



## **Proceedings of the Regional Workshop**

# **GWA/AIT Regional Workshop: Strategic Planning for Mainstreaming Gender in IWRM in Southeast Asia and the Pacific**

**18-21 July 2007**

**Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand**

**Organized by: The Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and the  
AIT Gender and Development Studies Programme**

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## List of Acronyms

ADB: Asian Development Bank  
AguaJaring: Southeast Asia Regional Network for Capacity Building in IWRM  
AIT: Asian Institute of Technology (AIT)  
Approtech Asia: the Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners, Inc.  
ASEH: Advancing Sustainable Environmental Health, Bangladesh  
BPD: Building Partnerships for Development  
CBOs: Community-based organizations  
CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women  
CGIAR: Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research  
CNEM: The Coordination Center for Natural Resources and Environment Management, Thailand  
CNMC: Cambodia National Mekong Committee  
CRS: Catholic Relief Services (CRS)  
CSR: Corporate Social Responsibility  
IRC: International Rescue Committee  
IRC: International Water and Sanitation Centre, the Netherlands  
IUCN: World Conservation Union  
DFID: Department for International Development, UK  
DGIS: Directorate-General of Development Cooperation, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
ECB: Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Project, Indonesia  
EM: Effective Micro-organisms  
FGD: Focus Group Discussion  
GCI: Green Cross International  
GDS: Gender and Development Studies Programme, AIT  
GEF: Global Environment Facility  
GEPR: Gender Empowerment for Poverty Reduction, Lao PDR  
GMAG: Gender Mainstreaming Action Group, Cambodia  
GMAP: Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan, Cambodia  
GRID: Gender Resource Information and Development Centre, Lao PDR  
GWA: Gender and Water Alliance  
GWP: Global Water Partnership  
GWPSEA: Southeast Asia Water Partnership (under the Global Water Partnership)  
ILO: International Labour Organisation  
IWG: Interagency Working Group on Emergency Capacity, Indonesia  
ICT: information and communication technology  
IEC: information, education and communications  
IRRI: International Rice Research Institute  
IWRM: integrated water resources management  
LAST:  
LNMC: Lao National Mekong Committee  
Lao PDR: Lao People's Democratic Republic  
MAF: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR  
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals  
MOWRAM: Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, Cambodia  
M-POWER: The Mekong Programme on Water Environment and Resilience  
MRC: Mekong River Commission  
MRRF: Management of River and Reservoir Fisheries project in the Mekong Basin  
NGO: Non-governmental organization  
NIA: National Irrigation Administration, Philippines  
NWP: national water partnerships  
NZAID: New Zealand International Aid and Development Agency  
PICs: Pacific Island countries  
PLA: Participatory Learning and Action  
PHAST: Participatory Hygiene and sanitation Transformation

PhilRice: Philippine Rice Research Institute  
PWP: Philippine Water Partnership  
R&D: Research and development  
SEA: Southeast Asia  
SSWPs: small-scale water providers  
SOPAC: Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission  
ToT: Training of Trainers  
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme  
WASH: Water, sanitation and hygiene for health  
WAB: WaterAid Bangladesh  
Watsan: Water and sanitation  
WSSCC: Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council  
WWF: World Wide Fund for Nature

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP

### I. **Building a Vision for Mainstreaming Gender in IWRM in Southeast Asia and the Pacific**

The GWA/AIT Regional Workshop on Strategic Planning for Mainstreaming Gender in IWRM was held for Southeast Asia and the Pacific from 18-21 July 2007 at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Pathum Thani, Thailand. The workshop was organized by the Gender and Water Alliance (GWA) and was co-hosted by AIT's Gender and Development Studies Programme. A total of 33 participants and 20 graduate students and staff participated in the workshop. Twenty-two participants represented seven countries of the region – Cambodia, Fiji/Pacific region, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. Resource persons came from AIT, GWA, the Mekong River Commission Gender Programme, AguaJaring, the Mekong Programme on Water Environment and Resilience (M-Power) and WaterAid. *The list of participants is included in Annex I.*

#### A. **Workshop Overview**

##### 1. **Welcome to Participants**

Prof. Peter Haddawy, Vice President for Academic Affairs, AIT and Dr. Sara Ahmed, member of the GWA Steering Committee, welcomed the participants to the workshop. Prof. Haddawy in his remarks noted that the workshop would discuss ways of working with partners and networks in the region to develop a common 'learning forum' for mainstreaming gender in IWRM. This forum could draw on AIT's academic programme, which encourages future leaders in development policy making to mainstream a strong gender perspective in water resources management. He stressed that teaching, research and outreach efforts at AIT were organized and mobilized to ensure that women's participation and interests are represented and meaningful in policy deliberations on water resources. *The programme for the workshop is found in Annex II.*

Dr. Sara Ahmed welcomed the participants on behalf of the GWA, particularly Joke Muylwijk, Executive Director. She traced the series of regional workshops that have been held by the GWA and its members/partners in the past year as part of efforts to strengthen regional capacity to mainstream gender in water management and to 'give a face' to the GWA. Workshops have been held in Beirut (2006), Kathmandu (Jan. 2007), Central/West Africa (Ouagadougou, Feb. 2007) and in June, Brazil. For GWA this workshop for Southeast Asia and the Pacific is important because, although there are only 40-50 members in the region, it is clear that there are a lot of ongoing efforts in mainstreaming gender. This is evident from the range of concept notes shared here – from capacity building for small-scale water service providers and women farmers in the Philippines and strengthening gender mainstreaming in the Mekong River Commission, to knowledge management and thinking about GWA as a regional network. *The concept notes submitted by participants are included in Annex III.*

Sara outlined three challenges that the groups needs to think about over the next few days:

- Understanding **gender** and by extension **gender mainstreaming** – not just in terms of numbers of women in water committees, etc. or the implications of development interventions on women/men, but about taking our learning and transforming development practices – (re)setting the development agenda.
- **IWRM** as a concept continues to beguile us, but we need to critically engage with this concept as it currently shapes the dominant discourse on water policy and management;
- **Governance** – or the process of decision-making on how and by whom our water resources are to be managed – is essentially a question of power. However, gender and water governance issues have not been substantially addressed. It is important for us to know what difference the presence of women on water committees has made in terms of governance

issues (accountability, transparency) as well as women's empowerment (they have a 'voice').

This was followed by a round of introductions of all the participants.

## **2. Keynote address**

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Bernadette (Babette) Resurreccion, Coordinator of the Gender and Development Studies Programme at AIT. Her remarks focused on the need to bring 'power' and 'transforming unequal power relations' back into gender mainstreaming of natural resource management programmes. Gender mainstreaming has been transfigured from its original intent to de-stabilize hierarchical and unequal terms of access to resources, benefit-sharing and decision-making. Over time and after a plethora of gender toolkits, gender mainstreaming has acquiesced to 'business as usual,' in ways that simplify the complexity of gender/power relations and de-politicize the management and control of natural resources, including water resources, in many institutions often hostile to social change. As a result, substantial change in women's lives does not match the immense lip service currently being paid to gender mainstreaming and may, in certain contexts, co-opt women into resource management without empowerment: or, 'environment first, gender later.' The challenge therefore is to recognize that gender mainstreaming is inherently and necessarily political, complex and a deliberate step towards transforming unequal relations of power.

## **3. GWA Objectives, strategic plan and outputs**

Ms. Esther de Jong of the GWA Secretariat outlined the background and goals of the Gender and Water Alliance and described the main outputs and activities under its strategic plan 2006-10. She provided the framework within which the group would be able to formulate its regional strategic plan for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. GWA currently has 820 members (organizations and individuals) from 101 countries, of which 40 per cent are men and 60 per cent women.

In presenting GWA's strategic plan for 2006-10, she provided details on what GWA is doing under each of the five major outputs. The purpose of the current plan is to strengthen significantly the gender-related understanding and practice of water-sector professionals and decision makers at national and local levels.

The five outputs for GWA to achieve during 2006-2010 are:

- **Output 1:** Network of GWA members managed, strengthened and operating effectively
- **Output 2:** Knowledge and information on gender mainstreaming policies, practice, experience and tools collected, recorded and shared by GWA members and other key stakeholders
- **Output 3:** Capacity to mainstream gender in IWRM amongst targeted groups significantly increased
- **Output 4:** Significant progress in the incorporation of gender issues in the development and implementation of national water-related policies in targeted countries
- **Output 5:** Profile of gender equality issues at international water-related conferences and events and in international policy reinforced and promoted

The current workshop is part of GWA's efforts to regionalize its work, and decentralize projects and programmes to the regions. The regional strategic plan that results from this workshop will be primarily concerned with what Southeast Asia and the Pacific can contribute to outputs 2, 3 and 4 and how GWA can assist the region in achieving them.

Ms. de Jong mentioned that currently one major donor (DGIS of the Netherlands) provides 65 per cent of GWA's budget (Euro 650,000 per year) with the rest being covered from joint projects with other organizations such as UN-Habitat and UNDP. Limited funds can be made available to assist partners in the region to accomplish their goals and contribute to those of GWA.

While there is a great demand for GWA's work, it needs the regional members to commit themselves to identify priorities for the region and pull the cart. With a coherent regional plan, it will be possible to find adequate additional funding for these activities. She thanked the participants for submitting their concept notes, which can be used as the basis for this coherent regional plan.

The discussion following the presentation went into some detail about the website and the possibility of translating it to local languages of Southeast Asia. Ms. de Jong noted that it would be more effective to translate certain key GWA documents to local languages instead of the complete website. Dr. Sengamphone indicated that the Mekong River Commission (MRC) had some funds for translating gender/water related documents to the languages of the four riparian countries (Thai, Cambodian, Lao and Vietnamese).

#### **4. Workshop objectives**

Ms. Marcia Brewster, GWA adviser, stressed that this meeting was not a training workshop but a gathering to put together a strategic plan for the region formulated by key players who can carry it out. She outlined the objectives of the regional strategic planning workshop as:

- To bring together key individuals and organizations in the Southeast Asia and Pacific region who are willing to facilitate, plan and lead gender mainstreaming efforts in IWRM.
- To discuss how we can integrate different actors and networks operating in the region for better learning and policy advocacy.
- To develop a regional vision and action plan for strategizing gender mainstreaming in the water sector.

The regional plan should incorporate three core activities:

- Training and capacity building on gender and IWRM at different levels.
- Knowledge development, management and shared learning through different media.
- Policy and advocacy on mainstreaming gender and equity concerns in water management.

These activities are in line with outputs 2-4 envisaged under the GWA Strategic Plan for 2006-2010. Ms. Brewster then outlined the structure of the workshop, which would consist of: presentations on regional networks and national or local case studies that incorporate gender concerns into their water activities; small working group sessions on the three main themes, which would feed into the regional strategic plan under the GWA framework; refinement of the regional plan, setting priorities, defining who will do what and making suggestions on sources of funding for the regional action plan. The group would also visit a local community project and provide ideas for ways GWA could influence the Third Regional Southeast Asia Water Forum (Malaysia, October 2007) and the Asia-Pacific Water Summit (Japan, December 2007).

### **B. Why gender mainstreaming is a concern: understanding the larger picture**

Session 2 concentrated on existing regional networks in Southeast Asia that could support work to mainstream gender in IWRM. Presentations on gender aspects of the following regional networks were made by key members, and are summarized below.

#### **1. Southeast Asia Water Partnership and its gender aspects – *Watt Botkosal***

The Southeast Asia Water Partnership (GWPSEA) is a Southeast Asia network of organizations and institutions in 10 countries who are equal members, interested in water resources development and management. The Partnership is committed to the Dublin-Rio principles and is supported by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) in Sweden. Its initiatives aim to bring together all water-user groups – government agencies, research and academic organizations, communities, business groups, NGOs, and other interest groups -- to join forces to share and understand water information and solve

problems, in the spirit of IWRM. In the framework of the GWP Strategy 2006-2008, GWPSEA set up its first Strategic Plan for 2007-2010 to generate and transfer knowledge and strengthen capacities relevant to IWRM in Southeast Asia. Its mission is to "encourage and support member countries in the sustainable management of their water resources and coordinate activities in the region". This involves many levels and includes research, capacity building, transfer of knowledge, and technical and logistical support to the network organizations. The IWRM principles address the *greater role of women* in water-related decisions. Thus, women should be recognized as central to the provision, management and safeguarding of water.

To encourage further cooperation, the GWA should be associated with GWPSEA in terms of providing its clear strategy for promoting and facilitating the full contributions of both women and men to socio-economic, environmental and cultural development. This can be integrated into the GWPSEA Working framework and Action Plan of its member countries. As soon as possible, GWPSEA will create a strategic alliance with GWA in order to incorporate the gender mainstreaming strategy in IWRM applications and best practices for all SEA countries.

During the discussion, participants questioned how the SEA Water Partnership dealt with the trans-boundary nature of so many of the regions waterways, such as the Mekong River. Mr. Watt responded that the four nations of the Mekong River Commission (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam) belong to a political agreement. Gender is being mainstreamed in transnational programmes through agreements and projects. There is also an exchange program to deal with emerging issues. It should be noted that the four nations also participate in a trans-boundary monitoring programme.

## **2. Thailand National Water Partnership and its gender aspects - *Aranya Fuangswasdi***

One of the goals of the Thai Government's water policy is that gender concerns be integrated into all water programmes. In Thai traditions water/rivers are viewed as female (Mae Nam - Mother Water), and therefore women are also traditionally responsible for water management.

Thailand has adopted international norms, such as CEDAW (with reservations on two articles) to facilitate gender mainstreaming. In government offices concerned with water resources, there are a high proportion of women employees at the lower levels; however, at higher levels or decision making levels, men are over-represented. There has been an attempt to place more women in these high level positions; for example, the Director-General of the Ground Water Department is a woman. Also more gender focal points are being trained and stationed in the departments. The Government also has a Master Plan to support gender and create gender balance through employing more women.

During the discussion there was a question on whether the National Mekong River Basin Committee had women representatives, and it was confirmed that there were women on the committee. Another participant asked whether there were different levels of representation of women in different technical fields among water programmes. It seems that women do seem to dominate in some fields such as hydrogeology, but there may be fewer women in the area of hydropower and other disciplines.

## **3. Philippine National Water Partnership and its gender aspects - *Yolanda Benitez Gomez***

Ms. Gomez provided information on the background to the Philippine Water Partnership (PWP), a national initiative launched in 2002 with members from national government agencies, government-owned or controlled corporations, local government units, NGOs, private sector representatives, water cooperatives, academic institutions and individuals. The members are actively engaged in water resources development and management.

PWP is the leader in the promotion of IWRM and is actively engaged in: dialogues; advocacy; information, education and communications (IEC); and research and capacity development. At present, PWP is looking at the role of small-scale water providers (SSWPs) and their potentials in providing sustainable water services to help the country meet its Millennium Development Goal

(MDG) targets in water and sanitation. Hence, a project has been proposed to mainstream gender into the provision of water by small-scale providers (water cooperatives, water associations and entrepreneurs). The partnership plans to prepare a manual and checklist for the small-scale providers within the framework of IWRM. This will involve cooperation at the regional level (through AguaJaring and Streams-Asia) and national levels (PWP, National Water Resources Board, Cooperative Development Authority and the small-scale water providers.) This is one specific area where collaboration with GWA is being sought.

