

# Making Sanitation Everybody's Business



Highlights of the ADB–DMC Sanitation Dialogue

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In this publication, \$ refers to US dollars.



*“If water is life, sanitation is dignity.”*

- Ronnie Kasrils

*Former Minister for Water Affairs and Forestry, South Africa*

## Foreword

Sanitation is central to the larger development agenda. Without the huge health and economic benefits from improved sanitation—where a dollar’s investment can yield a return of between \$3 and \$34—poverty can never be truly alleviated.

What does sanitation mean to us at the Asian Development Bank (ADB)? For one, sustainable provision of latrines is just the first in the long list of deliverables. We believe that it is important to secure sustainable environments for residential, commercial, and industrial areas. Increasingly, in a rapidly urbanizing Asia and Pacific region, we need to juxtapose environmental sanitation with hygiene sanitation. The collection, treatment, disposal, and recycling of household, commercial, and industrial wastewater is as important as changing hygiene attitudes and behavior, and in developing solutions.

Recognizing the crucial role of sanitation at this point in the Asia and Pacific region’s development, we at ADB have begun ramping up our investments—increasing our annual average sanitation lending pipeline from \$300 million for 2003–2007 to \$710 million for 2008–2010. As a proportion of our overall funding commitments, water and sanitation projects are expected to increase from an average of 8.5% in 2003–07 to about 17% in 2008–10.

We realize, of course, that our efforts alone will not really make a dent in the huge sanitation gap, where 1.8 billion people in the Asia and Pacific region are still awaiting access to improved sanitation. Bridging this gap will require commitment and collaborative efforts by communities, local and national governments, private sector, civil society, development partners, and more. The responsibility of reaching the sanitation targets needs to be seen as everyone’s business.

When we organized the ADB–DMC Sanitation Dialogue in March 2009, we had one overriding aim: to increase our and the governments’ knowledge on sanitation, knowing that any further action—especially toward increasing investments—will not happen without a solid knowledge base as foundation for decision making. I am happy to note that not only did the Dialogue result in increased knowledge; it also surfaced opportunities for partnership among key stakeholders, identified priority actions to boost the sanitation agenda in specific countries, and created momentum and enthusiasm among the delegates from 17 countries who attended the event. Let us hope these small steps bring us closer to our final goal of sanitation for all.



Xianbin Yao  
Director General  
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# Why a Sanitation Dialogue

## A CRISIS IN THE MAKING

A water crisis is emerging, says the *2007 Asian Water Development Outlook*, and polluted surface water sources, especially around cities, have a lot to answer for in pushing this crisis. Inadequate household and industrial sanitation coverage, treatment, and disposal are significant causes. But despite the huge economic repercussions, lost lives, and other environmental and welfare costs, sanitation remains a low priority in the agenda of many governments and development agencies. As testament to this, there are 1.8 billion people in the Asia and Pacific region without access to improved sanitation, compared to just 477 million people without access to safe drinking water.

A recent Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) study<sup>1</sup> has shown that the lack of sanitation has cost countries from 1% to 7% of their gross domestic product (GDP). On the other hand, a World Health Organization (WHO) study<sup>2</sup> revealed that a dollar invested in water and sanitation could give an economic return of between \$3 and \$34, depending on the region.

Clearly, there are multiplier effects to the economy and profitability to be gained from investing in sanitation. Equally clear is the fact that to elevate sanitation in the development agenda, players and stakeholders must see evidence of benefits arising from investments, observe how various technologies can be customized and applied to specific conditions, and experience the cost effectiveness of various models and approaches.

## TAKING UP THE SANITATION CHALLENGE

Recognizing the need to push the sanitation<sup>3</sup> agenda forward, ADB released its position note entitled *Dignity, Disease, and Dollars* in 2007, ahead of the International Year of Sanitation (IYS). First disseminated at the 2007 Stockholm World Water Week, the paper focuses attention on three areas where stakeholders need to see results:

- Better facilities for individuals so they can regain their dignity,
- Disease prevention and healthy environment for the wider community, and
- Financial viability of sanitation services for provider governments and utilities in tandem with affordability for households.

