

3rd Gender Water
Equity Training

Training Workshop

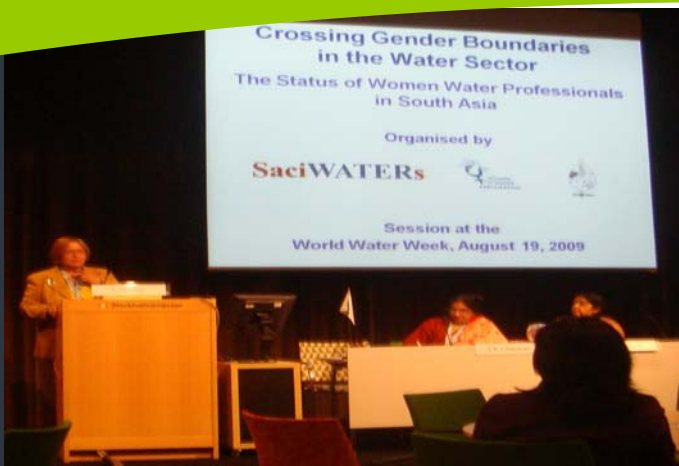
Nov. 23-27, 2009

Pune, India

The Gender, Water and Equity Training (GWET) was jointly organised by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai; South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS), Hyderabad; Gender and Water Alliance (GWA); and the Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune. A total of 26 participants attended the training that also included eight men. The participants were from the five south Asian countries of India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.



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SaciWATERS at the World Water Week
August 16 – 22, 2009
Stockholm, Sweden

The World Water Week (WWW) in Stockholm is the annual meeting place for the planet's most urgent water-related issues. Organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), it brings together experts, practitioners, decision makers and leaders from around the globe to exchange ideas, foster new thinking and develop solutions. The theme for 2009 was *Responding to Global Changes: Accessing Water for the Common Good* with a special focus on Transboundary Waters. This was the first WWW under a new four-year niche entitled "Water: Responding to Global Changes". The event in Stockholm featured more than 90 sessions, including plenaries, workshops, seminars, and side-events covering a wide breadth of topics and multiple cross-cutting issues in water and development policy, planning and management.

SaciWATERS had proposed a side-event to be presented at the meet. It is a recognised fact that the low percentage of women water professionals in South Asia is one of the constraints for gender sensitive water resources management. Most of the analyses around women's lack of participation at various levels in the water sector have remained limited to socio-cultural constraints. There is very little understanding as to how the culture and history of each sector contributes towards constraining women in participating effectively. It is in this context that a study on women water professionals was undertaken in five South Asian countries by the Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM) and SaciWATERS. The

main findings of the study *'The Status of Women Water Professionals in South Asia'* was presented at the seminar organised at the WWW on August 19, 2009 by Ms. Seema Kulkarni of SOPPECOM.

The presentation of the study was followed by presentations by several eminent panel members, comprising of Dr. Deepa Joshi of Winrock International, USA; Ms. Shaheen Ashraf Shah, of Pakistan, now a researcher at the Warwick University, UK; Dr. Aditi Mukherji, Researcher at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka; Ms. Lesha Witmer of Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), The Netherlands; etc. They highlighted on several gendered issues in the water sector and offered perspectives as to how to cross the gender boundary in this discipline. Dr Sumi Krishna, the chair of the seminar, summarised that the issue of women water professionals isn't discussed well within the gender discourse. The recent trends of engineering education show that the space for women is opening slowly. However, it is the perception which needs change which would in-turn change the organisational culture.



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5th South Asia Research Workshop :

SaciWATERS, in collaboration with Royal Society for Protection of Nature, Bhutan will be organising the 5th South Asia Research Conference focusing on the issue – **Globalisation of Governance: Implications for Water Management in South Asia**. The workshop will be held in Bhutan during May 3-5, 2010 focusing on the following four themes:

1. Privatisation of water services: Reforming the 'reform' agenda.
2. Human wellbeing, Gender Equity and IWRM – new and emerging challenges.
3. Urbanisation and Water: A conundrum and a source of conflict.
4. Multilateral institutions and NGOs: changing configurations around the state in water resource management.