During the discussion it was noted that the PWP focused mainly on domestic water use and that the country was on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal for sanitation, which was not the case in many Asian nations. Ms. Gomez confirmed that, according to their statistics, the Philippines was on track to meet its sanitation goals and the PWP was still working towards improved resource management.

#### **4. Mekong River Commission (MRC) Gender Mainstreaming Project – *Sengamphone Chithtalath***

Dr. Seng, Coordinator of the Gender Mainstreaming Project at MRC, noted that gender has been considered an essential part of the work of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) since phase I of the Gender Mainstreaming Project (1996-1999), which was funded by New Zealand. A study was undertaken on the roles of women in water and related resource development in the lower Mekong Basin. This study led to further development of MRC's gender strategy, which was endorsed by governments of the MRC member countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam) in 1998 and 2000. The Project received more funding from NZAID for Phase II (2004-2008). Gender mainstreaming for MRC is a strategy to integrate gender into the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programmes in all fields so that they benefit women and men equally. Mainstreaming practice should not be equated with recruitment of female staff nor with designing and implementing projects to which women are merely added. Projects need to be implemented in at least two directions: 1) Vertical: Gender and development as an independent unit, to strengthen the capacity of the gender specialists (men and women); 2) Horizontal: Mainstreaming gender aspects in priorities, policies, and programmes of all sectors.

The project aims to assist institutions to implement the MRC gender policy and strategy effectively in water and related resources management through: 1) Increasing gender awareness in the organizational culture; 2) Capacity-building in gender and development concepts and frameworks in the MRC Secretariat, National Mekong Committees, and related line agencies; 3) Institutionalizing gender-responsive structures and procedures; and 4) Providing technical support, tools, and guidelines for implementing gender-responsive development practices.

Dr. Seng was questioned about achievements in other organizations and programmes supported by MRC that would parallel the in-house achievements. She noted that they faced many constraints. One is that MRC has many technical programmes which often are not exposed to gender issues and concerns. Also many external organizations are 'gender blind'; therefore, her unit is often expected to be responsible for sensitizing programme officers and their regional programmes, even though the officers are not always present or accessible.

Gender training is usually directed at lower level staff positions. Therefore, the MRC gender unit tries to include gender training when all staff are present at certain events. For example, at a New Year's event in 2006. Dr. Seng organized a 'gender awareness' fashion show, in order to make gender fun. Currently the gender programme trains national representatives and creates strategic plans. It is difficult in big organization to change the organizational culture and structure.

## **5. AguaJaring and its gender aspects – *Zelina Zaiton Ibrahim***

Dr. Ibrahim from the Faculty of Environmental Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia explained that AguaJaring is the Southeast Asia Regional Network for Capacity Building in IWRM ([www.aguajaring.org](http://www.aguajaring.org)). It is a networking vehicle of Cap-net and includes capacity building, cooperation among network partners and research. AguaJaring can provide resources (funding and literature) and is active in the dissemination of information. Its webpage, which is being developed, provides information on the activities of members of the network based on national and thematic classifications. A stronger gender link is needed, and GWA could provide information and materials for the link.

Dr. Ibrahim noted that anyone can be a member of AguaJaring; it is open to all. She noted that any individual can log on and the webmaster will place his/her membership online. As for using material obtained online from the site, it should be properly referenced.

A suggestion was made that the GWA/UNDP Resource Guide on Gender and Water Management CD could be uploaded to provide gender information, and that GWA's website could be linked to AguaJaring. Dr. Ibrahim supported the idea and noted that GWA just needed to request the link and AguaJaring will support and facilitate it.

## **6. M-POWER – *Louis Lebel***

The Mekong Programme on Water, Environment and Resilience (M-POWER) emerged in 2005 as a platform to bring together organizations and individuals with a shared commitment to democratizing water governance in the region. The programme is now supported by a coordinated network of more than 20 partner organizations. Young governance scholars, activists and policy-makers are especially encouraged to join M-POWER activities as research fellows. The position of M-POWER is that decisions over the development of regional waters are so important to the livelihoods of people in the Mekong region that they should not be left to a handful of individuals, whether well-meaning or not; open deliberation and negotiation are needed to ensure sustainable and fair procedures and outcomes.

The network's interests in gender include work on inland fisheries in northeast Thailand and Cambodia, differential vulnerability to floods, upland watershed management and commercial aquaculture. Much of the work is motivated by concerns with social justice. Findings have pointed to the importance of grounding studies with empirical observations and careful analysis. Discourse around gender in water resources management may be simplistic and misleading, for the following reasons:

- Women are not all the same, nor are they a uniform or unified interest group but rather they differ with respect to class, capacities, ethnicities and interests.
- Getting involved in fisheries or water resources management can be an additional burden, so benefits to women from such activities should be clear before they get involved.
- Many empowerment pathways remain unexplored because the social practices inspired by "gender mainstreaming" start with myths and simplifications that only explore a small range of the possible ways of pursuing gender equalities.

Gender mainstreaming needs to move beyond its focus on binary classifications (male, female) and pay much more attention to the dynamic social process by which feminine and masculine roles are constructed and associated with particular rights, responsibilities and privileges.

Dr. Lebel noted that there is a selection process for membership in M-POWER, and membership has many benefits including sharing of resources (including financial). The programme also provides fellowships for research with grants in the range of \$US 10,000-15,000. The cohort of individual members does not focus much on policies but rather on making sure marginalized groups are not left out. The group has a very long term commitment and works on improving governance, in which gender is a cross cutting issue. Since AIT is an important member and Dr.

Babette is on the Steering Committee of M-POWER, it was suggested that AIT could propose fellows, including interested GWA members, for such fellowships.

When asked what indicators M-POWER used for empowerment, he noted that they focus on ownership and political decision making (Transformatory concept). M-POWER influences policy through: Creating a platform to exchange ideas with members; taking advantage of opportunities; and looking at alternative perspectives e.g., in upland areas.

Asked whether the word democratization was politically-loaded in a region with so many different political systems, he noted that the word 'democratization' is used in a neutral way. Governance is considered from a 'pluralistic' point of view, in which multiple stakeholders can be involved in discussing the issues. This is how we build the network and strengthen the membership.

## **7. WaterAid – Rokeya Ahmed**

Ms. Rokeya Ahmed of WaterAid Bangladesh (WAB) explained that WaterAid is an international charity working with people in developing countries to improve their quality of life through lasting improvements to water, sanitation and hygiene education in collaboration with local partner organizations.

In 2001-2002 WaterAid Bangladesh carried out different studies and an evaluation to synthesize learning and to design a new programme on "Advancing Sustainable Environmental Health (ASEH)", which started in late 2003 and is to run until March 2009. The activities in rural and urban areas are being implemented by 27 partner NGOs to give support to 6.4 million people. The ASEH approach focuses on development of specialized equity and gender policies, strategies, guidelines, training packages and monitoring tools. These include equitable access to project benefits for all, with priority to women and girls. A strong focus is given to hygiene and sanitation, because these are closely related to water sources, technology and design of water and sanitation (watsan) projects. WaterAid also promotes a range of appropriate, affordable, gender-friendly and sustainable watsan technologies that meet the differing practical needs of men women and poor in rural and urban communities.

The following are examples of a few ASEH approaches to mainstreaming gender:

- WaterAid and partners have encouraged the formation of mixed groups, rather than separate women's groups, and have introduced a quota system for equal participation of men and women at the decision-making level.
- Project activities and sessions are held at convenient times and locations so that the poorest, especially women, can attend. Project responsibilities and domestic responsibilities for watsan activities are shared equitably among men, women and children. Awareness building on balancing the role of men and women in household work is also included.
- The project has introduced a woman-friendly toilet, which is separate from male toilets in schools and market places, and includes a facility for menstrual management.

Among the outcomes of these approaches are:

- Increased access to watsan services for the most marginalized people, especially women and girls;
- Decision-making that reflects a preference for women and the poor (quota systems in CBOs for skill development);
- Menstrual hygiene and gender division of labour included in hygiene education package;
- A range of gender-friendly latrine options developed at household and community levels, at schools and market places.

The challenges that remain are the need to learn by doing, since there are few resources for gender mainstreaming in the water sector, and the need for a high degree of commitment at all levels.

## II. Addressing gender issues and community empowerment in water management

### A. Country Case studies

Short country case study presentations from the region focused on: key gender concerns or issues; existing gender and water programmes; and recommendations on gender/water for the regional plan. The country presentations and case studies made by GWA members from the region are summarized below

#### 1. Cambodia – *Thach Dom*

Ms. Thach Dom described the Gender Mainstreaming Action Group at the Cambodian Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM). She said that only 10 per cent of the staff of MOWRAM are women. She described the problems faced by women in Cambodia and their low level of representation in most levels of decision making. She noted that, although the majority of members (60 per cent) in Farmer Water User Committees were women, women were not represented at decision-making levels. The strategy for gender mainstreaming is to build capacity on gender awareness and analysis and establish linkages to the gender network. The ministry also wants to improve women's participation in water management.

Regarding the implementation of mainstreaming in Cambodia, Ms. Thach Dom said that the focus would be to establish women's participation and opportunities in the rural areas, especially among small-scale water providers. It was clarified that the task of gender focal point is still very new and capacity building is needed. The definition of mainstreaming based on the policy is the integration of a gender perspective in all projects and programmes, and the crafting of a gender strategy in the process.

Regarding the requirements for formal membership in farmers' water user committees, a government decree provides details of who can be a member and how they register their membership. Upon registration, members can then submit project proposals to the committees. There was a limited budget allocated for gender in the Ministry.

#### 2. Fiji/Pacific – *Kamal Khatri*

Mr. Kamal Khatri of the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (known as SOPAC) noted that in the Pacific there is a need for more action research projects on gender and water. His unit responds to field requests on water resources and sanitation and provides various technical services on water. They have introduced new programmes, in which they are putting in place gender mechanisms. There may be individual case studies on gender and water, but these have not been well documented. If GWA were able to support action research projects on the ground, this would be beneficial to the region. It would also be useful to prepare guidelines on gender equality and poverty reduction in water supply and sanitation for the Pacific Island Countries. For these to be effective, they would need to be sensitive to local perceptions and understanding of the concepts, and build on traditional values and ethics. This can be relatively difficult, because of the great diversity of cultures in the Pacific Island States. Likewise, a gender and water framework within an integrated water resources management approach could be very useful. In terms of collaboration with GWA, some activities and linkages have been discussed, which would need to be further developed. In the first instance the GWA website could be linked to the Community Participation and Gender component of the WASH programme at SOPAC and *vice versa*. SOPAC will solicit support from GWA to mainstream gender in its Integrated Water Resources Management Project. Further information on this programme:

<http://www.sopac.org/tiki/tiki-index.php?page=Integrated+Water+Resource+Management>.

### **3. Indonesia – *Angela Ika***

Ms. Ika introduced the option of corporate social responsibility projects supporting community efforts in water and sanitation. The presentation emphasized how Indonesia still lacked gender-sensitive regulations, as the legal and policy focus is limited to gender balance. Ms. Ika noted that, regarding integrated watershed management, there were some problems in almost all of the watersheds in Indonesia: increasingly critical land shortages; contamination of water sources; conflicts among water users, individually and among institutions; and lack of coordination among agencies. Culture and behaviour are dominated by a patrilineal system, so that men are usually involved as decision makers in planning, while women dominate as the users of water systems. Because of these problems, the country needs a concept for sustainability of water resources, water supply and sanitation systems in the framework of integration among multiple stakeholders who are responsible for maintaining the watershed. The main stakeholders are: the communities who live in up-stream to down-stream areas (including women); the government which sets policy; and public/private sector partnerships which use water resources as their business. Coordination among stakeholders is needed to make a gender-sensitive policy for sustainable management of the watershed.

One participant commented that the work on corporate social responsibility and the efforts made in Jogjakarta could be shared with partner organizations working on mining concerns in other areas, such as Western Kalimantan.

### **4. Lao People’s Democratic Republic – *Sonephet Phosalath***

Ms. Sonephet outlined the main activities and outputs of the gender mainstreaming project in the Lao National Mekong Committee (LNMC), following a study on “The Role of Women in Water and Related Resources Development in the Lower Mekong Basin”. In Phase I they nominated a national gender coordinator and 12 gender focal points from line ministries. Phase II of the project includes implementation of the MRC Gender Strategy coordinated by the Lao national gender team. The team has already held a consultative meeting with LNMC leaders, has reestablished the Lao National Gender Team, and has conducted gender awareness training for officials of the LNMC. Other activities include training on gender analysis, gender in monitoring and evaluation and the use of the MRC Tool Kits for Gender Responsive Mekong River Basin Development. It is planned to begin to collect sex-disaggregated data and information to LNMC and line agencies, and to provide training of trainers (ToT) for national gender trainers, in 2008.

To improve its work, the team needs to create better understanding in the following areas: basic knowledge on gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation and water management; best practices in gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation; and reasons for why gender is central to water and sanitation.

Regarding the challenges of gender mainstreaming in the water sector in Lao PDR, Ms. Sonephet mentioned that the context remains traditional, especially when it comes to women’s participation on water committees. Husbands generally do not want their wives to participate in such public meetings. The second challenge is that leaders of organizations are not aware of, and hence not committed to, mainstreaming gender. A related problem is the lack of budget allocations for mainstreaming gender in water management. Technical staff in water agencies usually lack the gender analysis skills to undertake the task properly.

#### **4-a. Lao PDR – *Phothong Siliphong***

Mr. Phothong introduced the Gender Resource Information and Development (GRID) Centre of the Lao PDR, which has a capacity in research and training. It was set up in 1997 as a technical project on gender-related knowledge and information. This centre has been playing a prominent role in raising gender awareness and introducing skills in gender analysis and gender mainstreaming in socio-economic development planning to the government officials at all levels. The Gender Empowerment

for Poverty Reduction (GEPR) is being implemented by the GRID centre. Its key activities include: promotion of gender-sensitive planning; gender budgeting; gender training; gender advocacy; promotion of sex-disaggregated statistics; development of gender mainstreaming tools; and a men's network. With financial support from UN-Habitat, GRID will develop a gender mainstreaming strategy in the water supply and sanitation sector for Lao PDR. The upcoming activities will include: a rapid gender assessment of the water and sanitation sector in municipal areas of Lao PDR; development of a gender mainstreaming strategy for the water and sanitation sector; and organization of a workshop to present and discuss gender mainstreaming strategy to all stakeholders.

Mr. Phothong mentioned two key machineries for women's participation: the Lao Women's Union, which has a direct mandate for empowering women; and the recently-established National Commission for the Advancement of Women, which is the government agency tasked to implement gender policies.