*Dignity, Disease, and Dollars* marked ADB's stepping up efforts to increase focus and investments on sanitation. These efforts included raising awareness and facilitating sanitation's inclusion in the investment plans of national and local governments.

ADB, however, recognized the need for an open and forward-looking dialogue with its developing member countries (DMCs) to ensure that countries take the need for sanitation initiatives and investments to heart.

<sup>1</sup> Water and Sanitation Program – East Asia and the Pacific (WSO-EAP). 2007. *Economic Impacts of Sanitation in Southeast Asia: Summary*. Jakarta: The World Bank.

<sup>2</sup> Hutton, Guy and Laurence Haller. 2004. *Evaluation of the Costs and Benefits of Water and Sanitation Improvements at the Global Level*. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO).

<sup>3</sup> Sanitation is a broad term, which includes water supply, safe disposal of human waste, wastewater and solid waste, disease control, domestic and personal hygiene, food, etc. "Toilet to river" approach: Sanitation is not only to keep clean, but to protect those environmental sources which support and promote sustainable development.



WooChong Um, Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Division, ADB, explaining the objectives and expected outcomes of the sanitation dialogue

## DIALOGUE AMONG PARTNERS

The ADB–DMC Sanitation Dialogue, held on 3–5 March 2009 in ADB Headquarters, brought together more than 100 national and municipal government officials from 17 countries in the Asia and Pacific region.

It provided a forum for discussion of the public health, environmental, and socioeconomic issues associated with poor sanitation, and knowledge sharing on practical, affordable solutions to address them. There were resource speakers from ADB and its partner agencies. ADB's Sanitation Action Group members and other key staff were also on hand to facilitate the country dialogue.

WooChong Um, Director for the Sustainable Infrastructure Division, briefly clarified the goals and expectations of the Dialogue. The dialogue aimed to:

- enhance the preparedness of DMCs to conceive, plan, and execute policy, programs, and projects that will increase their populations' access to adequate toilet facilities combined with more effective wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal processes, and reduce the level of personal and industrial sanitation pollution on land areas and in waterways; and
- have DMCs give priority to meeting their sanitation needs (including putting a sanitation policy in place, if required, and integrating

sanitation into national development plans), and increase investment programming over their current levels.

Achieving these objectives, Mr. Um pointed out, will need not just more knowledge but also a synthesis of issues, challenges, opportunities, and actions. He encouraged the participants to open the discussion to topics that have been clouded by a lack of understanding as well as misunderstanding.

Contributing to the increase in knowledge base, the ADB–DMC Sanitation Dialogue provided a venue for:

- knowledge sharing on six important cross cutting themes in sanitation:
  - economic costs and benefits
  - technological options
  - community awareness and participation
  - political perspectives
  - finance
  - private sector participation
- sharing ADB's and its partners' perceptions on solution options;
- facilitated country dialogues on issues, priorities, and next steps; and
- agreeing on priority areas and key actions that will move the sanitation agenda forward.

## Setting the Scene



Haruhiko Kuroda, ADB President, delivering the opening address

Larry Ramos (x2)

### ADB PRESIDENT OPENS DIALOGUE

Sanitation is central to the development agenda, noted ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda. He mentioned some encouraging national initiatives to address sanitation issues—such as the projects in the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Indonesia, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Philippines, and Viet Nam—and added that these are important initiatives that need to be scaled up and sustained.

To accelerate the provision of basic household sanitation and secure sustainable environments, President Kuroda said there has to be a change in thinking and strategy.

First, he suggested that sanitation be considered a business since it cannot be sustained on government budgets alone.

