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CB NEWS
Quarterly Newsletter of
Crossing Boundaries
Project

**CROSSING
BOUNDARIES**

Crossing Boundaries at the World Water Forum 5, 2009

Crossing Boundaries team shall be involved in a "Dramatic Dialogue" at the Opening plenary of Theme 6: 'Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development' at the Fifth World Water Forum in Istanbul.

Dr. Chandra Gurung Goodrich from the Crossing Boundaries Project shall be representing South Asia along with Dr. Aline Arroyo from Concertación (Andes, Latin America) and another professional from Africa, and Dr. Flip Wester from the Irrigation and Water Engineering Group of Wageningen.

The general objective of the event is to highlight the importance of the regional organization of capacity building on IWRM and the surplus value of an exchange between 3 southern continents.
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From the Project Director, Crossing Boundaries

Dear friends,
Warm Greetings!

Ushering in the New Year 2009, I am happy to bring out the 23rd volume of our Newsletter to you. After joining **SaciWATERS** last November, this is my first opportunity to communicate to you all about our project achievements and about our common efforts towards making a difference in water education and research sector in this region.

Looking back, we could say the year 2008 has been a very productive and successful year for the CB Project. We have added 51 new SAWA Fellows this year in the four Partner Institutions. This makes a total of 124 Fellowships that have been awarded to date. Twelve SAWA Fellows have already obtained their Masters' degree.

Capacity building of our PIs is an essential and important part of our project. Last year, two staff trainings, "Economics of Water Management" and "Participatory Field Research Methodology", were held in New Delhi and in Nepal respectively. Twenty-nine water professionals from South Asia underwent training on 'Gender, Water and Equity' held in Goa. The 3rd South Asia Water Research Workshop was on "Innovative Modeling Approaches for IWRM" which was held in Bangladesh. I believe those of you who were present in Colombo last December would certainly agree that the International Conference on Water

Resource Policy in South Asia was a great success. We have received encouraging compliments from the participants. All of these were possible only because of your active participation and important contributions from our partner institutions.

I could see that the year 2009 is also going to be equally exciting, if not more, for all of us. Two Reader Workshops and Staff Training - 'Water and Health' and 'Water Rights' - are scheduled this year. The first one is going to be held very soon, in February in Hyderabad.

There will be a Staff Training on 'Climate Change and Vulnerability' sometime in August. The 4th Research South Asia Research Workshop on "Interfacing Poverty, Livelihood and Climate Change in Water Resources Development: Lessons in South Asia" is already underway. It will be held on 4-6 May in Nepal. I am pleased to tell you that the response to the call for papers for this workshop has been highly encouraging. Together as a team, I look forward to working closely with you all and make 2009 a fruitful year for all of us.

Thank you

Dibya Ratna Kansakar , PhD
Project Director, Crossing Boundaries

Quotes from the Conference

“Decentralization is a process, which needs to be negotiated, and the hard reality is that for poor and marginalized women, negotiation is being contested in an economic environment where policies of privatization, pricing, and centralized technocentric delivery systems dominate the political discourse on water management.”

Dr. Sara Ahmed, Chairperson, Gender Water Alliance (GWA), India

“Could negotiations about international river water management be taken out of diplomatic barter and transferred to negotiations among private and public-private agencies? This transfer would require the design and unfolding of a suitable regulatory framework. That framework could embody the concerns of sovereignty which currently limit the topic to interactions among states “

Dr. Ben Crow, Department of Sociology, University of California, USA



The International Conference on Water Resources Policy in South Asia was held in Colombo (December 17-20) at the Taj Samudra. The inauguration took off with a grand opening in the presence of 150 guests including special invitees from Sri Lanka. The programme began with a short speech from the Convener, Dr. Peter Mollinga, who laid out the objectives of the Crossing Boundaries Project and the importance of the conference in trying to bring people from all walks of life together on a common platform to share their views on various issues related to the water resources situation in South Asia and its policy implications.

Prof. Jayanta Bandyopadhyay, President of SaciWATERS Hyderabad Board welcomed all the participants and the keynote speakers, Dr. Amita Baviskar, and Dr. Madar Samad to the conference. He also provided the regional relevance of the conference to the participants. Dr. Amita Baviskar spoke about ‘putting cultural politics into Water Policy’ while Dr. Samad spoke in the context of “Building a Resilient Water Economy in South Asia through Better Agricultural Water Management”. Prof. Munasinghe, another keynote speaker was unable to attend the conference but has sent his recorded speech titled “Sustainable Water Resource

Development and Climate Change - an integrated policy framework. This was followed by a brief introduction to the e-journal South Asian Water Studies (SAWAS) by Prof. Vishwa Ballabh, who spoke on the importance of the website in trying to disseminate knowledge and information and information about the water sector to the larger masses and urged all water professionals to contribute and involve themselves in this endeavour.

The SAWAS website was inaugurated shortly afterwards by Dr. Baviskar. The e-journal is hosted by SaciWATERS. The book on Droughts and IWRM in South Asia” was then released by Dr. Samad. This was followed by a cultural programme by an amateur cultural troupe who sang water songs in Sinhala and English. This was followed by dinner. The next three days of the conference were characterized by about 80 presentations by scholars from various universities, research institutes, and civil society organisations. The second day had two special sessions, one where world experiences were presented by three women water professionals working in Chile, South Africa and European Union.