## **5. Philippines – *Feri Lumampao***

Ms. Lumampao of Approtech Asia (the Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners, Inc.) underscored the inseparability of the issues of gender and water with that of water and energy as demonstrated in the case of street food vendors. The problem is not the access to water *per se* but access to safe water. Approtech's objective was to work strategically in partnership with governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to promote water security and efficient management of water at the household and enterprise level.

She noted that there were 80,000 unregistered food vendors in metropolitan Manila. They collect water by jerry cans and pay 74 per cent more than those who are directly connected to piped water. This leads to time wasted in collecting water, often with contaminated water collection containers. The work area and dishes given to customers are unclean, leading to water-borne diseases and widespread health problems. Ms. Lumampao presented some of Approtech Asia's solutions: Solar Water Disinfection (SODIS); rainwater catchments; rehabilitation of solar-powered water pumps; and research and pilot projects. She noted that as a GWA partner, her organization actively participates in and provides innovative inputs to GWA during meetings and training workshops. She suggested that members of the group establish and maintain an interactive website on gender, water, equity and poverty reduction linked to the GWA website and other partners. Resources could be mobilized, and expertise provided to develop community leaders who would advocate for government support to gender in water management programmes.

In their field work, the group reported that women are "hungry" for technology. The recommendations focused on the need for South - South exchanges and cooperation for a gender audit in water and energy programmes.

### **5-a. Philippines – *Evangeline Sibayan***

Ms. Sibayan of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) focused on the technical aspects of agricultural productivity and its possible impact on and benefits for women. Alternate wetting and drying, intermittent irrigation and controlled irrigation are water-saving techniques that are found to drastically reduce the cost of pumping water in the lowland rice producing areas of Central Luzon, Philippines. The sources of irrigation water in these areas are shallow and deep wells. Based on on-farm level studies conducted in 2005-06 jointly by PhilRice, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI, Los Baños, Philippines) and the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), about 30 per cent of irrigation water can be saved using these techniques, without significant differences in yield compared to the conventional method of maintaining a daily height of 3 to 5 cm of ponded water on the rice fields.

The technology is to be introduced to farmers whose farms are covered by a reservoir-backed national irrigation system, in this case, the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation system, with a service

area of about 80,000 hectares. In this area, irrigation is available throughout the year, and there are two cropping seasons. However, distribution of and access to irrigation water is not equally divided among users within the system. It is envisioned that with the adoption of the new technologies by the farmers at the head and midstream of the network of canals, savings can be achieved and this can be translated to more water reaching farms at the tail end. In the dissemination of this technology, the researchers included all adult members of the farming family e.g., housewives and adult children attended the lectures as well as the men. This was meant to mainstream gender in water management for rice production and to address the knowledge gap existing among farming family members, ensuring that all family members can act when the need arises.

Comments on the presentation focused on: (1) the process of gendering, i.e., labeling work as feminine or masculine, which is lacking in most of the discussions; and 2) the impact of technological and other changes (both positive and negative) on women's livelihoods and land rights. One participant shared that in her field work in Malaysia, they found out that income from farming is small because men work selectively, and many of them have migrated to the city for work. Women are then left behind to take on farming work and are now coming in as members of the water users' group. This is complicated by the influx of foreign labour for farm work and the mechanization of farming. Aside from rain-fed farming, women's participation in irrigation should also be reassessed.

## **6. Thailand – Pakping Chalad Bruns**

The presentation focused on the use of traditional culture in *Muang Fai* (traditional irrigation systems) and formal institutional mechanisms in the practice of watershed management in northern Thailand. Some of the mechanisms include established sub-river basin committees. Efforts to mainstream gender concerns emphasize women's participation and women's potential in water management, specifically regarding access to clean water and participation in drafting of the five-year plan for watershed management. One of the participants commented on the contradiction between women's traditional role in water management under the *Muang Fai* system and male domination in most other aspects of watershed management systems.

Ms. Pakping concluded that, since the structure of the traditional irrigation systems in northern Thailand is dominated by men, it would be necessary to provide capacity building targeted for women and youth and supported by international partners. This would promote gender equality in management and facilitate exchange of information among the users of irrigation systems.

Moreover, the stakeholders involved in the river basin committees in Thailand include a variety of interests and levels, and capacity building for gender mainstreaming is needed at all levels (community, sub-river basin, river basin and national levels).

She noted that there was recent good news for the sector in Thailand, as the Order of the Prime Minister's Office (following agreement by the Cabinet) passed a national water resources management law on 25 June 2007, which was confirmed by H.M. the King's Directive on 13 July 2007. This will involve a new River Basin Commission under the law by October 2007.

Ms. Pakping pledged her support and that of the Coordination Centre for Natural Resources and Environment Management and the Environment Partnership to work with GWA on the Regional Strategic Plan in the area of capacity building. She proposed to conduct a survey with other partners to assess the needs and to host a seminar to empower government and non-governmental organizations to promote gender in IWRM. The seminar could include training of trainers and a curriculum for incorporating gender concerns in IWRM.

## **7. Capacity building for emergencies, CARE, Indonesia – Maria Josephine Wijiastuti**

Ms. Josephine Wijiastuti of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) described the Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Project, a collaborative effort of seven humanitarian agencies that are jointly tackling

common problems in emergency response and preparedness. The ECB project is a collaborative effort of the Interagency Working Group on Emergency Capacity (IWG). Members include: Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CARE International, Oxfam GB, Save the Children US, World Vision, Mercy Corps, and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The project involves four main initiatives: improved staff capacity; accountability and impact measurement; improved capacity for risk reduction and emergency preparedness among IWG members; and improved information and communication technology (ICT). During May-July 2007, under the Accountability and Impact Measurement, ECB supported a Joint Evaluation for CSR, CARE, Save the Children and World Vision.

The 27 May 2006 earthquake, which struck eight districts in Jogjakarta and Central Java, blocked many clean water sources with sand and buried many water facilities. Water sources were contaminated and the population – especially children under 5 – experienced a 30-40 per cent increase in health problems. A project of CARE International Indonesia, Sendang Desa (Village Water Resources), has worked to involve women in raising awareness of the importance of access to safe water and sanitation. Among the project activities are: recruiting and training Community Health Volunteers to promote safe, clean, and healthy community water; selecting potential community-based organizations (CBO); and building capacity of management staff.

Now the community, especially women, participate in the programme in order to have ownership of community water security. A village forum is held – one for men and one for women – which includes the village leader, community representatives, and youth. The programme involves women in collecting baseline data, planning, programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation through a cadre system.

#### **7-a. Research proposal for Indonesia – *Muryani***

Ms. Muryani presented her research study proposal on Gender Roles and Relationships in Water Management: the case of Wonosari, Jogjakarta, Indonesia. Her research aims to investigate women's role in natural resources management and water management in the areas of policy making and institutional arrangements. She will analyse how gender issues are addressed in Wonosari, and whether gender is considered in water policy, legal instruments and institutional arrangements. She plans to take women as primary respondents, and apply empirical work using participatory techniques, such as Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), in-depth surveys, focus group discussions and participant observations.

#### **8. Women's access and rights to natural resources – *Kesone Sayasane***

The regional project "Management of River and Reservoir Fisheries" (MRRF) in the Mekong Basin is a good example of an internationally-funded initiative that focuses on the community and women's involvement in aquatic resources use and management. In Lao PDR the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) implements the project in partnership with the international project. Implementation is shared between government and organized users groups in decentralized decision making, which strengthens user communities' capabilities to plan and implement activities aimed at the sustainable and integrated use of natural resources.

MRRF has embarked on a gender-specific and -responsive approach since 2000. In doing so, it uses four entry points: gender-orientation in programme and activity planning, implementation and evaluation; examination of gender roles and opportunities; implementation of activities which address practical and strategic gender needs and priorities; and facilitation of and support to a regional Network on Gender and Women in Fisheries. In Lao PDR, MRRF supports aquatic resource management by strengthening local user organizations at four water bodies in two provinces. Its objectives are: to ensure equal benefit for men and women in fisheries development in the region; to increase awareness of women's role in the fisheries sector; to provide gender-disaggregated socio-

economic data and other gender-relevant information; and to ensure that gender aspects are taken into account in the design of fisheries management activities.

## **B. Plenary discussion**

The discussion in the plenary focused on a few points such as:

- The traditional irrigation system in Northern Thailand and its connections to older generations and beliefs and how to use these in the modern context;
- The suggestion to include East Timor in the evolving discussions;
- The importance of South–South partnerships and cooperation;
- The need to address the issue of culture in discussions about gender equity and in creating a level playing field;
- The ways to influence and change the behaviour of men;
- The context of participation and empowerment and how it needs to be clearly defined to reflect women’s changing roles and needs;
- An emphasis on the role of gender networks in empowering women, building capacity and raising gender concerns in integrated water management;
- The complexities that need to be taken into account in addressing gender issues include:
  - 1) concerns of both men and women;
  - 2) the constantly changing nature of gender relations;
  - 3) the importance of relating gender mainstreaming in water policy to power relations and culture; and
  - 4) the reality that both men and women are trapped and trying to escape from the dominant gender behaviours and expectations.

## **C. Summing up: Dr. Bernadette Resurreccion**

Dr. Babette Resurreccion summed up the day’s discussions as follows:

- All the presentations covered issues of water sources, watershed protection, and domestic water supply and sanitation, and the gender components of these water-related efforts. Most of them focused on achieving gender balance in government and non-government mechanisms and structures. There were some presentations which dealt more with women’s role in decision making, various gender mainstreaming strategies and poverty alleviation programmes. Programmes of the MRC and the role of national governments and ministries were discussed intensively.
- Lots of normative issues were raised regarding what should be done and what should not be done. Popular expressions such as participation, gender balance and planning for decision making were extensively used. What would be the implication of these terms on actual change? Can we unpack the meaning of these terms? How can we change these into practice in the regional strategy and action plan?
- Presentations show us that a lot is being done in terms of impact and the process of change. In terms of partnerships, what value would be added by the partnership in bringing about gender equality?
- On women being part of the irrigation water user associations, it was observed that their reproductive role is being sidestepped. What do we do about women’s reproductive responsibility? Are women supposed to continue with it? How can men and society reduce this burden? This issue was not really dealt with in the presentations.

### **III. Planning for gender and IWRM: Thematic group work to develop a collective vision and action plan for mainstreaming gender in IWRM (Day 2, 19 July 2007)**

Three working groups were formed to discuss existing best practices and to facilitate, plan and coordinate regional activities around:

- Capacity building
- Knowledge development and dissemination
- Policy and advocacy

The working groups met all morning and presented their results in the afternoon. The rapporteurs and facilitators compiled the results of the working group sessions, based on some guideline questions, as follows:

#### *Questions*

1. What is the change that you would like to see?  
Bringing gender, equity and sustainability concerns to the centre through knowledge management, capacity building and policy advocacy on gender mainstreaming:
  - In the short term – next 2 years
  - In the long term – next 5 to 10 years
  - Developing a vision for the region
2. How would you like to see this change come about?
  - What can you do as an individual, organization or network – how would you like to work towards this vision?
  - Who do you see as partners in this process: community, the state, the private sector, donors, others?
  - Identify a few key outputs as a group which are clear, do-able and measurable – simple gender monitoring indicators
3. Evolving a Strategy: facilitating factors, risk, coordination
  - What do you envisage as a positive impact or outcome vis-à-vis gender mainstreaming at different levels?
  - What do you see as facilitating factors?
  - What do you see as risk factors?
  - What kind of regional coordination mechanisms do you think we need to support this process (GWA, partners)?

Summaries of these results were presented at the plenary session in the afternoon and are presented below.

#### **A. Capacity Building Working Group**

[Facilitators – Sara and Yolanda; Rapporteur – Josephine; Members: Watt, Kesone, Dom Thach, Pakping, Kittii, Gabrielle, Ai, Vishnu]

1. **Vision: what changes do we want to see?**
  - Build capacity of women for resources management at the grassroots level
  - Increase cultural skills, leadership and management skills (confidence, communication, etc)
  - Create an integrated women's education programme
  - Change concepts, perception, attitudes, new knowledge, skills → culture, policy, law, strategies
  - Build capacity on gender concerns within IWRM, making it more effective and efficient through full participation of women and men at all levels

2. **Partners: who do we see as partners in this process?**
  - Universities: AIT, Academic institutions, etc
  - UN Agencies: UNDP, FAO and UN-Water
  - Funding: ADB, WB, SIDA, DANIDA, JICA, AusAid, USAID, etc
  - Training Partners: SOPAC, AguaJaring, Streams of knowledge, GWA, GWP, Cap-net
  - Local resources → sustainable
  - Government at all levels
  - Media
  
3. **Available gender resources**
  - Existing human resources with capacity on water *or* gender, but rarely both
  - Training of trainers (ToTs) for existing gender or water focal points and strengthening new people
  
4. **Expected outputs**
  - Inventory → Database: who does what where, funding resources, indicators, gaps identified
  - Strategy for Capacity Building
  - Working at high levels – government or field level → policy / strategy (even organization structure: gender mainstreaming) ← bottom up
  - Regional Cell / Database on gender / resources → activity Gender Focal Point
  - Trainers – men/women, levels, language
  - Working on regional level → raise funds; also work at grassroots level
  - Networking – local, national, regional level → all actors
  
5. **Strategy**
  - Inventory of gender related activities (who does what) on national or regional level
  - Networking / coordination function
  - Regional leadership
  - Horizontal / vertical linkages
  - Tool kits / modules (Available in GWA website)
  - Developing manual for ToT → applicable
  - Partnership / IWRM – linkage to other actors / resources / organization → communities
  - Communication system: Google group (SEA)
  
6. **Additional points**
  - Women at grassroots level 1/3 → resources management. Few involved in the management. → build up their skills
  - Content: Cultural skills → increase confidence; leadership skills: functional management skills → communication skills – leadership
  - Resource person as model figure / mentor
  - Need for appropriate water laws
  - Change we want doesn't reproduce gender inequalities
  - Heterogeneity / diversity inclusive
  - Gender education, integrated programmes

## **B. Knowledge development and dissemination working group**

[Facilitators – Feri and Kuntala; Rapporteur – Kamal; Members: Sonephet, Sengamphone, Muryani, Nati, Chawee, Jhuma, Theint Theint, Munyi, Ge, Wan Teng]

1. **Changes we want to see**
  - Deeper understanding of gender-water terms – attitude (e.g gender mainstreaming, participation, women and gender, etc.)