### ADB President’s 7-Point Water Agenda

1. Rural Water Services
  - to help the poor escape poverty; enjoy drinking water; **benefit from improved sanitation**; and build vibrant, water-secure communities
  - to increase agricultural productivity and ease food prices
2. Urban Utility Performance
3. Integrated Water Resource Management systems across river basins
  - **to conserve water and clean up the environment for households, rivers, and seas**
  - **“toilet to river”—to increase investments in comprehensive sanitation systems**
4. Climate Change Adaptation
5. Disaster Preparedness
6. Inspired Leadership
7. Partnership

Second, there has to be greater political will to attract investments in sanitation. This begins with clear policies, fair and transparent performance standards and regulations, setting appropriate tariffs, and the empowerment of providers to perform their mandated function.

Third, he pointed out that partnerships are vital. A range of actors—governments, the private sector, civil society, development institutions, and the media—have to join hands to advance the sanitation agenda.

## CHAMPIONS' PERSPECTIVE

*“Sanitation: By the people... Of the people... For the people”*

– Secretary Santha Sheela Nair, India

The next three presentations were linked by the common thread of getting an overall perspective of sanitation: the global view of Mr. Jack Sim and the business angle of sanitation; the local view of Mayor Maria Lourdes Fernando, showing city programs from toilets to sewage and septage treatment, and river cleanup in Marikina City, Philippines; and the regional and national view, with India's Secretary Santha Sheela Nair presenting the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) and India's initiatives.

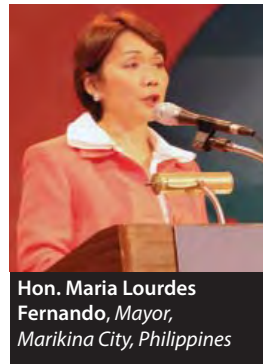
### **Seeing sanitation as an opportunity**



Jack Sim, a well-known passionate and global advocate of better sanitation, explained that sanitation can be perceived both as a problem and as an opportunity—for both government and business.

He pointed out that if governments improved the enabling investment and business environment and helped promote sanitation to the communities, much of the initiation of projects, capital works, and implementing services could be attractive to and carried out by the business sector. Greater business activity would have other benefits to the community as well.

### **Seeing sanitation happen at the local level**



Mayor Fernando demonstrated how a local government was able to prioritize and implement sanitation programs.

She pointed out the key factors that contribute to a workable sanitation strategy and program: setting in place an enabling environment, enacting and enforcing ordinances and regulations, and mobilizing resources. Planning and allocating budget for sanitation is integral to the overall vision of the city and its economic development plan.

The river cleanup was complemented by efforts in removing informal settlers along the riverbanks, solid waste management, rehabilitation of the drainage system, and hygiene and food safety in the public and private markets. The benefits derived by the city from its “healthy city” advocacy can be gleaned from the continuous influx of new businesses, steadily increasing tourist arrivals, and positive outlook of its citizens.





### Seeing sanitation happen at the regional level



**Santha Sheela Nair,**  
Secretary  
Department of Drinking  
Water Supply, Ministry  
of Rural Development,  
India

Secretary Nair of the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, India, highlighted the outcomes of the Third SACOSAN. Thanks to increasing investments in sanitation, progress is being made in SACOSAN countries. However, millions are still unserved.

India already has current programs and successful models and projects that can be replicated. Shown at the presentation were examples of toilet options built using locally available materials and designed to suit cultural diversity and various needs, e.g., adolescent girls, children, physically challenged, and elderly. Secretary Nair drew attention to the strategy of building affordable and suitable facilities; conducting intensive awareness drives; mobilizing women, bankers, and media; rewarding performance; and mainstreaming sanitation politically.

A SACOSAN roadmap was developed for member countries to have an indicative guide on policies, institutional arrangements, programs, financing, and participation required to achieve full sanitation by 2015.

She also made recommendations on reorienting priorities in ADB to support the sanitation initiatives, particularly in South Asia.



