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### Update on IWF related programme and activities

FAN South Asia (FANSA), Bread for the World, FORUM, WaterAid India (WAI) and India WASH Forum (IWF) organised a one day workshop on Right to Water and Sanitation. The purpose of the workshop was to learn from recent initiatives and struggles for securing enforceable constitutional guarantees in : Education, Health, NREGA and to develop a shared understanding among the coalition partners to take the Right to Water and Sanitation coalition and campaign building forward.

A shared statement of intent developed as an outcome of the workshop is given below.

#### **Right to Water and Sanitation: Our Shared Statement of Intent**

We the undersigned have come together to pitch in our efforts for developing a shared understanding and learning from recent efforts made by other coalitions and alliances towards securing justiciable Rights for Education, Health, Food and Work. This shared statement of our intent is aimed at developing our understanding and commitment towards jointly working for and securing Water and Sanitation – as a justiciable Right through an Act. This statement we believe will serve as our benchmark for guiding action when we build a national alliance/campaign on Right to Water and Sanitation.

We had come together on the 5<sup>th</sup> Aug 2009 for a workshop on “Right to Water and Sanitation: Moving Towards a Constitutional Guarantee”. The workshop was helpful in developing our perspective; it presented us with the following directions to work;

1. Working towards securing justiciable Right **involves three principle actors;**
  - a. **Rights Claimants** : the affected people
  - b. **Rights Advocates** : those who may include the affected but also those who play the advocacy role on behalf of the Rights Claimants
  - c. **Duty Bearers**: the bureaucracy or Utilities and Authorities

For each one of us who is partnering in this initiative, we must be clear in which category we see ourselves. This has an important bearing on the roles we should be playing. We as NGOs see our role as Rights Advocates and we need to make a special effort to bring Rights Claimants to the forefront of the leadership of a Right to Water and Sanitation Alliance.

2. **Role of private sector.** What was once a sole responsibility of the government to provide for its citizens, water and sanitation services are being provided by a large number of private agencies. The Alliance for Right to Water and Sanitation will have to take this into account.

3. **We believe the campaign/alliance will need to define its theoretical/political anchor and scope of engagement with Right to Water and Sanitation.** Would the RTWS campaign/alliance position itself within the realm of the immediate practical priorities or will it also be willing to question the larger power relations and structural barriers? This will determine who will be our allies and partners in the alliance. Some critical areas to develop clarity are on;
  - a. Build a larger social-political constituency for itself beyond the NGO discourse?
  - b. Basic Rights to Water and Sanitation vs. “Third generation rights” as was the case in Health.
  - c. Structural issues that exacerbate poverty and exclusion including neo liberal market policies. Will we look at these in developing our Rights Claims?
  
4. **We will track how water is positioned by international bodies, national and international NGOs and other influential institutions.** To understand and counter them if these go against the principles of Right to Water and Sanitation.
  
5. We are conscious that the alliance/campaign may succeed in getting a Right into a **justiciable Act/Law but if this is not backed by adequate resources in the Act** (funding commitments for new entitlements, putting in place clear institutional systems, staff and mechanisms for its enforcement) for the Act to become operational at the level of state governments and centre government – the justiciable Act/Law remains on paper.
  
6. We realise that working towards establishing claims of right to water and sanitation as justiciable Act will be difficult, **given the particular character of water use and for sanitation.** We have to be careful for the following;
  - a. Water and Sanitation are subjects in the “State List”. Many critical issues are left to the Water Policy of the states. The RTWS alliance/campaign may have to work towards including all relevant issues that are not considered justiciable right now. This challenge of expanding the Rights mandate in the water Policy is very big. Also, if the Law is enacted then the campaign may need to work in States to ensure that states adopt the Act.
  - b. Address loopholes in the existing Acts.
  - c. Ensure Customary Community Rights on water are not taken away by a legislation/Act.
  - d. Creation of quasi judicial bodies as state regulatory authorities is changing the political and administrative terrain. These impact on the Rights based alliance/campaign strategy.
  - e. Practical efforts that provide solutions in short term, are important while we build a coalition/alliance for the longer term Right to Water and Sanitation.
  - f. Providing Costing scenarios/implications of Right to Water and Sanitation, with which we can go to the government and policy makers.
  - g. Developing Norms where none exist: specially for urban sanitation, revising existing norms
  - h. Understanding the counters and what we mean by right to sanitation, from a community perspective.
  - i. Addressing contradictions with other approaches that currently dominate the Drinking water and sanitation discourse. Eg. CLTS approach is focussed on behaviour change and not on resources and government as Duty Bearer, demand Driven Approach that puts all responsibility on citizens, etc.