- Engendering the frameworks, the technical/scientific people, policy makers, community workers, beneficiaries, analytical tools, etc.
  - Greater/more meaningful sharing, exchanging experiences, expertise, lesson learned (successes and failures)
  - New innovative knowledge (consider cultural differences)
  - Gender-responsive water management transformation
- 2. How to bring about change**
- Translation & dissemination of information in local languages
  - Public consultations
  - National Gender and Water Ambassadors (roles, responsibilities)
  - Identify key institutions as gender/water national focal points
  - MPA, PHAST, LAST, PLA tools, gender audits, gender analysis
  - Case studies of Indigenous knowledge
  - Action research
  - Advocacy on legal aspects – property rights, user rights – control/power
  - Pilot projects (community-based) using the model of the GEF small grants programme
- 3. Interventions**
- Collect data and information
  - Make published material available on the web, manuscripts, brochures (media and press)
  - Conduct training of trainers workshops (ToTs)
  - Encourage Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)
  - Advocate that governments recognize women’s contribution and include them in decision-making positions through quota systems (based on the community of women users)
  - Incorporate gender-related concerns and multi-stakeholder analysis into environmental impact assessments (EIA/SEA)
  - Incorporate gender concerns as part of in-house training for water engineers, developers
  - Consider gender-specific and practical and strategic needs of women and men.
- 4. Monitoring and Evaluation of results**
- Focus Participatory Assessment on gender and water
  - Incorporate own indicators on gender and water (GW) into Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- 5. Documentation**
- Written publications, photos and videos
- 6. Risk factors**
- Lack of funds
  - Materials not available
  - Government responsiveness/receptivity
  - Lack of commitment
  - Language as barrier
- 7. Regional coordination**
- National focal points linked to other countries – share information
  - Log in – blog
  - Yahoo groups – moderator
  - Regional conferences/meetings

## **C. Policy and Advocacy Working Group**

[Facilitators – Zelina and Marcia; Rapporteur – Rokeya; Members: Angela Ika, Evangeline, Khamlouang, Phothong, Mumita, Suangsurang, Kissy, Shalini, Prasuna]

### **1. Changes we want to see and ways to bring about change**

- a. Gender perspective incorporated into policy: government, corporations, community, households  
Incorporate gender perspective into planning, research and development
  - Plan and design appropriate technology for women and men (5-year plans)
  - Build commitment of policy personal
  - Monitor policy and change if necessaryProvide gender training and capacity building, including conflict resolution, for advocates and policy makers  
Facilitate networking: inputs to regional, global network and conferences  
Improve coordination between local authorities, civil society and private sector  
Formate national water and gender groups  
Empower local women and men to protect traditional water sources
- b. Equal access to technology, knowledge, water & sanitation
  - Assist banks to provide low-interest loans
  - Disseminate information to all users (men and women)
  - Sensitize scientists, engineers to gender appropriate technology
  - Introduce affirmative action programmes to assist women in water related technical education and careers
- c. Equal (legal) ownership of land, resources & technology
  - Lobby to change legislation that does not provide equal access of vulnerable groups to land, technology & water
  - Review existing law, identify gaps, advocate and recommend change
- d. Pricing policy: equitable safety net for poor; conservation and efficiency  
Guarantee minimum basic needs for water and sanitation at affordable price with safety net for poor, indigenous people & marginalized groups
  - Prioritize use
  - Differential pricingConduct study on impact of privatization on women, men  
Disaggregate household data by sex  
Support community watershed protection and conservation projects through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes with participation of women & men

### **2. Partners**

Governments (local & national), UN agencies/UN-Water, ADB, national water partnerships, GWA, Cap-net, civil society, academic institutions  
WaterAid, Oxfam, CARE, media, WSSCC, women's groups  
SEA WP, AguaJaring, M-POWER, MRC, Cap-net, Approtech, local authorities  
IUCN, NGOs, community networks.  
Finance institutions, government banks, ADB  
Information agencies, media, magazines, R & D institutes  
AIT, national engineering institutes, ministries of education  
Legal associations, ministries of justice, parliament, women's groups, ILO  
WWF, Green Cross International – “water as a human right” campaign  
GEF, bilateral donors, private sector

### **3. Outputs**

- Gender analysis tools
- Gender experts involved in policy formation, conflict resolution
- Policy makers and field staff trained as gender advocates
- Campaigns, TV spots, competition, posters
- Policy inputs, strategy, monitoring, better coordination
- Budget allocation
- Legal directives, manuals & training courses
- Campaigns, curriculum in national engineering institutes
- Scholarships, awards and quotas (GWA seed money?)
- Gender-sensitive laws and regulations
- Dissemination of study results and learning
- Consultation with end users (women and men )
- Restructuring of private sector intervention

### **4. Vision**

- Women and men gain better access to water and sanitation
- National commitment to gender equity in policy, plan and budget
- Women trained to access and retain traditional and new sources of water
- Water authority provides improved services in urban & rural areas

Following the presentations by the three working groups, Dr. Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt facilitated an exercise which set priorities for a regional strategic plan for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Her outline was used as the basis for the strategic plan that was discussed and added to by the working groups on day 3 of the workshop. An outline of the regional strategic plan is presented in section V.

## **IV. The way ahead: coordinating and monitoring regional activities (Day 3: Friday 20 July)**

### **A. Mapping the way ahead – action plan, roles and responsibilities**

On the mornings of the third and fourth days, participants broke into their working groups to set priorities and assign tasks. In the plenary session the whole group drafted a regional strategic plan, with specific activities, responsibilities and projected resource requirements. The draft regional strategic plan in section V is to be further elaborated in the coming months, in collaboration with GWA and AIT.

### **B. GWA Inputs to Third Southeast Asia Water Forum and Asia-Pacific Water Summit**

Following the work on the draft regional strategy, the participants discussed how this group can introduce gender content to the Third Southeast Asia Water Forum (Kuala Lumpur, 22-26 October 2007) and the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit (Japan, 2-4 December 2007). The discussion was led by Dr. Zelina Ibrahim and Ms. Ai Isayama. A number of suggestions were made on how to influence the proceedings and those present who would be attending the sessions agreed to contribute the suggestions to these important regional meetings.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asia Water Forum was being hosted by the Malaysia Water Partnership and the Department of Irrigation and Drainage. One of the main themes of the conference is Gender in water management: “Dialogue on IWRM – Gender Issues”. The agenda indicates that GWA should be one of the conveners of session 1C on this issue. Aside from Zelina as one of the organizers, the following people indicated that they were planning to attend the Forum in Kuala Lumpur: Josephine, Muryani,

Angela Ika, Watt, Pakping, Nati, Thach Dom, Sonephet and Sengamphone. This certainly provided a critical mass to ensure that gender issues are included in the outcomes of the meeting. However, it is important that the group coordinate with each other to ensure that this can be done. If GWA cannot be a co-convenor of the session, it could provide support to the regional members for the session, presenting some of the work of the current workshop, and perhaps support a side event. It was requested that anyone who is planning to attend should inform GWA and include this in the regional strategic plan.

Regarding the Asia-Pacific Water Summit in December, Ms. Ai noted that there was an NGO in Kitakyushu (Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women) that might wish to co-sponsor a side event with GWA for the Summit. The website is: [www.kfaw.or.jp/index.html](http://www.kfaw.or.jp/index.html). GWA (Sara and Kuntala) will look into this. Persons who were planning to attend the Summit were: NiNi, Watt and Phothong, as well as Ms. Rory Villaluna, Pakping Bruns and the Chair of GWA. Participation is by invitation only. Even if GWA members have only a small representation, they should be able to coordinate their efforts and influence some of the outcomes of the Summit, particularly if we have some champions (ministers) who support the gender mainstreaming effort.

### **C. Closing session**

#### **Closing address - *Khin Ni Ni Thein***

Dr. NiNi closed the formal session by stating how pleased she was that GWA had put its trust in AIT and its intellectual capacity. She gave some background to her history with the GWA, noting that she had been one of the founding members of GWA in 2000 and had been on the first Steering Committee. She expressed her satisfaction that AIT was the right institution to host this regional strategic planning workshop for GWA.

Dr. NiNi also mentioned that she will be attending Stockholm Water Week (August 2007) and might be attending the Asia Pacific Water Summit in Japan. Thus, she hoped she would be able to inject some of the messages of this workshop into the deliberations and outcomes of those meetings. She looked forward to a long and fruitful working relationship in the future among AIT, GWA and all the member organizations in the region.

#### **Concluding remarks and thanks - *Sara Ahmed***

Sara Ahmed closed the formal session by thanking AIT for hosting the session and all the staff and students of the Gender and Development Programme for their kind support and assistance. She recognized the work put in by the Workshop Organizing Committee, including Marcia Brewster, Julaika (Jhuma) Hossain, Bernadette (Babette) Resurreccion and Esther de Jong. Finally, she expressed her deep appreciation for the effort put into the workshop by all the participants from Southeast Asia and the Pacific and the contributions from the resource persons. She felt that this had been an excellent next step for GWA and looked forward to the follow-up in this region.

### **D. Field visit, 20 July 2007, 1:30 – 4:30 pm**

The group visited Bang Pha Rok Community, which is located close to AIT in Pathum Thani Municipality. The female community leader was out of town, so the meeting was conducted by three committee members, two men and a woman. The community had received support from UNDP and a foundation to work together to clean up the canal that was at the centre of their lives. The project had improved the environment in the community, and people had a stake in creating a sustainable community. More than 80% of the households participated in the effort that benefited everyone. *A brief description of the community and the field trip is included in Annex IV.*

## V. **Draft Regional Strategic Plan for Southeast Asia and the Pacific: Priorities, roles and responsibilities**

The draft regional strategic plan was developed by participants in working groups and in plenary discussions over the last two days of the workshop. Some participants agreed to participate in more than one of the priority areas. The draft below is a preliminary outline which will be elaborated on by individuals in the coming months, within the framework of the GWA Strategic Plan for 2006-10.

### A. **Capacity building**

[Coordinators: Yolanda Gomez, Babette Resurreccion; Members: Sengamphone Chithalath, Pakping Bruns, M. Josephine Wijastuti, Kesone Sayasane; Others: Kitti Sriprommune, Watt Botkosol, Dom Thach, AIT students]

1. Prepare inventory of capacity building resources and needs in the region
  - a. Finalize proposal for capacity building inventory and database [end-August 2007, Yolanda]
  - b. Country level preparation - 10 person days each country: identify core persons at country level, get modules from a gender mainstreaming activity; prepare survey templates [Thailand – Pakping & Kitti; Philippines – Yolanda; Indonesia – Ika & Josephine; Malaysia – Zelina Ibrahim; Cambodia – Watt; Laos PDR – Phothong Silipong; Vietnam – Babette to contact; Myanmar – NiNi Thein/Win Theint Theint; Fiji – Kamal Khatri; Timor Leste – Gabrielle]
  - c. Send out survey templates
    - Country focal points send templates to AIT
    - AIT to send out survey (10 person days)
  - d. Inventory itself – by January 2008
    - Identify institutional and individual resources available
    - See which organizations are doing what
    - Water-related networks – fill out the template
    - Trainers: men/women, levels, languages
    - Tool kits/modules
    - Send information back to Gender/water cell at AIT
2. Build database from inventory
  - a. Compile inventory into database (20-25 person days, AIT)
  - b. Printing, translations, website.
3. Prepare needs assessments and lessons learned
  - a. Look at impact from training under Mekong River Commission (MRC) pilot projects
  - b. Share best practices, experience and knowledge
  - c. Country focal points to identify needs and gaps at national and local levels
  - d. Identify where capacity building is needed and make it part of the regional strategic plan
  - e. Prepare monograph, translate into regional languages, produce CD
4. Develop curriculum  
[Core group: AIT/Babette – Coordinator; MRC, Streams of Knowledge, CGIAR Challenge Programme, GWA]
  - a. AIT to provide curriculum on gender mainstreaming in agriculture (AIT, Streams, CGIAR Challenge programme, MRC)
  - b. Identify target institutions and key trainers with appropriate cultural skills
5. Conduct regional training of trainers (ToT) on gender mainstreaming
  - a. MRC pilot project – sharing experience and knowledge
  - b. First regional ToT to be held in Cambodia in November 2007
  - c. Support from Cap-net and GWA (resource persons and participants)
  - d. ToT for national and local networks on gender mainstreaming
  - e. Commitment from participants to follow up at national level
6. Mobilize resources
  - a. Support for communications, translation, reproduction, transport (from AIT)
  - b. Commitment of time from core persons, trained staff and students

## **B. Knowledge Development and dissemination**

[Coordinator – Gabrielle Groves; Members: Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Nati Lacdan, Evangeline Sibayan, Kamal Khatri, Muryani; Other contributors: Babette, Jhuma Hossain and AIT students, Kesone Sayasane]

1. Document existing case studies on water projects in simple form: problems and interventions (by January 08) – Fiji (2), Indonesia (2), Philippines (2), Lao PDR (2)
  - a. Create email list of membership
  - b. Prepare guidelines for studies  
Documentation work (master by June 2008)  
Estimated cost/case study - \$200  
Make knowledge accessible to people in the region
2. Develop action research projects
  - a. M-POWER: cohort of action researchers on Mekong River issues
  - b. Look for partners to replicate programmes such as M-POWER for other sub-regions like the Pacific
3. Develop knowledge tools
  - a. How to incorporate gender/water framework into MDGs
  - b. MPA, PHAST, participatory learning
  - c. Make videos/DVDs on important case studies, translate
  - d. Disseminate accessible materials – written and audio-visual, comics, posters
4. Secure fellowships for committed individuals: AIT, M-POWER, GWA
5. Translate case studies and GWA documents using local case studies: “Sharing experiences, building knowledge: men and women working with water”
6. Explore new partnerships: corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes, Building Partnerships for Development (BPD)

## **C. Policy and advocacy**

[Coordinator – Feri Lumampao; Members: Khamlouang Keoka, Sonephet Phosalath, Zelina, Chawee Wongprasittiporn, Phothong, Watt, Josephine; Other contributors - Thach Dom, Rokeya Ahmed, Marcia Brewster]

1. Develop profile of national water-related policies and gender policy (3-6 months)  
[Core group: Watt, Phothong, Feri, Zelina, Josephine]
  - a. Review policies and develop a framework for incorporating gender concerns into water policy  
Government needs to participate and be responsible
  - b. Circulate the approach used in Lao PDR as example (Phothong)
  - c. GWA to assist in integrating gender into policy at national and community levels (Water User Associations)
  - d. Analyze gaps in water policy – tools, gender audit  
Identify what is missing  
Present the gaps to the ministry – advocacy and skill development
  - e. Support government to revise policy: how to influence change, find champions
2. Prepare study on donor policy on water pricing and effect on community [Khamlouang, Feri]
3. Document case studies: policies/projects that incorporate gender and those that do not (6-12 months)  
[Core group: Watt, Sonephet, Josephine, Feri, Zelina]
  - a. Mobilize seed funds (up to \$20,000/country)  
Identify ways to incorporate gender into existing or new projects
4. Develop tools for gender audit of water management structures
  - a. Bangladesh checklist at community level [Rokeya]
  - b. Lao policy paper as guide [Phothong]
  - c. Gender audit as part of PRSP [Feri]
  - d. Tools and manuals to be available on Website [AguaJaring]

5. Involve key interest groups and communicate results
  - a. Women's movements and groups
  - b. Gender/water ambassadors
  - c. Gender focal points
6. Provide materials on gender mainstreaming to participants at key regional/international water meetings
  - a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asia Water Forum, Malaysia, October 2007
  - b. Asia-Pacific Water Forum, Japan, December 2007
  - c. Fifth World Water Forum, Turkey, March 2009