Larry Ramos (x4)

Participants view ADB's Documentary film, *Coming Clean on Sanitation*.

## Country Perspectives on Sanitation: **Common Challenges**

*Lack of access to sanitation of good hygiene is an assault against human dignity.<sup>4</sup>*

Despite dealing with some unique circumstances, many countries in the Asia and Pacific region share common problems. Mr. Zhang Yue (PRC), Mr. T.M. Vijay Bhaskar (India), Mr. Nicanor Mendoza (Philippines), and Mr. Fakhridin Miryusupov (Uzbekistan) underscored similar challenges, especially those associated with:

- institutions and the policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks;
- social aspects and public awareness;
- technological options; and
- economic and financial issues.

Legal and regulatory frameworks in most developing countries are still weak and existing policies and laws are not being enforced strictly. Without effective environmental regulations, polluting entities have no incentive to reduce waste or use

cleaner techniques, and pollution prevention and abatement technologies. These lead to significant health impacts and costs to societies.

Institutions responsible for the regulation and oversight of sanitation and environment often have overlapping mandates that prevent integrated management. Local governments play an increasing role in these processes as they are the direct link to users and service providers.

While poor people typically carry the burden of missing or inadequate sanitation facilities and services, their ability to influence policies and catalyze action is very limited. To make matters worse, they also generally lack awareness of the need to improve personal hygiene and the repercussions of poor sanitation.



ADB Photo Library

Children in this slum have little choice but to play in filthy grounds

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). 2006. *Social Marketing of Sanitation*. Nairobi: UN-Habitat





Steven Griffiths



The once dirty and stinky waters of Suzhou Creek in the People's Republic of China were transformed into an ecological wonder after a major cleanup

Efforts to reach the sanitation targets must focus on sustainable service delivery, rather than construction of facilities alone. Therefore, rethinking sanitation in terms of understanding the motivations and constraints of key stakeholders—households, communities, local governments, and service providers—is an important change in approach.

Technological options have to be understood by policy and decision makers as well as the communities and beneficiaries. Lack of knowledge and access to affordable and practical technologies has resulted in any of these scenarios: no facilities, inappropriate and inadequate facilities, or deteriorating facilities. In some cases, decentralized processes allow for a more cost-effective solution, better participation of local stakeholders, and inclusion of poor and marginalized groups. In other cases, such as in the PRC's big cities, more centralized treatment systems are needed.

The financial viability of investments to improve sanitation and environmental conditions are often unrecognized, partly because of limited access to affordable financing sources and partly due to an absent or inadequate user fee system that could support capital infusion and operating and maintenance costs.

In the private sector, weak environmental regulations and enforcement make environmental investments less attractive. In the municipal utility sector, low cost recovery hampers service quality and expansion. Sound municipal financing and planning are essential in the longer term to support the growing need for investments in environmental services, to improve service quality, and to attract private sector in service delivery.

Beside more investments, more awareness and capacity are needed to address these various challenges. For many countries, there is little hope of reaching the Millennium Development Goal sanitation target without major changes in their approach and allocation of resources, and consideration to improving capabilities to develop, finance, implement, and sustain sanitation programs and facilities.

On the positive side, there is growing recognition that sanitation—not just water supply—is central to the quality of growth and poverty reduction in the region. As shown in the presentations, there are examples of successful approaches and pilot projects that can be scaled up and replicated.

# Knowledge Sharing: Opportunities and Solution Options

Moving from the discussion of the extensive demand and challenges to deliberation of solution options, the next session of the dialogue focused on sharing knowledge on the six major considerations for an integrated sanitation approach.

## Economics of Sanitation

*Apathy costs lives.*

Almud Weitz, Regional Director of the Water and Sanitation Program–East Asia and Pacific (WSP–EAP), reported that WSP, with support from ADB, conducted a series of studies to estimate the economic costs of lack of sanitation, particularly health costs, productivity losses, tourism losses, drinking water treatment cost, and other welfare costs. Such studies are needed to convince governments and stakeholders to make sanitation a priority. The study focused on selected countries in the Asia and Pacific region.

