

Eighth WES-Net India Core Group Meeting

1400 – 1630 hrs, 04 October 2005
UNICEF, Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110003

1. Present:

1. Jyotsna Bapat (JB)
2. Vijay Sardana (VS), SPWD
3. A J James (AJJ), Pragmatix
4. Mark Ellery (ME), World Bank
5. Paul Deverill (PD), UNICEF
6. D.K. Manavalan (DKM), AFPRO
7. N.M. Prusty (NMP), Care International India
8. A.K. Kalimuthu (AK), Plan International
9. Madhab Nayak (MN), FODRA
10. Preeti Soni (PS), UNDP
11. Veturi Chiranjeevi (VC), Care International India
12. Jill Carharriss (JC), Lead India
13. Shipra Saxena (SS), WaterAid India
14. Tejinder Kaur (TK), Pragmatix

This was the first meeting of the expanded Core Group. AJJ extended a warm welcome to the new members. The following agenda items were discussed in the meeting:

2. Website

Group decided to start with agenda item 3. Plan International had offered to manage the WES-Net India website, and AK compared the two options: (1) A local firm and 2) the IRC offer.

	Details	Average costs	
		Local firm	IRC Offer
1	Start up costs		
	Hiring internet space	7,000	0
	Designing the website	40,000	0
	Maintenance (updating)	20,000	0
	Total Cost	67,000	0
2	Time frame	2 months	Now
3	Second year cost		
	Hiring internet space	7,000	
	Maintenance (updating)	20,000	
	Total cost	27,000	54,000*

* €1000 = approx Rs 54,000

The group discussed both options and decided to go with the IRC offer for the first year, and after an assessment after about 9 months, decide whether or not to continue with IRC. This would also give an opportunity to study the functioning of the website and better identify the issues involved. Plan

International would put in place a webmaster, and could take up the IRC offer to train the webmaster for WES-Net India.

Action : AJJ to put Plan International in touch with IRC contact person.

: AK to put up draft web pages to the Core Group by end October and to develop the site by 14 November to coincide with AFPRO Rainwater Harvesting Conference.

3. Newsletter

AJJ informed the Core Group that he had had preliminary discussions with Winrock International India about producing electronic and printed versions of the newsletters on bi-monthly basis, in collaboration with Pragmatix. Funds would be sourced for the next one year. The Core Group welcomed the offer and further decided that

- There ought to be an agreement and a code of conduct with Winrock as the service provider
- JB, PD, DKM and AK would form a 4-person editorial panel to review the newsletter
- Any two persons from the editorial panel shall review a single issue, and for the next issue, these are JB and PD.
- Comments from this peer group would be copied to the other Core Group members for their information
- Each issue will be reviewed in 2 days, and this will be 7-8 November for the issue to come out on 14 November
- Winrock shall be offered space (1 inch square) for their logo in the newsletter
- Both the newsletter and the website can contain some advertisements
- AJJ shall be the link between the Core Group and Winrock
- The first e-newsletter and the printed version shall be sent out by 14 November

Action : All core group members to keep sending whatever information they feel is useful and relevant for the newsletter to TK with a copy to AJJ.

4. Taking Forward from the GBM

A. Formal Structure for WES-Net India

Final draft copies of the consultant's report were distributed to the group for any comments. The group decided to go with the general body's decision of having a formal structure for the network and to consult a lawyer for the legalities (e.g., articles of association, code of conduct, MoU etc). ME offered to contact WSP's Jan Sagar & Associates for this. MN, VS, DKM and NMP agreed to form a group (to be called the Constitution Group) to take this forward.

Action: ME to contact WSP lawyers to set up a meeting with the sub-group and to invite Satyajit also for this meeting.

B. Allocation of functions

Research coordination, setting up database and workshops are three functions that need to be addressed.

- **Research Coordination** requires an organization to arrange meetings and find out about the research work which is being planned by these organizations in the next six months. Meetings may be held once or twice in a year and ideally to coincide with some other big event. The organisation agreeing to hold the meeting would also bear all associated costs. The first one to be held in December/January at the time of 3rd WES-Net India GBM. WaterAid India volunteered to take on this activity, but would confirm. This could also be undertaken as a event in conjunction with the SE-WES Visioning Workshop, and will be discussed later by the concerned WES-Net core group members.

Action : SS and PS to confirm by Monday 10 October.

- **Database** to have a repository of all the documents related to water and sanitation which will enable people to access information related to the sector. AFPRO have just started designing a database for their huge collection of documents and have volunteered to share it. Pragmatix has resources to design the database, and since Plan is working on the website, they are also interested in working on the database. Since WaterAid also expressed their interest, Pragmatix, Plan, AFPRO and WaterAid will form a group (to be called the Database Group) to work together on developing the database.

Action: **AJJ** to arrange for a meeting of the Database Group as soon as possible.

- C. **The Funding issue** was to be taken up by the Constitution Group.

5. **Any other issues**

- **Core Group Leadership:** Since AJJ's tenure of six months as Leader of the Core Group was over, he offered to step down and invited a volunteer from within the group to take over. AK was nominated and chosen the next Core Group leader. He will work with AJJ till the formal hand over at the Core Group meeting in end November (after the AFPRO workshop). AK's tenure will be for a period of one year thereafter, or the formal constitution of WES-Net India, whichever is sooner.
- **Solution Exchange workshop:** Solution Exchange for the WES-Net is arranging a regional meeting (South) in Chennai on November 8 to create awareness about SE for WES-Net and WES-Net, and increase the membership from the South. About 50-60 people are expected to attend this meeting. PS requested the core team to share a list of their contacts in the Southern States who could be invited for this meeting. .

Action : *All to share the list with PS and TK.*

- **Sphere India** would be holding a series of workshops in states. NMP suggested that WES-Net India and SE-WES can be given a slot in each of these workshops for making a presentation and the newsletter could contain detailed information on these workshops.
- **National Coordinator:** Since TK's tenure officially ended on 31 August 2005, an extension of her contract from UNICEF was approved till AK took over as Leader of the WES-Net India Core Team. Plan International would consider TK for the position for the subsequent period, but was free to call for CVs and interview others for this position.
- **Next Core Group meeting:** Wednesday 23 November at Plan International at 2.30 pm.

The meeting ended at 4.30 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the chair.