## Annex I. Programme of the Workshop

### GWA/AIT Regional Workshop: Strategic Planning for Mainstreaming Gender in IWRM in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, 18-21 July 2007 Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

**Tuesday 17 July 2007:** Workshop participants arrive (airport pick-ups)  
Dinner at AIT Centre (on your own or join with others)

**Day 1: Wednesday 18 July 2007**

8.30 a.m. Registration – Entrance to AIT Centre

**Building a Vision for Mainstreaming Gender in IWRM in Southeast Asia and the Pacific**

Session 1: Workshop Overview

9.00 a.m. Welcome to participants – AIT Centre, Room B-206

*Peter Haddawy (Vice President for Academic Affairs, AIT)*

*Sara Ahmed (GWA Steering Committee)*

9.30 - 9.50 a.m. Introduction of participants

9.50 - 10.10 a.m. Keynote address: Gender, Access to Resources and Equity in Southeast Asia: Key concerns *Bernadette Resurreccion, (Head, Gender and Development Studies AIT)*

10.10 – 10.45 a.m. GWA objectives, strategic plan 2006-10, outputs – *Esther de Jong (GWA Secretariat)*

10.45 -11.00 Tea/coffee break

11.00 -11.15 a.m. Workshop objectives and structure - *Marcia Brewster (GWA Adviser)*

Session 2: Why gender mainstreaming is a concern: understanding the larger picture (10 min/person)

11.15 a.m. – 1:00 pm Building networks, mainstreaming gender in IWRM:

- Southeast Asia Water Partnership and its gender aspects (overview, objectives) – *Watt Botkosal*
- National Water Partnerships: how they work and their gender aspects – Philippines, Thailand – *Yolanda Benitez Gomez, Aranya Fuangswasdi*
- Mekong River Commission Gender Mainstreaming Project – *Sengamphone Chithtalath*
- Other Networks and their gender aspects
  - AguaJaring – *Zelina Ibrahim*
  - M-POWER – *Louis Lebel*
  - WaterAid – *Rokeya Ahmed*

1:00 – 2.00 pm Lunch at AIT Centre

Session 3: Case studies on addressing gender issues and community empowerment in water-management

2.00 -3.45 pm Short country case study presentations focusing on: key gender concerns or issues; existing gender and water programmes; two key recommendations on gender/water (8-10 mins each followed by questions)

Cambodia – *Thach Dom*

Fiji/Pacific – *Kamal Khatri*

Indonesia – *Angela Ika*

Lao PDR – *Sonephet Phosalath, Phothong Siliphong*  
Philippines – *Feri Lumampao, Evangeline Sibayan*

3.45 – 4.00 – Tea break

4 – 5.00 p.m. Session 3: continued

Thailand – *Pakping Chalad Bruns*

Capacity building for emergencies, CARE, Indonesia – *M. Josephine Wijiastuti*

Research proposal for Indonesia – *Muryani*

Women's access and rights to natural resources – *Kesone Sayasane*

5.00- 5.30 pm Summing up for the day, clarifications, logistics, etc.

7.30 p.m. Dinner

(Participants are encouraged to bring documentaries, songs, etc related to water and women or any other social documentary with them to share after dinner)

## **Day 2: Thursday 19 July 2007**

### **Planning for gender and IWRM: objectives, outputs and expected outcomes**

9.00 – 11.00 am. Session 4: Thematic group work to develop a collective vision and action plan for mainstreaming gender in IWRM

Three working groups will be formed to discuss existing best practices and to facilitate, plan and coordinate regional activities around:

**Capacity building** – this group will develop a training strategy, plan for the first ToTs and formulate output monitoring indicators. This group could also discuss the idea of mentoring young women professionals in the water sector and other issues that came up during the Stockholm Water Week gender seminar (August 2006), including gender accountability indicators [Facilitators – Yolanda, Kesone, Sara; rapporteur – Josephine]

**Knowledge development and dissemination** – this group will make suggestions for filling gaps in existing knowledge, with for example case studies and action research.  
[Facilitators – Feri and Kuntala; Rapporteur – Kamal]

**Policy and advocacy** – this group can take stock of existing national government water policies in the region from a gender equity perspective, building on the insights from the WWN-Cap-Net workshop on gender mainstreaming in water policy in India and South Asia. It can also address how mainstreaming gender means integrating water policy with other sectoral policies such as education and health and look at ways of making governments accountable, e.g., monitoring policy, gender responsive budgeting.  
[Facilitators – Zelina and Marcia; Rapporteur – Rokeya]

11.00 – 11.15 a.m. Tea/coffee break

11.15 – 1.00 p.m. Group work continues

1.00 – 2.00 p.m. Lunch

2.00 - 3.00 pm Session 5: Group presentations in plenary

(15 min. presentations on strategy, activities, partners and outputs plus feedback and discussion)

3:00 - 3.15 Tea/coffee break

3.15 – 5.00 p.m. Session 5 continues: Open discussion on Regional Strategy

6.00 pm. Dinner excursion to Ayuttaya, the ancient capital of Thailand

**Day 3: Friday 20 July**

**The way ahead: coordinating and monitoring regional activities**

9.00 - 1100 am Session 6: Mapping the way ahead – action plan, roles and responsibilities  
*Facilitators: Esther de Jong, Babette Resurreccion* followed by small group discussions

11.00 -11.15 am Tea/coffee break

11.15-11.45 am Discussion of strategy on how this group can introduce GWA inputs to the Third Southeast Asia Water Forum and the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit.  
*Zelina Ibrahim/Ai Isayama* to lead discussion

11:45 - 12.30 Closing session

Closing address *Khin Ni Ni Thein (AIT Vice President)*

Concluding remarks and thanks: *Sara Ahmed*

12.30- 1.30 Lunch

1.30 – 4.30 pm Half-day field-trip to Bang Pha Rok Community water and wastewater treatment project site in Pathum Thani, discussion with local water leaders, women and men.

**Day 4: Saturday 21 July am :**

Preparation of regional plans for GWA: *GWA members*

Draft report: *Marcia*

## **Annex II. Concept notes submitted by participants**

### **A. From Dr. Sengamphone Chithtalath, Gender Technical Associate, Gender Mainstreaming Project, Mekong River Commission, Vientiane, Lao PDR:**

#### **MRC Gender Mainstreaming Project**

The MRC project has a connection to AIT for both personal and professional reasons. Dr. Sengamphone (Seng) graduated from the Gender and Development Studies Programme at AIT in 2000, and was an advisee of Dr. Barbara Earth at AIT. Dr. Seng has kept a tight relationship with AIT and Dr. Babette after she finished her studies, especially when applying the lessons learned from AIT to her work during 2000-2002, especially with Dr. Earth. They together published two articles in international journals.

#### **How MRC Gender Mainstreaming Project relates to other projects**

The project aims to mainstream gender considerations into all development programmes undertaken by MRC in the four member countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam ). MRC has a number of programmes (e.g., Environment Programme, Fisheries Programme, Agriculture Irrigation and Forestry Programme, etc.) that work through the National Mekong Committees and related line-agencies to the target beneficiaries in the four member countries.

The Fisheries Programme was the first MRC programme that integrated gender activities into its activities during 1998-1999 and continuously until now. The Mekong Irrigation Programme had also mentioned gender issues and the impact of the project on women in its project assessment in 1990.

The MRC Gender Mainstreaming Project (GMP) implemented Phase 1 during 1996-1999 under the theme of “Studies on Roles of Women in Water Resources Development in the Lower Mekong Basin”. Based on the findings of this study, the MRC Gender Strategy and Policy were developed and endorsed by the governments of the four member countries in 1998 and 2000 respectively.

Phase 2 of the project runs from 2004 to 2008 with an aim to implement the MRC Strategy and Policy on Gender Mainstreaming in Water and Resources Management in the member countries. Dr. Sengamphone Chithtalath joined MRC in 2006 and hence many activities of GMP Phase 2 were just started then.

Part of the Strategy is to increase gender awareness in the organization, and this includes Gender In-House Meetings at MRC twice per month. For each meeting, Dr. Seng tries to find a guest speaker to present a case study for incorporating gender in some sectoral area (that relates to MRC’s sectoral programmes). Dr. Earth of AIT was invited to share with MRC the study of her team on the case of “Gender Issue in Water Management in Soc Trang”, an area of the Mekong Delta. Dr. Babette has also conducted a study on Gender Issues in Tonle Sap Community and she is scheduled to share her findings at MRC (maybe in October 2007). The project is also looking for case studies from Thailand.

### **B. From Yolanda Benitez Gomez, Dept of Environment and Natural Resources Philippines**

**1. Project Title:** Towards a Gendered Approach to Small Scale Water Service Provision

#### **2. Objectives:**

The overall objective is to mainstream gender in the provision of water by small-scale water providers such as water cooperatives, associations and water enterprises. Specifically, the project aims:

- ✓ To develop a manual and checklist on gender mainstreaming for small-scale water providers that can be used by other Southeast Asian countries;

- ✓ To conduct a pilot gender and development (GAD) training of small-scale water providers in the Philippines within the national IWRM framework plan using the developed manual.

### **3. Target Beneficiaries:**

The main beneficiaries of the proposed project are small-scale water providers such as water entrepreneurs, water associations and water cooperatives, in particular their members and officers.

### **4. Brief Description:**

The MDG commitment to reduce the number of people without sustainable access to water and basic sanitation highlights the role of government to provide such services to its population. However, limited government budgets make it very difficult to provide water and sanitation to all those who currently lack access to basic services. City-wide surveys indicate that 20 –50% of residents are customers of informal suppliers or markets, that is, they rely on independent small-scale water providers (SSWPs). Thus, SSWPs play a vital role in meeting the water and sanitation needs of the country. SSWPs can be water cooperatives, water associations, and water entrepreneurs. As water service providers, it is necessary that their operations be conducted in a gender-sensitive manner where equality and equity in access to water services are a reality on the ground.

The project involves the preparation of a manual and checklist on how to mainstream gender into the operations of small-scale water providers such as cooperatives and at the same time conduct a gender mainstreaming training for all officers and selected members of small-scale water providers in the country. Streams of Knowledge with AguaJaring and the Philippine Water Partnership will take the lead in developing the manual and checklist, designing the training programme and conducting the pilot training. The 3-5 day pilot training will be conducted in three locations: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Each training session will be a live-in experience, with at least 25 participants. Part of the module is a visit to a community in order to conduct a rapid gender mapping exercise. At the end of the training, participants will be required to develop a gender mainstreaming plan for their respective water cooperatives and associations.

### **5. Project Scheme/Approach:**

The overall lead in the project will be AguaJaring (Southeast Asia Cap-net) and the Philippine Water Partnership with Streams acting a project facilitator. AguaJaring is a joint initiative of Southeast Asian countries under the auspices of Cap-net while the Philippine Water Partnership is a country multi-stakeholder water initiative affiliated with the Global Water Partnership.

The pilot training sessions will be implemented jointly by Streams of Knowledge and the Philippine Water Partnership, particularly, the National Water Resources Board (NWRB) and the Cooperative Development Authority of the Philippines (CDA). The major project activities will include: scoping activity; training needs assessment, development of manual and checklist, pilot training and finalization and enhancement of the manual/checklist based on the outcome of the pilot training.

### **6. Project Cost:**

Estimated budget of Euro 33,000 covers: travel of participants and training team to venue; food and accommodation; supplies; printing of the training manual; and fee for consultants and resource persons, including management fee for facilitating institution.

## **C. From Pakping Chalad Bruns, Coordination Centre for Natural Resources and Environment Management, Phayao, Thailand**

### **Rationale**

The transition to decentralization in Thailand seems very well in progress, but the process of transition in state agencies requires more understanding about it. The Coordination Centre is the main partner of the National Water Resources Department, and the leader in supporting The National Water

Resources Commission's campaign at the grassroots level. It provides information to the public regarding national expectations for decentralization and re-engineering state organizations. Now the state organizations are already involved and encourage the water users to participate in water management. National agencies, including policy and budget levels, still have a difficult time to adapt. Our organization needs to learn more and understand the different ideas and theory to make the mechanisms work.

### **Objective to participate in strategic planning**

1. To learn more how to work with variety of water users and steer the mechanism to adopt IWRM and gender mainstreaming.
2. To get to know how to work step-by-step with state organizations in the transition to decentralization, especially when the political situation is not stable or sustainable.
3. To get to know how to adapt ourselves to work in the situation of political change.

### **Expectations**

1. Since we are a volunteer organization and we are willing to facilitate the work of national and provincial organizations, we want to use a strategic planning framework to give direction to the system work.
2. Knowledge and sharing with external organization partners are important to lead internal organizations to see the trend of international movements. This will assist state agencies and decision makers at the policy level to respect the need for gender equity and equality in participatory management and decision-making.
3. To be part of a partnership and network to practice IWRM and participatory approach, since we are in one world and share the sea and ocean together.

### **About The Environment Partnership & The Coordination Center for Natural Resources and Environment Management**

The Coordination Center for Natural Resources and Environment Management (CNEM) was split from The Cooperation Committee for Mae Ping and Environment Conservation in Chiang Mai six years ago. We were established when the water situation was in crisis and the conflict between highlanders and lowlanders caused our group to be active in getting involved in the Community Forestry Bill. Our organization gathered water user groups into a network of 24 irrigation systems. They now have a seat in the Mae Yom River Basin Commission and they are active participants in the national pilot project to implement IWRM. The Yom river basin is one of 25 river basins in Thailand. CNEM has developed its organization to be the "Environment Partnership" that supports people's participation as part of the internal group of IWRM in the Mae Yom river basin watershed. The Environment Partnership is a non-government organization that encourages woman and men to participate equally in watershed and forest management.

## **D. From Angela Ika, Catholic Relief Services Indonesia**

### **Gender & Integrated Water/Sanitation Management**

#### **Background**

Indonesia has many cultures and traditions, almost all of which are patrilineal, which means men are the decision makers and problem solvers. This has an impact on almost all activities, including water and sanitation management, where women only participate as users and men as decision makers in planning, implementation of the system, operation and maintenance.

Aside from the culture, individual systems and working arrangements also affect policy makers. It is essential that the policy should be concerned with sustainability of the water and sanitation system and water resource. Every institution is doing its job, almost without coordination with other institutions. Competing water users have come into conflict: cross-boundary conflicts (inter-

sectoral/district/villages); functional conflicts (drinking water vs. irrigation systems); and user conflicts (community and private/public sector).

Based on the problems of water and sanitation and compared to IWRM key principles, water has to be managed through a gender-sensitive participatory process with integration among government, private/public sector and community at all levels from upstream (watershed management) to downstream (water/sanitation end users).

### **Goal**

To improve health conditions and sustain water resources and water supply/sanitation systems for the community by integrating the gender perspective and water/sanitation management into IWRM.