Key messages from these studies include:

- **Costs:** Not doing anything about sanitation is costly; the economic impacts of poor sanitation are variable but high across all countries (ranging from 1% to 7% of GDP).
- **Benefits:** Sanitation has a major role in development due to its multiple impacts.

To advance the case for including sanitation in the economic development agenda, the next phase of the program will include valuation of other impacts, cost-effectiveness ratios of health outcomes, cost-benefit analysis of options, and development of simple models to calculate economic returns.

## Technology Options:

*High-tech or low-tech, solutions are available.*

Technology options range from waste creation to collection to treatment and disposal. There were



Larry Ramos (X3)

**Thammarat Koottatep** from the Asian Institute of Technology explained the technology options for improved sanitation; With him on the stage are **Almud Weitz** (Water and Sanitation Program) who discussed the economic impacts of sanitation and **Vikram M. Pattarkine** (PEACE–USA) who presented innovative technology approaches

two speakers for this segment: Professor Thammarat Koottatep from the International Water Association and the Asian Institute of Technology, and Dr. Vikram Pattarkine, Principal (Partner) of PEACE–USA.

Professor Koottatep discussed the types of sanitation products that should be considered; the various user interface, collection, storage, conveyance, and treatment technologies; and proper disposal and/or use of output products (wastewater irrigation, composting, energy, etc.). He emphasized that a proper combination of technologies should be selected to result in functional systems.

Dr. Pattarkine introduced new cost-effective technologies: solar-powered (i.e., low operating and maintenance costs), use of algae and efficient biological processes, and treatment schemes that generate alternative energy.

The participants got a general appreciation of methods and affordable technologies that may apply to their circumstances (large urban, slums, smaller cities, rural towns) so that both personal sanitation and environmental sanitation (pollution of rivers and groundwater) can be improved.



**Rory Villaluna**  
Executive Secretary,  
Streams of Knowledge

### **Community Perspective**

*From personal dignity to community pride*

Rory Villaluna, Executive Director, Streams of Knowledge, explained the social issues, personal attitudes, and cultural dimension of sanitation. Most of the sanitation challenges lie in the homes of the poor, in slums, in the shelterless, and rural poor. She discussed the various tools and approaches that can be applied when implementing information–education–communication campaigns, building capacity, and mobilizing stakeholders to promote sanitation to communities and other stakeholders and bring about behavior change. She also discussed how nongovernment organizations have been able to implement sanitation programs—what it takes, how the resources are mobilized; what supporting policies and conditions were required for community and nongovernment organization participation; and other factors that contribute to a workable sanitation strategy, program, or successful initiative.

### **Political Perspective**

*Proper sanitation is good politics.*

This segment focused on how policies and enabling conditions can be set in place to support sanitation. Hon. Hubbert Christopher Dolor, Mayor of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines, explained how politicians view hygiene and environment sanitation, and how he has made it a priority. Located at the center of marine biodiversity and a major tourism destination, it is easy to understand why sanitation is important to Mayor Dolor's town.

He discussed the key elements in pushing their sanitation project:

- making it a priority project within the coastal resource management plan;
- mobilizing political and stakeholder support through conduct of public awareness and consultations campaign;
- enforcing national policies and local ordinances; and
- implementing the environmental user fee system as a financing mechanism for sanitation (solid waste and wastewater management facilities) and other coastal resource management projects.



**Hon. Hubbert Christopher Dolor**, Mayor of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines

The collected user fees have also increased the municipality's budget, elevating its class from third to first. Due to lack of technical and financial capacity, the sewerage and wastewater treatment system is currently being developed through public–private partnership.

