

THEMATIC WORKING GROUP ON WATER SUPPLY, HYGIENE AND SANITATION:

2010-2013 WORK PLAN

Approval of the present work plan by the 2nd Ministerial Forum on Environment and Health in South-East and East Asian Countries, will constitute approval for the change of the name of this Thematic Working Group,

from

Thematic Working Group on Water Supply, Hygiene and Sanitation

to

Thematic Working Group on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

In its meeting in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR, 26-28 May 2010, the Group endorsed China CDC Institute of Environmental Health and Related Product Safety to continue as Chair for the period 2010-2013, while the Philippines Department of Health would assist the Chair in the capacity of Vice Chair.

1. Background

Almost 500 million additional people in South-East and East Asian countries received access to an improved sanitation facility between 1990 and 2008. Despite this major improvement, almost 300 million people still need to share an improved type of sanitation facility with other households, whereas nearly 400 million use precarious unimproved facilities and over 100 million simply defecate in the open. The rural population without access to sanitation services in East Asia is almost half a billion people, which is over 60% more than the 300 million urban dwellers unserved.

The Region is not on track to achieve the MDG sanitation target. It will fall short by 6% of the MDG sanitation regional target of 74% by 2015.

Not surprisingly, diarrhoeal diseases are a major killer in this Region. They are largely preventable by good sanitation and hygiene and a sufficient and safe water supply. Improved sanitation alone reduces diarrhoea death rates by a third (UNICEF, WHO, 2009). In South-East and East Asian countries, there are 450 million cases of diarrhoea every year and the number of deaths reaches nearly 150 000 a year (WHO, 2008a). Estimates suggest that the overall incidence of diarrhoeal diseases has remained relatively

stable over the past two decades whereas the death rate has decreased consistently. This indicates that while case management approaches and practises improve over time, the preventive aspects (good sanitation, hygiene, safe drinking-water, food safety) are not progressing as effectively.

One of the major drawbacks in the Region is a lack of good information about sanitation and water systems that could provide sound analyses for national policy-making, planning and programming.

There is emerging awareness in the Region that a shift in sanitation financing is required from financing “subsidies and grants for sanitation facilities” to the poor to funding “sanitation promotion and leveraging resources”. Most countries reported well-structured initiatives to generate sanitation demand through social marketing using different methodologies.

Responsibilities for sanitation, especially rural sanitation, are not clearly defined in most East Asian countries and are somehow an afterthought in different national or local agencies. Responsibilities for sanitation and communication and coordination mechanisms among agencies appear to be blurred in most countries and in some cases simply do not exist. A crucial recommendation is the urgent need to establish a clear national institutional framework for sanitation, including the definition of roles and responsibilities of different national and subnational stakeholders.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this work plan are the following:

- (1) To identify the functions and strengthen the capacities of health, environment and other authorities in relation to water supply, sanitation and hygiene;
- (2) To promote safe and sustainable management of water supplies from catchments to consumers;
- (3) To facilitate cooperation among East Asian countries towards the improvement of sanitation and hygiene, to collaborate with the countries of the East Asia Sanitation (EASAN) process in planning and organizing EASAN3 conference, and to support EASAN2 follow-up activities.

3. Activities and timelines

Objective 1: To identify the functions and strengthen the capacities of health, environment and other authorities in relation to water supply, sanitation and hygiene.

Activity	Timing				Lead member	Notes
	2010	2011	2012	2013		
1.1 Review health authorities' functions in relation to WSH in at least 4 TWG WHS countries, taking TWG WHS discussion paper as point of reference. Disseminate findings.		X	X		WHO	

Objective 2: To promote sustainable management of safe water supplies and sanitation.

Activity	Timing				Lead member	Notes
	2010	2011	2012	2013		
2.1 Review water source protection issues and best practices in at least 4 TWG WHS countries and disseminate report.	X	X	X		Korea	Activity carried over from 2007-2010 work plan.
2.2 Develop technical guidance documents and training materials on rural Water Safety Plans and disseminate to TWG WHS countries.	X	X	X		Malaysia	Activity carried over from 2007-2010 work plan.
2.3 Conduct regional assessment of operations and maintenance. Develop and disseminate guidance for	X	X	X		Japan	

strengthening operations and maintenance of water supply and sanitation facilities.						
2.4 Build capacity for drinking water quality surveillance at household and community level.		X	X		Thailand	

Objective 3: To facilitate cooperation among East Asian countries towards the improvement of sanitation and hygiene, to collaborate with the countries of the East Asia Sanitation (EASAN) process in planning and organizing EASAN3 conference, and to support EASAN2 follow-up activities.

Activity	Timing				Lead member	Notes
	2010	2011	2012	2013		
3.1 Prepare a compendium of sanitation financing best practices (urban and rural); and identify appropriate financing schemes for various types of sanitation interventions.	X	X	X		Malaysia	
3.2 Promote the development of national water supply, sanitation and hygiene sector assessments, plans and policies.	X	X	X		Philippines	
3.3 Develop a regional water supply and sanitation sector monitoring system consistent with the	X	X	X	X	WHO	

WHO/Unicef Joint Monitoring Programme.						
3.4 Conduct inter-country workshop on sanitation in cold climates.		X			Mongolia	IWA will support this activity.
3.5 Develop guidelines on emergency sanitation, advocate for preparedness, and build capacity for implementation.	X	X			Philippines	IWA will support this activity.
3.6 Support the planning and implementation of EASAN3, including preparation of pre-conference regional sanitation report.	X	X	X		Indonesia	

4. Outputs

(1) Improved knowledge base on functions of health, environment and other authorities in relation to WSH in TWG WHS countries.

(2) Tools and information disseminate to improve source water protection, promote safety of drinking water, and improve operations and maintenance of water supply and sanitation systems.

(3) Access to improved sanitation and better hygiene practices promoted.

5. Monitoring and reporting

Outputs	Indicators
1. Improved knowledge base on functions of health authorities and environment authorities in relation to WSH in TWG WHS countries.	(1) Functions of health authorities reviewed in at least 4 countries.
2. Tools and information disseminate to improve source water protection, promote	(1) Report disseminated on source water protection in at least 4 countries.

safety of drinking water, and improve operations and maintenance of water supply and sanitation systems.	(2) Tools for promoting water safety in rural systems developed and disseminated. (3) Regional assessment of operations and maintenance developed and disseminated.
3. Access to improved sanitation and better hygiene practices promoted.	(1) Knowledge products developed and disseminated on sanitation financing, sector monitoring and assessment, sanitation in cold climates, and emergency sanitation. (2) Regional sanitation report issued as EASAN3 pre-conference publication.

The TWG WHS will perform an annual review of the work plan in preparation for its annual meeting and will submit an annual report to the Secretariat. The work plan will be revised as needed based on consensus among the members at the annual meeting.

Progress reports will also be presented to the 6th High Level Meeting on Environment and Health (2011) and to the 3rd Ministerial Forum on Environment and Health (2013).

6. Resources

Implementation of all planned activities will depend on the availability of resources.