



**ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**  
**OFFICE OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS**  
**Publications Unit**

16 July 2001

Dear NGO Representative,

It has been a number of months since we sent a hard copy of an NGO update. All documents are now placed on our web site (<http://www.adb.org>) as soon as approved by the Board of Directors, so your access to these documents has been nearly immediate. Besides being on the internet, all documents listed here are also available at the over 150 depository libraries throughout the world that carry ADB documents.

We realize, of course, that not all NGOs have access to the internet, and this letter is the best method of finding out what is available. And others of you have access, but have requested that we continue sending this update anyway, as it reminds you to check our site for the activities we are engaged in at ADB.

We need your help in updating our electronic mailing list. When you send us your postal address, please send us your e-mail address as well so that we can send more timely updates and, if you wish, send you the electronic files of documents.

We also need your help in our cost saving measures. If you order hard copies, please share them with other NGOs and your community.

You may contact the Publications Unit at the numbers below to receive a hard copy, or go to our web site to download the document. Fax: (632) 636-2648; E-mail: [adbpub@adb.org](mailto:adbpub@adb.org); or through Posted Mail: Publications Unit, P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines.

Finally, we are enclosing the 2001 update of the brochure Information Delivery for NGOs, which includes the contacts for ADB's NGO Center.

Until the next update,

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## National and regional coordinators roles

In recent years the Council has developed a network of national and regional coordinators. Now their roles have been revised to reflect the strategies to implement the IAP. New guidelines from the Secretariat will clarify expectations; both from WSSCC with regard to anticipated outcomes from coordinator activities and from coordinators with regard to WSSCC support.

National and regional co-ordinators will serve as a bridge between WSSCC and its members in a particular region and/

or country and as a means for extending Council contacts with the people. They will lead and coordinate the Council members' work in both advocacy and monitoring; and facilitate information exchange between members, coordinators and the Global Secretariat. It is anticipated that Council members will fulfil the role of national and regional coordinators, and that they will receive suitable institutional support to act on behalf of the Council.

## New advisory group on water advocacy set up

The Geneva-based Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) is placing high priority on advocacy and communications as mandated by its new blueprint for action - the Iguacu Action Programme - launched at the Council's Fifth Global Forum in Foz de Iguacu, Brazil last November.

Following the first meeting of the Council's newly-elected Steering Committee in Geneva on 18 May 2001, the new group, known as AGWA, will be composed of six core specialists from different fields - ranging from radio, television and print media, to social mobilisation and the Internet. Other experts in the communications arena will be called upon to join in the group's discussions, which will take place mostly in the virtual world.

As an expert group of communications professionals with track records of undertaking advocacy and communications activities at national, regional and global levels, AGWA will act as an advisory arm of the Council's Steering Committee. The group will develop a global strategy in advocacy and communications for water, sanitation and hygiene within the context of poverty reduction and sustainable development. AGWA will hold its first meeting at WaterAid in London, from 19 to 20 July 2001.

Watch out for more details in future issues of SOURCE.

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News from IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre

## Watershed specialists in India: Protect 'groundwater reserve' at village

Regulations in India that support the pre-eminence of domestic water should be enforced, and a 'groundwater reserve' should be identified and managed at the village level. This was a major recommendation from 50 participants in a series of workshops/field visits from 5 - 16 May in Andhra Pradesh, India., bringing together NGOs from South Asia and India working on watershed management and water supply and sanitation. IRC participated in and facilitated the Natural Resources Institute's (NRI) Water Households and Rural Livelihoods (WHIRL) [http://www.nri.org/WSS-IWRM/ project workshop.](http://www.nri.org/WSS-IWRM/project%20workshop) The next three years of the project will seek to identify ways to turn these recommendations into action..

Participants used Bayesian Networks to identify water resource availability and water supply infrastructure as strongly inter-linked and said it was necessary to address them together if an 'equitable' share of drinking water is to be available to all. Bayesian networks are an inexpensive and easy to use software tool that allow the impacts of

changes in multiple factors in complex and uncertain systems to be examined and evaluated). A good free Bayesian Network software is available from [www.norsys.com](http://www.norsys.com).

The Network further underlined the belief of the experts present that current watershed development projects are neutral or negative in their impact on access to drinking water. Although they can increase total resource availability, they also typically lead to large-scale increases in abstraction for irrigation, which leads to reduced access for domestic use.

All along the route of the workshops and field visits the story of dried up traditional wells and falling groundwater tables was repeated. Small towns suffered from a mix of resource and infrastructure problems, rapidly growing populations, supplies available for only a few hours a day, and erratic electricity supplies.