## Financial Aspects

*Sanitation investments don't go down the drain.*

Anand Chiplunkar, ADB's Principal Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist, discussed important factors in financing of projects. He highlighted the need for a business plan and the recovery of costs to sustain facilities. Examples of financially viable sewerage utilities were presented. He further showed the rating methodology for credit-worthiness, various financial frameworks, and ADB's financial modalities and instruments. Given the presence of various financing sources, the key issues are affordability of, and access to, these sources and developing bankable projects, which rely on available funds for operations and maintenance.



**Antonino Aquino**, President of the Manila Water Company, Inc., provided the private sector perspective, and showed the financial viability of sewerage and septage management from his company's experience. With him are **Anand Chiplunkar** who explained the financial aspects of sanitation, and **Michael Barrow** who moderated the knowledge sharing session on finance and private sector participation.

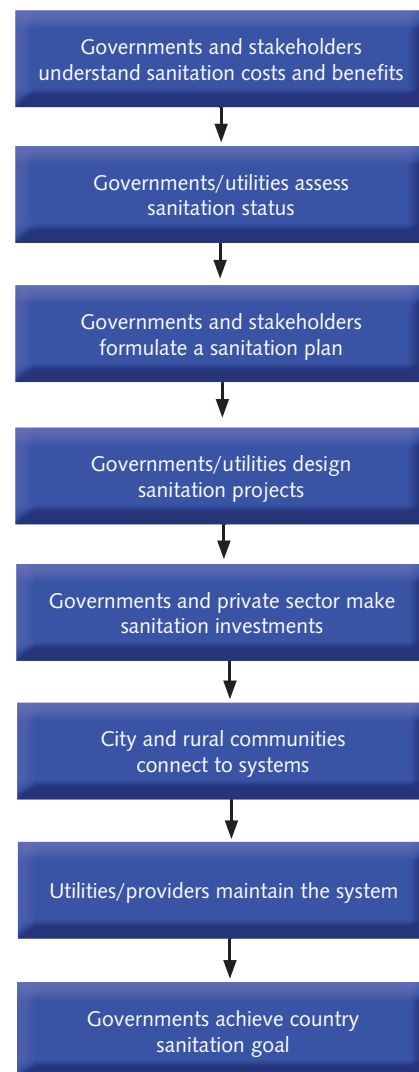
## Private Sector Participation

*High demand and low supply—time to balance the equation.*

Antonino Aquino, President of Manila Water Company, Inc. (MWCI), showed the company's accomplishments in increasing coverage of water supply distribution and improving sewerage system and septage

management. With the latter, he proved that sewerage service can be a profitable business. He pointed out that public-private partnership (PPP) is a solution that works. However, the private sector is prepared to get involved only if risks are manageable and this requires a good regulatory framework that would provide them with incentives. Private sector initiatives should also be complemented by government efforts to improve sanitation.

### Sanitation Results Chain



Source: ADB. 2007. *Dignity, Disease, and Dollars: Asia's Urgent Sanitation Challenge*. Manila, Philippines



## Field Visit

Marikina City hosted the field visit of the participants on 4 March 2009.

The visit began with a briefing on the city's sanitation initiatives and a screening of a video on Marikina at the Marikina Cultural Center, locally referred to as Kapitan Moy. This was followed by a short walking tour along the Marikina River.



A walking tour provided the participants with a glimpse of the problem and the city's efforts in rehabilitating Marikina River.

The city government has expended tremendous efforts to clean up the Marikina River and has met with significant success. Despite these efforts, though, transboundary issues (e.g., waste management by upstream municipalities) still need to be addressed.

The participants visited the construction site of MWCI's sewage treatment plant (STP) with a capacity of 10 million liters per day (MLD) on a 5-hectare area provided by the city government. To be inaugurated in October 2009, the facility in Olandes will treat wastewater coming from parts of Quezon City and two villages in Marikina City—Industrial Valley and Barangka. Two more wastewater treatment plants will be constructed in the city.