SaciWATERS at the Asian Regional Working Conference (ARWC) on Women and Water November 06-08, 2009 Marawila, Sri Lanka



Meeting and Greening Challenges in Water Security, Food Security and Climate Change for Asian Women is a worldwide movement of eighteen major umbrella organisations for women in South America, Africa, Asia and Western & Eastern Europe. This conference was organised by Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) in association with NetWwater, a network of women water professionals in Sri Lanka with the following objectives :

- To develop an improved understanding and assessment of threats to water security, health and food security for vulnerable Asian women.
- To prepare a series of project proposals for developmental projects for women's organisations in participant countries to address impact of issues like climate change, food security and natural resource depletion.
- To assess the gendered aspects affecting water security and food security in Asia.
- To assess means of promoting and supporting women's participation in the decision making process and empower women at national and community levels to take up leadership roles.
- Enhance water literacy and informed decision making for political decision makers to promote water security.

There were about a hundred participants from Asian countries such as Nepal, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, India, Korea and Philippines apart from a good presence of international organisations. The three-day conference had a fieldwork consisting of visits to two different sites of the Dendru Oya river and in Bingiriya on the first day. Illegal river sand mining in these areas have led to detrimental effects on the surrounding natural and human ecosystems. The fieldtrip also included a visit to an ancient Buddhist temple (of the Kandyan kings) whose head monk is an environmentalist. He has provided immense support to many of NetWwater's campaigns against river sand mining in Sri Lanka. The programme of the next two days of the conference had a two-fold agenda: to have thematic paper presentations and to work on the case studies which would be developed as project proposals for funding by WfWP. There were four thematic papers presented at the conference – Theme I was on Agricultural Issues presented by Dr. Barbara van Koppen of IWMI. Theme II was presented by Dr. Alexandra Evans of IWMI focusing on Water Quality issues. Dr. Musafa Tulapur of WaterAid focused on Sanitation issues in Theme III. Theme IV was presented by Dr. Anjal Prakash, Sr. Fellow – Research & Outreach at **SaciWATERS** on the issue of Capacity Building for Women Water Professionals which was based on the paper jointly written by him and Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, Sr. Fellow – Research, **SaciWATERS**. Apart from representing the organisation at the conference and popularising the Crossing Boundaries Project, the conference also provided scope for networking and other follow up activities.

“Organising Water Education Regionally: Three Southern Continents Meet” Conference

October 31 – November 02, 2009

Entebbe, Uganda

The conference, organised by WaterNet, **SaciWATERS** and Concertación focused on regionally shared water management problems to provide new windows of opportunities for regional collaborative approaches for water education in the South. It helped establish a creative dialogue between the three Southern-based water education networks: from Southern and Eastern Africa, South Asia and South America (the Andes). These networks emerged in the wake of a growing demand for regionally relevant knowledge and expertise on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Through such dialogues, these regional net-

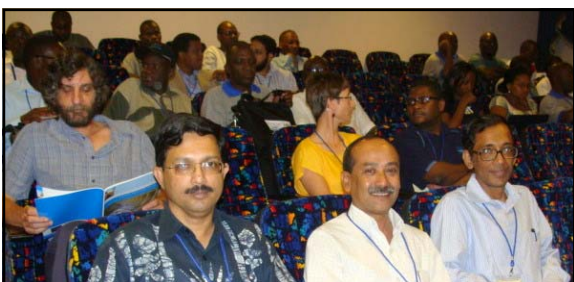


works shared valuable experiences and key lessons, both in terms of how to educate water professionals to deal with today's and tomorrow's water challenges, and in terms of effective ways to understand and confront such water challenges. Set out on a beautiful location of Entebbe, the three day conference mainly focused on inter-regional exchange on water education between the three Southern capacity building networks in IWRM – WaterNet (Southern and Eastern Africa), Crossing Boundaries (South Asia) and Concertación (Andes, Latin America).

The conference centred on the question - *What can we learn from the experiences, achievements, mistakes and ambitions of three regional water networks regarding the sharing of knowledge, building of capacity, construction of networks and influencing of national, regional and international water resources management policies?* To answer these questions, the conference was divided into six sub themes:

Theme 1: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Water Education

Theme 2: The Link between Capacity Building, Research



and Policy Advocacy

Theme 3: Learning from Networks: Objectives, Composition and Strategies

Theme 4: Gender and Empowerment issues in Water Education

Theme 5: Organising Water Education at a Regional Scale

Theme 6: Lessons, Limitations and Recommendations

Out of the six sub themes, Crossing Boundaries (CB) members led two sub themes: Theme II was led by Dr. Anjal Prakash while Theme IV was led by Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich along with Dr. Margreet Zwartveen. Prof. Nimal Gunawardane, member of Project Advisory Committee, CB Pro-



ject, was actively involved in providing CB inputs in the Theme III session on Learning from Networks that was led by Dr. Themba Gumbo. Theme VI consolidated the overall themes of the lead papers presented at the conference. A total of ten participants from CB project attending the event actively participated during the entire programme. Most of them also contributed to various thematic papers that were written and coordinated by theme leaders. Overall, it was a learning experience and there was a demand from the partners to have similar sharing meetings within the region. Both WaterNet and **SaciWATERS** expressed their commitments to invite one representative from the other two networks in the international events to be organised in future.

4th Gender Water Equity Training:

The fourth Gender Water Equity Training, with an aim to increase participants' awareness on key gender, water and equity issues in South Asia will be held in Bombay, India during 12 – 16 April, 2010. This training, hosted by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai together with **SaciWATERS**, Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and the Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune will aim to address the challenges in mainstreaming gender and equity perspectives in water policy and practise through interactive sessions, case study analyses and group discussions.

SAWAS e-journal, a free, open-accessed peer-reviewed South Asian online journal - www.sawasjournal.org, is coming out with a special issue soon. The special issue will focus on the Changing Water Governance in India - Taking the Longer View with Dr P.P. Mollinga, ZEF, Bonn and Mr S.P. Tucker, Govt of Andhra Pradesh as guest editors.

Climate Change and Water: Vulnerability and Adaptation Staff Training Programme

August 02 – 09, 2009
Dhaka, Bangladesh

SaciWATERS organised this staff training programme in partnership with Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), one of the Crossing Boundaries (CB) partners in Bangladesh. The **SaciWATERS** team was represented by Dr. Dibya Ratna Kansakar, Project Director, (CB) Project and Ms. Sreoshi Singh, Research Associate. The training programme started with opening notes by Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, BCAS, and Dr. Dibya Ratna Kansakar. A total of eight academic staff members, nominated by the four CB partner institutions, attended the training programme that included classroom sessions and field visits to rural areas of Gaibandha which are susceptible to flood and inundation hazards. The final day was dedicated for discussing and developing course modules for the training topics for their respective institutes.



For the classroom sessions, designed to be interactive and participatory, a total of twelve experts from different organisations and countries conducted the training on various themes as resource persons. Each session consisted of a lecture lasting for about an hour followed by a thirty minutes' group discussion. During the sessions, the trainees also made presentations on the status of climate change with respect to water issues in their own countries. The participants were provided with session plans, reference and other training materials on each theme. These were compiled as hard copies and provided during the training programme. The soft versions



were made available at the end. The field trip offered the participants an insight into the adaptation measures like awareness about climate change & warning systems and other structural processes such as raised flood shelters, raised toilets and raised tube-wells built as methods to combat frequent flooding.



The expected output from the training programme was developing a draft teaching module based on the learnings. To that effect, each day ended with a session of summing up the day's presentation and discussing ideas for inclusion in the partner institutions' teaching modules. The last day was specifically allotted for further discussions to help refine the teaching modules that were being prepared. The final draft modules were presented for feedback and/or suggestions from all present.



SaciWATERs
announces

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on

Interdisciplinarity
in Water Education

Challenges, Perspectives
and
Policy Implications
for South Asia
October 3 - 6, 2010
Kathmandu, Nepal

3rd Gender Water Equity Training (Training Workshop)

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The five-day training programme was targeted at mid-level professionals working in NGOs, donor agencies and UN agencies dealing with water management, activists, academics, researchers, and officials working in state and central government departments related to water management. The training emphasised on integration of gender, water and equity with a lot of focus on group work and policy analysis tools from gender and equity perspectives.



Wide arenas of subjects were covered in the training programme, ranging from normative principles around water to policy reviews, sanitation and

solid & liquid waste management issues. The feedback from the participants was good. Over the span of three such trainings, the GWET schedules have been improved. Inclusion of an understanding of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) framework at the beginning of the training programme is also being considered to enable better comprehension of the training structure for participants in future GWETs. The noteworthy thing about this training was that this time the programme managed to get participants from Pakistan which was very commendable, considering the administrative problems in terms of reporting. The Bangladeshi participants also had to go through similar inconveniences as the new rule of them reporting at the police station was evoked.

PARTNERS CROSSING BOUNDARIES PROJECT

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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