### **Objectives**

- Integration of gender perspectives at all levels: community, policy maker, and public/private sectors.
- Integration in coordination for providing water/ sanitation service among policy makers, public/ private sectors and community at all levels.
- Establishment of gender-sensitive water/sanitation policy and regulations
- Sustainable water/sanitation management from the water source (watershed management) to water supply/sanitation systems.

### **Sustainability approach/strategy**

- **Participatory process** in planning, implementation, operation and maintenance will provide a sense of ownership of the system. Community, private/ public sector and policy makers at all levels will provide a sense of belonging to manage sustainability of the water system/ resource.
- **Women's involvement** in the management process at all levels will lead to gender-sensitive water management, because women are generally active water/sanitation managers at the household level for family needs and health.
- **Gender balance in equity, equality and empowerment.** Water management needs to benefit both women and men equally from water initiatives. Gender balance can help reduce gaps between rich and poor, skilled and un-skilled, or educated and non-educated person.
- **Capacity Building** at all levels through formal media, discussion and films will be more a strategic approach to sustainable water/sanitation management.
- **Coordination & Communication** at all levels among the community, policy makers, public and private sectors, from upstream to downstream, can anticipate individual activities. Coordination within and among institutions will improve water management conditions.
- **Replicate & disseminate** success stories of gender-sensitive water projects from other areas or countries to share lessons learned for sustainable water management.

### **Expected Outcomes**

- **Integrated Management from upstream to downstream** for watershed management/conservation, water/sanitation systems and waste management. The community around the water source area has to protect the water source in a sustainable way for the communities who live in downstream areas. Also, the downstream communities may have to make a 'payment' to ensure sustainability of the water resource, including conservation activities and the 'polluter pays principle'.
- **Gender perspective incorporated into water/sanitation regulations** by policy makers through a participatory process with community, public and private sectors.

## **E. From Thach Dom, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, Cambodia**

### **Proposal: Policy Advocacy on Mainstreaming Gender Equity in Water Management:**

#### **Introduction**

The Human Development Report 2006 shows that the Cambodian Gender Development Index (GDI) is 0.578, representing the lowest index in Asia while its Human Development Index (HDI) is only 0.583 which ranks Cambodia 129<sup>th</sup> out of 177 countries. Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) is 0.373, one of the lowest, as Cambodian women's representation is very low in the national institutions, especially in professional and decision making positions.

In response to this situation, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has developed the Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity, and Efficiency. Rectangle IV, covering Capacity Building and Human Resources Development, and Side 3, Implementation of Gender Policy, state that women are the backbone of our economy and society. The strategy recognizes the important contributions of women in development and seeks to eliminate gender gaps in Cambodia.

Commitments have been made as well in the Cambodia Millennium Development Goals Report, which gives particular attention to:

- Halving the proportion of people whose income is less than the national poverty line;
- Eliminating gender disparity in basic education;
- Eliminating gender disparities in wage employment in all economic sectors;
- Eliminating gender disparities in public institutions;
- Reducing significantly all forms of violence against women and children; and
- Increasing the proportion of rural population with access to safe water supply from 24% in 1998 to 50% in 2015.

In regard to water resources management, The National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2006-2010 focuses on (a) ensuring that water in sufficient quantities, and of appropriate quality, is available to meet year-round demands of all sectors while sustaining aquatic ecosystems; (b) managing flood flows and enhancing the capacities of communities to cope; (c) controlling water for agricultural purposes, by means of storage, drainage or irrigation as appropriate; and (d) keeping water resources free of contaminants to support the ecological system particularly fisheries.

Additionally, the Plan takes gender concerns into consideration by identifying many important strategies and actions, including gender mainstreaming in all sectors especially in agriculture, health, and education; improving food security and nutrition; and rehabilitation of physical infrastructure.

#### **Background**

The Department of Irrigation, Meteorology, and Hydrology was established on 9 May 1980, and later in the first mandate of the RGC it was reformed to be a General Directorate of Irrigation on 30 September 1995. Then, on 23 June 1999 the General Directorate of Irrigation became the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM), consisting of 11 departments, with the roles and responsibilities to lead and manage the Water Resources and Meteorology sector.

As a contribution to the achievement of Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals, at the meeting on 14 June 2005 at the Council for the Development of Cambodia, the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) requested all ministries to establish a Gender Mainstreaming Action Group (GMAG) in order to design a Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan (GMAP). As a result, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the GMAG was established, and the GMAP has been designed in an attempt to eliminate gender disparities, to promote women's rights, to improve the living conditions of rural women and to increase women's representation in decision-making positions.

### **The Process of GMAP Development**

There have been a series of discussions between GMAG and the management of the departments about gender concerns in the water resources sector. A draft document has been circulated for comments and two additional consultative workshops were organized with the participation of senior management levels, line ministries, and development partners, to refine the GMAP. The document is expected to get the approval from the Minister by mid-2007.

### **The Ministry's Strategies**

The following are the strategies to mainstream gender into the water resources sector:

*Strategy 1: Create a gender network at all levels.*

Since the activities of the Ministry are mainly carried out at the sub-national level, there is a need to establish a gender network in provincial departments so that they can mainstream gender into the sub-national plans or programmes.

*Strategy 2: Build capacity on gender awareness and analysis into the gender network.*

The GMAG was formed in April 2005, and some of the members were former gender focal points, who had already received training on gender concepts. Other members of GMAG, who had not been focal points, have not received the training and have limited capacity to analyze the plan and mainstream gender. Therefore, it is necessary to provide training to them as well as to the gender network at the sub-national level.

*Strategy 3: Increase the number of women officials in MOWRAM through new recruitment.*

Women's representation in the Ministry is very low, only 10 per cent. This may come from the belief that the work of water management and engineering should be done by men. Not until recently have more women become interested in pursuing higher education in this field. Therefore, with similar qualifications to men, women should be given an opportunity to work in this sector when it comes to the recruitment and selection.

*Strategy 4: Build the capacity of women officials in MOWRAM by increasing their participation in national and international training and education.*

In the Ministry, the highest degree held by women is bachelor degree. This can be a barrier in promoting women into a higher position. Consequently, building women's capacity through training and formal education is a crucial step to improve their work effectiveness and to expand their opportunities to be promoted into leadership roles.

*Strategy 5: Give opportunities and encourage women officials in MOWRAM to be promoted into decision-making positions.*

Currently no women occupy positions in top senior management up to director of department. A strong commitment to increasing the number of women in leadership positions has to be made, and opportunities have to be given to women in order to reduce this gap.

*Strategy 6: Ensure that all services will give more benefits to women in the communities.*

The Committee of Farmer Water User Communities has been organized almost nation-wide in order to manage and distribute effectively the water resources in the community for agricultural purposes. However, not many women are represented at decision-making levels; thus, women's concerns and needs are hardly reflected in the planning or programmes. The gender perception of women that water management is the work of men is one of the barriers. Therefore, giving opportunity and encouraging women to become involved in the Committee should increase women's representation and better reflect their concerns and needs in the programmes.

*Strategy 7: Ensure that all the Ministry's projects are working in collaboration with the GMAG.*

Currently, the GMAG is not really involved in the process of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry's projects. A guideline is needed to ensure the smooth collaboration between the two sides so that all the programmes are gender-responsive and that gender indicators are regularly monitored.

### **Expected Outputs**

- A gender network is established from the national to the provincial level;
- The capacity of the GMAG is built and the Group is capable of mainstreaming gender effectively into the water resources sector;
- The importance of gender concerns is fully recognized and it has become, to some extent, the norm of thinking for policy-makers, planners, and implementing agencies at all levels;
- The number of women officials in MOWRAM is increased;
- The capacity of women officials in MOWRAM is built through training and formal education, and women will be qualified and promoted into leadership roles;
- Women's needs and concerns are reflected in the plans and programmes of MOWRAM;
- More women are involved in the management and distribution of water resources in their communities, especially in Farmer Water User Communities.

### **F. From Feri Lumampao, Approtech, Philippines**

**Title:** Gender and Water Management, 2007-2010

#### **Name of proposing organization**

APPROTECH ASIA (The Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners, Inc.)

#### **Contact Person:**

(Ms) Feri G. Lumampao  
APPROTECH ASIA (The Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners, Inc.)  
G/F, Philippine Social Development Center Building  
Magallanes corner Real Street, Intramuros  
Manila 1002, Philippines

#### **Experience in working on gender and water issues and networking at the regional level**

Approtech Asia has an accumulated experience of more than three decades on women, science and technology and water supply and sanitation and over two decades on gender, water, energy and poverty reduction. It has organized national, regional and international workshops, training courses, seminars and conferences in the areas of women's empowerment, gender mainstreaming, water, energy, appropriate technologies and the like in partnership with bilateral, multilateral, private and business sector, civil society and donor agencies, among others.

Approtech Asia has been an active implementing member organization of regional and international network activities of the WASH campaign of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) since the 1990s, among other networks.

Approtech Asia has been a member of GWA for a few years and has extensive experience and expertise to share with the GWA network.

#### **Description of proposed activities**

Approtech Asia believes that children, youth and parents in populated and poor communities in cities and riverbanks should be responsible in the conservation, rehabilitation, management and utilization of their water resources for drinking, household, business and agriculture, among others. To this end it is proposed to:

1. Conduct inventory/research on gender, poverty, water sources, management and utilization in the populated communities in the cities and along rivers as part of a country database;

2. Disseminate results of the conducted research and use the information to write innovative proposals to mobilize resources and respond to the needs of poor communities in cities and along rivers;
3. Establish and maintain an interactive website on gender, water, equity and poverty reduction linked to the GWA website and other partners;
4. Mobilize resources, experts and expertise to develop community leaders who will advocate for the legal framework and advance their cause for government support in regional and international activities on gender, water, equity and poverty reduction;
5. Actively participate in and provide innovative inputs to GWA during meetings, conferences and the like.

#### **Statement of acceptance of GWA principles**

Approtech Asia accepts the GWA principles

#### **Statement of commitment and support from the management**

Approtech Asia management commits to fully support the plans and activities of GWA

### **G. From Maria Josephine Wijiastuti, Catholic Relief Services, Jogjakarta, Indonesia**

#### **Empowering Women's Involvement in Post-Earthquake Water Programme** *A case study of CARE International Programme*

##### **1. Challenges**

Early in the morning of 27 May 2006 an earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale struck Jogjakarta and Central Java. There was extensive damage in eight districts of Jogjakarta and Central Java Province, resulting in loss of life and injury to people. It is estimated that 2.7 million people were affected by the disaster, which destroyed more than 350,000 houses and many public facilities, and losses were estimated at \$ 3.1 billion. The earthquake blocked many clean water sources with sand and buried many water facilities in rubble. Over 650,000 workers lost their productive assets or income-earning abilities; water sources were contaminated; and the population – especially children under 5 – experienced a 30-40% increase in health problems, most notably diarrhea, acute respiratory illness and skin disorders.<sup>1</sup>

Around 546 organizations provided assistance, including UN agencies, commercial organizations, donors, universities, military departments plus 248 national NGOs and 127 INGOs. The emergency assistance provided by others complimented that of the Government of Indonesia (GOI). The government set priorities of health and emergency and transitional shelter and immediately began to organize food distribution and health services. Collectively this group of agencies is estimated to have provided US\$175 million (23%) of all assistance.

Nearly eight months after the earthquake, increased levels of diarrhea, acute respiratory illness and skin disorders continued to prevail and it is widely believed that these are related to a lack of protective shelter and the large number of contaminated water sources.

##### **2. Context**

This concept notes focuses on how CARE International empowered and involved women in the Village Water Resources (*Sendang Desa*) programmes in Sawit and Katekan villages, Central Java, Indonesia from January to August 2007. At the same time, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has a programme that focuses on water and sanitation and latrines (including Hygiene Promotion) in the same area. One year after the earthquake (May-June 2007), the members of Emergency Capacity Building (ECB), including Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Save the Children, CARE International and World Vision (WVI) carried out a joint evaluation of these programmes. The findings are based

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<sup>1</sup> CARE International Indonesia, "Follow-up Survey Report: Air Rahmat Usage and Diarrhea Prevalence in Selected Central Java and Yogyakarta Communities," November 2006.

on documents study, semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, survey, workshop, and discussions during the Joint Evaluation process.

### **3. Women in Jogjakarta and Central Java**

#### *Post-Quake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Policy: Gender Mainstreaming?*

Related to post-disaster policy with a gender perspective, the Development and Planning Bureau noted the lack of woman's role starting from the planning stage. In Java, there are still unwritten restrictive rules that keep women and their roles from being equally positioned with men either in family or society. They have limited access to information, education or other equal opportunities for empowerment in any area.

One basic question arose because the post-quake rehabilitation and reconstruction policy from the Jogjakarta Government clarified that rehabilitation and reconstruction were only for house reconstruction without giving any attention to other sectors, such as health (water and sanitation), economy, education, etc. Even in the policy, there are a few areas that require some attention: the policy has no gender-responsive base data (sorted between man and woman, qualitative and quantitative); it does not mention the gender imbalance issue; and it is formulated very top down. Regarding beneficiary indicators: those included as "householder" in the community are identified as men and do not include women. Because of these factors, it can be concluded that the post-earthquake rehabilitation and reconstruction by the Jogjakarta government is not gender responsive because access, control, participation and benefits are not balanced between men and women. Gender imbalances can also be found in other sectors: (1) Information for rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes is more accessed by men; (2) Administrative tasks are more assigned to woman; (3) Difficulties have been encountered in making claims by women, whose husbands owned the property and died in the disaster (i.e., insurance claims, reconstruction and rehabilitation fund, finance capital from the bank, etc.); (4) Numbers of woman lost access to employment opportunities; (5) only men are mentioned on the family registration card; (6) women's reproduction health was being neglected; (7) generally, women's involvement starting from planning to evaluation is very low.<sup>2</sup>

### **4. Programme**

CARE International's Village Water Resources programme aims to improve community access, awareness, and practice (behaviour) of safe, clean, and healthful water through village and community collective empowerment. The targets are earthquake victims at the village level (households, potential community-based organizations) and key persons who can influence achievement of the *Sendang Desa* goals. It covers 1050 households (3565 beneficiaries) in two villages, Katekan and Sawit, Klaten, in Central Java. The programme components are: (1) Involvement – community participation; (2) Behaviour Change – dissemination of messages through communication and community education; (3) Empowerment – Community Health Volunteers (CHV) and Community-Based Organization (CBO) capacity building; (4) Application – preparation, adoption, and application; and (5) Assistance – community facilitating. The first programme discussion started in January 2007. The activities carried out were: (1) Recruitment and training of Community Health Volunteers (CHV) to promote safe, clean, and healthy community water; (2) Selection of potential Community Based Organization (CBO) to build capacity for management and raising community awareness on safe, clean, and healthy water; (3) Health promotion and education on safe water chain; (4) Dissemination of Information, Education, and Communication materials (poster, flipcharts, etc.); (5) Involvement of CBOs and CHV to implement and monitor safe water campaign; (6) Creation of "Village Forums" and liaison with public health centers and other agencies.

### **5. Outcomes**

- Women are involved in planning and programme design and most cadres are women. The cadre system is really empowering women in the community.