Visit to the ongoing construction of the sewage treatment plant, which is a partnership effort of the city government and Manila Water Company Inc., the private concessionaire

Larry Ramos (X3)

Across the STP site is an urban poor community that has been developed by the city government and is inhabited by families that used to live by the riverbanks. A local ordinance that required removal of structures situated within the 96-meter easement from the river's centerline necessitated their relocation.

Amenities and basic utilities have been provided and the houses have individual toilets, septic tanks, and ample water supply. The participants visited the school, health center, and multipurpose gym, and were able to talk to the people.

This community will be among the first beneficiaries of the STP.

### *Advocate–Demonstrate–Implement*

In undertaking sanitation initiatives, how does one move from the policy, commitment, assessment, and planning stages to investment? Clearly, moving through these stages is a challenge in itself, and a major one at that. Governments and development partners need to collaborate and work together to raise awareness, develop capacity, push the sanitation agenda forward, and make a dent in the daunting goal of sanitation for all.

For this session, an integrated approach to sanitation was discussed by Almud Weitz (WSP), Debashish Bhattacharjee (UN-Habitat), and Rudolf Frauendorfer (ADB).

In summary, this approach should consider the following factors:

- **Establish an enabling environment of policy, legislation, regulation.** Parallel track of working with local governments as “models” for national scale-up, alongside national enabling framework development.
- **Develop sanitation strategies and plans with stakeholder participation.** Sanitation plans should be inclusive, i.e., community-based interventions that consider the poor, marginalized, and disabled should be built into city-wide plans.
- **Resolve accountabilities, overlapping mandates and jurisdictions.** Institutionalization of sanitation planning and coordination—vertical (central and local governments) and horizontal (across sectors).



Larry Ramos

- **Raise awareness at policy and community levels.** Apply social marketing and advocacy tools to promote behavior change. Create user demand by providing a menu of options.
- **Develop viable investment proposals and bankable projects.** The key is having an effective cost recovery mechanism.
- **Address social and economic aspects.** Show that the cost of “no action” is higher.
- **Address affordability and willingness to pay.**
- **Provide technological options that are practical, affordable, and cost effective.** Conventional sewerage and community-based sanitation can complement each other. Decentralized wastewater treatment systems and waste-to-energy systems are also feasible under certain conditions.
- **Provide access to financing and/or develop innovative financing mechanism.** Revolving funds can lower financial barriers. Carbon market financing should be explored.
- **Consider a phased-development approach.**
- **Develop partnerships with other organizations and across different sectors.**



# Key Outcomes of the Dialogue: **Country Priorities and Plans**

As recommended by the participants, the following areas will be the focus of future in-country sanitation events and the subject of much-needed technical assistance and knowledge materials:

- **Institutions and policies:** development of national sanitation law and/or strategy and plan; capacity building for institutions involved in providing sanitation services; development of institutional home and coordinating mechanism; finding political champions.
- **Technology options:** different types of technologies—ranging from low-cost to high-cost systems, and from decentralized to centralized systems—including corresponding costs of each option and applicability; replication of proven technology and working models.
- **Financing options:** access to affordable financing sources; setting in place a cost recovery mechanism, including appropriate level of tariffs, incentives and other revenue-generating mechanisms; engaging private sector participation and promoting PPPs; demonstrating viability of sanitation facilities and services.
- **Information, education and communication (IEC):** development of advocacy, social marketing and communication plan; implementation of activities to raise community awareness, promote behavior change, and mobilize various sectors to be active partners.
- **Economics of sanitation:** illustrate why sanitation should be a priority—show high cost due to “no action” as well as benefits (social, economic, and environmental) to be derived from good sanitation.

**Key Outcomes of the Sanitation Dialogue**

- Priority areas and key actions were identified to move sanitation forward in the various countries,
- Sanitation dialogues and workshops are expected to be conducted in the countries,
- Potential investment areas were identified, and
- Opportunities for collaboration and networking were recognized.

