

SaciWATERS at the WORLD WATER WEEK

in Stockholm,
August 16–22, 2009



Crossing Gender Boundaries in the Water Sector: The Status of Women Water Professionals in South Asia

August 19, 2009, Room T6, 9:30– 12:30 pm

Conveners

Crossing Boundaries Project,
South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies,
SaciWATERS, India

Co-conveners

NetWWaters, Sri Lanka, &
Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), The Netherlands

Background

The lower percentage of women water professionals in South Asia is recognized as one of the constraints for gender sensitive water resources management. At the same time, there is very little understanding on women water professionals in water institutions at the macro level.

Most of this literature and work remains restricted to women's participation in community based water programmes. Similarly, most of the analysis around women's lack of participation at various levels in the water sector has remained limited to socio-cultural constraints.

There is very little understanding of how the culture and historicity of each sector contributes to constraining women to participate effectively. Little analysis is done on how democratic are the institutions and organizations that influence policymaking and implementation at the macro level.

It is in this context that a study on women water professionals was undertaken in five South Asian countries. The study is coordinated by Society for Promoting Participative Eco-system Management (SOPPECOM), a think tank NGO based in Pune, India. Although primarily of an exploratory nature to understand the profiles, numbers, and constraints of Women Water professionals in the region, the study has looked at some of the issues mentioned above and hopes to take this understanding to the macro level to bring visibility to the question of women water professionals. The session will discuss the study in detail. The focus would be on strategies in terms of policy advocacy and practice to highlight these concerns.



Shaheen Khan Training women water users, Pakistan

Crossing Gender Boundaries in the Water Sector

The Status of Women Water Professionals in South



Gender Orientation Workshop organised by the Integrated Planning for Sustainable Water Management, Bangladesh

Programme Details

Chairperson: Dr. Sumi Krishna, Independent Consultant, Bangalore, India

Moderator: Ms. Seema Kulkarni, Fellow, SOPPECOM, India

9:00-9:05 – Welcome and Introduction to the Session: Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich, Saci-WATERS, India

9:05-9:15 – Introductory Documentary based on the Study

9:15-9:35 – The Status of Women Water Professionals in South Asia- Presentation by Ms. Seema Kulkarni, Fellow, SOPPECOM, India

9:35-10:35 – Comments from the panel of experts (10 minutes each)

Dr. Deepa Joshi, Program Officer, Water Resources Management Innovation Investment Program, Winrock International, USA

Ms. Shaheen Khan Qabooliyo, Doctoral Researcher, Women and Gender studies, Warwick University, United Kingdom

Dr. Aditi Mukherji, Researcher - Social Scientist, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sri Lanka

Ms. Lesha Witmer, Member, Steering Committee, Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), The Netherlands

Mr. Durk Adema, Ministry of Development Cooperation, Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS), Government of The Netherlands

Ms. Kuzhali Anbuchelvan, South Asian Water Fellow, Centre for Water Resources, Anna University, Chennai, India

10:35-11:00 – tea/coffee break

11:00-12:15 – Floor debate and discussions on strategies to take the issues forward

12:15-12:25 – Summary and way forward – Ms. Seema Kulkarni & Dr. Sumi Krishna

12:25-12:30 – Vote of Thanks – Ms. Kusum Atukorala, NetWwater, Sri Lanka



Shakila Leghari training women farmers' group, Sindh, Pakistan

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Workshop on Decision making on WATSAN to the study communities of SDW Project, 2009, Nepal Engineering College, Nepal

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Stakeholders Meeting, CWR, Anna University, India

For more information, kindly contact :

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