7. We believe there are **certain clear enabling contexts for Right to Water and Sanitation;**
- a. Almost every Policy document of India on water or rural and urban development, refers to drinking water priority use above all other uses of water and for providing safe living conditions and livelihoods. However, these are non-binding statements that are not enforceable and are non-justiceable.
  - b. Right to Life as a Fundamental Right in the Indian Constitution
  - c. Several court judgments have expressed concern for violations of right to water and of poor people's access to water and sanitation under Article 21.
  - d. Water User Associations, Village Water and Sanitation Committees and other Rights Claimants organisations exist.
  - e. Norms for drinking water are developed
  - f. Several grassroots movements have worked on right to water for a long time including securing entitlements for the land less(over water), can be potential alliance partners.
  - g. Other grass root movements working on other rights such as gender, health, education can also be potential alliance partners.
8. We believe that **campaign/alliance building will include the following challenges;**
- a. **Developing a common understanding amongst us as the signatories of this statement, on defining what we want to achieve as a coalition/alliance/campaign.** Developing alliance decision making processes that are transparent and effective in decision making. This statement of Intent is the first step in this direction.
  - b. Expanding the alliance with more **Right Holders in leadership position** of the campaign along with Rights Advocates. Lessons from Education, NREGA, others.
  - c. **Securing Resources.** Developing an alliance structure including some dedicated staff to support the alliance functioning, securing time of experts and volunteers for providing intellectual inputs in developing coalition campaign demands and analysis of alternative budgetary allocations.
  - d. **Developing Synergy with other Alliances,** organised bodies of Trade Unions, Farmer Associations, Slum Dwellers, Academic institutions, Media, political constituencies, etc.
  - e. **Set up twp working groups;**
    - i. One working from the drinking water and sanitation perspective of Rights
    - ii. Another working from the larger perspective of "water security" as a basic Right for livelihoods, including drinking water and sanitation.

India WASH Forum, WaterAid India, FORUM, FANSA

September, 2009

## News and information updates of the sector and beyond

1. Mr. Ravi Narayanan, vice chair of the APWF Governing Council and international mentor of the JWF, has been awarded an Honorary CBE of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to providing water and sanitation facilities for poor communities.  
For more details, please check the following website:  
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/what-we-do/honours/honorary-awards-2009>
2. **Private Sector & Development** features 8 articles and discussions, by donor agencies and private sector operatives, addressing the question “How can the private sector help provide access to drinking water in developing countries”.  
[http://www.proparco.fr/jahia/webdav/site/proparco/users/bverdeaux/public/Secteur\\_priv\\_developpement/PDF/ProparcoRevue%202002UK%20WEB.pdf](http://www.proparco.fr/jahia/webdav/site/proparco/users/bverdeaux/public/Secteur_priv_developpement/PDF/ProparcoRevue%202002UK%20WEB.pdf)
3. WSSC has released a report “**Public Funding for Sanitation**” which aims to understand the global debate on subsidies and sanitation financing, and provides guidance on how to select the most appropriate funding arrangements for sanitation programming  
[http://www.wsscc.org/fileadmin/files/pdf/publication/Public\\_Funding\\_for\\_Sanitation\\_the\\_many\\_faces\\_of\\_sanitation\\_subsidies.pdf](http://www.wsscc.org/fileadmin/files/pdf/publication/Public_Funding_for_Sanitation_the_many_faces_of_sanitation_subsidies.pdf)
4. UNDP calls for Expression of Interest under GoI-UNDP project “**Capacity Development for District Planning and Livelihoods Promotion**” from competent organizations to support and strengthened the work of UNVs and provide other services towards integrated district planning process. Details of the Request for Proposals may be seen at [http://data.undp.org.in/procurement/RFP\\_for\\_Support\\_organization\\_for\\_UNVs.doc](http://data.undp.org.in/procurement/RFP_for_Support_organization_for_UNVs.doc)
5. Ministry of Environment and Forests has released the **State of the Environment Report, 2009**. This latest report on State of India's environment provides an insight on the state and trends of the environment with focus on Climate Change, Food Security, Water Security, Energy Security and Urbanization. <http://moef.nic.in/downloads/home/home-SoE-Report-2009.pdf>
6. “For every \$1 invested in sanitation, \$9 in direct or indirect economic benefits are earned,” David Trouba, a program officer with the Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), told MediaGlobal. “This is mainly due to savings in time from not being sick, which burdens the health system and causes people to miss work.” **To read the full article visit** <http://www.mediaglobal.org/article/2009-08-19/investing-in-safe-and-clean-toilets-vital-to-curb-deaths-by-water-born-diseases>
7. The Delegation of the European Commission to India has launched its new website to make it easy for all visitors to look at our many activities in India. Please visit the site at: [www.delind.ec.europa.eu](http://www.delind.ec.europa.eu)
8. The Government of India has launched a new service for all registration of complaints online. The **link of the portal** is <http://www.pgportal.gov.in/>.
9. The Ministry set up **a Technology Mission: “Winning, Augmentation and Renovation”**. A Plan Document Prepared by Government of India on the directive of Supreme Court was submitted in August 09. Read the report at