Region Country	Priority Areas
<b>Central and West</b> Armenia Georgia Kyrgyz Republic Uzbekistan	- Rehabilitation of sewerage networks and wastewater treatment facilities - Private sector participation - Tariff/User fee system
<b>Central and West</b> Pakistan	- National Sanitation Action Plan - Provincial strategies/programs based on the national plan - Technology options - Private sector participation
<b>South Asia</b> India Bangladesh Sri Lanka	- Septage treatment, low cost alternatives, decentralized systems - Rural sanitation - IEC, advocacy, social marketing, and community participation - Affordable financing
<b>East Asia</b> Mongolia	- Institutional and regulatory framework - Technology options - Affordable financing
<b>East Asia</b> PRC	- IEC and advocacy plan/program - Urban: sewage and solid waste treatment - Rural: safe drinking water, sanitary latrines
<b>Southeast Asia</b> Indonesia Philippines Viet Nam	- Capacity development - Institutional and regulatory framework - Technology options - Affordable financing
<b>Pacific</b> Fiji Islands Papua New Guinea Samoa Tonga	- National sanitation policy/strategy - IEC program

## Next Steps: How to Sustain the Momentum

The next few months are critical in getting sanitation coverages progressing. The following activities are to be undertaken to sustain the momentum and commitment arising from the dialogue:

- **Including the sanitation agenda in the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) mission:** Timing is key. In coordination with the countries, sanitation should be included in the CPS mission agenda, together with a list of potential activities/projects and proposed timetable.
- **Conducting in-country events:** Follow-up activities are needed to sustain the momentum. The participants have agreed that in-country sanitation dialogues/conference can provide venue for knowledge sharing, action planning, and identification of opportunities and/or actual projects, as well as in motivating the commitment of local leaders. Workshops on specific focus areas (depending on country needs) can also be organized to build capacity and enhance project preparation and implementation capability. Likewise, cross-site visits to demonstration sites/working models provide learning opportunities. In-country dialogues in volunteering countries can initiate the preparation of a Country Sanitation Investment Plan and dovetail this in the CPS.
- **Conducting Leadership Seminar:** A major undertaking is required to make sanitation a priority in the countries. One approach is through political advocacy involving political leaders (champions) at national and local levels. This can result in creating an institutional home for sanitation; adopting a sanitation policy/law; increasing budget allocation; and developing institutional arrangements, including coordinating mechanism. Leadership seminars can be done either per country or per region, and can be co-organized with development partner agencies.



Arjun Thapan, Director General, Southeast Asia Department, provided a synthesis of the developing member countries' priorities and next steps, and encouraged the participants to make more actions and push the sanitation agenda forward.

- **Identifying sanitation projects:** Countries have identified investment opportunities. In partnership with the governments, a roadmap for the development and implementation of sanitation program and specific investment projects needs to be worked out in each country. ADB and development partners can ensure their support through:
  - inclusion of sanitation projects in water supply programs/projects
  - higher allocation for sanitation from the Water Financing Partnership Facility for technical assistance, capacity development, and pilot projects.
- **Disseminating knowledge products:** Countries need knowledge materials that would raise understanding of solution options, project preparation processes, implementation challenges, and development impacts. These materials will include:
  - Studies/toolkit: technology, financing, economics
  - Case studies; good practices
  - Modeling tools to facilitate options analysis
  - Promotions/information, education, communication and advocacy materials (e.g., sanitation advocacy video showing stories from six countries)



## About the Asian Development Bank

ADB's vision is an Asia and Pacific region free of poverty. Its mission is to help its developing member countries substantially reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite the region's many successes, it remains home to two thirds of the world's poor: 1.8 billion people who live on less than \$2 a day, with 903 million struggling on less than \$1.25 a day. ADB is committed to reducing poverty through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 67 members, including 48 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

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