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<sup>2</sup> Gender Mainstreaming in Rehabilitation And Reconstruction: Regulation Of The Governor Of DIY No. 23/2006 Yogyakarta, 4-7 October 2006 Gender Working Group Cooperation (GWG) and Oxfam GB

- Mutual understanding among people concerning the safety of drinking water as a common problem that needs joint solutions through integrated participatory approaches.
- The establishment of Community Health Cadres as voluntary workers representing members of activity groups within the community (e.g.: women's group, fathers' group, etc.) whose duties and responsibilities are to promote health, especially with regards to water safety.
- Increased community awareness of water security and ability to treat and provide safe, clean and healthy drinking water.
- Communities, especially women, participate in the programme in order to have ownership of community water security (village forum – consists of women's gathering and men's gathering, village leader and representatives, and youth).
- Women demonstrated their ability to campaign for healthy water and encouraged others for related programmes.
- Community-Based Organizations (CBO) developed and managed sustainable community drinking water activity.
- Strong support was mobilized from village formal leaders, community leaders and District Health Officer (DHO).

## **6. Main obstacles**

Some women are still resistant to getting actively involved in the decision making process. This is triggered by Javanese culture that implicitly expects women to stay at home, doing domestic work and giving the decision-making responsibility to men. Only a few community members were interested in hearing a health message at a community health centre because there was no doctor (expert – respected figure) present.

## **7. Key factors for success**

The programme involves women in the baseline data sharing, planning, programme design and its implementation; this involvement is encouraged by men. The programme meets the community needs (as defined by needs assessment).

## **8. Recommendations**

The mechanism for handling complaints in the programme should be done by staff or the community; Training and capacity building are needed on accountable and sustainable programmes for communities, stakeholders, staff, and local government.

Monitoring and evaluation should be continued and done by community and staff so that they can monitor and measure success, see the differences they want to make or have already achieved;

Focused, interesting health messages and a campaign for the wider community should be continued;

The sustainable water and sanitation programme should be strengthened;

The programme can be coordinated through the cadre group in the community, which should ensure that the programme purpose is clear;

Health water socialization can be enhanced by involving women and many water sources;

Women should be involved from planning to evaluation; a Gender Checklist can be used – *see appendix for gender checklist.*

## **9. References**

Draft of Joint Evaluation Report, June 2007. Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Save the Children, CARE International and World Vision (WVI), unpublished.

Joint Evaluation documents compilation share points:

[http://emergencycapacitybuilding.sharepointsite.com/mae/\\_layouts/1033/viewlsts.aspx](http://emergencycapacitybuilding.sharepointsite.com/mae/_layouts/1033/viewlsts.aspx)

Sendang Desa Progress Report, CARE International, unpublished.

<http://www.kompas.com/kompas-cetak/0704/21/jogja/1036334.htm>

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<http://www.kompas.com/kompas-cetak/0606/19/swara/2737767.htm>

Good Enough Guide, *Impact Measurement and Accountability in Emergencies*. 2007.

## **Appendix. Proposed Gender Checklist**

### ***Water and Sanitation***

1. Identification of target population for water and sanitation project.
2. Identification of water source and the available sanitation facilities.
3. Identification of needs and needs potential of water users, such as households, agriculture, home industries, etc.
4. Identification of water needs and community sanitation.
5. Identification of tension/conflict that might exist in accessing water and sanitation.
6. Identification of division of labour based on gender related to collection, use and disposal of water.
7. Identification of community responsibility for water and sanitation.
8. Basic data sorted based on gender and regularly updated.
9. Identification of religious, caste, and cultural issues that might influence women's access to water and sanitation facilities; these issues raised should be raised in water and sanitation project design.
10. Mechanism for equal participation between men and women in planning, construction and maintenance of water and sanitation facilities.
11. A specific gender indicator for funds monitoring and evaluation.
12. An effort to motivate women to take roles as leaders in organization and working on water and sanitation committees.
13. Women in the community being involved in discussions about choices in water availability, such as public bathroom, water tap, water tank, etc.
14. Inputs from women on water source location and individual sanitation facility.
15. Consideration of women's needs for privacy and security and special needs for elderly and handicapped women in public bathroom design and other sanitation facilities.
16. Indicator to show that elderly and handicapped women are not being discriminated against for equal water access.
17. Women and men are able to gain the capacity to maintain and design water and sanitation facilities.
18. Health and sanitation programmes designed to be sustainable by involving women, men, and children in the household in maintenance.
19. Relevant identification of the project within a government institution and support for gender concerns.
20. Gender sensitivity training for government officials and staff related to the project to guarantee that they consider gender issues in the project.
21. Mechanism that guarantees that the voices of the community and women are heard related to water policy formulation at national/local level.

## **H. From Evangeline B. Sibayan, Philippine Rice Research Institute**

**Title:** Increasing the involvement and participation of women in rice farming with emphasis on irrigators' associations in the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System: A Case Study

### **Objectives:**

To develop and make use of the managerial skills of women in the operation of the irrigators' association for improved distribution and equitable access to irrigation water in water-scarce sections of a national irrigation system.

To minimize conflict on irrigation water delivery and allocation and enhance dispute management among water users by involving women in decision making.

### **Rationale:**

In the Philippines, water users are organized and grouped according to the source of their irrigation, that is, at the turn-out level, each turnout having to irrigate 40 to 50 hectares with about the same number of farmer members. Turnouts are located along the lateral canals starting at the head down to the tail end. These groups are further organized to form larger associations at the lateral level and then a federation. The main objective of the organization is to engage the farmers so that they collectively agree on how to manage, allocate, and distribute irrigation water and to maintain the stretch of canal within their domain. During the harvest season, the officers are tasked to help on the collection of irrigation service fees and remit the same to the National Irrigation System, the government office that is mandated to look into the operationalization and scheduling of delivery of irrigation water in the country.

Inequitable access to irrigation water is often the problem in irrigation systems, i.e., farmers at the head and midstream divert water from the canal as long as they please, while farmers at the tail end get water only after a month from the date of initial release from the reservoir. Most often, conflict arises among water users between turnouts and laterals. Farmers at the head and midstream sometimes even put checks even after their scheduled delivery, depriving downstream or tail end farmers, who come upstream and remove the checks in order for the water to reach their farms. This activity often results in conflicts and even armed struggle sometimes, interrupting the peaceful atmosphere of the farming community.

In rice farming, once the rice crop has been established, there are only a few activities that need to be accomplished and can be done by hiring daily farm labour until the harvest season comes. This is the period where the farmers are less productive. Irrigation application can easily be done by women or their elder children, since the structures and schedules are already in place.

The involvement of women of the farming families is mostly confined to household chores such as tending to the needs of the family, cooking, taking care of the children, and taking charge of both domestic and farm expenses. Women's involvement in farming activities is limited to pulling and transplanting of seedlings and manual cutting of the rice crop at harvest. For irrigation-related matters, they are only consulted on financial matters e.g., availability of budget to purchase diesel to run pumps to lift water from shallow wells or to set aside part of the farming income to pay for the irrigation service fee.

In communities where the men need to work abroad or in other nearby villages, however, the women may be left alone to cultivate the farm with the goal of making it productive. This activity is envisioned to utilize women's managerial and decision-making skills geared at improving access and equitable distribution of the irrigation water within the system and to increase their involvement in the farming activity. This also allows their spouses to be free from irrigation application activity after the rice crop is established, providing them an opportunity to look for other short-term jobs that will augment the meager income they get in rice farming.

### **Approach or strategy**

An irrigation association in an irrigation area can be identified for as cooperators in the project. The wives of farmers in one of the associations will be mobilized, instead of the men, and will run the association themselves. Side by side, this will be documented with another association which is run by the men.

The identified farmer cooperators will be given seminars to introduce the recent technological advancements in rice farming with emphasis on organization development, enhancement of their managerial skills, enrichment of their decision-making capabilities and adoption of on-farm water saving techniques, such as the alternate wetting and drying and aerobic rice where appropriate for increased water productivity and water use efficiency.

Other training modules can also be incorporated to encourage women in the farming community to be cognizant of the importance of integrated water resource management at the farm level.

### **Expected outcomes**

Women in the identified farming community are actively involved planning and implementation of irrigation and related activities to relieve man from those activities and allow them to engage in other activities geared at augmenting the family's income.

Women's involvement in farming is increased, and together with their spouses, they can implement and manage the farm and take full responsibility when necessary.

A holistic approach to rice farming is established where both spouses take a more balanced sharing of responsibilities.

## **I. From Sonephet Phosalath, Prime Ministry's Office, Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat, Lao PDR**

### **Background and Justification**

The Water Utilization and Management Division at the Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat is divided into three working groups: 1.) Development of the Basin Modeling Package and Knowledge Base; 2.) Flow Management in the lower Mekong Basin; and 3.) Rule and Procedures of Water Utilization. Ms. Sonephet, as head of Unit Water Resource and Hydrology Programme, is assigned to Working Group 1 from the Lao National Mekong Committee. As a key modeler, she is to implement and sustain the Decision Support Framework (DSF) that is been developed under the Water Utilization Programme (WUP) of the Mekong River Commission. She is also coordinator of the modeling team at the Mekong River Commission and of the line ministry concerned in-country with data collection on rainfall, evaporations, irrigation, flows, water demand and information required to support modeling of the Decision Support Framework.

The Decision Support Framework (DSF) is a tool for managing and sharing observed and modeled datasets for a river basin. Basically, The DSF is accessed using the DSF Simulation Model that links to the different model interface tools within the DSF. These are:

- A. DSF SWAT Interface
- B. DSF IQQM Interface
- C. DSF ISIS Interface

SWAT is a Soil and Water Assessment Tool. Using SWAT, the hydrological model is constructed with agreed catchment sub-divisions, integrated within the DSF and fit for the purpose intended. IQQM is an Integrated Quantity-Quality Model, which is used for a Basin system simulation model constructed for a number of default development scenarios and fit for the purpose intended. The ISIS Model is used for Hydrodynamic Model and is working for the river system downstream of the Mekong River.

All of these data and results from the DSF tool can be utilized to investigate the behaviour of the river basin and, thus, facilitate the decision-making process over how to react to future impacts assessment activities and changes to the Mekong River.

Water is the basis of life and sanitation for health. Water is in one way a decisive factor in all plans for development and at the same time a constituent of the environment. Lao PDR still has rich natural resources and good environmental quality. It is a strength for social and economic development. The natural environment includes: land resources; water resources; forest resources; biodiversity; and mineral resources.

Currently, every day women have to transport and store water for household use, including cooking, cleaning, washing, and watering household animals. Women negotiate with their neighbours for access to water supply, evaluate water sources, analyze supply patterns, lobby relevant authorities, and launch protests when water availability reaches dire levels. Women may spend up to 6-8 hours per day collecting water; this can consume up to a third of daily caloric intake. Women bear the primary burden of caring for the sick in most societies.

In Lao PDR, our team needs to understand: the basic concept of gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation; gender and water management; best practices of gender mainstreaming in water and sanitation; and why gender is central to water and sanitation. In addition we would like to link this programme to our current work.

## **J. From Kamal Khatri, SOPAC, Suva, Fiji**

### **Current gender concerns in water management in the Pacific**

In discussing gender concerns in the Pacific, people associate this with women, women's problems and rights. This view is often held by expatriate professionals in the water and sanitation field, and is based on gender policies that commonly emphasise the unrecognised needs of women and girls. This perception needs to be addressed, although it has been clearly defined in many sources. Gender does not refer simply to women or men, but to the way their qualities, behaviours and identities are determined through the process of socialization.

A review on community participation in water supply and sanitation was conducted in the Pacific in 2004. Due to the diversity of Pacific Island Countries (PICs), the case studies were limited to two Melanesian countries, Fiji and Vanuatu, and one Polynesian country, Tonga. Informal discussions in this survey had provided varied responses from women and men from PICs: women felt that gender roles are just one of the many aspects of persona, status, and opportunity in their community, and that gender policies imported from industrialized countries are inappropriate to PIC conditions. On the other hand, men supported that women should play a greater role in sanitation and hygiene. However, men felt that they should be the final decision makers, even though some men felt that "men do not take much action". In terms of gender policies, some men have expressed the view that policies being developed and promoted in the Pacific are disrespectful to the culture of island countries, where women are 'highly regarded' but have defined roles. At the same time some men advised that women and girls should get equal opportunities instead of having to fight for these rights.

Among the main concerns for the region would be improved materials (which are already being developed) to go beyond resource management and focus on the social and environmental conditions that exist on small islands.

### **Existing community participation and gender programme – part of SOPAC WASH programme**

Community participation and gender have been important components in the SOPAC WASH programmes. Activities in the past have included development of a handbook "Tapping Connections between People and Water" which is used by field workers when working with communities to install and maintain water/sanitation systems. As there are many different approaches being used by various

organizations, the handbook can be used as an extra tool along with other methods in engaging communities.

A participatory approach has also been used in a trial project in Tonga where the communities were involved at every stage of a rainwater-harvesting project. When communities take ownership, the projects are more likely to be sustainable. Although it should be noted that this process can take a long time in terms of communities making decisions, their decisions may not fit in with the budget or time frames of supporting agencies. Gender issues were recognised in the project design phase and one of the objectives for the project was to empower women to participate in water resources planning and decision making. The outcomes from this project include: Harvesting the Heavens – a manual for participatory training in rainwater harvesting; and Guidelines for Rainwater Harvesting in the PICs.

Currently, SOPAC is trying to disseminate the handbook “Tapping Connections” to its member countries for a wider use through community workers and NGOs. The rainwater harvesting manual and guidelines are also being promoted in the region and are widely being used by the Live and Learn Environment Education regional offices.

In terms of gender mainstreaming, the WASH programme has been assisted by the Gender Advisor based at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. There are various programmes in the water sector, but gender concerns have not been evaluated at the end of the project or have not been specifically addressed in the design phase.

The WASH programme has links with the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) which has emphasised the role of women in water, sanitation and hygiene interventions. With the Year of Sanitation coming up in 2008, SOPAC envisages better linkages in this area. SOPAC has also been active as a member of the Gender and Water Alliance since 2001, has made use of resources available as well as being informed on activities carried out under water and gender globally.

#### **Recommendations on gender and water**

Additional guidelines which specifically address gender equality and poverty reduction in water supply and sanitation in the PICs would be useful. However to be effective they will need to be sensitive to local understanding of these concepts, and build on traditional values and ethics which can be relatively difficult as the diversity of cultures in island states varies widely.

A gender and water framework and approach for integrated water resources management would also be useful.

#### **K. From Muryani, PhD candidate, Jogjakarta, Indonesia**

##### **Research Proposal Outline : Gender roles and relationships in water management: the case of Wonosari, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.**

#### **Introduction**

Social and economic analyses are incomplete without an understanding of gender social differences and inequalities. With a gender analysis, planners gain a more accurate picture of communities, natural resource use, households and water users. This provides a better understanding of differences among and between women and men, for example: who does what work, who makes which decisions, who uses water for what purpose, who is responsible for different family obligations. This is part of a good analysis and contributes to more effective results. The fact of women’s involvement in work particularly needs to be seen as a critically important issue in water management. The role of women in water-related areas needs to be strengthened to enhance their participation and to ensure equal voice and choices.