## Information updates of the sector and beyond

11. In the M.K. Balakrishnan and others Appellants/Petitioners vs. Union of India and others Respondents Case the Supreme Court of India had asked the Union Ministry of Science and Technology to submit a report explaining the measures, which have been taken to solve the water crisis in the country.
12. IRC had initiated an action research project named 'Models for implementing multiple-use water supply for enhanced land and water productivity, rural livelihoods and gender equity. It had developed case studies in eight countries across the world including India. The book depicts how livelihoods act as the main driver for water services and how access to water is determined by appropriate technologies and equitable ways of sharing. Read the report – ***Climbing the water ladder – Multiple-Use Water Services for Poverty Reduction*** - <http://www.irc.nl/page/49660>
13. The International Budget Partnership has sent out a request for case studies on budget advocacy which they may use in a forthcoming publication on budget advocacy strategies. See their website at: <http://www.internationalbudget.org/> to get resources on budget advocacy.
14. IRC has released their bulletin: Source water and sanitation weekly - No. 9 (Friday, 18 September 2009). Read their bulletin at <http://www.irc.nl/source>
15. Asian Development Bank has released a new report: **India's Sanitation for All: How to Make It Happen**. This report examines the current state of sanitation services in India and offers six recommendations that can help key stakeholders work toward universal sanitation coverage in India. Download the report at [http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Water for All Series/Indian-Sanitation/Indian-Sanitation.pdf](http://www.adb.org/Documents/Books/Water_for_All_Series/Indian-Sanitation/Indian-Sanitation.pdf)
16. **WATER AND THE LAWS IN INDIA**, Sage Publication - Edited by RAMASWAMY R IYER, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. For ordering the book visit the link - [http://www.sagepub.in/browse/book.asp?bookid=1395&Subject\\_Name=&mode=1](http://www.sagepub.in/browse/book.asp?bookid=1395&Subject_Name=&mode=1)

## Upcoming Events

**Global Handwashing Day** is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October and the best source of information if you are planning to take part is the GHD international website: <http://www.globalhandwashingday.org/>  
Information that you might find useful on it include planning kits (which you can open here: [http://www.globalhandwashingday.org/Global\\_Handwashing\\_Day\\_2nd\\_Edition.pdf](http://www.globalhandwashingday.org/Global_Handwashing_Day_2nd_Edition.pdf))

**A National Seminar on Ecological Economics:** An Approach towards Socio-Economic and Environmental Sustainability is being held on 30th September-1st October 2009 at ISEC, Bangalore by the Centre for Ecological Economics and Natural Resource, Institute For Social And Economic Change, Bangalore (www.isec.ac.in). For details visit <http://www.isec.ac.in/seminar%20ecology-ceenr.htm>

The **Annual Forum of the Solution Exchange -Water Community** is scheduled for 28-30 October 2009 in Kolkata.

Centre for Quality Management System, Mechanical Engineering Dept., Jadavpur University is organizing the **1st international Conference on Solid Waste Management & Exhibition on Municipal Services**, Urban Development and Public Works Home from 4 to 6 November 2009 in Kolkata. Please visit the website <http://www.iconswm.com> for details.

Centre for Science and Environment has launched the **9th CSE Media Fellowship on The Coastal Concerns of India** for the period November 2009-January 2010. Journalists will study, investigate and report on the pressures, conflicts, impacts, actions and inactions that are being played out on India's coasts. For details read - [http://www.cseindia.org/programme/media/coastal\\_concerns.htm](http://www.cseindia.org/programme/media/coastal_concerns.htm)

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## India WASH Forum

India WASH Forum is a registered India WASH Forum is a Registered Indian Trust. It is affiliated to the WSSCC Geneva and is a membership based coalition of Indian organizations and individuals working on water, sanitation and hygiene.

A unique feature of IWF is its non-hierarchical set up. The organisation is a coalition and its Trustees are on the IWF as individuals and not representing the organisations they are associated with. The agenda and activities that India WASH Forum are determined at the initiative of the Trustees and Members and support from organisations and individuals. We receive a very small operations grant from WSSCC (\$15,000 a year).

Our Charter includes the following commitments;

- ❑ **Promoting knowledge generation** through research and documentation which was linked to and supported grassroots action in the water-sanitation-hygiene sectors. Special emphasis is given **to sector-specific and cross-cutting thematic learnings.**
- ❑ **Supporting field-based NGOs and networks in their technical and programmatic work.** The IWF would also consistently highlight gender and pro-poor considerations, and provide a national platform for interest groups working in the sector to come together.
- ❑ **Undertaking policy advocacy and influence** work through
  - Monitoring and evaluations
  - Media advocacy and campaigns, and
  - Fact finding missions
- ❑ **Undertaking lobbying and networking to promote common objectives** in the sector.

**Registered office of India WASH Forum: K-U, 6 Pitampura, Delhi-110034**