

## Water and Environmental Sanitation Network India

### Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> Core Group Meeting of WES-Net India

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007

#### **Present:**

1. Arumugam Kalimuthu (AK), Plan International
2. A J James (AJJ), Pragmatix
3. V.K.Sardana (VKS), SPWD
4. Shipra Saxena (SS), WaterAid
5. Joytsna Bapat (JB), Consultant
6. D.K.Manavalan (DKM), AFPRO
7. Madhab Nayak (MN), FODRA
8. Ramesh Sakthivel (RS), WES-Net
9. Vinita Aggarwal (VA), WES-Net

AK welcomed the core group members and spoke on the important points in the proposed agenda and invited suggestions from the members. Following are the discussions carried out during the core group meeting;

#### **Annual Report**

1. AK presented the annual report of WES-Net India to the members. The report includes activities carried out so far, key achievements and proposed activities for the future. He highlighted various activities such as establishment of secretariat, website, newsletter, e-discussions, research coordination, information sharing and various support services offered to member agencies by WES-Net. He mentioned that WES-Net does not have a financial statement since all the activities are being taken up by its members on behalf of the network.
2. He also presented the proposed activities for the forth coming period which include continuation of services like website, e-discussions, newsletter and research coordination. In addition, he mentioned that activities like database of publications, lecture series, coordination workshops, regional centres, registration and conducting annual general body meeting would be taken up. The report will be finalised after core group members share their views soon. *(AK to share annual report with core group members for comments)*

#### **Database**

1. AJJ briefed core group members on the discussions held with ADB officials for supporting the database initiative. He mentioned that right now potentials for seeking support under the knowledge hub programme looks distant as funding support for this activity is not available currently. Other possibilities like seeking support from Asia Pacific Water Forum & Streams of Knowledge, which are also assisted by ADB, need to be explored.
2. AK briefed the members that discussions held with Dr.B.R.Neupane to seek UNESCO's assistance for the database activity. Finally, it was agreed to submit a proposal to UNESCO in this regard after finalisation of the concept note prepared by WES-Net. *(AJJ to finalise the concept note for submitting it to UNESCO)*

#### **Lecture Series**

1. AK informed that Lecture Series on various themes at periodic intervals, need to be initiated as discussed earlier. The World Water Day 2007 can be used as an opportunity to initiate this activity with the support of core group members who have agreed to sponsor. VKS mentioned that members having offices in different regions may be contacted to conduct lecture series in their offices to minimise the cost involved. AJJ mentioned that

other members can also be contacted to take up lecture series. He suggested introducing appropriate incentives/ recognitions for members doing so.

2. VKS informed that IIC and India Habitat Centre offer venues free of cost in exceptional cases, and this may be explored to make conduct lecture series on a regular basis in lower budget. *(JB will explore the possibilities seeking support from IIC/India Habitat Centre for conducting the events)*
3. Members also spent some time discussing various topics on which the lecture series can be organised. This will be finalised and sent to various potential organisations which may lend support for conducting them. *(RS to prepare the list of topics and circulate to members)*

### **Water Day**

1. AK informed the members that a donor agency has expressed interest to support WES-Net to conduct a one day consultation workshop on issues related water and sanitation. This will be finalised after Mr.Prusty's discussions with the agency. If finalised, the event will be organised either on 22<sup>nd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> March 07 in New Delhi. This could be organised as an event with a special focus on the Water Day. *(AK to contact Mr.Prusty and finalise the details of the programme)*
2. Members felt that WES-Net need not organise any special event on water day as members would be organising events on their own across the country. WES-Net will promote the events organised by members for making these widely known.

### **Registration**

1. AK informed the members that the documents for initiating registration of WES-Net are ready. He mentioned that since the present members in the core group represent only 3 states of India, in order to meet the mandatory requirement of member's representation from 7-8 states, it is necessary to include some more members from other regions in the registration document. RS suggested that members from regions who are in a position to coordinate regional activities of WES-Net can be identified and included in the registration document *(AK & RS to prepare the list of potential people from different geographical locations who will be able to assist WES-Net)*
2. To the discussions related to meeting the cost of registration, MN agreed to support this cost as a support to WES-Net from FODRA.

### **Research Coordination**

1. SS presented the update of activities carried out. She mentioned that details of research and studies from 50 agencies have been collected so far. Members mentioned that the research assistants appointed for collection of data need more back ground knowledge to elicit appropriate information and therefore this may be kept in mind in the future exercises.
2. SS informed that it may not be possible to present the final product based on this exercise at the visioning workshop of solution exchange as it may not be possible to complete the analysis part by then. Therefore, it was discussed that an exclusive workshop may be organised some time in May 2007 which can include events like general body meeting, discussions on research coordination and others focussed on larger sector coordination aspects.

### **Others**

1. RS presented the details of the discussions held with Mr.Pankaj Kumar, Solution Exchange on the upcoming visioning workshop and the role of WES-Net. It was agreed that presentation on WES-Net on the final day, discussions on research coordination activity during the breakaway group discussions and setting up a stall would be taken up by WES-Net during the workshop.

2. AK informed that some of the WES-Net members (WaterAid, AFPRO, Plan and UNICEF) participated in the evaluation exercise being carried out by WASMO, Gujarat. A report prepared based on the observations would be shared with WASMO and WES-Net members soon.
3. Finally, AK requested the members to express their views and opinions on the progress and impact made by WES-Net so far to understand the networks effectiveness. All the members felt that WES-Net is making good progress and is gradually establishing it self as a unique platform for coordination and knowledge sharing in the sector. They said the functional aspect of WES-Net in which all the activities of the network are being taken up by its members is very unique, and felt happy on seeing this a reality in the WES-Net's case as conceived initially by them.