## **Review of the Literature**

International and regional conferences and the resultant declarations reinforce the need for addressing gender in the water sector. For the UN Economic and Social Council, mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programme, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally. The eventual goal of mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.

The 1992 Dublin and Rio conferences restated the need for ensuring that poor and vulnerable groups have access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The Third and Fourth World Conferences on Women, held in Nairobi in 1985 and in Beijing in 1995 continued fostering women's participation in water and sanitation programmes, with emphasis on gender mainstreaming. Gender mainstreaming was established as a global strategy for the promotion of gender equality in the Platform for Action from the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995.

**Defining gender:** Gender refers to the different roles, rights, and responsibility of men and women and the relations between them. Gender does not simply refer to women or men, but to the way their qualities, behaviours and identities are determined through the process of socialization. Gender is generally associated with unequal power and access to choices and resources. The different positions of women and men are influenced by historical, religious, economic and cultural realities. These relations and responsibilities can and do change over time.

**Women and natural resources:** Women in poorer communities, generally, are more aware of water resource issues and have learned to appreciate water and to use it more efficiently. They are more aware of and willing to respond to issues concerning female workloads and gender imbalances. However, experience reveals that participatory processes and attempts to involve poor people do not always automatically include women. Therefore, there is need for a planning approach that takes into account the very different roles and needs of women and men. This is necessary to allow women to participate in development, make them more productive, independent, and empowered. In Wonosari (a regency of Yogyakarta) women are often responsible for household duties relating to natural resource management, such as water use, land and animal rearing. It is important to realize the different roles the head of the household has in terms of access, use of resources, production, food security and nutritional status of the children, especially for water management.

## **Proposal of the study**

This study will try to define women's roles in natural resource management, highlighting women's role in water management. The study will also analyze how gender issues are addressed in Wonosari and will look at whether gender is considered in the water policy-making process, legal instruments and institutional arrangements.

## **Location:**

Wonosari is part of Gunung Kidul Regency in Yogyakarta. Gunung Kidul regency is a well known cultural region located in the province of Yogyakarta ('Special Region' province), Indonesia. Like many regions on the island of Java, it is densely populated with roughly 1,600 people per square kilometre. The regency is bordered by the city of Yogyakarta to the North-West, the regency of Bantul to the west, the regency of Sleman to the North-West, and the Indian Ocean to the south.

It is in a dry region, and the southern coastal edge is rough and wild with only a few beaches. It was in earlier times heavily forested, but most of the teak forests have been removed and many re-forestation projects occur on the western edge of the regency. The regency has been subject to extensive drought and famine within the last 100 years.

### **Current situation**

In Gunung Kidul both boys and girls (between 5 and 17 years of age) contribute to water collecting and other household tasks (Kompas 2003), especially in terms of helping their mothers. Most women do not enjoy collecting water because of the time spent walking and queuing, time which could have been used productively. It is a physically demanding task and there are risks of being attacked by animals and people while traveling longer distances on foot. They travel significantly longer distances in search of ever-changing and uncertain water sources.

The Kompas newspaper reported that in the dry season, when the availability of water is further stressed, the people have to rely on more distant sources for water. As a coping mechanism, users minimize the consumption of water whenever possible and prioritize the most important uses. Villagers often reduce their water needs, such as bathing, washing clothes and cleaning their houses, for weeks and sometimes even months during dry spells. For years, they had been re-using the same water for washing dishes and clothes. In short, women and children have had to work harder to fulfill the household's need for water.

### **Design Methods and Procedures**

Taking women as primary respondents, empirical work will use participatory techniques (PRA, Participatory Rural Appraisal), such as in-depth surveys, focus group discussions and participant observation.

### **Sampling**

Respondents will be randomly selected from those who are consuming water from the main sources in Wonosari. The names of these people will be obtained from the local government to select the respondents who will be interviewed and invited for discussion. Every name will be allocated a number, and then 20% out of the total population will be selected randomly. Individuals selected will be requested for this discussion and interview by mail. If there is a respondent who wants to cancel the discussion and interview, whatever their reason, it will be replaced by selecting another respondent. The respondents will select the time and location for the discussion.

### **Significance of the Study**

1. This study will recognize the influence of women's roles in natural resource and water management.
2. The study will explore the importance of gender considerations in the legal instruments and institutional arrangements for the water policy-making process in Wonosari.
3. The study should stimulate interest for identifying potential female leaders and representatives for informal water users associations, as a first step toward more formal organizations, government involvement, and local and international NGOs.
4. It should improve women's confidence for attending crucial current meetings regarding water management.
5. It would aim to improve the understanding of both genders about efficient consumption and conservation of water in the community. This also includes an understanding of water hygiene.

### **Data Collection**

Collecting the data may include survey administration procedures, interview or observation procedures, conducting focus group discussion, and participant observation. These will be conducted within six months.

### **Data Analysis**

The final results will be tabulated for each question and each position and standpoint. If there are questions where answers among respondents cannot be grouped together, a further description of the results will be performed. This investigation can be classified as an exploratory study using a case study approach. In order to present the results in a better form, the main components of the results will be provided as: (a) data reduction; (b) data display; and (c) a conclusion. Conclusions will be drawn by developing logical patterns to understand the trends or current issues.

**Limitations:**

1. Language barriers: mostly people use local language and dialects.
2. Knowledge barriers: most of the people have a low education level, and some are illiterate.
3. Lack of willingness to participate in discussion and attending meetings due to loss of their time.
4. Location: difficulties due to long distances and modes of transportation among people to meet for discussions.

**Delimitations:**

1. Provide translator for local language.
2. Using simple language in order to be easily understood by respondents.
3. Provide assistance for transportation during discussion times and meetings.
4. Giving compensation due to working time lost.

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**L. From Watt Botkosol, Cambodia National Mekong Committee**

**Title:** Building capacity of Regional Gender Networks for Mainstreaming Gender in Water Resources Management

**Background**

Men and women are equally valuable partners in socio-economic development activities. Both must be involved in order to achieve successful development. The concept of Integrated Water Resources Management engages the participation of men and women with a holistic approach and in an integrated approach to water development. In order to facilitate the progress on mainstreaming gender into the work of agencies dealing with development projects and programmes, gender mainstreaming

activities can be implemented through the integration of gender insights into working debates, decision-making and planned actions, and through more equitable participation by women in decision-making. Gender mainstreaming involves addressing gender inequalities in all aspects of development, across all sectors and programmes, especially in decision-making structures. This process will require an improved capacity of women and men to understand and take real action on legislation, policies or programme implementation, in any area and at all levels. Gender mainstreaming is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and that inequality is not perpetuated.

In Southeast Asia, some countries are quite advanced in promoting gender issues and have taken the promotion of a gender perspective into serious consideration in national action plans and strategies. Some are still facing major challenges and need to demonstrate a real demand to learn how to mainstream gender into water policies and projects in order international commitments such as the Millennium Development Goals. The practitioners require more knowledge of practical tools and strategies for mainstreaming gender in water policies and projects. At the same time, there are limited linkages between gender experts and water resources experts. The capacity to mainstream gender in water resources policy and project planning and to mainstream water issues in gender-related policies and projects is limited and substantial support is needed.

It is proposed to hold a Regional training of trainers (ToT) Workshop to ensure that gender is integrated into capacity building in Southeast Asia through strengthening the human and institutional capacity within and beyond the gender networks, and to include the GWA Network on Gender and Sustainable Water Resources Development.

The major objective of the Regional ToT workshop is to strengthen and develop capacity of trainers in SEA including planners and project/programme implementers in integration and mainstreaming gender and water resources management concerns into sustainable development and management of water resources in their countries.

Participants will be nominated by the Cap-net countries of SEA (Brunei Darussalem, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). There would be three participants from each country. The total number is expected to be about 30 participants. There will be five resource persons sponsored by Cap-net. The Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC) will be the host institution for this Regional ToT. The Department of Planning of CNMC will facilitate and be responsible for overall management of the Regional ToT Workshop. The Workshop is proposed to be conducted in Siem Reap province, Cambodia in November 2007.

### **Expected Results**

The Regional ToT will have the following key outputs:

- Gender and Water Resources Management training packages in English
- Five trainers with capacity to develop and deliver training on water management and gender issues in SEA
- 30 participants including planners and implementers of projects/programmes capable of integrating gender into water resources issues and training others to do so
- 10 sets of country level action plans on mainstreaming gender at institutional, strategy and activity level in order to contribute to gender-responsive policies and programmes.

### **Activities**

This training activity is undertaken within the programme of Cap-net and is sponsored by Cap-net: Gender and IWRM: Strengthening Gender and Water Networking in SEA. The Regional ToT Workshop will be officially opened by the Chairman of CNMC, and the welcome address given by the Minister of Women's Affairs of Cambodia.

## **Outputs**

The Workshop will provide participants (future trainers) with capacity in the following areas:

- Gender Awareness
- Gender Analysis Framework
- Gender and Development Concepts
- Gender and MDGs
- Gender and IWRM
- Gender and Basin Management and Planning
- Gender and HRD
- Gender and Government policy and strategy
- Case studies and good practices in project/program development

Participants will be expected to develop a country action plan for their national ToT workshops on the same topic to address the following themes as might be identified:

- Establishing and improving gender and water networks in country
- Research and development activities for gender
- Funding for gender activities
- Developing and selecting training materials and national gender case studies

## **M. From Khamlouang Keoka, Director Oxfam Community Aid Abroad, Lao PDR**

### **Gender concerns in the water sector**

The Government of Lao PDR strongly promotes economic development by seeking direct foreign investment to graduate from least-developing country status by 2020. One of the key development strategies is the provision of safe water supply to 90 per cent of the total population.

Around 80 per cent of the total population is living in dispersed rural areas and depends heavily on rivers, creeks and other water sources for their daily life. The rapid deterioration of natural resources through economic development activities renders negative effects to water sources. These effects cause people to suffer, particularly women who are the main water providers for the family. However in most of the official orders or decrees, women's role and women's rights related to water are usually neglected. The Prime Ministerial Decision number 37 issued on 30 September 1999 allows the establishment of a Water Leading Committee for Management and Development of the Water Supply. The Committee is composed of nine key members from different technical Ministries and the private sector (industrial sector). Women representatives were not included in this Committee! This reflects quite clearly about the unrealistic situation of the country.

Usually scholars and institutions define that lack of water supply in the country is connected with poor, inefficient and uneconomical water resource management. This is based on the concept of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB) that considers water as an economic good or a tradable commodity. It is a way to introduce their water privatization policy in the southern countries. They argue with different perspectives: "privatization of water component is needed to enable government to manage water sources effectively and help poor people gain access to piped water" or "water must be utilized by those who render the most economic advantage". It is clearly reflected that those who cannot afford the cost will be excluded from the services; and unfortunately those are the poor with least purchasing power.

The threat to privatize water in Lao PDR under the ADB and WB package is really high. The concerned parties in the government seem to be very supportive of the idea. Many projects have been started in different districts and also in the capital city. The water fee had changed and affected poor and low income people, including government workers.

The water sources are polluted in many mineral and mining areas, e.g., gold, copper, cement, etc. The water sources adjacent to those areas have been badly polluted and are now unusable as potable water. The protein sources from the river have been destroyed, and the traditional ways of life including

many cultural activities connecting to water are also gradually disappearing. Women's workloads have increased.

In all projects funded by Oxfam Australia, women are the prime target population. They are asked to be involved throughout the project cycle and play a central role in the project management, starting from project identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. They are on the management board of the water user group. Oxfam Australia will continue to work closely with communities, most in remote areas to protect water sources for durable use and under the management of the community itself, rather than letting the sources going under the hand of private sectors.

**N. From Mr. Phothong Siliphong, Gender Specialist, Gender Resource Information and Development Center, Lao Women's Union**

**Gender Mainstreaming in Water Management in Lao PDR**

Gender profile of Lao PDR

- National policy, strategy and laws;
- Frameworks of the Lao Women's Union and Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women;
- Existing gender programmes/projects in Lao PDR; and
- Gender issues in water and sanitation sector.

Development of a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy on Water and Sanitation for Lao PDR (This strategy is to be implemented with the line ministries and funded by the UN-HABITAT. Mr. Phothong is a team leader)

- Develop a detailed work plan for carrying out Rapid Gender Assessments and a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for the water and sanitation sector;
- Carry out Rapid Gender Assessments in the water and sanitation sector to ensure that quality baseline information and situational analysis result in a strategy for women's empowerment in decisions related to water and sanitation;
- Review existing data available at the national level and visit at least six different project towns based on ethnic diversity and economic conditions of the towns;
- Develop a gender mainstreaming strategy for the water and sanitation sector in Lao PDR including a variety of tools such as gender-disaggregated data, gender analysis, gender-responsive water and sanitation budgeting, monitoring and evaluation systems and indicators; and
- Organize a workshop to present and discuss gender mainstreaming strategy to all stakeholders in Lao PDR.

## **Annex III. Field trip description**

**FIELD VISIT, 20 July 2007, 1:30 – 4:30 pm**

### **Bang Pha Rok Community, Pathum Thani Municipality, Phatum Thani Province**

Bang Pha Rok is a community composed of 117 households located in Pathum Thani province in Thailand. The community is located close to Bang Pha Rok canal, which is connected to larger watercourses leading to the Chao Phraya River. For many years the Bang Pha Rok canal was on the receiving end of household wastewater disposal upstream, leading to water pollution in the community.

In 2004, a wastewater management project was initiated by community leaders under the support of Chumchonchai Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This project was initiated after some of the effective community leaders (the head of the community is a woman, Ms. Chaluay) attended a series of training workshops organized by public agencies, private organizations and NGOs at another community which had implemented a household wastewater project. The general objectives of the project are to create a better environment in the community, to reduce the risk of pollution and improve health. The success of this community project has been achieved because of the willingness of whole families to work together, along with the support and cooperation of NGOs and external donors. The community leadership is evenly divided by men and women, and all are involved in the environmental restoration of the canal.

The specific objectives are:

- 1) To promote household wastewater management;
- 2) To promote the use of appropriate technology for treatment of wastewater in the household;
- 3) To provide and install household grease traps and septic tanks.

Among the activities undertaken by the project include:

- 1) The use of Effective Microorganisms (EM) for treating polluted water;
- 1) Development of a grey water treatment system using basic technology and also a treatment process for faecal waste;
- 2) Treating wastewater from the kitchen by providing a grease trap.

The actual outcomes of the project were as follows:

- 1) The environment of the community has improved appreciably and, as a result, people feel that they have created a sustainable and livable community;
- 2) Fifty EM tanks were installed along the Bang Pha Rok canal;
- 3) More than 80% of the households have installed grease traps and septic tanks.
- 4) The community works together in this effort that benefits everyone.