this issue, the CB Project had proposed a course on Water and Health to be included in the curriculum of Partner Institutions (PIs).

**SaciWATERs** organized a staff-training programme on Water and Health for faculty of PIs during February 16-23, 2009 at Hyderabad. This training programme aimed to enable PIs to develop a course module on Water and Health under the existing Post Graduation Engineering Programme in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) of their institutes. The trainees were provided an opportunity to attend the Reader workshop on Water and Health, which was also subsequently held at Hyderabad during February 25 - 27, 2008.

The staff training included five

days of classroom sessions, two days of field activities in rural areas of Warangal district in Andhra Pradesh and a day of lively discussion on developing a course module on effective teaching style. In total, eight members from the academic staff were nominated to attend the training programme.

Classroom sessions commenced after completion of the inaugural session on February 16, 2009. Nine external resource persons were invited to conduct sessions on different themes. Each session consisted of a lecture of an hour's duration followed by group discussion for half an hour. The sessions were interactive and participatory. The trainees also made presentations on the status of water and health in their own countries. A compilation of resource material and a CD were provided to the participants, which included session plans, reference and other training materials on each theme.

A field trip to Warangal district was also organized



for the trainees to illustrate linkages between water and health. Modern Architects for Rural India (MARI), a Warangal based NGO facilitated the field trip. The participants were taken to project villages to show various community based programs on safe drinking water supply, sanitation, watershed development and organic farming.

All the trainees were requested to develop a draft teaching-module based on the learning from the training programme. The trainees then identified modules to be incorporated to the existing curriculum. They were also further advised to share their learning and discuss the draft modules with their colleagues at PIs for further improvement and execution.

At the end of the each day, trainees were requested to evaluate each session. A questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the trainees to reflect their opinions. Overall results of this evaluation shows high level of satisfaction with the programme.

# Reader Workshop on Water and Health

February 25- 27, 2009  
Hyderabad



Water is fundamental to the sustenance of life on Earth. Lack of safe and adequate water has posed public health hazards across the developing world including South Asia, hindering the process of realizing sustainable development.

The forthcoming reader on Water and Health is an attempt to understand the interdisciplinary aspects of the interrelations between water and health by discussing the theoretical and methodological approaches and application of trans-disciplinary knowledge in understanding the issue.

This reader will be the seventh volume in 'Water in South Asia (WISA) series, to be published by **SaciWATeRs** in collaboration with Sage Publications, New Delhi. The reader is

being edited by Dr. Anjal Prakash and Dr. Saravanan S V.

Authors of the accepted abstracts were requested to submit their full papers by December 31, 2008. After reviewing the abstracts, the editors selected a total of 21 papers for presentation at the Reader workshop. The lead authors of each paper were invited to present their papers. **SaciWATeRs** covered all the expenses for them to attend the workshop.

The reader workshop was organized in Hyderabad during February 25-27, 2009. The workshop included two days of paper presentations and a day of discussion on structuring of the Reader. The workshop started with an introductory session on Crossing Boundaries Project WISA Series, and

the Reader on Water and Health. The trainees of the Staff Training Programme on Water and Health also attended the Reader workshop. Altogether, there were 19 presentations in the workshop and 36 participants. The allotted time for each presentation was 20 minutes and the discussant was allotted five minutes to comment on the paper and begin the open group discussion.

This workshop provided editors and authors an opportunity for personal interaction and comprehensive discussion on the structure of the reader. A detailed guideline based on the comments received during the workshop will be sent to individual authors to help them revise and improve their papers.

Strengthening IWRM education in South Asia

*Which boundaries to cross?*



The study discusses how higher education in South Asia's water resources knowledge system has responded to the changing societal demands on water resources use, management and governance practices. The report seeks to answer the following question;

*Is South Asia's water resources higher education system responding to the new (IWRM) challenges that face the water sector and South Asian societies and communities, if so, how, and what can be done to strengthen and support that transformation?*

The Consolidated Education Report can be downloaded [here](#)



New

**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](http://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](mailto:anu@saciwaters.org)

## Upcoming Events, May-July 2009.

### Fourth South Asian Regional Research Conference, May 4-6, 2009

**SaciWATERS** will be organizing the Fourth South Asian Regional Research Conference titled “ Interfacing Poverty, Livelihood and Climate Change in Water Resources Development : Lessons in South Asia” with the help of Nepal Engineering College ( nec) and Nepal Water Conservation Foundation during May 4- 6, 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal.

This research conference intends to focus on ways and means of interfacing the issues relating to poverty, livelihood, and climate change with water resources agenda in the South Asian context. Original research papers were invited from researchers, professionals, decision makers, policy personnel, NGO staff, and other practitioners on specific themes of the conference

There would be 29 paper presentations at the conference; 14 from India , 19 from Nepal , 6 from Sri Lanka, and 9 from Bangladesh. The number also include seven presentations from the SAWA Fellows-awardees of the South Asian Water (SAWA) Fellowship, who are pursuing Masters and Doctoral courses in Interdisciplinary Water Resources Management at the four partner institutions of the CB Project in Nepal, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The authors of the selected papers shall be awarded financial support to cover travel cost, accommodation and per diem.

## PARTNERS CROSSING BOUNDARIES PROJECT

Crossing Boundaries Project, a joint effort of 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.



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**WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY**  
WAGENINGEN UR

South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies

Plot No. 125 & 126, S P Colony, Trimulgherry, Secunderabad - 500015, Andhra Pradesh, India

Tel: +91 40 27990139, 65762865 Telefax: +91 40 27796721 Email: [info@saciwaters.org](mailto:info@saciwaters.org) , [www.saciwaters.org](http://www.saciwaters.org)

The text compiled and edited by Ms. Anu Maheshwari, Communication Specialist, **SaciWATERS**