International Conference on Water Resources Policy in South Asia, Colombo, Sri Lanka, December 2008

Ms. Sreoshi Singh, reports

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Another session brought bureaucrats from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Pakistan on a common platform for a panel discussion after which the discussion was open to the floor for further interaction.

The third day was characterized by four parallel sessions, where a wide range of issues were presented and discussed. The last day of the conference was featured by a special discussion on Water Education Policy conducted in the partner institutes and those conducted at the regional level were presented. The purpose of the session was to realize the status of water education in South Asian institutes and to what extent the pattern and curriculum aims at an IWRM approach. The session was open to debate and discussion and feedback was sought from all participants regarding what could be the next step forward or what kind of education policy should be attempted at to achieve a shift in the IWRM paradigm.

The last session was conference plenary which summed up all the sessions and finally concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Dibya Ratna Kansakar (Executive Director, SaciWATERS). He also announced the winner of the Best Young Researcher Paper, the prize for which was handed over by Dr. Peter Mollinga to Ms. Sonia Binte Murshed of Bangladesh.



Crossing Boundaries at the WWF5, Istanbul.

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We shall also be participating in Session 6.1.3 titled **“Get involved! Whose and what empowerment will ensure the provision of sustainable water services?”**. The session will consist of group discussions that will focus on six focal areas for local capacity development: Local Partnerships, Local Autonomy and Self-sufficiency, Matching Capacity Development (CD) Demand and Supply, Knowledge Management and CD Tools, Gender mainstreaming, and preparing for Climate change.

SaciWATERS is also featuring in the Theme 6.1 **Education, Research and Capacity Building**. The session plans to bring together the challenges, learning, and approaches of capacity building networks on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) from three distinct southern regions of the globe - WaterNet (Southern Africa), Crossing Boundaries (South Asia) and Concertación (Latin America). These three regional capacity building networks emerged in the new millennium out of dissatisfaction with traditional North-South development and

cooperation. Dr Anjal Prakash, Dr.Edwin Rap and Dr.Dinis Juizo shall be presenting a paper titled **“Influencing Change by Bridging Disciplinary Divides: Learning from three regional capacity building networks on Integrated Water Resources Management”**. This multiple case study is 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. It shows that the increased collaborative research outputs and generation of new knowledge in IWRM is relevant and of direct value to society.

We have also proposed a Side Event titled **“Up-scaling IWRM education in South Asia: which boundaries to cross?”** The session seeks to evaluate the current status of water resources education, assess the demand for interdisciplinary water professionals and identify challenges, opportunities and new initiatives in the realm of higher education for water resources in the region. The session will consist of three components – first, assessment of the status of higher education for water resources in the region. The existing programmes from sample institutions in South Asia that were evaluated, from a perspective of whether they seek to groom professionals with an interdisciplinary

orientation on IWRM as against conventional engineering/natural science-oriented approaches, will be presented. The basic goal is to review the extent to which an interdisciplinary orientation, across the physical/natural and social sciences, was imbibed in the programme curriculum and pedagogy.

The second component assesses the demand for water professionals with an IWRM type profile. The aim of this component is to show that there is a demand in the region for interdisciplinary water professionals, as against professionals trained conventionally in engineering and hydrology. Based on review of literature and policy decisions on water resources education for identifying any recent policies/initiatives on the front of water education, particularly since 2000, the third component of the session will deal with the experience of implementing a water resources education program in South Asia, potential of furthering such initiatives and likely constraints. Informants for this work component cut across different sectors – government, NGOs, academics, bureaucrats and regulators.

1. Water and Health in South Asia Reader Workshop, February 25– 27, 2009, Hyderabad, India.

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

For more info: click [here](#)

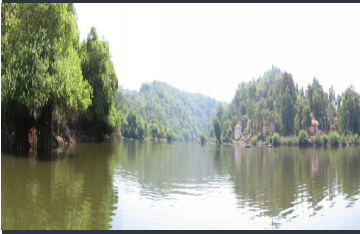
New SaciWATERS Blog

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.

If you wish to be part of the initiative please send a request to Ms. Anu Maheshwari, Communication Specialist, **SaciWATERS** at anu@saciwaters.org

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 or write to managing.editor@sawasjournal.org for more information. Volume 1, Issue 1, of the SAWAS e-journal can be accessed [here](#)



Upcoming Events

Staff Training Program and Reader Workshop on Water and Health

Brand new SaciWATERS website!

Check out our new website at

www.saciwaters.org

The website also provides a link to the First International Conference on Water Resource Policy in South Asia, held in Colombo from December 17-20, 2008.

<http://www.saciwaters.org/conference/>

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 hazard in the entire region. Realizing the seriousness of this issue, the CB Project has proposed a course on Water and Health to be included in the curriculum of Partner Institutions (PIs).

SaciWATERS is organizing a Staff Training Program on Water and Health for faculty at PIs during February 16- 23, 2009 at Hyderabad. This training program will enable them to develop a course module on Water and Health under the existing Post Graduation Engineering Program in Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

SaciWATERS as part of its CB Project, is also going to publish a **Reader on 'Water and Health'** in collaboration with the Sage Publications, New Delhi as the seventh volume in 'Water in South Asia (WISA) series'. A reader workshop is being organized during **February 25- 27, 2009 at Hyderabad** in order to bring together editors and selected authors and to discuss the content and structure of the accepted papers for the proposed reader.

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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